

Transitional Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Seth Noggle Editor/Administrative Assistant: Diane Spohn Director of Music: Bruce Rohrbach Tech & Media Specialist: Brandon Wood Financial Secretary: Mike Sailsbery Giving Bookkeeper: Lisa Finke 484-529-7801 570-529-2325 610-683-3450 610-683-9496 484-629-9332 412-849-5255 610-349-2325

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Mission Statement:

"The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to equip God's people to do God's work and bring good news to hungry people."

> Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Phone: 610-683-3450 Website: <u>www.trinitykutztown.com</u>

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM Good News Club at 8:30 AM

2022 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier Joseph Jedwab Mary Neuenschwander Dan Raudenbush Kurt Rohrbach Michael Sailsbery Ann Towne Jean Wagner Alicia Wood

Property Christian Education Personnel Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship Vice President, Endowment Financial Secretary President, Mission/Service and Fellowship Worship Life Secretary, Witness/Communication

From the Pastor...

Dear Fellow Disciples in Christ,

Some reflections along the way:

We have begun a new era in our musical capabilities as Bruce demonstrated on Palm Sunday and again on Easter. Our new digital organ has a vast array of additional sounds that will continue to enhance our worship services, both traditional and contemporary, in the months and years to come. Now it remains for us to repay the loan from the Endowment Committee that enabled its purchase in a timely manner. In the coming weeks everyone will have an opportunity to make a financial committee. If you have not had an opportunity to attend worship in person recently, plan to do so in the coming weeks. We anticipate an opportunity to hold a dedicatory organ concert at some point in the fall.

Don't miss our opportunity to celebrate the ministries of three of Trinity's staff on May 15th at the 9:30 AM service of worship and at the brunch that will follow. Trinity has been blessed by the ministries of Bruce Rohrbach, Director of Music (15 years), Seth Noggle, Director of Youth and Family Ministry (10 years), and Lisa Finke, Administrative Assistant (7 years) *retired.* It promises to be a special day not only for these faithful servants of God, but also for all of us, for together we have been called to make Christ known.

We have begun a study of *Revelation*, the last book of the Bible. It will continue for several more weeks. Why not plan to join us as we seek to engage with what some have called the most revealing book of the Bible (pun intended). So often we avoid *Revelation* because its imagery seems to be so fantastic, but at its base level it is a book written to 7 churches that are in various degrees of struggle and difficulty. The message John seeks to deliver to them is one of hope and the promise that through faithfulness to God there will be a future. In times like we are experiencing in the church of our day it is a message that I believe we all need to hear and heed.

At the last Congregation Council meeting I floated the idea of resettling a refugee family. Currently, there is a need for resettlement hosts for refugees from Afghanistan and in the near future from Ukraine due to the invasion by Russia. If you are interested in helping to move this initiative forward you should contact me at <u>dsritter@ptd.net</u> or 484-529-7801. I pray that we as a congregation can become a safe haven for a displaced family in need.

Finally, the summer is fast approaching and I hope that you will find time for renewal and recreation with those you love. Don't forget Trinity as you do so. The congregation and I as your Transitional Pastor stand ready to be the hands and feet and heart of God for you and any who desire God's presence and grace in their lives.

Looking forward to gathering with you in worship, learning, fellowship and service, I am

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ritter



Schedule & Volunteers

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

| May 1 | 9:30 AM | Louise DeVall |
|--------|---------|----------------|
| May 8 | 9:30 AM | Carolyn Miller |
| May 15 | 9:30 AM | Joseph Jedwab |
| May 22 | 9:30 AM | Debbie Ziegler |
| May 29 | 9:30 AM | Dan Raudenbush |

LAY READERS:

| May 1 | 9:30 AM | Alicia Wood |
|--------|---------|----------------|
| May 8 | 9:30 AM | Carolyn Miller |
| May 15 | 9:30 AM | Joseph Jedwab |
| May 22 | 9:30 AM | Debbie Ziegler |
| May 29 | 9:30 AM | Dan Raudenbush |

ACOLYTES:

| May 1 | 9:30 AM | Isaac Jedwab |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|
| May 8 | 9:30 AM | Isaac Jedwab |
| May 15 | 9:30 AM | David & Andrew Neuenschwander |
| May 22 | 9:30 AM | Isaac Jedwab |
| May 29 | 9:30 AM | Isaac Jedwab |

USHERS/GREETERS:

| May 1 | 9:30 AM | Neuenschwander family |
|--------|---------|----------------------------|
| May 8 | 9:30 AM | Tom Kulp & Melanie Wessner |
| May 15 | 9:30 AM | Pauline & Kurt Rohrbach |
| May 22 | 9:30 AM | Nargiza & Joseph Jedwab |
| May 29 | 9:30 AM | To be determined |

MONEY COUNTERS: Michele Zimmerman and Linda Geiring

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Melanie Wessner

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Susan Ritter and Debbie Ziegler

IMPORTANT DATES:

| May 8 | Mother's Day |
|--------|-----------------------|
| May 26 | Ascension of the Lord |
| May 30 | Memorial Day |

MASKS OPTIONAL

Masks are optional in the church building for those individuals who are vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.

Committee Meeting Dates...

Meeting Dates for May

Congregation Council Worship Life Committee May 10 at 7:00 PM May 17 at 7:00 PM

From the Church Office...

The church office hours will be Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The office will be closed on Mondays.

Deadline for articles for the June newsletter is Monday, May 16^{th} .

Lectors Needed...

We are continuing to ask for lectors to do the readings each Sunday during our church service. Whether you can be there in person or over Zoom, we would love to have you! Readings are sent ahead of time so you have a chance to look them over. If you'd like to read over Zoom, we can have you read live and we'll hear you over the sound system in church, or, you can set up a time to video record your readings so they may be added to the weekly slide show. If you have any questions about lectoring, contact Laurel Ziegler. For Zoom lectoring questions, please feel free to reach out to Alicia Wood (akhornberger624@gmail.com).

Upcoming Worship Opportunities..

New Members

New members to be received on Sunday, May 1st, at our 9:30 a.m. service. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our fellowship at Trinity, please contact Pastor Ritter or call the church office.

Celebration Sunday

We look forward to the Celebration Sunday on May 15th as we recognize Bruce Rohrbach, Lisa Finke and Seth Noggle for their faithful service to our congregation. Please remember to return your reservations/donation response to the church by Sunday, May 8th. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to provide homemade baked goods for the brunch.

Capital Campaign...



STARTING A NEW CHAPTER

The *Starting A New Chapter* Capital Campaign is under way. Over the coming weeks of May everyone at Trinity will have an opportunity to be a part of this effort to pay off the loan for our new Allen digital organ and to acquire funds to address some of the inadequacies of our facilities regarding those who have mobility issues.

Again, the campaign's primary goal is to ensure that Trinity is able to repay its loan from the Endowment Fund within the three years of the loan agreement, and its secondary goal is eventually to enable renovations to Trinity's facilities that will make it more accessible for individuals with physical limitations.

The Capital Campaign planning team of Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, David Esser, Robert Hobaugh, Dan Raudenbush and Bruce Rohrbach have worked with Pastor Ritter to create a campaign worthy of your support that will enable the start of a new chapter in the life of Trinity. Your joyful and generous participation and God's blessing of this endeavor will ensure a successful outcome.

Worship Life...

-We want to remind you that a weekly **Jingle Offering** will be collected from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, June 5th. This offering **will benefit the Potato Project**, a local charity offering fresh produce to many food banks in Berks and surrounding counties. Seed cutting for the Spring time planting occurred April 23 and 24 at Becker's St. Peter's Church located at 265 Maidencreek Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522.

- —On Sunday, June 5th we will honor anyone who has graduated from High School, College, a Graduate Program or Trade School since July of 2021. Graduates please submit your major/ field of study, awards, accomplishments and future plans to the church office by Monday, May 23rd. We hope you are able to join us at the 9:30 church service on June 5th so we can wish our graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors.
- —We look forward to the Celebration Sunday on May 15th as we recognize Bruce Rohrbach, Lisa Finke and Seth Noggle for their faithful service to our congregation. Please remember to return your reservations/ donation response to the church by Sunday, May 8th.
- —We would like to offer homemade baked goods for the brunch on May 15th. If you are willing to bring a baked item, please sign up on the church office door. Thank you.
- -If you haven't heard our **new Allen organ**, we hope you can join us for worship soon and experience the beautiful music Bruce has been playing on this amazing instrument. Many thanks go out to Bruce for his expertise and hard work and all the volunteers that helped with this huge project. There will be a dedication for the organ in the future, probably during the Fall.
- —Please consider serving on altar guild, we have several months with only one person volunteering. It is much easier to work as a team. Training will be provided. Please speak with Debbie Ziegler, 610-683-6629 or contact the church office.

Call Committee Update...

Now that we have entered into the Easter season, we have new hope. Our Mission Site Profile or MSP has been updated to include changes that have taken place in our congregation over the past year. The MSP is the document that the synod gives to prospective candidates to review for them to determine if they are interested in meeting with our call committee. Some revisions to our MSP include: becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, recently purchasing a new digital organ, and entering into a Capital Campaign to both repay the organ loan and to raise funds to make our building more accessible. We are hopeful that these revisions will be seen in a positive light by any prospective candidates. Please keep the work of our call committee in your prayers.

Creation Care Team...

What a wonderful time of year to celebrate with awe the beauty that abounds in God's creation. With daffodils, tulips and flowering trees blooming we are reminded that life abounds. We as members of the Creation Care Team believe we are called to nurture God's beautiful creation. to learn more about environmental stewardship, and to educate. At a recent team meeting we were discussing community supported agriculture or CSA. Essentially, by joining a CSA, members are buying a portion or share of a local farm's harvest for the year. You pay an initial fee up front in exchange for a weekly box of fresh, seasonal items. What you receive in your share will depend on the specific farm, but offerings typically include fruits and vegetables. It may also include dairy, eggs, baked goods and flowers. Farmers benefit from this community support. The early payment from shareholders provides money to purchase seeds, farm supplies, plan for labor expenses, and can identify their market before the beginning of the season. Likewise, the consumer benefits by getting the freshest local foods available throughout the year. Although you are putting up a significant amount of money initially, you get a ton of organic produce each week and save money in the long run. There are a variety of health benefits to eating fresh fruits and vegetables, however, there are also benefits for the environment for purchasing from local farms. Some environmental advantages include: 1) less CO2 emissions from the energy required to transport and refrigerate produce across long distances, 2) no groundwater pollutions from pesticides and fertilizers, which ensures better drinking water for us and future generations, and 3) no damage to

the fish population from pollution caused by runoff of fertilizers that feed oxygen-depleting organisms and throws off the balance of our fisheries, lakes, and ponds. Fortunately, we live in a farming community and are able to purchase from the farmer's market and local farm stands. If you are interested in purchasing a CSA share, we have learned that Taproot Farm will have a local weekly pickup point in Kutztown at Four Monkeys Coffee Shop on Constitution Blvd. For more information visit <u>https://taprootfarmpa.com/</u> or search for other CSA locations.

Sponsors needed...

Altar Flowers

There are several Sundays in 2022 that do not have altar flower sponsors. The dates still available are

| May 15 | May 22 |
|--------------|--------------|
| May 29 | July 17 |
| July 31 | |
| September 4 | September 18 |
| September 25 | October 9 |
| October 16 | November 20 |

If you are interested in sponsoring the flowers for any of these dates please contact Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975 or the church office at 610-683-3450.

Prayer List Procedure...

A reminder that when a person's name is given to the office for prayer it will be kept on the prayer list for four Sundays. At that point the name will be removed from the prayer list unless the church office is informed that the name should be kept on the list or the individual is known to our staff to be in need of continuing on the prayer list.

Engaging in prayer is an essential function of the faith community, especially intercessory prayer on behalf of others. We are pleased to continue to do so and see this as a way to be sure that our prayers are focused upon the real needs of those who have been entrusted to us for prayers.

If you wish to have someone included in our prayers, please contact the office at 610-683-3450 or via email at office@trinitykutztown.com.

Upcoming Events...

Church Mixer

May 22nd will be the end of our Sunday school and confirmation classes for the summer! We'd like to take time to celebrate all of their accomplishments and take time to be with our Church family. After Church (roughly around 10:45) we'll have a potluck at Trinity. Along with food, we'll have games, and get-to-know-you activities so that we can get to know all ages of our community a little better. Hope to see you there!

Geraniums for Pentecost

Pentecost is June 5th, and we will be ordering red geraniums from Countryside Farm and Greenhouse to decorate the sanctuary. Plants are wrapped in foil and cost is \$3.25 each. Forms are available in the back of the church with an envelope marked "Pentecost Geraniums" or in this newsletter. If interested in purchasing flowers, please complete the form and put in an envelope. The envelopes can then be placed in the offering plate or be dropped off in the church office. Please indicate if you would like to take your flowers home or have them planted in Trinity's gardens. The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, May 22. 2022.



From the Finance Committee...

| Approved 2022 Budget \$323,495 | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Offerings through March | \$ 59,917 |
| Expenditures through February | \$ 66,529 |
| Balance through February | \$(6,612) |
| Average monthly offering | \$ 18,563 |
| * () will indicate a deficit | |

) will mulcate a delicit

Youth News...

May Schedule for our Youth Groups

My E-mail is seth.noggle@gmail.com if you would like to E-mail me and ask to be on the youth group list. That's the best way to be updated on Youth Group activities.

May 1st – No scheduled youth group (return from Philadelphia Project service trip)

May 8th – at Trinity

Elementary Youth Group Time: 4:30 - 6:00 PM

May 15th – No scheduled youth grouup

May 22nd – St. John's

Middle & High School Youth Group Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

May 29th – Trinity

Middle & High School Youth Group Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

How You Can Help...

Student Food Pantry at KU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, groceries, and cash donations to this ministry. The pantry will continue on throughout the spring semester and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute food items, please see the list below...

| Peanut Butter | Juice |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Miscellaneous Snacks | Crackers |
| Knorr Side Dish Packets | Cereal |
| Instant Potato Packets | Breakfast Bars |
| Toiletries | Mac 'n Cheese |
| Soup | Tuna |
| Canned Fruits & Veggies | Pasta |

There is a box outside of the Parlor for the items you are donating. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office.

What's Oasis?

Oasis is a non-profit after school program that's based out of Bethel Nazarene Church found just off of Noble Street behind the Kutztown Middle School. This program has been running for around 7 years and provides a safe and fun place for kids to attend after school.

How can I help?

We're hoping to get some more Trinity people out at this program to build relationships with the youth of Kutztown. The program runs every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3-5PM. It's only a 2-hour commitment, and it can make a lifetime of change for some of these kids.

You can also make a monetary donation that would go to help buying more games, tech, and food for the youth while at Oasis.

If you're interested please contact Seth Noggle or the Church office.

Thank You!!!

From Todd Gladfelter and Cindy Ross (see original card on bulletin board with fingerpainting by Todd)

I want to thank you for your generous support to my long road to recovery. Progress is slow but friends like you help keep our spirits up.

Love,

Todd & Cindy

Dear Friends at Trinity Lutheran Church,

Please know that your generosity will have a positive effect on someone's life and what could possibly mean more than that? At Friend, Inc. we think it means everything, which is why we devote our days to that effort. Also, know that we absolutely could not do it without the kindness of people like you. Your gift of \$100 will go a long way towards helping individuals and families throughout northeastern Berks County....

With Sincere Thanks and Deep Respect, Jim Reece. Executive Director

In the Community...

Kutztown Community Choir

The Kutztown Community Choir will present a Spring Concert on Sunday, May 15 at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. We are so glad to be singing again!

This year's concert will include a wonderful collection of lively music that is sure to lift your spirits and set your toes a tappin'. Our choral selections will include music from *Grease*, Elton John's *Rocketman*, Frank Sinatra, and *Les Miserables*, as well as patriotic and folk tunes. Our Spring Concert is a great time to greet the return of warm weather along with other music lovers in our community and to enjoy an evening that is sure to entertain and delight.

Veteran's Expo

Thursday, May 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. there will be a Veteran's Expo at The Plex, Alvernia University, 465 Bernardine Street, Reading. Complimentary lunch (with registration) and information booths. For more information or to register, see <u>www.senatorschwank.com/vetexpo</u> or call 610-929-2151

SITUATION REPORT: CRISIS IN

UKRAINE

April 13, 2022 | No. 4

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RESPONSE

We have committed \$7 million to respond to this crisis, and we expect to increase this amount as we secure additional funding.

Our Humanitarian Action team is working with partners to implement programming based on short and long-term needs in Poland and in Ukraine. We have deployed additional technical staff to support our relief operations, including a program manager, a health advisor, and an advisor to lead our efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees.

Our response in Ukraine includes:

- Medical supplies and equipment. We are supporting health facilities in Ukraine in partnership with the Order of Malta by providing supplies, including surgical and wound care kits, gauze, IV kits, oxygen masks, defibrillators and stretchers.
- Partnerships with networks throughout Ukraine to provide shelter. We are partnering with networks in Ukraine to provide ongoing support to six facilities that are being used to shelter internally displaced persons. We're providing food and essential supplies and equipment, like folding beds, pillows, heaters, laundry detergent, toilet paper, and personal hygiene items. In all, we'll offer nearly 60,000 nights of shelter for people who need a place to stay.
- Identifying key gaps in the availability of services. We are designing an assessment process to identify key gaps in the availability of health services related to genderbased violence, mental health services and psychosocial services and communicable diseases. This work will be used to inform our response to support the Ministry of Health and other health care providers in Ukraine.

Our response in Poland includes:

• Emergency cash and vouchers for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. We've committed \$2 million to this effort in a combined program with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) that will support an initial caseload of more than 1,300 refugee families for the next three months.

• Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: We're integrating a referral system at our cash distribution sites in Poland so refugee women and children can safely and easily access protection services. We are an active mem

ber of the Regional Gender Task Force for Ukraine response, which is co-chaired by UN Women and Care International.

• Ongoing support for the Evangelical-Augsburg Church of St. Martin in Krakow, Poland, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children. We have provided essential supplies including milk, energy biscuits, personal hygiene products and room partition panels. We will continue to support the church to expand its relief operations in coordination with LWF.

• Shipping and distributing LWR Quilts and Care Kits in partnership with local organizations.

We are grateful for the thousands of Lutherans across the United States whose care and generosity have made it possible for us to respond immediately. At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist refugees on the move.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

BY THE NUMBERS

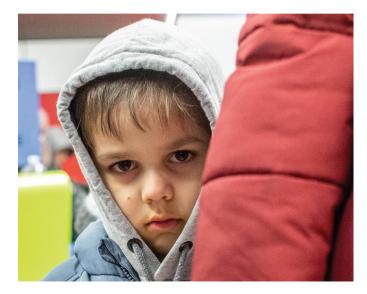
4.6 Million+ fleeing to other countries 2.6 Million to Poland | 700,000 to Romania415,000 to Moldova | 257,000 to Slovakia430,000 to Hungary

6.5 Million+ Internally displaced persons

Sources: BBC News quoting UN, March 2; UNHCR, March 2; OCHA, Feb. 28 Sources: UNHCR April 12; UNICEF; OCHA April 11

A young boy in the Kraków Główny Main Station after arriving from Ukraine.

The information in this document may be copied, distributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes. Lutheran World Relief should always be cited as the author.



Geraniums for Pentecost

Pentecost is June 5th this year, and we will be ordering Red Geraniums from Countryside Farm and Greenhouse to decorate the church. Plants are wrapped in foil and cost \$3.25 each. Forms are available at the back of the church or in the May newsletter. If interested in purchasing flowers, please complete the form below and put in an envelope marked "Pentecost Geraniums" which are available at the back of the sanctuary. The envelopes can then be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office. Please indicate if you would like to take your flowers home or have them planted in Trinity's gardens. **The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, May 22nd**.

| Name: | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Number of plants: _ | @\$3.25 each |
| Total: | |
| Circle one: | Take Home |
| | Plant at Trinity |
| Message to be pri | inted in bulletin: |
| | |
| | |

May 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| 1 8:00 AM Adult Sunday School 8:30 AM The Good News Club 9:30 AM Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45 AM Confirmation Class 2:30 PM Cottage Meeting (Raudenbush's) | 2 Office Closed 1:00 PM Art Class 7:30 PM Kutztown Com- munity Choir | 3 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Cottage Meeting (Ritter's) | | | 6 7:00 PM Cottage Meeting (Collier's) | 7 9:00 AM Cottage Meeting (Mangold's) |
| 8 Mother's Day 8:00 AM Adult Sunday School 8:30 AM The Good News Club 9:30 AM Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45 AM Confirmation Class 4:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group - Trinity | 7:30 PM Kutztown Com- | 10 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 11 | 12 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14 |
| | 7:30 PM Kutztown Com- | 17 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Life Committee Meeting | 18 | 19 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:00 AM Adult Sunday School | 23 Office Closed 1:00 PM Art Class 7:30 PM Kutztown Com- munity Choir | 24 11:00 AM Staff Meeting | 25 | 26 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 6:00 PM Middle/High School Youth Group - Trinity | 30 Memorial Day | 31 11:00 AM Staff Meeting | 1 | 2 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 3 | 4 |



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Stephen Esser Justin Tuerk Brenda Loeb | 2 | 3 Samuel Esser Elaina Reffie | 4 Clark Kramer William Ziegler | 5 Megan Hoffman Ed Rakowiecki | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Mary Shurr | 9 | 10 Joyce Esser | 11 Steve Fisher | 12 | 13 Jill Fenstermacher | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Logan Yerger Leslie Jensen Douglas Miller | 17 Austin Fritz Douglas Demchyk Julia Zehl | 18 | 19 | 20 Nathaniel Robertson Arlene Sharp | 21 |
| 22 Susan Collier Valarie Kutz | 23 Diane Piscitelli LeRoy Kutz | 24 | 25 | 26 Karin Hoffman | 27 Jennifer Esser Gavin Hottenstein Michael Reffie III | 28 Russell Smith Ryan Angelisanti Becky Wagner |
| 29 Melissa Horvath | 30 | 31 Elaine Miller Ross Adam | | | | |



What's it like to be a Pastoral Intern in NEPA? By Melissa Hrdlicka

It is hard to believe I have been on internship with Common Ground Recovery Community for nine months already! My time with Common Ground has been a deep blessing to me and to my education. I have witnessed the presence of God in the open vulnerable sharing during our Wednesday worship, in the heartfelt reverent "thank you's" when serving communion and meals in downtown Reading and in our study of the scriptures and 12-steps. Common Ground truly is a place of radical love and where God's grace embraces our brokenness.

As part of my internship project, I invited our worshiping communities and ministry partners to reflect on these three questions: What does Common Ground mean to you? What does community mean to you? And where do you see God here and in the world? They then drew on white cotton squares that will be sewn together to make an altar cloth to fit all of our communion tables. The responses were profound and beautiful!

There are drawings of stick figures holding hands around the globe, animals peacefully living together, a place of refuge in the storm and in the desert, flowers, hearts, and crosses. There are phrases like, "Freedom, break the chains", "God is love", "We are better together", "Never give up hope because there is hope in everything", and so much more on these 33 squares!

As these squares are knit together to make one, we are reminded that God weaves all of us together in a tapestry of love to bring warmth, comfort, grace, and peace to a weary world! May we live out this good news and may it spill over into thanksgiving! (Colossians 2:2-7)

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GROWING YOUNG

MAY 2022

GAINING STRENGTH



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