

The Messenger

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025



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FROM THE PASTOR

LAMENTING FALL



I am outvoted in my house.

As the air has grown cooler (ok- colder- it's downright cold first thing in the morning-let's just all admit that!) and the leaves have changed (ok, yes, those are pretty, but this is simply a signal that the trees will soon be bare!) my family has been happily rejoicing that summer is over and fall is here. They've broken out sweaters, flannels, and a decorative pumpkin has found its way to the dining room table. (Placed there by our resident Spanish teacher decked out in her festive bat earrings...think

Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*.)

I, on the other hand, am not joyous at all because needing a sweater to stay warm is not my idea of a good time. (And I tire very quickly of 'pumpkin spice' anything). Also, it seems to me that fall is simply the mile marker on the road that points to much colder weather ahead. It points toward frosted car windows in the morning, space heaters needed in spaces that don't heat up fast enough, and ice! (And who likes ice? I certainly

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do not.) But...all that said, the truth of the matter is that everything, quite literally in this case, has a season. Cue that song by the Byrds...

Everything has a season. (Is it now playing in your heads?)

“To everything,
turn, turn, turn
There is a season,
turn, turn, turn,
And a time to every
purpose under heaven
A time to be born,
a time to die
A time to plant,
a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh,
a time to weep”

Fun Fact: Did you know that this song was actually not written by the Byrds? It was written by Pete Seeger during the time of the Vietnam War. And even he didn't really write the lyrics as they are taken almost entirely from the book of Ecclesiastes. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 to be exact).

Ecclesiastes is that book in your Bibles (in the Old Testament) that you may or may

not have read a whole lot. It was written at some point after the Israelites returned from exile. And unlike the song, we really don't know who wrote Ecclesiastes. The author refers to himself as Qoheleth, in Hebrew, which we have translated as 'The Teacher.' And although the author mentions that he is the son of David, we know this is meant more in a figurative than literal sense. Solomon, who was celebrated for his wisdom, would not have been living at the time Ecclesiastes was written. Instead we are meant to understand that just as Solomon collected wisdom, so does our friend 'Qoheleth.' Ecclesiastes is 'wisdom' literature (along with Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Job.) (Actually, Job and Ecclesiastes have a lot in common in that they both look at pain, suffering, and the seemingly randomness of life, in an attempt to make sense of it all.)

And, although it's a book I quite enjoy, I certainly don't blame you if you've found that this book doesn't quite reso-

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nate with you. It's weird. Or maybe that's an overstatement. Perhaps 'unsettling' would be a better way to describe it. Unsettling because Ecclesiastes pulls no punches. It's not meant to be uplifting. It's not meant to present a simplified view of life. It's complex and focuses on human limits and the absurdity of life. In addition, like the book of Job, it provides lots of room to interrogate God. The author seems to give the reader permission to spend time thinking about (and wrestling with) the tough questions of this human life.—Especially of a life lived in the knowledge of and relationship with a good God. And in all of the wrestling, one of Qoheleth's conclusions seems to be that there is nothing in our human lives that is new under the sun; it's all happened before and will happen again. And, from the author's point of view, he concludes that it's all pointless (It's meaningless), which isn't a sentiment we expect to find in our Bibles. How does this line up with the truth of God's good creation and

God's love of humanity?

This past summer, one of our Old Testament readings for the day came from Ecclesiastes (1:12-14, & 2:18-23). And on that particular day, one of our youngest readers had signed up to read. She got up, read what was in front of her, and upon reading the final verse: "All their days are pain, and their work is aggravation; even at night, their hearts don't find rest. This, too, is pointless." She turned around and stared at me as if to say: "So, Pastor, care to explain what THAT was about?"

And in many ways, I cannot. It is, at best, complicated. And so, I wonder and wrestle with these questions right along with you. However, I think the foundational truth found in this wrestling goes back to that song—to that sentiment from Ecclesiastes 3—to everything there is a season.

One of the frequent words of Ecclesiastes is "vanity". This is also translated as meaningless, pointless, or absurd. The original Hebrew word that is

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being translated is ‘hevel’. Hevel means breath, or vapor, or mist. It points to something ephemeral. It’s here one moment (perhaps for a season) and gone the next. It’s like the seasons. Seasons found in nature, the seasons of our lives, even our lives themselves, and yet...in the Epilogue of the book, the author provides a solution (of sorts). He writes: “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.” In other words, if you were reading this when it was written, *be* the Israelite you’ve been called to be. Live your life on this earth as the person God has created you to be, in relationship with the One who created you. Or translated through the lens of Jesus and the lives we live as followers of Christ: All of this will pass away, including all the questions, but One will remain. Cling to Him for He is faithful and steadfast.

Even this teacher, who was a collector of wisdom, could not make sense of life. He

strived for the foundational truth behind it all, and what he discovered was that, “human beings were not the power brokers of the universe, but were instead afflicted by hevel”—by the things that do not last, that shift, and are fleeting. And so through it all, his conclusion was the simple truth that our foundation, the goal of our lives, is to be found in God. That in the midst of all the questions of our lives, we are to recognize, follow, and cling to the One who does not change. Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Our constant in every season of life. Amen

Pastor Anne



TRINITY KID'S CORNER



YOUTH MINISTRIES

RADIATING LOVE AND THE POSTURE OF OUR PRAYERS



“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8

This week in Sunday school we read the parable of the persistent widow. In this parable Jesus says that God will answer our prayers for justice “quickly,” and I played devil’s advocate. I noted that there

were definitely times when Christians have prayed for justice and it hasn’t come with any velocity that we would associate with haste. The young people noted two things. One, maybe God’s definition of “quickly” doesn’t match our own. And two, maybe what we are asking for isn’t actually justice. God has stated that justice isn’t up to us after all.

It is wild to me to be in a time right now when Christians

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are so divided when it comes to the ways we are actually supposed to demonstrate God's love. I recognize that in the above passage the phrasing matches Jesus' words in John and it's a phrasing that might seem to pull us towards an interpretation that this love is meant to be exclusive among those "in the club." We might be drawn to think that Jesus, and John who echoes Messiah's words, is saying that if we make our "church party" so full of love, our gatherings so meaningful and our relationships so deep that others will see God among us and be drawn to that light. They will want to join our club. Maybe on some level that is true, but is it then really love if we don't let them in?

Jesus gave us an example of love that was about sacrifice. A giving of everything. Your shirt, food, your pride and even life if it is needed.

Jesus asked God the Father to take the cup from Him. In His humanity he wanted a way to reconcile Justice and Love that did not involve what awaited Him but He left it up to

God's reckoning.

We have a clear example of what Christ's love looked like, and so maybe we nitpick a definition for ourselves that feels a bit more comfortable, but we should be cautious of our caution. IF everyone that loves is born of God and knows God, then we might be surprised who we can learn from, and who actually doesn't know God because they don't love.

It seems to me that we should continue to scatter the seeds of God's Love freely and of course if that makes us uncomfortable or causes us to risk something even to the point of harm, then we wait on God's time to set things right, even if that takes awhile.

Mike



FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR



Greetings from the Trinity council. It has been a very busy few months for our congregation.

Our semi-Annual meeting was held on Sunday, August 24. At that time we shared updates on our ministry, missions, Christian formation, church operations, and financials. The information below includes information shared at that meeting as well as information about matters that have occurred since the meeting.

Pastor Anne is doing Chaplaincy at Cooperman Barnabas Hospital and taking a Clinical Pastoral Experience course. This work is part of her path to ordination.

Pastor Anne is continuing to offer new member inquiry meetings to all who are interested. The Thursday night dinner and Bible study has been going well and we are currently studying Acts. The adult Sunday school class is studying Paul. The Kid's Sunday school

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class has expanded with two new students. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with Sunday school.

Mike M., Youth Ministries Director, reported that the youth group Karaoke night in August was fun, with a small group attending. Youth Sunday school welcomed Amelia W. and Ruth P. to the group, and they are off to a great start! Mike is looking for an adult helper for Tuesday and Friday night youth group meetings. Please see Mike if you are interested.

Mission work has been steady. Karen R. reported that we will now include items for women and the children in the Christmas mission. We need backpacks, buttons, small toys for kids, mugs and anything in bulk. Karen R, Andy, Fred and Ruth P. distributed blankets and sweatshirts in September. Thank you to all the volunteers including Kevin L., Barbara S., Page M., Cyndy T., and everyone else who helps keep the sharing room organized. See the Missions section for information about what is needed for Fall and Christmas distributions.

Jerry V. has been a great addition as our Music Director over the last few months and has been able to involve some of our youth and kids in the worship band on Sundays! Jerry is eager to put together a band for the Christmas season. We are looking forward to helping Jerry make our Christmas season very merry.

Cyndy T., our Treasurer, continues to report that giving so far this year has been lower than expected while our spending has been higher because of several bills that were not expected. We are running a deficit. As most of you are experiencing in your own homes, prices continue to increase for everything from paper goods, trash bags, paper and utilities.

Rich H. reported that repairs were made on the fire suppression system. Since then, we have replaced the hot water heater and had to repair a leak in the upstairs men's bathroom. Because of the age of the church building, we will continue to have repair and upkeep needs. We also must do mold remediation in the Manse bathrooms.

There will be a Trinity clean-up day on Saturday, 10/25, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Adults are welcome to come and help with clean up and repairs. Contact Rich for more information.

Mary C. reported that the Council is in discussions with Livingston Township about possibly leasing our parking lot to use for additional parking for their proposed open space park to be located on the property adjacent to Trinity.

Recently, a local Muslim group contacted Trinity looking for space for their daily prayer meetings and weekly service. After gathering more information and discussing this potential building partner with our current building partner the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, a special congregation meeting was held on October 19. At this special meeting the members of Trinity voted to allow Trinity to lease space, on a 90-day trial basis, in room #8 every day for prayer at varying times, and Fellowship Hall on Fridays 1:30 - 3:30 for their service. As of the publishing of this newsletter, the lease has not been finalized.

The council will communicate any updates on this issue to the congregation in the weekly Trinity email. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting.

Our next council meeting is October 26. If you have matters that the council should consider please contact a member.

Please continue to pray for Trinity, our missions, and church council that we seek to glorify God in everything we do.

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

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 Reichey,
Missions

Trinity Reporter

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER

Jerry V has been offering opportunities for the kids to join the worship team to play their instruments. It was fun to watch **Elise W** play drums and **Amelia W** on guitar for the postlude. If you sing or play an instrument, Jerry can send you music in advance to practice—one song or more, you can sign up on the server form or talk with Jerry after worship.

Sunday school is off and running for adults, youth and kids. The kids are having fun with the Whirl curriculum and Mike and the new group of

youth are diving into scripture (we heard rumors of doughnuts in youth Sunday school).

The youth nights continue with a smaller group, but we hear **Mike** is zooming in former youth group participants who want to be part of the youth nights but are off at college. What a great group!

Karen R, Andy P, Fred P and Ruth P participated in a Saturday mission trip to deliver sweatshirts and blankets and other needed items to



Amelia W and Elise W join the worship team!

local men in need. Please check the mission section of this newsletter for items needed for the Christmas mission.

Game night was a blast in September. **Tony, Mary , Amelia, Elise, and Elijah W, Ralph, Adrienne T and Cyndy and Jim T** were all in attendance. Ticket to Ride was played and Adrienne won that by a significant point margin! The Wang family played a card game and then they all learned a game that Adrienne brought called "Magnet Chess Game" which was reported to be "really fun!" If you haven't attended a game night yet, check it out.

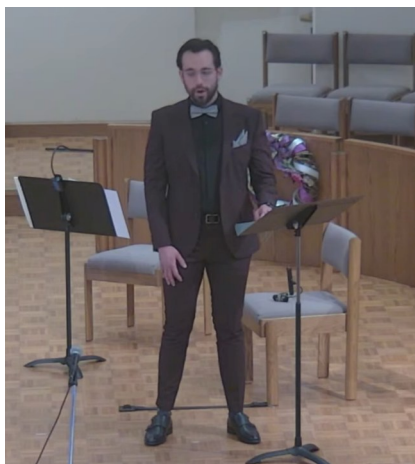
Nancy O has moved where she is closer to her daughter. Her new address is: 13 Kishpaugh Rd. Blairstown, NJ 07825.

It was a delight to have **Quincy L** back among us as she provided vocals on Sunday, 9/21 for our worship service. Jerry had a big vocal performance that night for a fundraiser and had to save his voice. Thanks Quincy!

And wow did Jerry ever belt it out at the fundraiser. It was an amazing performance for a good cause!

Meanwhile **Calvin H** has been producing a show at Busch Gardens VA for their Halloween show "Skeletons in Your Closet" ... uh oh! LOL. Break-a-leg Calvin and cast!

We also had a visit from **Lynne Peterson** in September. It was great to see her



Jerry V performing!



Calvin H and Quincy

again in worship and at fellowship!

We are keeping **the Weinberg family** in our prayers as Marty's mom battles cancer.

John and Sue G are also very much in our prayers as August brought some difficult days. We are praying that John continues to stay strong and that treatments would be fruitful.

We are sad to report that Jim T's mom **Loretta** passed in August after several years of medical struggles. We pray for peace for the entire family. Below is a letter from Jim and Cyndy to Trinity:

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant we received after the passing of Jim's mother. We have been so grateful for your prayers as she struggled with serious health issues and also now for us and our family as we adjust to a new season of life. It has always been wonderful to have a loving and supportive church family, and we especially appreciate being a part of this congregation. We feel loved and seen and held. Thank you for that.
Cyndy & Jim

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Email Pastor Anne at TrinityLivPastor@gmail.com or complete and mail this prayer request card to Pastor Anne at Trinity. You may include your name and email or remain anonymous. You can also request a phone call from Pastor Anne.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

☐ I would like a call from the Pastor. My phone number is:

Prayer Request:

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Adult Bible Study: Sundays 10 am

All adults ages 18 and over are welcome! We meet in the library (Room 2) from 10 am to 10:45 am. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Pastor Anne.

Youth Sunday School: Sundays 10 am

All youth are welcome! The youth meet in Room 9 from 10 am to 10:45 am. Our Youth director, Mike M. leads the study. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Mike at TrinityLivingstonYouth@gmail.com.



Children's Sunday School 10 am

Kids pre-k through 5th grade can join Sunday School at 10 am—10:55 am in room 7. We have a rotating list of adult volunteers. If you can help, please sign up on the server worksheet. All volunteers for children's church must be background checked.

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.**



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Prayer Meetings (virtual): Wednesdays 8:00 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 or give us a call and leave a message.

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

Mission & Makers: Wednesday, 10/29, 11/19

Everyone is welcome! We meet 11 am at the church and work on mission related tasks. If you have any questions, ask Karen R, call or email the church office.



Game Night (all ages): Saturday, 10/25 , 11/22

Let's get together for some light-hearted fun 7pm-9pm. All ages are welcome. We'll play games! We will have all ages game nights for October and November. **There will be no game nights in December. Game nights will resume in January.**

Thursday Night Dinner & Bible Study: 6:30 pm

All are welcome! We meet in fellowship hall at 6:30 pm (and online for those far away) to explore the scriptures within their historical context and how we understand them today. Pastor Anne will provide dinner to those attending in person. Dinner is at 6:30 pm with the Bible study beginning at 7 pm, and closing with prayer at 8 pm. Call or email Pastor Anne if you would like to be on the email list for updates and Zoom links.

Turn the clocks back one hour on Saturday night, 11/1.

New Member Welcome! Sunday, 11/2 (All Saint's Day) during worship

The congregation welcomes two new members, Kevin and Robert on Sunday, 11/2!

Thanksgiving Pot Luck: Sunday, 11/23 after worship

We join our building partners for a meal and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. Pastor Anne will cook a turkey. Side dishes and other protein dishes are both welcome, as well as desserts. We will gather in fellowship hall immediately following the worship service. We will also need folks to set up and clean up.



“A Most Particular Gift” Puppet Show: Sunday, 12/20 7:00 PM

Our youth director Mike is putting on a Puppet show on Saturday, 12/20 starting at 7:00 PM. This event is a fundraiser for Trinity. There will be a suggested \$20 donation at the door. Cash and credit accepted.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent Dinner & Bible Study: Thursdays, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

We meet in Fellowship hall Thursdays at 6:30 pm for dinner and the study begins at 7:00 PM. Look for an email from Pastor Anne about the Advent study coming soon!

Trinity Women's Christmas Party: Saturday, 12/13 at 5:30 pm

All Trinity women are invited to the annual Trinity women's Christmas party. After a pot luck dinner and devotional time, we enjoy a white elephant gift game. Bring a dish to share and, if able, a wrapped unlabeled gift for the game. We will send out a sign up for food and paper goods for this event.

The Christmas Pageant: Sunday, 12/21

The Trinity kids, youth, and congregation come together during worship to tell the Christmas story. Prepare your caroling voices and join in the merry celebration.

Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, 12/24 at 5:00 PM

The annual Christmas Eve candlelight service will take place in the sanctuary starting at 5:00 PM. Come sing your favorite hymns and celebrate the wonderful counselor, light of the world, king and kings!

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE MESSENGER* WILL
BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2026**

MISSIONS & MORE



Trinity offers many opportunities for mission work and this year is no exception. We are looking for a volunteer to contact businesses about donations for our missions. Also, if you are on Buy Nothing Livingston, you can post for donations. See Karen R if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

Please see Karen R during fellowship if you would like more information on mission opportunities or you can email her at karenrei@comcast.net or call the church office.



COLLECTIONS FOR MEN

We collect ALL YEAR LONG for missions so please donate if you can. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please be sure the write “MISSIONS—MENS” on the memo line of checks, on envelopes for cash and in the memo section is donating via PayPal on our website at ***TrinityChurchLivingston.org***.

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MEN'S HIKING OR WORK BOOTS—MEN'S SIZES 7—10

CLOTHING S-M-L

Coats	Windbreakers
Heavy zipper hoodies	Warm hats & scarves
Gloves	Sweatshirts & Hoodies
Shoes, boots & sneakers sizes 7-8-9	Socks
Thermal underwear	Jeans, slacks & sweatpants
T-shirts: Long sleeve & short sleeve	

ACCESSORIES & TOILETRIES

Backpacks	Drawstring packs
Toothbrushes & toothpaste*	Lip balm*
Hand lotion*	Hotel size toiletry samples*
Greeting cards*	Calendars*
Notepads*	Hand warmers*

HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

Mugs	Blankets: twin-full-queen
Throws	Towels: beach-bath-hand
Kitchen towels	Washcloths
Leak-proof reusable water bottles	

SEWING KITS

Buttons, Sewing needles, Safety pins



COLLECTION FOR NEW PARENTS AND BABIES

This season we are collecting new, unwrapped toys for kids (any age) for our neighbors in need. Toys can be placed in the “TOYS” box located outside of fellowship hall. THANK YOU to everyone who has donated kids clothing and accessories this year. We will continue collecting clothing and accessories for babies and toddlers, as well as comfort items for new moms throughout the year.

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COLLECTION FOR THE LIVINGSTON FOOD PANTRY

The local food pantries always run low on **cooking oil**. You can place donate cooking oil in our **Donations basket located outside of the kitchen**. THANK YOU!

The Livingston food pantry let us know that their shelves often go empty after the holiday season. Please consider donating cooking oil, canned foods, and boxed milk. Please do no donate anything that requires eggs or butter to make (like Macaroni and Cheese boxes or cake mixes), those receiving the food usually do not have access to butter or eggs. Thank you!



DONATION BINS

For all other clothing, shoes and used small toys that cannot be used by Trinity, we have donation bins in our parking lot for your use. Acceptable items are clothing, shoes and small toys. Items should be used, but in good condition. Please seal all items in a bag before putting them in the bin. Trinity receives a donation from Millennium Textiles for the use of the parking lot space.



COLLECTION FOR RENEW CENTER

Laundry detergent/pods, toilet paper, toothpaste, and shampoo. These items are not covered under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and are greatly needed. **Donations can be put in our Donations box located outside the kitchen.** For check or PayPal donations, please include “MISSIONS—RENEW” in the memo.

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COLLECTION 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. We can’t “split” checks, so any money donated to Care & Share must be on a separate check with “Care & Share” on the memo line. (keep track of these donations; they are not reported on your year-end letter from the financial

We are in need of buttons for sewing kits. If you have any buttons you can donate, please bring them in a bag and leave them in the donation box outside of fellowship hall or Room 5. Thank you!



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343 E. CEDAR ST. LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039
973-992-4044 TrinityChurchLivingston.org

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

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5*