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TRINITY TIMES

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TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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AUGUST 2020

TRINITY TIMES

A place to belong. A community that serves. Growing in God's abundant grace.

REOPENING GUIDELINES (APPROVED BY TLC 06-23-2020)

HOW HAS OUR PHASE 1 GONE?

Steady and slowly, we have reopened the building to groups of 10 or less. Thank you for your cooperative spirit as we have tried to implement healthy practices for having people in the building. We have masks, hand sanitizer, and alcohol wipes available throughout the building to assist cleaning after a space is used. We have scheduled and coordinated time in and outside our building for small group gatherings.

Phase
1

WHEN WILL OUR PHASE 2 BEGIN/REOPENING TO WORSHIP?

The TLC decided to move forward with an **amended** Phase 2. We will reopen for worship on **Aug. 9, 10AM, for up to 15 folks** (not including Staff) who have not been able to participate in online worship and/ or for folks who are ready, willing, and able to attend.

Phase
2

WHAT WILL REOPENING LOOK LIKE?

We need you to RSVP in advance of each Sunday in August if you plan to attend in person.



Staff will determine how to set up seating either in the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, or Library. Because the majority of the congregation will still be worshipping online, this is a new opportunity to best engage both online and in-person worshippers. This means

that worship will continue to have most of its elements pre-recorded, and those gathering at TUMC will share worship together through Zoom and video portions of worship. **The TLC asks that if you are able to still worship online, please continue to do so in order that those attending at church will have a space available for them.**

Here is the schedule of a typical Sunday for **August 9 - 30:**

- **Please call the church office by Friday if you will be one of the 15 attending in person.**
- Church building opens at **10AM (Please use the back or ramp door for check-in)**. Upon arrival, plan to:
 - ◇ Sign in for contact tracing
 - ◇ Take & record your temperature (we have contactless thermometers)
 - ◇ Wear a mask and practice social distancing. TUMC will supply masks for anyone who does not have one.
- Zoom Fellowship begins ~ **10:15AM**. This will be a chance to share with those of you who are new to Zoom how we catch up with one another! (We are hoping Ted will make coffee!!!)
- Worship begins ~ **10:45AM**.
- To limit personal contact there will be individual bulletins and no hymnals. Those gathered in person will not be able to sing corporately, as this is a way the virus can easily spread.
- An offering plate will be available for anyone who would like to bring offerings in person. We will not pass the offering plate.
- Worship concludes around 11:30AM with a time for Zoom Fellowship following worship as well.
- Before closing up, we ask for assistance from any Healthy Church Team folks in attendance

to wipe down doors, handrails, any tables and chairs used, and bathrooms in order to have the space prepared for any youth activities that will follow in the afternoon.

- **This will continue provided it continues to comply with NC & Federal Law, the CDC recommendations, and guidance from our WNC Conference Bishop and staff.**

Some details/continuing practices for this amended Phase 2 for August:

- Scheduling time in the building - All groups should schedule their time with the Office Administrator in order to ensure building capacity of 15 or less (not including staff in other parts of the building).
- **Remember, wearing masks protects those around you. As of June 25, 2020, this is now the Law in North Carolina** for public gatherings. The TLC asks everyone to wear a mask no matter the size or location of the gathering. We do not consider masks to be optional for any persons over 2 years old, including office staff when in common work areas.
- Volunteers (counters, worship assistants, Summer Lunch Program volunteers, Children & Youth parents helping with small group ministry) will have access to the church for their service & ministry use of the bathroom and should maintain social distancing, wear a mask, and use provided wipes to clean handles and surfaces they come in contact with.
- Sign-in's for screening & contact tracing - All volunteers & staff will sign in and conduct their own health screening (including temperature check) upon entering the building. People are encouraged to bring their own masks; **TUMC will supply masks for anyone who does not have one.**

PHASE THREE PROPOSED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 6

The third phase start date will depend on continued guidance from the aforementioned



agencies, a decline in case counts, widespread availability of testing, and notes improved contact tracing, and no PPE shortages.

PHASE THREE WILL INCLUDE

1. Hybrid worship on-line and in-person in the Sanctuary, ~50 person max (~18 group units)
 - a. People will stagger seating every 3 pews (and every other side in the middle section) practicing social distancing, **mask wearing**, etc.
 - b. Volunteers/ Healthy Church Team will help with doors and commonly used surface cleaning while people are in the building.
 - c. To limit personal contact there will be changes in the use of such things as bulletins and sharing hymnals.
 - d. An offering plate will be available at the Altar rail for anyone who would like to bring offerings in person. We will not pass the offering plate.
 - e. "Passing the Peace" will be a socially distanced practice.
 - f. Our Custodian & Healthy Church Team will clean the Sanctuary, handrails, door handles and bathrooms after worship on Sundays.
2. Small groups (25 people or less) can meet in person social distancing, **mask wearing** and CDC guidelines must be followed.
 - a. Online options will continue to be provided for all committees.
 - b. Other than Sunday worship, **all groups are responsible for cleaning spaces used during their function (cleaning supplies and guidelines provided).**
3. Scheduling time in the building - All groups need to receive approval for their scheduled time from the Office Administrator in order to ensure building capacity (not including staff in other parts of the building).
4. Volunteers (counters, worship assistants, Summer Lunch Program volunteers, Children & Youth parents helping with small group ministry) will have access to the church for their service & ministry.
 - a. All should follow posted guidelines for use of the bathroom, maintain social distance, **wear a mask**, and use provided wipes to clean handles and surfaces they come in contact

PASTORAL CARE, NURTURE & FELLOWSHIP

We are going to make an extra effort to be in touch with one another over the phone. Those who have volunteered to make calls will be re-engaging with their lists, and our goal is to reach out to everyone at least once in August, and FOR some of you we will be reaching out to more than once!



If you would be willing to be a "shepherd" and make these phone calls, please let Nancy or Lee know. They have the master list that has been divided and gives callers a place to make notes and give updates.

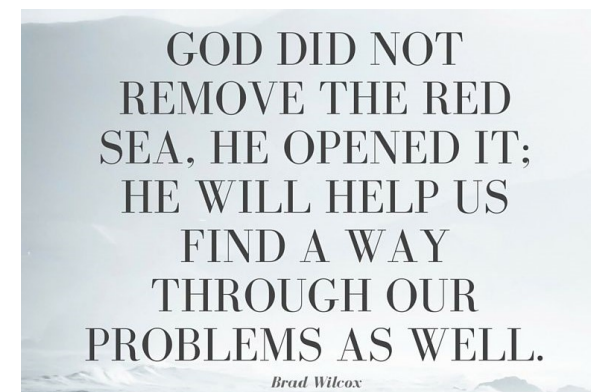
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION

We will touch base with Hall Fletcher Elementary to inquire how we may be of support to them with the new plans for distance learning this fall, in addition to collecting needed supplies for our August Red Wagon.



AUGUST TLC MEETING

Next meeting – Tue., Aug. 25, 6PM via Zoom and socially distancing with Zoom connection in the Library. If you have an item for consideration on the agenda, please send it to Caroline Levi one week prior to meetings. We are finding our rhythm with our new model, completing the meetings in 1.5 hours!



CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 01 Sophie Walton
 Aug. 04 Ingrid Sanders
 Aug. 07 Alex Esmon
 Aug. 10 Steve Penland
 Aug. 11 Miriam Byerly
 Aug. 11 Coy Arrington
 Aug. 11 Elijah Drake Dover
 Aug. 12 Gary Allan
 Aug. 15 Piper Esmon
 Aug. 15 Isaac Richmond
 Aug. 17 Bob May
 Aug. 21 Jane Ann Dempsey
 Aug. 21 Keaton Ruch
 Aug. 23 Amy Dexter
 Aug. 25 Sylvia Milholen
 Aug. 27 Dee Dee Allan
 Aug. 27 Gram Klingel
 Aug. 29 John Buddy
 Aug. 31 Shawn Kinney
 Aug. 31 Isaac Kinney



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 14 John & Kathy McCullough
 Aug. 17 Jimmy & Barbara Davis
 Aug. 17 Orba & Barbara Smith
 Aug. 17 Lin & Nancy Walton
 Aug. 18 Robert & Suzanne May
 Aug. 19 Erik & Becky Gummeson
 Aug. 25 Tom & Mary Jo Harrison



THANKSGIVINGS

- Paul Sprouse, Steve Penland & Darryl Parker, for help with grounds keeping work!
- Jonathan Capp & Steve Penland for volunteering with the West Asheville Haywood Road clean-up day.
- All of you for your faithful giving to Trinity!
- All who have given to the Memorial Garden!



◇ Meals together

- What seemed important before that feels superfluous now?

August Leadership Development Question of the Month - What Did We Assume?

- What was undervalued before that may hold greater value now?
- What mattered about geography before that no longer matters?
- What margin or lack of margin was built into our old model of doing church? What new abundance are we experiencing now? Where are we experiencing scarcity now that was not evident before?

Feel free to submit your own answers to anyone on the TLC or Staff.

WORSHIP UPDATES PHASE 2 REOPENING



As you read earlier, we are moving forward with a revised Phase 2 plan. Much discussion was given to how to successfully begin welcoming a small group of folks back in (who have not been involved online) along with the majority of folks who will still be worshipping on-line. The main goal agreed upon was to welcome this small group back to worship together, integrate them with what we're currently doing, and slowly move forward. Staff is charged with discerning how best to do this and which portions of worship will be live and which ones will be recorded.

DISCIPLESHIP/ SMALL GROUPS



Nancy will send out another survey to ask for participation in a Bible Study (other than on a Sunday morning). The Dismantling Racism group is a growing small group with lively, good discussion.

FINANCE

At the July 21 TLC meeting, we were delighted to find that Trinity is doing relatively well in terms of continued pledged & unpledged giving. Receipts are currently running ahead of



budget. We have received some non-recurring gifts, so we cannot count on this healthy situation continuing. Tithing continues to be good, but it will not make up for the loss of rental income.

Of course, we are being extremely careful in our spending, the building is being used less (less utilities), and we were given 3 months forgiveness (April - June, \$1133/ month) paying clergy health insurance by the conference. The PPP loan "forgiveness" application (sounds funny to faith language for finances!) has been submitted, so that will (hopefully) show up as "income" in future reports (to date it has not been included for accounting purposes since it is technically still a loan). If anyone would like a detailed copy of our financial reports, please contact Lee in the Church Office.

All this to say - THANK YOU for your steadfast support of Trinity and our ministries!

TRUSTEES

The Trustees Chair, Mark Locklear, shared that the Asheville Waldorf School is not renewing their lease, as of September 1. The building is currently listed for rent on the internet and we are scheduling showings. We are also discerning the possibility of offering classroom space for homeschool/ distance learning "pods" of students and parent-leaders.

Brothers Ross, our grounds keepers, has offered TUMC a significant discount for lawn care due to our restricted budget. This means that some jobs may need to be done by volunteers. Please see Mark or Nancy if you are interested and able to help with hedge trimming, weeding, etc. A HUGE thank you to Brothers Ross, Steve Penland, and Darryl Parker for their contributions to assist with these tasks.

The Parsonage tenants are doing fine, and this rental income can be used to off-set Pastor Nancy's housing allowance.

We have raised the needed \$5500 to begin building the communal urn for our memorial garden, which will commence this fall. We are working with Marc Archambault of Hammerhead Studios for a November 1/ All Saints Sunday dedication. Another \$5500 is needed for the bronze signs to hold the name plates. To date, we have raised \$300 for the signage.



with.

5. Sign-in's for screening & contact tracing.
6. Sunday School classes may resume provided they meet the above mentioned criteria. We suggest the Mary Mann class use the Fellowship Hall to meet in order to assist with social distancing.

A FEW NOTES MOVING INTO THE FALL

If there is one thing we have learned, it is to make the best plans we can...and then be flexible! Because of the resurgence on COVID-19 cases this summer, we are being cautious and realistic about reopening. Your survey responses (thank you for doing those!) have shown that most folks will not return to in person worship and larger group activities until other public gatherings resume and you see how those events affect our local and regional situation. This means that if we reopen in September to larger numbers for worship and ministry, it is likely that those who participate in person will be under a total of 50. While we do not know what the fall will bring, the TLC believes that with the Staff working to engage both in-person and on-line TUMC family creatively, we will keep our United Methodist connection strong and involved in our cooperative ministries.

And the TLC invites us all to hold onto these helpful reminders:

- There will be some continued change that feels like a loss, and some that feels like an opportunity. It is okay to grieve the changes in our rituals and gatherings.
- It is also okay to look for the ways our creativity is drawing us into new, more accessible, ministries.
- We are in this together, and there will surely be a wide range of feelings that we are all processing.
- We will continue to create space for us to share and process our experiences together.

In hope and love,
TUMC's TLC and Staff

WORSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

AUGUST WORSHIP NOTES

Aug 02 - Guest preacher, the Rev. Jeff McCumber, UNCA Wesley Campus Minister - John 13:1-17

Aug 09 - The Word is near! - Romans 10:5-15 - Reopening to a small group of 15 or less; HOLY COMMUNION

Aug 16 - To the Lost Sheep - Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Aug 23 - Who Do You Say (That I Am)? (And what does that say about you?) - Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 30 - Holding Fast (in a time of COVID!) - Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

COMMUNITY ANTI-RACISM DISCUSSION GROUP IS GROWING!

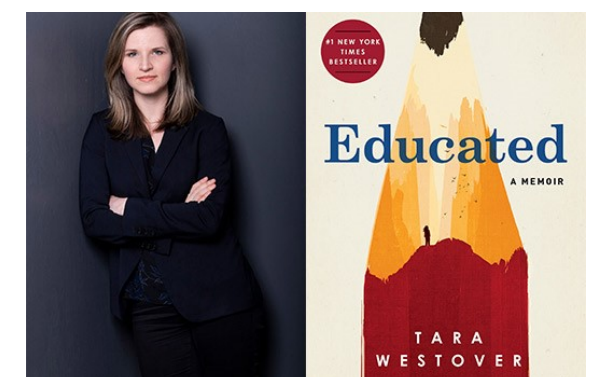
Are you interested in learning more about dismantling white supremacy and building more understanding of our black and brown bodied sisters and brothers? A small group at Trinity began gathering in mid-July for this kind of discussion and reflective work. If you are interested, please contact:

Jonathan Capp (cappson3@gmail.com) or
Nancy Walton (nancy@trinitywavl.org).

Most meet by Zoom (we can have 10 meet at church with your RSVP) over the Lunch hour on Tuesdays. We are also looking for an evening or weekend time so that teachers will be able to be a part of the group as we begin the school year.



AUGUST BOOK GROUP



The next book is ***Educated*** by Tara Westover. Discussion will take place in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom on **Wed, Aug. 19, 11AM**. Please RSVP to Lee if you plan to attend in person, and RSVP to Nancy for the Zoom link.

DISTRICT/CONFERENCE NEWS



2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The voting body of Annual Conference voted overwhelmingly to hold AC2020 through a virtual session on **Sat., Aug. 8 at 1PM**.

Watch www.ac2020.org for up-to-date information and resources regarding Annual Conference.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION

AUGUST RED WAGON

For **August**, we will collect school supplies for Hall Fletcher Elementary school. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week, or please call the office to set up a time for the Little Red Wagon (AKA the Church Van) to come to **YOU** on **Thu., Aug 13**.



Items requested:

- Medium-Large Bottles of Hand Sanitizer
- Paper Towel Rolls
- Clorox/Lysol/Fabuloso Wipes
- Spiral composition tablets
- Earbuds/Head Phones
- Colored pencils/crayons/markers
- Spray bottles (empty)

If you are not able to shop and would like to help out, please mark a donation to **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**.

ABCCM NEWS

Would you like to tour the new Transformation Village as a small group from TUMC? Often a delay has a silver lining - we now have an extra month for small groups of churches, volunteers and donors to see the whole facility rather than only part of it because we have already moved in with Covid restrictions to keep everyone safe. We are offering tours to special groups: Steadfast House volunteers and churches, plus our capital campaign donors. For those who feel safe to get together with me, Lynn and Carolyn; or Steadfast House Director Angela or new Volunteer Coordinator Beverly, **we will be happy to schedule a 30 minute walk through the building**. We especially want cook teams to arrange a time to come see the new kitchen setup. Other volunteers will want to see the children's enrichment area and the classrooms. Our donors will want to see how we are increasing capacity for beds, for life skills, for health and nutrition, as well as classrooms for the 17 career tracks offered by AB Tech. Our Steps to Success and Recovery Living programs truly transform lives.



ABCCM'S TRANSFORMATION VILLAGE

Some churches have wanted to help with moving and can email:

caleb.bradshaw@abccm.org or
beverly.buckner@abccm.org.

For tours email:

scott.rogers@abccm.org or
angela.pennell@abccm.org.

We plan to celebrate responsibly to dedicate the building and will do so in person or virtually, so be on the look-out for more information.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Help **Habitat** by being a volunteer greeter or check-in attendees for the 2020 Southern Living Idea Home at The Ramble in Biltmore Forest. In return, Asheville Habitat will receive all proceeds from ticket sales - and revenue is expected to raise enough to build an entire Habitat home! To learn more and sign up, visit ashevillehabitat.org/how-to-help/volunteer/.



HAYWOOD STREET

Current ways to support the ministry & our friends:

1. Make a meal for Friends staying in Respite. Visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/dm2y6z> to sign up.
2. Donation needs:
 - backpacks
 - tampons, toothbrushes and toothpaste
 - small & medium women's and men's underwear
 - men's shorts and pants
 - Biodegradable trash bags.

New Drop Off Time: **Tuesdays 10AM – 12PM** or you may call Trinity and we will be happy to pick them up from your front porch.

MANNA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Emma Community - Aug. 3, 1:30PM. Report to the Buncombe County Schools Central Office, 175 Bingham Rd, Asheville, NC 28806, to help pack. Distribution in the Emma and Woodfin communities will be from **3-5PM**. Bring mask, gloves, water, and hand sanitizer; dress to be outdoors for the packing in the parking lot.



TRINITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

TLC APPROVED TO SERVE THROUGH THE FALL CHARGE CONFERENCE (TBD)

- Caroline Levi (former Council Chair)
- Vernon & Joyce Robinson (lay leaders)
- Kay Cooke (Staff Parish Relations Chair)
- Sarah & Mike Pruett (will take turns attending; Christian Formation, Fellowship & Nurture rep - Sarah; SPRC - Mike)
- Maxine Schrader (Worship Team, Finance & Missions rep)
- Cathi Durham (Finance Chair)
- Mildred Dixon (Finance Team specialist)
- Mark Locklear (Trustees Chair)
- Vicki Biggers (Trustees specialist)
- Julia Gibson (Annual Conf. delegate)
- Sean & Celia Clark (Youth Reps, taking turns)

TLC HIGHLIGHTS NEWS (FROM JULY 21 MTG)

July Leadership Development Question of the Month - What Have We Lost?

- What have we lost or were on the verge of discovering or accomplishing before the onset of the pandemic?
 - ◊ Significant fundraising efforts that were also intended to build community
 - ◊ Lost fellowship over meals
 - ◊ Lost opportunities to invite people into Trinity's space for these events
 - ◊ Lost monthly fellowship meals for Mary Mann Class/ senior adults
 - ◊ Lost children & youth activities, building community amongst themselves and church as a whole
 - ◊ Live music/ choir
- What needs to move forward in different ways now?
 - ◊ Re-engaging our phone tree ministry and recruit new callers (Perhaps pledge for all calls to be made on the same day in August)
 - ◊ Youth Group - new patterns to follow healthy guidelines
 - ◊ Sunday School/ Bible study (Nancy will send out another survey to ask for participation)
- What was possible before that may not be possible for some time—if ever?
 - ◊ Live music/ choir