

The Messenger

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2026



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Event Calendars can be found online at
TrinityChurchLivingston.org

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Clergy Association in Livingston...

Recently, I asked the congregation to help me with a project (and you did)! A project assigned by the Livingston Clergy Association. Each month (during the school year), the Clergy Association participates in a program called Clergy Corner. This is a locally televised 30-minute talk show produced by Livingston High School Students. A different, but timely, topic is

discussed each time we meet. However, recently, the topic was to address the questions our congregations/faith groups have for us. To that end, I asked all of you what questions you had, and I must say (with more than a little pride) that Trinity submitted the greatest number and most profound questions. Unfortunately, we did not get to answer many of them, and so I've decided to answer them here in our Messenger!

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Here are two:

What does the life of someone who trusts in God look like in today's chaotic world?

Originally, when I answered this question, my answer was a bit longer and more involved, but I've realized that really it can be summed up in one word: love. "We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19). We see this love displayed in Jesus (in both His life and in His death) as well as commanded by Jesus. When Jesus was asked what the greatest command was, He responded that it was to love God and to love one's neighbor. Jesus said that all the law and the prophets could be summed up in these two commands. And so, although love may sound like an oversimplified, flowery answer to this complex question, it's the answer God has given us. And, as we know, to love others, specifically across divides, is so much harder than it sounds. Because love requires us to remember there is no "us" and

"them" and the minute we say "thank God I'm not like that _____ (insert a group, or name in here of someone you don't like)" we are now part of the problem. We are to seek justice (absolutely), but also to love mercy and walk humbly with God (which involves praying for "our enemies"), knowing that every one of us is deeply flawed (wounded) and in desperate need of a Savior.

I think the key here is to, every minute of every day, allow God, by God's Spirit, to lead and guide us. To pray and ask God to show us what is ours to do and to follow God in those things. It is important to be the hands and feet of Christ in this hurting world. But I also believe there are times when, like Jesus, we need to take a step back from the activity (however good it may be) and reconnect with who we each are as children of God. I've found that it's often in that space where God directs our paths.

How do you discern the difference between forgiveness that truly heals and forgiveness that might unin-

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tentionally bypass or suppress real pain?

Wow- yes- another great question. Forgiveness is not an easy thing (at least not usually). And when true hurt and trauma have occurred, it's even harder. It's harder because healing needs to take place. That often takes time (sometimes a very long time). And that surprises us.

We know what Jesus commands (forgive as you've been forgiven). And we often want to do that (knowing that forgiveness frees us just as much as it can free our offender). However, we become disoriented when we offer forgiveness (or decide in our heart that our offender is forgiven- if offering them forgiveness directly would be unsafe) and yet are still faced with the reality that the emotions in response to the offense are still there. But forgiveness is not an emotion; it's a decision. A decision to walk in the way of Christ. A decision that doesn't negate or bypass the healing that needs to take place, but instead enters into it, allowing God (and health

professionals if that is needed) to accompany us as we daily (sometimes moment by moment) make that choice to forgive. And so how do you know- you know because true forgiveness often takes time and requires us to sit at the feet of Jesus over and over and over, as well as seek out the support of others. It's not something that we can do in our own strength!

I hope you found thinking through these questions as helpful (and challenging) as I did. I have several more sitting on my desk, waiting for answers. BUT if YOU have a question- please either pop it on my desk OR send me an email at trinitylivpastor@gmail.com and I will include it in the next column!

Until then, Peace be with you all,

Pastor Anne



HOW MANY GLOBES CAN YOU FIND?

THE WORLD

THE COMMISSION

great

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

N	S	I	A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C	S
O	C	E	A	N	I	A	A	U	C	Q	O
R	A	U	P	C	S	U	I	F	A	C	U
T	W	R	A	A	T	E	N	D	I	R	W
H	F	O	C	R	A	N	D	I	R	W	H
A	R	P	A	C	I	F	I	C	I	N	A
M	O	E	F	T	I	C	A	E	C	R	M
E	C	A	S	I	A	J	N	G	A	U	E
R	I	N	S	C	O	I	T	H	E	R	I
C	L	O	N	T	E	R	C	V	I	C	C
A	N	T	A	R	C	T	I	C	A	T	A

ASIA
EUROPE
SOUTH AMERICA
NORTH AMERICA
ATLANTIC
PACIFIC
AFRICA
INDIAN

NAME: _____

DESTINATION: _____

GO! ○ ○ ○

GIVING UP THE KEYS



"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)

Today, I am thankful.

Thankful for another year in this creation, and thankful for the opportunity to grow and learn. Life is never really stagnant but when working with

young people, the chaos they can manifest will definitely keep the waters moving.

New ideas, new problems, new slang, new ways of thinking. Change is always happening.

I have two nephews that live out in Arizona with my older brother and I was recently lamenting not being able to ever really be that "cool uncle" but was reminded that I have worked around teens since I was 21.

I have been a cool uncle for a long time.

I actually had a cool uncle

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full-circle moment when I applied to work as a project manager for music events in Orange with a non-profit I worked with way back in the day. Two of the people that interviewed me were high school students when I met them. They both were part of the young artist community I helped cultivate around a studio in Orange many years ago. Now they are both in their 30s and still have their hands in community oriented creative work in Orange. Through the University of Orange, both Ray and Cesar have helped make Music City something truly special.

Ray recently told Doug, another colleague of mine, how pivotal I was in his creative development. It was very flattering and humbling to hear. “King Sykes” was 16 when I met him, now he is a hard-working full-grown man and the best rapper in Orange. Cesar is married and runs a greenhouse in Newark and is one of the best guitar players I have ever met. Other of my “nephews” have gone on to get PhDs and become internationally renowned painters.

In many ways I stand among giants.

And I feel that way at Trinity too. Seeing all of the young people in our community grow is a blessing of wonder. I love watching them find their way and navigate a new world that they can teach me about.

There is a lot of pain and grief right now, but also some new beginnings. Always new beginnings. We say goodbye to what was and celebrate the new growth. And as we get older and watch the world change in ways we don’t understand we can take comfort in the young people that will shape the world to come. We have to trust them.

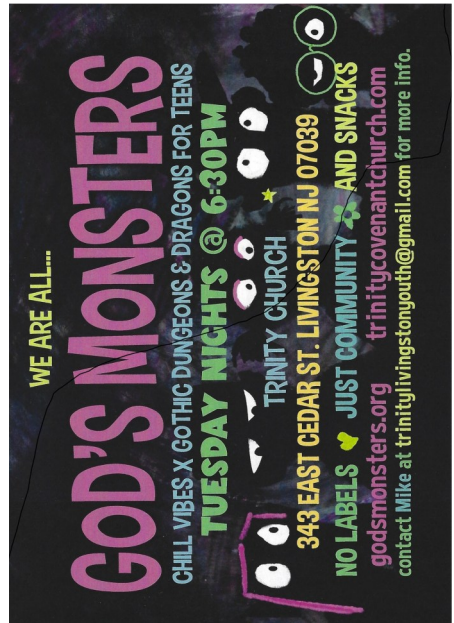
ORNG Ink, the youth arts space that I mentioned earlier, was designed to be an after-school studio for ages 12-18, but when Ray and the others hit 19 they didn’t want to stop coming around. This place was home to them, and just because they had reached a certain age didn’t mean that the space I helped create for them was any less important. It reminds me of our group of young people now. They zoom

in and show up because they have built something. Ray said that it was the trust I had in them to allow them to take over and help me run the space, letting them stay after hours and lock-up. Allowing them to lead and mentor other young artists planted seeds in them that shaped their outlook on life, community and art. It wasn't all sunshine and rainbows. I was captaining a very rickety vessel.

When Doug and I were discussing all of this, I shrugged it all off and commented that all I did was hand those young people a set of keys and say "here."

"That is more powerful of a gesture than you can ever know," he replied.

Mike





Greetings from the Trinity Council as we head toward the summer season.

On Sunday May 24, we celebrated Pentecost, when the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit, the Birthday of the Church. It was a beautiful service shared with the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, a building partner, that celebrated the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. In the afternoon we had the pleasure of ordaining Rev. Anne Weinberg in wonderful ordination service celebrating

her call to be a minister of the Word and Sacrament at Trinity (photo above).

During our monthly meeting with our building partners the Muslim Community Center (MCC) they informed us that because of the shooting at the Muslim Community Center in San Diego they had requested police presence during their services from the Livingston Police.

On June 3, our amazing Office Manager, Yvette Holowczak, is retiring after working in that

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part-time position for 14 years. Yvette is irreplaceable, but we are happy that she is only leaving the job not our congregation.

Bella Malbrough, while home from college, will be working as our part-time Office Manager during the Summer. We are currently searching for a new Office Manager.

The last day of Sunday School is June 14, and our Trinity picnic will be June 28.

Our next Council meeting is June 14. Please let the Council

know if there are any issues that need to be addressed.

Yours in Christ,

Chrystal



*Trinity Church Council:
Chrystal Veazey-Watson, Chair;
Mary Chu, Vice Chair; Jen Yoo, Secretary;
Cyndy Traverso, Treasurer;
Rich Holowczak, Financial Secretary; and Karen Reichy, Missions*



Trinity Reporter

MARCH-MAY

Thank you to **Pastor Anne** who challenged us with the Lenten Dinner & Bible study on “Why did Jesus have to die?” There was great conversation and the study continued through April.

We were blessed to share worship and an awesome brunch on Palm Sunday with our brothers and sisters from the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (photos below). **Mike M, Page M, Abe M, Malachi, Brennan, Abby C, Scott and his mom Irene** cooked, cleaned

and served everyone. It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who brought food and desserts to round out the brunch. Folks donated over \$1,500 to the youth group for their activities. Thank you to everyone who cooked, cleaned and donated.

Trinity was joined by two other local congregations and Pastors for the Maundy Thursday dinner and service. We had a big group and everyone was able to fellowship



while enjoying the delicious dinner cooked by **Pastor Anne**. After dinner, **Jerry V** and **Rich H** blessed us with music while we walked through the story of Maundy Thursday. **Pastor Anne** and **Rev. Dan M** from the Livingston Presbyterian Church performed a short skit. It was an amazing night gathering with brothers and sisters from all around Livingston.

The Community Good Friday service was hosted by **Pastor Anne** at Trinity Church this year. We love to share our space with our neighbors. The Friday Night service was a time of contemplation and awe. Thank you to **Jerry V, Rich H,** and **Cyndy T** for the music.

The Easter sunrise service (photos right) is always a lovely time and this year was no exception. There was a light mist in the air, but rain held off and we enjoyed a fire expertly coaxed to life by Pastor

Anne. Jerry V and **Rich H** provided the music. We had several kids in their PJs who brought their fuzzy blankets with them! We brought the light back into the sanctuary then gathered around to share communion. It seemed like no one wanted the morning to end.

The Easter service was boisterous and quite the celebration this year with the worship team of **Jerry V, Rich H, Mike M, Ethan H** and **Cyndy T**. We worshiped together, prayed together, and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus! What could be better?!



(Pictured below is our Easter Worship Team.)



Patricia S has been joining the worship team on some Sundays to share her amazing vocals with us. Thank you Patricia for blessing Trinity with your beautiful voice!

There is always a kind of calm after all of the Easter celebrations. It seemed like Spring arrived overnight and we started thinking about the next season and how we can love and care for our congregation, building partners, and neighbors.

Trinity gathered on Tuesday, 4/14 to make sandwiches and pack a meal bag for local soup kitchens. Thank you to **Pastor Anne, Mike M., Page M, Abe M, Malachi, and**

Yvette H for making and packing sandwiches. We made over 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and packed them up with a fruit cup and snacks. **Livingston Neighbors Helping Neighbors** provides pick up and delivery of the meal bags. Thank you to **Nick S** for picking up and delivering the meals

to St. Anne's soup kitchen in Newark. We thank God for Nick and his ministry and for the opportunity to help.

We love to share our building and make it available for community support groups. To that end, we gathered for a spring clean-up day on Saturday, 4/18 to work on cleaning and maintaining the church building and grounds. Thank you to **Rich H, Kevin L, Jerry V, Malachi, Abe M, Yvette H, Pastor Anne, Marty W,** for helping organize, clean, scrape and paint. Thank you twice to **Kevin L** for painting the doors at the end

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of the hall. **Domenick Z** has also been spotted around fixing things up. Thank you Domenick!

Karen R, Cyndy T, Chrystal VW, and **Kevin L** cleaned and organized the sharing room last month. It was a big project, but they got it done. **Jim T and Karen R** took carloads of donations to [Walk A Mile N Our Shoes](#) in East Orange.

Walk A Mile N Our Shoes is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded by president Eugene Campbell III, driven by a single goal; "Doing our part to make the world a better place for all." Thank you to everyone who helped organize the sharing room, pack up and deliver donations.

At the end of April, the **Malbrougs** went to France to visit with Bella who had been studying abroad in Italy. **Gus The Cat** went with them and thoroughly enjoyed himself as did everyone else (see photos right). There were first-time Uber rides and endless walking through Paris. We were glad to have them and Gus back safely.

Pastor Anne and Marty W



took a well-needed vacation to Prince Edward Island in May. Luckily, we had Pastor Anne's ordination coming up so she reluctantly returned to Trinity after a self-described amazing week (photos below).

While Anne was away,



Chrystal VW lead us through the Thursday night dinner and Bible study on the Holy Spirit. **Domenick** made amazing ravioli, **Page M** made a delicious salad and the conversation was just as good.

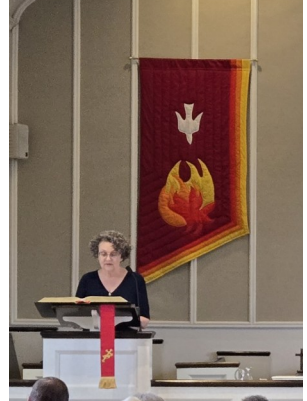
Cyndy T has been busy working on the flower beds around the church. So many weeds to pull! Thank you **Cyndy** for making the property look amazing! And to **Jerry V** for all the great seeds! A sprained ankle (and a really busy schedule) kept Jerry away from gardening this year, but we know he'll be planting seeds again soon.

Retirement means more work — at least in the case of **Jim T** who has been working a lot around the building. He is a wizard with electricity! Thank you Jim for taking care of the building while **Rich H** takes a few weeks off this summer from his property duties.

After our Pentecost worship with our brothers and sisters from the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Trinity had the great pleasure of ordaining **Pastor Anne**! She has served Trinity for many years,

and worked hard through many challenges to reach this goal. Trinity was proud to have **Pastor Anne** as our very first ordination since becoming a non-denominational church. It was an amazing celebration filled with solemnity and awe. Thank you to the Trinity Council for their perseverance, to **Susan G** for her wisdom helping the council through the process, and to **Jer-ry V, Rich H and Cyndy T** for the beautiful music. We also thank the clergy from ELCA churches around the

area and clergy from Living-
ston as well as **Saba** from the
MCCL for helping celebrate
this special occasion. Trinity
looks forward to many more
years together growing in
Christ as a place for love and
grace!



*TOP: LEFT: Ordination program cover. RIGHT: Kari R. reading the scriptures.
BOTTOM: Susan G., Pastor Anne and the Trinity Council present Rev. Anne Weinberg, newly ordained!*



TOP: The congregation. MIDDLE: The clergy and congregation. BOTTOM: Laying on of hands.



TOP: LEFT: Pastor Sue and Pastor Anne. MIDDLE: Marty W., RIGHT: Pastor Anne, Page M., and Eileen F. MIDDLE: Chrystal VW. welcomes everyone. BOTTOM: Visitors, members and friends.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, June 14 will be the last Sunday school for the season. Sunday, June 28 begins our summer schedule. Sunday school will pause for the summer and resume in September.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER & BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome! We meet in fellowship hall (and online for those far away). Dinner is at 6:30 pm with the Bible study beginning at 7 pm, and closing with prayer at 8 pm. For Lent, we will journey through the book, *Why Did Jesus Have to Die* by Adam Hamilton. Call or email Pastor Anne if you would like to be on the email list for updates and Zoom links.

MISSION & MAKERS: WEDNESDAY, 6/10, 11 AM

We'll meet at 11 AM to organize the sharing room, which is where we keep all of our donations for our missions. ALL are welcome!



GAME NIGHT: (ALL AGES)

Let's get together in fellowship hall for some light-hearted fun 7pm-9pm. We'll play games and have snacks! **Please check the online calendars for the next game night dates. We update it regularly!**



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PRAYER MEETINGS (VIRTUAL): WEDNESDAYS 8:30 AM, AND THURSDAYS 8 PM

Look for a link in your weekly Trinity email for these online prayer meetings. Send your prayer request to Pastor Anne at TrinityLivPastor@gmail.com.

TEEN NIGHTS: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 6:30 PM

Brawling Hamsters?! God's Monsters?! What's it all about? All youth ages 13-17 are welcome to join the Trinity youth group. We provide a safe space for fellowship, games and fun. Tuesdays we have snacks, Friday nights we serve pizza. Youth ministries director Mike M. supervises. **We are looking for adult volunteers to help supervise on Tuesday and/or Friday nights. If you are interested, contact Mike at TrinityLivingstonYouth@gmail.com. All adult participants are background checked.**

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS 8:30 PM- 10 PM AFTER YOUTH GROUP

All youth ages 13-17 are welcome to join in! Please email Mike if you would like more information. TrinityLivingstonYouth@gmail.com

LIVINGSTON PRIDE PICNIC: SUNDAY, 6/7 AT 1 PM

As a sponsor of the Livingston Pride Picnic, Trinity will set up a table at the oval on Sunday, 6/7. We will have small giveaways and information on our youth program and services. Cyndy T, Mike M, Pastor Anne and others will represent Trinity as a place for love and grace at this event. If you would like to volunteer to help at the table, talk to Cyndy or Mike. This is a great way for Trinity to support the Livingston LGBTQ+ community and let them know they are welcome at Trinity.

MISSIONS & MORE



Trinity is happy to receive donations for its missions. There are several ways to donate. Please reference the lists below. Drop off donations Sundays 10 am—1 pm in the donation boxes near the kitchen or donations can be dropped off any time in the gray outdoor bin near the handicap ramp by the side door.

LIVINGSTON FOOD PANTRY

Please consider donating cooking oil, canned foods, canned tuna, crackers, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and boxed milk. The pantry also needs \$50 gift cards to fill in where needed. Please do not donate anything that requires eggs or butter to make (like Macaroni and Cheese boxes or cake mixes) because those receiving the food usually do not have access to butter or eggs. Thank you!

SOUP KITCHEN BAGGED MEALS

Please consider donating jars of creamy peanut butter, jam (preferable strawberry or grape), and small individually wrapped snacks. All donations can be left in the food bank donation bin outside fellowship hall.

FOR MISSION TO MEN

Please consider donating warm gloves (work gloves are best), backpacks (new or gently used).

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FOR BABIES

Baby clothing, shoes and coats. New, unwrapped toys. This mission is in partnership with St. Matthews Lillian's Closet in East Orange, a mission to provide new parents in need with baby supplies. For check or PayPal donations, please include "MISSIONS—BABY" in the memo.

FOR NEW PARENTS

Laundry detergent/pods, toilet paper, toothpaste, and shampoo. These items are not covered under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and are greatly needed. This mission is in partnership with Renew Life Center in Paterson, NJ.

FOR CARE AND SHARE FUND

Our Pastor maintains a fund to provide emergency help to Trinity congregation members and friends in emergency need. Recently, we have helped with rent, gas and food. **You can donate with cash or check in a Care & Share envelope and place in the offering basket or via PayPal on our website.** Please include "CARE & SHARE" on the memo line or as a comment in PayPal or on your check. Keep track of these donations; they are not reported on your year-end letter from the financial secretary.

ADDITIONAL DONATION BINS

All other clothing (women's, men's, children and teens), shoes and used (not broken) small toys can be placed in plastic bags and put into the white donation bins in our parking lot near the playground. Trinity receives a donation from Millennium Textiles for the use of the parking lot space. They do not shred clothing, but their goal is to provide inexpensive, good quality clothing and to keep it out of landfills. This is a woman-owned business working to keep landfills free of useable clothing, shoes, toys and accessories.



TRINITY CHURCH

a place for love and grace.



Apply

WE ARE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE AND YOU ARE WELCOME!

Join us at 11 AM at 343 E. Cedar St., Livingston or on Zoom.

Rev. Anne Weinberg, Pastor

(TrinityLivPastor@gmail.com)

Jerry Vargo, Music Director

(TrinityLivingstonMusic@gmail.com)

Mike Malbrough, Youth Ministries Director

(TrinityLivingstonYouth@gmail.com)

Yvette Holowczak, Office Manager & Messenger Editor

(TrinityChurchLivingston@gmail.com)

Phone: (973) 992-4044 TrinityChurchLivingston.org



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30-31