

December 2018

**now
is
time**

ADVENT 2018



It has been an exciting autumn. In God's grace and mercy these last three months we have truly evolved and emerged as a community of faith. We are building on the strong foundation of our past with innovative tools that help us reimagine today's church as relevant and genuine. Many of us have felt a renewed vitality through the energy of widespread congregational involvement. We are thriving together in the abiding joy that affirms God's presence among us.

In September, your Prudential Leadership Committee, guided by Moderator Russell Sanna, organized a Church Council retreat where we began to specifically identify how TriCon Church is currently living out the vision statement God has put before us. We also imagined what new possibilities might be emerging as the Spirit of God guides us forward. Each of our committees took time to reassess their work through the lens of our vision and three priorities. The Diaconate initiated an innovative relational outreach involving one to one conversations to assess the meaning of "vibrant worship" for our community.

Our reinvented *Children's Ministry* was also launched this fall, under Director Carrie O'Brien's, careful crafting and supervision. This creative fresh approach to Children's Ministry demonstrates how we continually adapt to the changing culture of family life while maintaining the integrity of Christian Education.

In October, our Stewardship Committee took their theme, *Nurturing Community* quite literally. Multiple house parties were arranged to discuss the value of investing our money in TriCon Church. On October 21st our *Mission Sunday* service focused on hunger issues and relational mission. Following the service we put our worship into action. Nearly all of us participated in some way with *The Crop Hunger Walk*, raising over eight thousand dollars to help alleviate hunger. This truly was a day of vibrant worship that nurtured community and honored God through service and mission!

November's Antique Show once again raised thousands of dollars to support our mission giving and engaged hundreds of us in service as we received thousands of visitors through our doors.

On Sunday November 18th we sang our way through the story of Jesus like never before, worshiping God in Spirit and truth with the soulful Gospel Choir, *Joyful Voices of Inspiration*.

These programs and events are just a few of the things that indicate how God's vision for TriCon church is more than words - it is our lived reality.

And so it is that now is the time we enter the holy season of Advent filled with the exhilarating hope that God is not finished with us yet. As daylight shortens and the cold dark night grows longer, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Together we walk through the four weeks of Advent with a bold and defiant confidence that God's realm of justice and righteousness is inevitable. Each week, against the descent into darkness and despair, we light a candle, a fragile single flame of warmth and light, because we know that the promise of God will surely be fulfilled. It is the irrevocable, inescapable promise of redemption, loving-kindness, and mercy, birthed right into our messy, cluttered, complicated lives. Our faith and our hope is centered on the reality that God is with us. And we, TriCon Church, continually experience a foretaste of that

glorious truth over and over again living in the nurturing community that honors God through service and mission. Together we can withstand chaos, hold firm in uncertainty, endure every pain and find solidarity in our shared grief, because we know that love will always make a way for new life.

The season of Advent is an invitation to participate in the perennial story. All our work, all our volunteer hours, all our service and mission, all of our giving and sacrifice is motivated by this elegant story of a faith so beautifully visceral that, year after year we are once again breathlessly astonished in its wonder and caught up in its magnitude.

This Advent we offer you the small group study, *Now is the Time*. You can download the study guide at triconchurch.org. Also, as you are able, please join us for the many events and celebrations you will read about in the following pages. May God continue to bless us all with peace and presence as we wait in holy anticipation that he will appear and our souls will feel their worth.

With expectant faith and Advent hope,

Rev. Bob Brown

Senior Minister



GOD is calling us

to be a nurturing community of
faith

that HONORS GOD through
service & mission



REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERIM

Time is a gift from God, and Advent is certainly a special time. During this year's Advent Small Group Series, *Now is the Time*, group members will advance, like time travelers, through its various dimensions.

I notice three distinct dimensions of time and consciousness across Advent as we seek the fulfillment of God's promise of Emmanuel – "God with us."

The first dimension is time as a Season. At its beginning, Advent seems like a blank canvas – a glorious span of time in which we can prepare for Christmas – four weeks of building to wonder. During this season, we can remember what happened in the past and wait expectantly for the future using our faith tradition as a guide. We can take up spiritual practices to help us be alert, to learn about the Messiah and the meaning of Emmanuel, and to take care of others whom we otherwise would overlook. *Now* is a season of gestation and growth.

The second dimension is time as a Day. Eventually, we will realize that we *don't* have all the time in the world before Emmanuel is born. Advent is composed of a limited number of days, and they seem to end ever more quickly as we approach December 25. Shall we live them in anxiety or anticipation? Will we live these days to the full or waste their potential? What if we allowed ourselves to do nothing for a day, might we gain more insight in the long run? Even a single day is time pregnant with spiritual possibility – a gift to be lived well. *Now* is the day.

The third dimension is time as the Moment. Once we're sitting in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, it is as if time slows down to a

crawl. There remain just precious moments before the birth. No more time exists to shop or to bake. What's done is what is. Yet there *is* the present. The moment is a gift from God too.

As we gaze upon Baby Jesus' face and sit in helpless adoration with the parents, the shepherds, the animals, and the stars, we can become more conscious of ourselves in relationship to God and others. The possibilities become endless. In the moment, we can attend to our breath and accept the peace God holds out for us. Right then, we can resolve to forgive. In the eternal present, we can experience holy healing. Love is all in all...now.

Even a single moment allows us time to be truly present – present to the miracle of Emmanuel: God who is present with *us* – even *now*.

Let's travel together through time!

Jean



DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 2	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE Service at 10:00 a.m.	COMMUNION Rev. Robert Brown preaching
December 9	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching
December 16	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. MUSIC SUNDAY - A service of readings and music <i>to celebrate the joyous mystery of Christ's birth.</i> The Senior Choir will present "Christmas Cantata" (Sinfonia Sacrae) by Boston composer Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006). Scored for chorus and double brass choir, this work colorfully tells the familiar story. Bold 20th century harmonies announce the angels' news to the shepherds. Chant-like melodies float between voices and instruments to show devotion to Mary. Intricate rhythms sing "Gloria in excelsis Deo" as they lift us in the joyful spirit of a Renaissance dance. Special guests, Mary Lowry and Robert Walsh (Brandeis University, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Gloucester Stage), will read poetry by Thomas Merton, An Weems, and Leslie Leyland Fields The prelude and postlude music for brass ensemble, led by Jesse Levine.	
December 23	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching
December 30	Service at 10:00 a.m.	Rev. Robert Brown preaching

The Trinitarian Congregational Church
and The Metropolitan Boston Association of
The United Church of Christ
cordially invite you to celebrate
the Installation of

The Reverend Robert W. Brown

as Senior Minister
of TriCon Church

Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3 o'clock

**There will be a reception in the Parish Hall
immediately following the service.**



December 24, Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 5:30, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
Led by Rev. Robert Brown and Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift

4:00 p.m. Service

3:45 p.m. carol sing

Christmas Story and Tableau (3rd - 4th grades)

Designed for the youngest children

Music: Alden, Piper, and Reilly Harring

5:30 p.m. Service

5:15 p.m. carol sing

Lessons & Carols with Living Crèche (5th - 8th grades)

Perfect for families of school-age children

Music: The Lawson Family

8:00 p.m. Service

7:45 prelude

Lessons & Carols with Service of Lights

For those who seek tranquility

Music: Organ and Choir and soloist Matt DiBattista

11:00 p.m. Service

Lessons & Carols with Service of Lights

Candlelight worship led by Youth Group alumni

Music: Brass Quintet led by Jesse Levine

Celebrate Christmas with Old Friends

Join us for a gathering of Returning College Students
and Current High School Students

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24th
10:00 p.m. Cider and cookies in the parish hall
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary

Spread the word!

Welcome home! Come celebrate! Welcome home!





100 Cards for 100 Years!

Our member, Roger Campbell, will be turning 100 on Christmas Day. We would like to surprise him with 100 birthday cards from his church family. If you would like to send Roger a card, please mail it to the church (not to Roger) and his family will present all the cards to him at his 100th birthday party.



A special invitation for all the women
in the church to enjoy fellowship
and tasty treats at an

Advent Tea

Friday, December 14th - 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

At the tea, we will be collecting items for
Open Table.

Many items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap,
body and face lotion, makeup, toothpaste, toothbrushes,
and personal care products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps.

Our neighbors at Open Table will be most grateful for your kindness.

Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.





As you consider your contribution to the church for next year, please see the Stewardship message given recently by Jon Rennert.

"I was invited this year to serve on the finance committee, and it has changed my perspective on TriCon. While we might all resist characterizing a church as a "business," – that doesn't sound very spiritual--it does kind of look like one. Like any business, the church uses money to buy time and resources from others to fulfill its mission. And like any business, the church provides something of value in return, though perhaps not something easily quantified.

Now I should point out that one thing the church is *not* is a government. If it were a government, it would simply decide how much it needs, and how much of that you owe and-- backed by the threat of fines or prison-- it would tax you for it. Value has nothing to do with it.

And the church isn't a typical business, either. With a typical business, you are free to choose whether to engage or not; but if you do, you are generally not free to decide by yourself the price you pay. As my retailer wife might say, "the publisher has been kind enough to print the price right there on the back of the book; your decision is simply whether you value it enough to buy it."

So, if the church is a business, it is the rare one where you are both free to participate *and* free to set your own price. And I would suggest with that freedom comes some responsibility, which brings back this concept of value. The thing about value is that it is intensely personal; no one can tell you what something is worth to you.

The finance and stewardship committees are making a big ask this year—an 8% increase in total pledges-- because we need to be honest about what it takes to run the business side of this church. We make that ask knowing not everyone here is in the same position to respond, but in the hope that everyone can contribute to the fullest extent possible. As a church community, we are in this together...and we owe it to each other.

In this season of stewardship, as we fill out our pledge cards for next year, I encourage each of you to consider the many ways the church brings value to you and your family's lives, to our local community, and to the world beyond. Perhaps it is the support of your child's spiritual and moral education; or the impact of our wide and varied mission program; or the comfort you have received in a time of need, or even the opportunity you have to serve others in theirs.

Contemplate all of that personal value...and then name your price."

We need to hear from you before we can prepare a budget for 2019. Please return your pledge cards to the church or go on-line to make a pledge. Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE Minister of Congregational Life

DISCERNING through the Search

WHAT PROGRESS ARE WE MAKING IN THE TRANSITION TO A NEW PASTOR?

- The search committee meets with the conference to begin a Spirit-filled search.
- The conference posts our open position on UCC Ministry Opportunities.
- The search committee considers ministerial profiles received from the conference.
- The search committee holds interviews to narrow the candidate pool.
- The search committee identifies a final candidate.
- Our governing body negotiates a compensation package with the candidate.

Updated 11/6/18

Discernment

Discernment is underway. Reading profiles, conducting interviews, and reaching consensus are the core of this process. Throughout, prayerful consideration of TriCon's goals and of a candidate's suitability guides the committee in its work of recommending a candidate to call as the Minister of Congregational Life.

Profiles

Profiles play important roles. Candidates read TriCon's Local Church Profile to determine their interest in our open ministerial position. The search committee evaluates candidate profiles to determine which candidates to invite for an interview. In addition to the standard resume content, a ministerial profile contains essays on UCC-determined topics in which the candidate describes his/her call to ministry and offers other reflections about faith and ministry. It also affirms the candidate's ecclesiastical standing in the United Church of Christ.

To focus the search committee's decision-making process, the committee established criteria based on the Local Church Profile and the ministerial job description. These criteria are used in evaluating profiles, interviewing candidates, and committee deliberations.

Interviews

During an interview the committee explores ways in which together TriCon and the candidate can further the work of God's church. An interview is an opportunity for a candidate to tour our physical

church, to meet informally with committee members, and to engage in a dialog with the committee about the candidate's experience and skills in ministry and TriCon's experiences and goals. As deliberations progress, committee members will hear preferred candidates preach through visitation or digital media.

The search committee plans to select one or two candidates as finalists. Up to this point the discernment process will have resided solely with the elected members of the search committee. Because collaboration among clergy, staff, and laity is a primary goal, the senior minister will host a conversational meeting with the candidate(s). The committee may also ask one or two staff who are involved in the spiritual development of the congregation to have a similar conversation with the candidate.

Consensus

Consensus is a gradual process by which many voices speak as one. Consensus is reached through trusted, thoughtful, and open discussion and results in a choice each committee member can support. That choice will be the candidate best suited to help TriCon reach its full potential in ministry.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S CALL

A Message from the Chaplain

We have all hired someone to do a job for us at some point or another. Maybe not for a high profile or influential position, but definitely for positions that affect our own lives: who cuts our hair, paints our house or fixes our car. In every case we have made decisions about the skills and characteristics required to do the job well, resulting in an actual or a proverbial check list used to measure a candidate's fitness for the position. We then use our judgement for each "check" to determine who to hire for the job.

The search committee for TriCon's Minister of Congregational life is following this traditional protocol to discern who God is calling into ministry with us. There is an element to this process however, that is not typical protocol. The committee's process involves a spiritual element in decision making. Rather than *judging* who is *right* for the job; the committee must *discern* who is *called* to the position.

The committee has dutifully and prayerfully designed its own checklist determining the wants and needs of our congregation for the position of Minister of Congregational Life. As committee members progress through the search process to evaluate profiles and interviews in comparison to the criteria on their check list, they will continually have their ears and their hearts open to God's calling.

God can speak to us in many ways. The Bible has many of examples of God speaking audibly to people through angels or other natural phenomena; but typically it is through thoughts and impressions that we are able to hear. As a group, the search committee will follow UCC guidelines advising them to open themselves up to speak honestly amongst each other, stash away egos, listen with love and openness, thoughtfully and prayerfully consider all options they are presented with, and willingly explore directions and pathways not previously known. Accepting these guidelines in their decision making welcomes the Holy Spirit to move among them as a group and help them to know God's will.

It may be a brightening in the skies in a moment of profound clarity. It may be a cleansing wave of realizing communal consensus. Whatever form that calling may take, we will seek it through dedicated work and prayer. It is our faith that promises us that the person we are seeking to join our community of faith is likewise listening carefully for that same calling to bring us together.

Your turn

The search committee welcomes your questions and comments. Send them to Paul Mahoney (Paul@mahoneyarchitects.com)

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 Children's Ministry or youth programs. Call the church office with any questions.

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.

The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 15.



Again this Christmas season we will have a Mitten Tree holding wishes for gifts for homeless children. This year we are supporting the *House of Hope* in Lowell, currently sheltering 58 families. Each mitten on the tree will contain a child's first name, age, gender and wished for gift. Each wish is under \$30. The mitten should be attached to your wrapped gift as a tag so that we can be sure to deliver to the correct child.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Parish Hall the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 25th). The shelter has requested that gifts be delivered by December 12, if possible. Please leave your gifts under the tree by Monday, December 10. Late gifts can be accepted up to December 16. Contact Lucy Awiszus with any questions at awiszusg@verizon.net or 978-502-1231.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS December 2



At the worship service on December 2, we will dedicate the gifts our church has collected for City Mission Society, as well as the gifts that have been provided for the prisoners in Concord.



The next TriCon Joining will be on **Sunday, Dec 9th**, during the 10AM worship service.

If you wish to become a Member of TriCon church, and December 9th works for you, please let me know. We'd love to include you, should this be a good time for you!

Amy Bruning
abruning@triconchurch.org



CONFIRMATION

December 9th, 5PM - 7PM

Annual Confirmation Christmas Dinner

Confirmands and Mentors

- Wear your best-ugly Christmas Sweater
- Bring a favorite Christmas story to share



Thank you to the Confirmation Parents for putting together the meals at every class!



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 – 6:00 P.M.

Children of the church are invited to join Rev. Brown and Rev. Dr. Vandergrift around the fireplace in the parlor for a Children's Christmas Story Hour. Designed for children ages 4 to 8, the gathering includes Christmas readings and will conclude with hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. During the story hour waiting parents can enjoy a cup of eggnog and conversation with other parents in the parish hall. Children may come dressed in sleepers and pajamas.

CITY MISSION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS SHOP

Drop-Off by December 14

Every year the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop brings holiday joy to the neediest families and individuals in the Boston area. Your donations help to make this possible.

NEW items from the list below may be left in the Parish Hall.

**Winter Coats, Hats, Mittens,
Gloves, Scarves, Sweaters,
Sweatshirts, Socks, Underwear,
Blankets and Backpacks
Toys, Books & Games for All Ages
Gift Cards for Target, Walgreens,
Marshalls, CVS, etc.**

**Completed hand-sewn items
should be brought to the church
by November 28.**

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 information about caring 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 Wednesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.** Call the church office (978 369-4837) for more information.

December 21st



LIFE CHANGES

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to David Hale and his family. David's wife, Teri, died on November 8. A service was held at TriCon on November 11.

Heartfelt condolences to Jay Gregory and his family. Jay's wife, Patty Barkas Gregory, died on November 8. A service was held at TriCon on November 17.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Francis Gouillart and his family. Francis' wife, Laura, a member of our choir for many years, died on November 15. A service was held at TriCon on November 24.

WebsitE
www.triconchurch.org
has a new look with easier navigation!

Now you can find our Latest News, Sign Ups, Sermons, Welcome Brochure, Calendar, and Payments button all on our homepage **triconchurch.org**. Check it out!

COMMUNITY NEWS



**American
Red Cross**

Open Table - DECEMBER 2018

Dried Beans & Legumes
particularly Black Beans & Lentils



**Go to redcrossblood.org or call
1-800-red-cross for more information.**

TriCon Stewardship Drive ~ 2019

If you did not receive your stewardship mailing and pledge card, they are available to pick up at the church, or call the office to have one mailed to you.

You can also submit a pledge online. www.triconchurch.org



2019 PLEDGE CARD

- I/We will increase our pledge this year
 I/We pledge \$ _____
(pledge payments can be made yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly -- at your convenience)

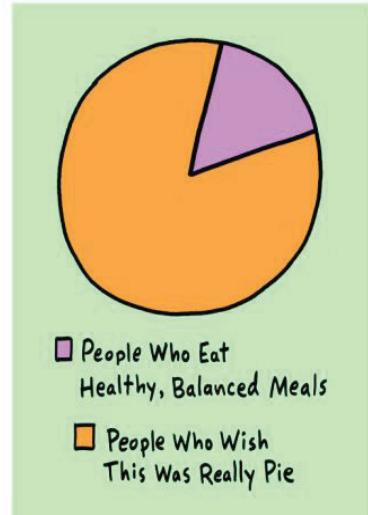
Name(s) _____

Email _____

- Please return this card to the church, via mail or drop it in the offering plate
Or, you can now make a pledge online at triconchurch.org

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742
978-369-4837; jwapple@triconchurch.org; abruning@triconchurch.org

Return your pledge cards,
or pledge online, today!
thank you!



A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who supported TriCon's 49th annual Antiques Show!



This wonderful event, that raises thousands of dollars for outreach organizations every year, is a success because of all the many ways and days TriCon people help out.

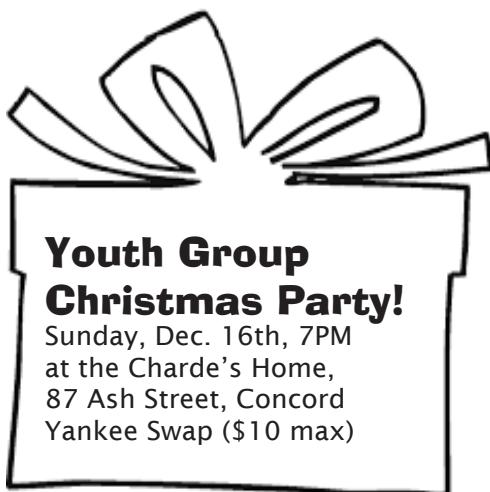
We have movers, porters, bakers, buyers, donators, parking attenders, church-sleep-overers, advertisers, ticket-takers, choppers, cookers, café sellers, and church decorators! Our 34 area dealers reported good sales and were very happy to show with us, and are looking forward to next year.

Check out the new coffee table in the Library, purchased at the show!



YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP

december



Youth Group Christmas Party!

Sunday, Dec. 16th, 7PM
at the Charde's Home,
87 Ash Street, Concord
Yankee Swap (\$10 max)

Youth Group
Meets Sundays,
7:00 - 8:30 PM
December 2nd,
9th, and 16th
(Christmas Party
off-site)

**Discussion
Group** Meets
Wednesdays,
7:30 - 8:30PM
December 5th,
12th and 19th

Christmas Eve, 10PM
Youth Group "Reunion"

Mission Trip:
Next meeting is
Sunday, January 13th
12:00 - 1:30

Bob Brown
revbobbrown@triconchurch.org
978.204.7739
call or text

Christine Kelley,
Youth Leader
ckelley@triconchurch.org
978.337.6171 call
or text

Nick Bruning
Mission Trip
nbruning@triconchurch.org
978.618.1629
call or text



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry Program in December



Saturday, December 1st

3:00pm Voyagers Decorate for Angel Breakfast

Sunday, December 2nd

9:00am Angel Breakfast
10:00am Worshiping Together

Sunday, December 9th

10:00am Exploring Faith Groups
 Choose Pageant Roles
4:00pm Voyagers Meeting
5:30pm SEEKERS Meeting

Tuesday, December 11th

6:00pm Christmas Story Hour

Sunday, December 16th

9:00am Exploring Faith Groups

Sunday, December 23rd

10:00am Creative Church
 Singing 'round the Balcony
12:30pm 4:00pm Pageant Rehearsals
 5:30pm Pageant Rehearsals

Sunday, December 23rd

10:00am Service of Worship

**Session Two
Children's Ministry
begins on Sunday, January 6th**

We have a great offering of Children's Ministry programming coming up in Session Two. More Exploring Faith Groups, Creative Churches, Mission Projects Sundays and Worshiping Together services!

Signups to participate in programming have already begun. Please consider joining in on the fun!

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

Children's Ministry Morning Routine

Before the 10:00AM service, nursery age children, up to age three, are dropped off in the nursery on the first floor of the Children's Ministry wing. Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade join worship with their families for the first part of the service before leaving for programming. On Sundays when there is no Children's Ministry programming, there is child care in the nursery for children up to age 5. There are activity clipboards for older children in the Narthex.



Christmas Flowers

Each year, members of our church family are invited to contribute to the Flower Fund which will be used to decorate our sanctuary for the holidays and to send plants to shut-in members during this Advent Season and at other times during the year. In addition, due to your generosity, the Flower Fund has been able to provide transportation and a few important and appreciated "extras" for elders.

You are invited to take this opportunity to remember or honor a friend, family member or special blessing in your life while helping to make a difference in the lives of others. **All donors will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Sunday, December 16.**

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church
by noon on December 12.



I/We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Flower Fund to decorate the sanctuary and bring cheer to our shut-ins.

(Please write **Flower Fund** on the memo portion of your check.)

Please list our names and message as follows:

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Or

In celebration of: _____

Or

In honor of: _____

ITEMS OF INTEREST



WREATH OF LOVE & REMEMBRANCE

The holiday season makes especially poignant memories of those whom we have loved and lost. During the upcoming Advent and Christmas season, we shall have a *Wreath of Love and Remembrance* in the front of our sanctuary. Near the wreath will be a small basket of ribbons. Individuals are invited to take a ribbon and tie it to the wreath in remembrance of a loved one whose life meant much and whose loss lingers long in aching but grateful hearts.

ADVENT RESOURCES

The Advent/Christmas season is not always a joyous time for everyone. Those who are feeling depressed or stressed may find it hard to get into the spirit and it can be particularly difficult for those who have recently lost a loved one.

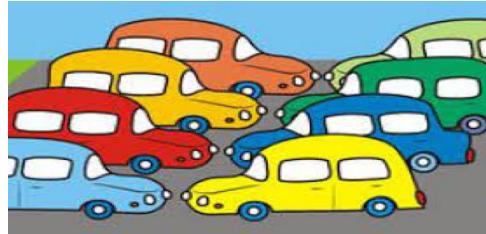
In the parish hall, we have a collection of Care Notes – small booklets that provide helpful advice on getting through the holidays when you are finding it difficult to feel the joy of the season. Feel free to take them for yourself or to give to a friend or relative.

Volunteers Needed For HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT Concord Prison Outreach

Volunteers are needed to sort items and prepare gift bags at Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, weekday mornings Monday, December 3 through Friday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. There will be one evening session on Wednesday, December 5 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please sign up in advance for the evening session: carolhmiller@comcast.com or 978-369-3755.



Lists of the items to fill the bags are available in the Parish Hall. Drop off items by December 2 in the BIG RED BOX in the Parish Hall.



DECEMBER AND JANUARY PARKING ALERT!

The Post Office is very generous in allowing us to park in their lot on Sunday mornings most of the year but in December and January they have workers there on Sunday.

Please observe posted signs.

**The Post Office lot is off limits
for the months of
December and January.**

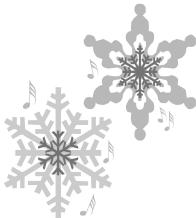
YOUR CAR WILL BE TOWED!

Help us to be good neighbors and show our appreciation by respecting their needs.

SNOW POLICY

When the Concord Public Schools or the Concord-Carlisle Adult Education classes are canceled, so are our events, classes, meetings. If there is a question, call the chairman or convener.

While we hope never to have to cancel a worship service, in the event of severe weather call the church answering machine, check the TriCon website or watch Channel 4 for the latest information.



OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our 2018 Christmas Offering will go to Hurricane Recovery efforts administered through the United Church of Christ. Watch your mail for a letter with further information and an offering envelope.



As we move forward living out our Vision Statement, we have TriCon

HATS that identify us as joining together in FAITH, SERVICE, AND MISSION. The hats will be sold for \$12 each. You can pick one up in the church office or Parish Hall. We hope you'll purchase one and look forward to many opportunities to DON our VISION HATS!

CROPWalk RESULTS

Thanks to all who were involved with this year's successful CROPWalk. More than 60 TriCon Team members, led by Rev. Bob Brown and Rev. Jean Vandergrift, and including many Seekers and Confirmands, walked and raised \$8,000 on Mission Sunday!
YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in 2019, you may sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall or on our website.



ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Please submit your report to Karen Lord in the church office. Call Karen with any questions or for a copy of prior year reports.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

We are in need of one or two volunteers to straighten up the sanctuary each week. The work takes about an hour, your schedule can be flexible and the job runs from September through June. If you would like to help keep the sanctuary neat and orderly, please contact the church office.



Open Table Community Dinners All are Invited and Welcome!

DINNERS ARE HELD:

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Open Table, 33 Main Street, Maynard

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

First Parish, 20 Lexington Road, Concord

HEARING AID UNITS Available on Sunday Mornings

Individual hearing units that are part of our sound system are available on Sunday mornings. Just ask an usher for help.

We also have a hearing loop in our sanctuary for those whose hearing aids are compatible.

For more information, call the church office.

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.



Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work DECEMBER 2018 SPOTLIGHT



CITY MISSION BOSTON

City Mission Society is the oldest multi-service social justice agency in New England, serving tens of thousands every year through direct service to families on the brink of homelessness and by offering outreach engagement programs.



ENGAGEMENT * EDUCATION * EMPOWERMENT

Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/missions-outreach



SERMONS ON LINE

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

OR
Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

December 2018