

April 2018

The resurrection of Jesus is the single most distinguishing characteristic of Christianity. To believe in his resurrection is much more than conjuring up a faith that blindly assents to some abstract supernatural mythology. To believe in resurrection is to live life with a profound sense of hope. Hope in a God whose relentless and wild love for humanity will always overcome even the worst of humanity. Jesus silently bore the humiliation and innocent suffering inflicted on him by religious authorities and the Roman Empire, revealing God's solidarity with our suffering. He demonstrated the unstoppable power of a Divine Love that triumphs even over death itself.

Jesus rose up in defiance of an empire organized around a decisively violent doctrine of military dominance, fear-mongering, marginalization, and state-sponsored, systemic oppression. The Living One could not be killed, silenced or detained. He returned from the tomb to his disciples, filled them with the same Spirit and charged them with continuing this life-giving, resurrection movement organized around the radical practice of compassion, humility, unbridled forgiveness, and devotion to one another across all boundaries.

Resurrection is more than a one-time miracle; it is an ongoing pattern reflected and repeated in all of creation. As an Easter People we participate in God's invitation to continual transformation, rejecting patterns that destroy, segregate and oppress. We are awakened, over and over again, to a new life, a reoriented life that thrives on wild and relentless love for all humanity.

In faith and hope,

Rev. Robert Brown
Acting Senior Minister



APRIL WORSHIP



*Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
at the North Bridge*

*Traditional Easter Services
at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
at TriCon*

Rev. Robert Brown preaching

April 8 Service at 10:00 a.m.
COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

April 15 Service at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Robert Brown preaching

April 22 Service at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

April 29 Service at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Robert Brown preaching



Climate Justice Sunday
April 29

Environmental justice advocacy is an important part of our faith tradition within the UCC.

*We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others
and to be good stewards of the earth's resources.*

"To believe is to care; to care is to do."

Please join us for this family Sunday with Rev. Bob Brown preaching
and special music with the children directed by Bob Lawson.

TRICON EMERGE 2018

REFLECTIONS

FROM JEAN VANDERGRIFT

I don't have to tell you the importance of the role of the senior minister to the life and mission of TriCon! It is also my observation that the people in our community of faith are genuinely and highly respectful of the office. This is why TriCon has intentionally set aside time for self-reflection and a search for the person God is calling to lead at this stage of its journey.

English has several words for such specialized religious leaders, each one carrying nuances of meaning, some of which fit and feel better in our tradition than others.

Consider first the label "clergy." It denotes the primary, formal leader within certain religions who presides over its rituals and teaches doctrines and practices. It is derived from the Latin *clericus* and the Old French *clergie*, signifying learned ones of the priestly class, ordained to ministry.

The term "priest" has roots in Greek and Latin - *presbyteros* and *presbyter* - plus Old High German *priast*. Once again, it points to the person authorized to perform a religion's sacred rituals, especially as a mediator between the human and divine realms. Protestants rarely if ever use this word for their clerics.

Protestant congregations normally call their local religious leaders "ministers" or "pastors." The church ordains or authorizes its ministers to perform religious functions, such as leading worship services, teaching beliefs, offering spiritual guidance, and administering programs. This term connects to the idea of servanthood.

"Pastor" comes from the Latin *pascere*, having to do with feeding the flock of the pasture. While this leader performs all the other functions delineated above, the emphasis of this word is on the role of a shepherd who gives advice and counsel.

"The Reverend" is an honorific style or title that both Protestants and Catholics place before the names of their clergypersons. It derives from the Latin verb *revereri*, meaning to respect or revere.



All this said, I am still most drawn to the picture that the apostle Paul offers in his ancient letter to the congregation at Philippi. In the closing paragraphs, he names and commends individuals who are co-workers in the cause of Jesus Christ: "they have labored *side by side with me* in the gospel." (RSV) This language communicates well the collegial nature of ministry. In this biblical vision of the church, lay and clergy, male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave and free, rich and poor, all colors and cultures are *active colleagues* in the on-going work of the good news. TriCon, I notice that you have communicated a similar aspiration in your Vision Statement and Priorities, making it a most fitting guide for your search process this Eastertide!

Forward in Faith,
Jean

All Church POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m.



Sign up online at triconchurch.org, in the parish hall,
or call the church office.



Celebrating Community

Our church community is so very fortunate to have a strong youth program and amazing youth who inspire us with their enthusiasm, their insights and the contributions they bring to our church family. Here is an excerpt from a recent Call to Stewardship, given by Peter Bruning, that tells us something about what TriCon means to them.

I am a senior at Concord Carlisle High School this year. At this point in my schooling career everyone is talking and thinking about college. Where will we go next year? Where have we been accepted to? And my personal favorite question that my Grandfather is quite fond of, have you put any thought into where you will get your master's degree? To those who ask me I often reply with a standard list of schools that makes me sound smart without raising any alarms or fear of sounding too smart.

The college process to me feels like that scene in Indiana Jones where he is running through the cave and the massive boulder is chasing him. Constantly running, always fearful of being run over with stress. However, for me there are a few hours of safety each week where that massive boulder turns into a measly little pebble.

At youth group and discussion group it is practically illegal to ask someone that question if they do not bring it up first. You can't underestimate the power of a couple of hours of relaxing and seeing your friends. I need TriCon because it is a distraction for me from the stress that is college.

Everyone needs TriCon - it is a distraction from the stress and from the bad, a reminder of the good, and a place of joy.

Open Table - APRIL 2018

Dried Beans & Legumes particularly Black Beans



These nutritious staples are very much appreciated by our neighbors at the Open Table Pantry.

Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally

Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly

TRICON
OUTREACH



Concord
& Maynard
Open Table
Pantry

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



WELCOME TO TRICON!

Whether you are just visiting, looking to find a church home or still feeling your way after several visits, we encourage you to pick up brochures and other information in the parish hall or the church entry, and to come for refreshments in the parish hall following the service.

You are welcome to participate in any of our church programs and activities and to sign up your children for Church School or youth programs. For more information, contact Christian Education Director, Carrie O'Brien, or Youth Leader, Nick Bruning. Call the church office with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcoming Coffee

for those who are new to our church

Sunday, April 8 - following the worship service in the church parlor

New Member Brunch

Sunday, May 20 - for those interested in exploring church membership

New Members Joining

Sunday, June 3 - during the worship service

SILENCE IN THE STORM: A WEEKLY MEDITATION GROUP

When: Mondays, 10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
in the Church Parlor

Looking for a quiet space for meditation and prayer? We meet weekly in the church parlor. We explore both guided and unguided meditation and prayer with music and occasional speakers. We mainly seek to find and honor the present. It is an exercise in being, rather than doing.

For more information, please contact Liz Crowell at Lbenema@gmail.com or 781-608-4765.

CAREGIVERS GROUP

The TriCon Caregivers Group is an opportunity for parishioners and friends in caregiving roles to come together to share accomplishments and failures, joys and sorrows, laughter and hope, as well as valuable information about how to care for others and ourselves.

If the role of caregiver is part of your life, please consider joining the TriCon Caregivers Group. **We will meet on Wednesdays, April 4 and 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office (978 369-4837) for more information.

**ATTENTION
MEN OF THE CHURCH
Join the Anchor Group**

The Anchor Group meets on the **first and third** Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. in the church parlor. The Anchor Group is a group for men of all ages who discuss and share issues of religion and spirituality in light of contemporary culture. Any questions, email Greg Howes at howes2012@gmail.com.

**LENTEN RELATIONSHIP
DESSERT**



In celebration of the conclusion of our
Lenten Small Group Series

Wednesday, April 11 - 7 to 8:30 pm

This special gathering is an opportunity to come together to share insights gained about how Jesus would have us relate. We look forward to this evening of reflection, engagement and spiritual growth. Please sign up online at triconchurch.org, in the parish hall or call the church office. We hope to see you. Everyone welcome whether you attended a group or not.

**JOIN US
IN THE PARLOR
Wednesday,
April 25 AT NOON!**

The Knitting Group meets in the church parlor once a month. Everyone from beginner to expert is welcome. Bring your own project or work on one of ours'. You need not come every month but can join in when it is convenient for you. You may also choose to work on projects at home. Prayer shawls may be left at the church any time.

SAVE THE DATE

Improvisational pianist Jacqueline Schwab presents a public concert at TriCon, Sunday, May 6 - 3:00 p.m. Details in the May Newsletter.

LIFE CHANGES

NEW BABY

We welcome Felix Anthony Bates born on February 28 to Burton and Marie Bates and siblings Charlie, Zola and Isaac. Delighted grandparents are Susan and Tom Bates.

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to Carol and David Antos and their family. Carol's mother, Ruby Benson Gould died on March 2. There will be a memorial service at the Second Congregational Church of Boxford on May 20.

Heartfelt condolences to Pat and Carrie O'Brien and their family. Pat's mother, Marie Thumm O'Brien, died on March 11. A service was held in MD on March 16.

We pray for Skip and Joanne Saideh and their family. Skip's father, George Saideh, Sr., died on March 14. A service was held in Andover on March 19.



"I Arise Today"

Multi-Generational Women's Retreat

Saturday, May 19, 2018

9:30 am – 4:00 pm at TriCon

"I Arise Today" refers to the Latin term *Lorica* – a mystical garment that protected the wearer from danger and illness.

Celtic Christianity developed the prayer genre – *loricae* – which called on the Trinity and all of Creation to protect the body and soul from harm. This retreat will be an opportunity to discover your sacred space, a sense of renewal and strength, and your voice in these unsettled times we live in.

Retreat leader, Susie Allen, has a Masters of Divinity degree from Andover Newton and has led retreats for over 17 years. She was an associate pastor of the UCC Church in Boxborough for 7 years where she focused on child and family faith issues. For the past 18 months she has co-led a leadership program at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. A wife, mother and grandmother, Susie lives in Maynard.

This retreat will be a wonderful opportunity for the women of TriCon to bring their creative spirit and support to help celebrate one another in fellowship. The retreat will begin with an introduction and creation of a covenant for the day. There will also be music, prayer, creating/writing of psalms, labyrinth, worship and communion and social time during coffee and lunch.

Contact: Demi Ayres – demi.ayres@gmail.com, Betsy Swaim – betsyswaim@icloud.com or Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift – revdrjvandergrift@triconchurch.org with any questions.

Registration cost: \$60. (includes morning drinks, pastries and lunch)
Scholarship funding available through the church office.

Sign up on-line at triconchurch.org or call the church office.

Youth Group in April

Sundays, Apr. 8th and 29th 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

NO Youth Group on Easter Sunday

NO Youth Group over April Break

Discussion Group
meets most Wednesday evenings
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Nick Bruning, Youth Leader
978-618-1629 - call or text
nbruning@triconchurch.org

ITEMS OF INTEREST

WITH MANY THANKS

We are very grateful for all the support from our church family during Jim's hospitalization - cards, notes, emails and especially prayers. Judy and Jim Walpole

THANK YOU, TRICON! for your continuing generosity

Following is a letter received by the TriCon Mission Committee:

On behalf of Community Servings' clients, volunteers, and staff, I want to thank you for your generous grant to support our Nutrition Program for Individuals & Families Affected by Life-Threatening Illness. Your \$5,000 contribution will help us to provide 650,000 medically tailored meals to 2,200 critically ill clients, their dependent children, and caregivers this year....

*Sincerely,
David B. Waters, CEO*

MISSION & OUTREACH Monthly Spotlight

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work



facebook.com/firstconnections

jri.org/firstconnections

FIRST CONNECTIONS

First Connections mission is to equip parents with tools, practical strategies, and connections to other families and their communities to foster healthy parenting and guide them through the first years of the parenting journey. Some services include new mothers' groups, new dads' groups, family festivals and more.

This service is for families with children birth to age 8 in the communities of Acton, Bedford, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hanscom AFB, Harvard, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Sudbury, and Westford.

TRICON
OUTREACH

Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/missions-outreach

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Canary yellow offering envelopes for the year 2018 are available on the literature table in the parish hall. Feel free to take as many as you need. Please put your name and your giving code (if you know it) on the outside of the envelope.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2018, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall.

ON-LINE GIVING AVAILABLE AT TRICON

We are able to accept on-line donations and payments via our website – triconchurch.org. On the homepage, you will see “Click here to make donations and pledge payments”. Any questions, please call or email Judy or Amy at the church office: jwalpole@triconchurch.org or abruning@triconchurch.org.

TRICON’S QR CODE

This QR code automatically opens a special webpage on mobile devices (phones, iPads, etc.) that’s designed for smaller screens. You can scan the code with your phone to make the process of giving to the church that much simpler.



The deadline for the
May Newsletter
is April 15.



SERMONS ON LINE

You can HEAR SERMONS
on line by going to
www.triconchurch.org

OR

Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

REMINDER: FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE TRICONCHURCH.ORG

If you have recycled your paper copy of this Newsletter and then remember an article you wanted to save or are looking for a date you forgot to put on your calendar, you can always find it on our website. Past and current newsletters are available there as well as a complete calendar of church events and lots of other important information about the church.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CONVERSATIONS IN A CIVIL SOCIETY

Panel discussion
on how to navigate our differences

Tuesday, April 3 – 7:00 p.m.
Concord Carlisle High School

Moderator: Ethan Hoblitzelle
CCHS Social Studies Teacher

Tickets: \$10. in advance
\$15. at the door
\$ 5. Students

For more information: 978 318-1432
concordcarlisleace.org



MOTHERS' DAY

TEATEATEATEATEA

TriCon Parish Hall
Wednesday, May 9
11:30 am

To honor mothers,
women who are mothers women who have mothers
and women who had mothers!

Sign up on our website or in the parish hall.
Donations of cookies, bars and tea sandwiches are welcomed but not required.
Indicate on the sign-up if you'd like to bring something.

Optional donations of new, unopened toiletries (including hotel or travel size)
to be donated to the homeless would also be welcome.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class in March

Sunday, April 8 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m – Confirmation Class

Please contact Rev. Bob Brown, Suzanne Giles, or David Hart with any questions.



CHURCH SCHOOL



Easter Sunday, April 1st

9:00am & 11:00am Worship Services
10:00am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8th

8:15am SEEKERS and Cor Unum
10:00am Children's Chapel* and
Church School

Sundays, April 15th and 22nd

10:00am Worship Service
Public School Spring Break
No Church School
Childcare for children up to age 5

Sunday, April 29th

10:00am Family Worship Service

If you are a new family and would like information about our Church School program, please contact our Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien, at cobrien@triconchurch.org. You may also visit our church website at www.triconchurch.org and click the Christian Education tab.

Where Can You Share Your Faith?

In Church School!

Our invitation to participate in Children's

Ministry is extended to our entire TriCon family, not just those with children in our program. For all, it is the connections with children that help broaden and nurture our church community.

Many opportunities to support programming exist for people with a variety of gifts, in and out of the classroom. Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien, is looking forward to sharing them with you.

All of us working together will continue to pave the way for TriCon's children's journey of faith. They are the church of today and tomorrow!

There are opportunities

to help support our spring
program right now!

* On Children Chapel Sundays, Church School begins right at 10:00am in the Parish Hall. Children will be released to their classes following that brief service.

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!!

LIZ CROWELL

Liz grew up in NJ with two brothers, both of whom now live in the Midwest. Her parents, David and Helen



Crowell, are also TriCon members. From an early age, Liz was a writer, filling books and journals, and reading poetry when she should have been reading for school. Liz studied English literature and art history at Smith College and began to publish a bit in those years, determined to be a "writer" in real life.

Little did Liz know that real life involved paying taxes and having medical benefits! She worked briefly in publishing in NYC and then later worked in a hospital filing x-rays while attending Columbia University, where she received an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. Liz taught writing at Montclair State College in NJ for a year and then moved to Boston.

For years, she wrote and taught, not always at the same time. In 1998, she began teaching English at Lexington High School. The next year, she met her wife, Cheryl. For many years they lived in Arlington and their first child, Isabel, was born in 2006. When Matthew was born fifteen months later, they needed a larger place. Happily, they rented a place on Hubbard Street in Concord, that they now own. Liz's parents have now moved to Concord so Isabel and Matthew have truly gotten to know their grandparents.

Five years ago Liz left teaching and worked to complete a novel called AMERICAN LIT, about the senior year of high school in an affluent, Boston suburb. She's looking for a publisher.

Despite being busy with family and a recent bout with cancer, Liz continues to write and read. You might see her hanging out at Starbucks with a pad of paper or a good book!



BETSY VEIDENHEIMER

Betsy grew up in Concord where she and her family, the Wielands, were very active at Trinity Episcopal Church. After graduating from

Kenyon College with a degree in English Literature, Betsy moved to NYC and worked as an equity sales trader for Morgan Stanley for five years. After business school at UNC Chapel Hill., she moved back to Boston (briefly) where she worked for Lehman Brothers. Fate intervened by way of a blizzard, during which she met her husband Rob. Once engaged, Betsy joined Rob in CT where his older children, Ian (now 28) and Andrew (now 26) lived. Both Cam (21) and Tim (18) were born there. Betsy worked for Zurich Reinsurance as an investor relations officer. The family was very active at a small congregational church in Redding, CT, where Betsy taught Sunday school and was a deacon.

The Veidenheimers moved to Concord in 2003 and joined TriCon, which has turned out to be one of the better decisions they made! Betsy, Rob, Cam and Tim have been involved over the years. Until recently, Betsy was heavily involved in volunteer work in the public schools and the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest among others. Betsy has now returned to work as an independent college counselor with a small group practice and is completing coursework to become certified in college counseling.

Betsy and her family are avid skiers and have spent most winter weekends in VT for many years. Their favorite place of all is Squam Lake in NH, where Betsy spent her childhood summers at Camp Deerwood, and where Cam and Tim were also campers and counselors. Rob, whose family had a house on Lake Winnepesaukee for thirty years, has adapted to the smaller lake. Now that Betsy and Rob are empty nesters, they especially look forward to time spent with their children in their special places.

April 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	EASTER 6:30am Sunrise Service at the North Bridge 9:00am & 11:00am Worship Easter Egg Hunt	10:30am Meditation Group	7:00am Anchor Group	10:00am Caregivers 7:30pm Youth Discussion	7:45pm Choir Rehearsal		ANCHOR GROUP RETREAT
8	8:00am Worship/Communion 11:00am Welcoming Coffee 5:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Youth Group	10:30am Meditation Group	7:00pm Diaconate	7:00pm Social Action Dessert 7:30pm Lenten Group Discussion	7:30am Finance Committee 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal		
15	10:00am Worship	16 PATRIOTS DAY Church Office Closed	17 7:00am Anchor Group	18 10:00am Caregivers 7:30pm Youth Discussion	19 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22	10:00am Worship	23 10:30am Meditation Group	24	25 12:00pm Knitwits 7:30pm Youth Discussion	26 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29	CLIMATE JUSTICE SUNDAY 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Youth Group	30 10:30am Meditation Group					

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30	31	