

May 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERIM

Given the state of the world and warnings we hear daily about terrorism, crime, abuse, disease, and relationships that go sour, you might be tempted to protect yourself from new relationships, change, and potential harm. Reason argues that it is better to stick with those you know and suspect the new.

Certainly one ought to be cautious about many matters, but had self-protection been TriCon's primary objective when I arrived two years and two months ago, think about what we would have missed! We wouldn't have gotten to know each other in friendship and faith for fear of getting too attached across this temporary sojourn. We also wouldn't have made as much progress through the transition and into the Vision.

Instead, you exhibited openness. You were open to the interim ideals and experience, even if you personally wanted to "get on with it." You were open to each other and the different ways you had of processing change. You were open to what God might bring about through us working together, even when you did not know where the path would lead.

I commend you in this, and thank you for allowing me into relationship with you. The reward has been *more than* simply coming to a congregational decision on (soon) two pastoral leaders and articulating the congregation's guiding vision for the future. The reward has actually been sharing in the communion of the Holy Spirit and participating in God's dream for TriCon. What an incredible privilege!



Openness of heart, mind, body, and spirit was certainly necessary to the unfolding of the Easter story. Had Jesus Christ been more interested in protecting himself from relationships and change, we would never have received the blessing of the incarnation or experienced the extent to which Love went to redeem us. The disciples would have remained in Galilee in dead-end jobs, never tapping into the power and adventure of a living faith. By contrast, after the Resurrection, they weren't stationary, and they didn't go backwards; they went forward as a church.

Your continued openness will serve you well as you move through this second change in pastoral leadership. Remember, you had no way of knowing for sure that *you and I* would get along, and that worked out well! Just consider, then, how many thoughts and prayers have gone into *this* search for the Minister of Congregational Life, and imagine the unique, gifted person that God is preparing to send you now! You're going to gain a pastor and teacher for the team and make a new friend. God is good...all the time.

Jean

May Worship



May 5
Communion

Service at 10:00 a.m.

Rev Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

May 12
Baptism

Service at 10:00 a.m.

Candidating Sunday

Our Choir will be featured in classic jazz tunes by Duke Ellington, Horace Silver and Harold Arlen, arranged especially for us by pianist Steve Dale. Mr. Dale has also gathered a superb jazz ensemble, including our own Jason Macres, to play for this special service. You'll want to arrive early to hear their prelude (beginning at 9:50).

May 19

Service at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Robert Brown preaching

May 26

Service at 10:00 a.m.

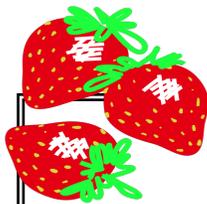
Rev Dr. Jean Vandergrift preaching

On Sunday, June 2

Celebrate Jean Vandergrift's Ministry at TriCon

We will celebrate Jean Vandergrift's ministry with us over the past two years.

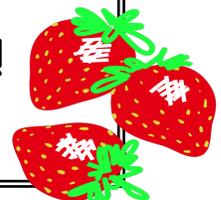
Please join us for this special service.



**On Sunday, June 2nd,
the Fellowship Committee will host a
Strawberry Festival!**

**Enjoy hot dogs, chips, munchies and
strawberry shortcake!**

Plan to stay after worship & enjoy!





Warrant for a Congregational Meeting

To the Members of the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord,
County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

You are hereby notified that a Congregational Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday morning, the 12th of May, 2019, immediately following the 10 AM worship service for the following purposes, to wit:

Article 1. To receive and act upon the recommendation of the Search Committee for the Minister of Congregational Life.

Article 2. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Amy Bruning, Clerk
Concord, Massachusetts
April 2019

Our Search Committee for the Minister of Congregational Life has unanimously and enthusiastically identified a candidate. The name and details are confidential for right now but there will be a mailing sent the week of May 5th with full details. The Candidate will preach at the May 12th Worship Service, followed by a Congregational Meeting and vote.

An Open House to meet the Candidate will take place in the TriCon Parish Hall on Saturday, May 11th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742
978-369-4837 · triconchurch.org

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
June Newsletter
is May 15.

BAKING FOR FRIENDS SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, May 19

Seafarer's Friend, one of the organizations we support with our Mission dollars has been serving the "maritime community with friendship, faith and hospitality since 1827." The crews on the merchant ships that come into Boston Harbor are far from home, often serving on board for months or even years without time at home. The chaplains and staff at Seafarer's offer spiritual guidance and practical assistance with warm clothing, phone cards and necessities.

On **Sunday, May 19th**, following the worship service we will gather in the church kitchen to prepare cookies, breads and cakes which will be a most welcome treat for these seamen who are often not even allowed off the ship when in port. All ages are welcome to help. Watch for a sign up in the parish hall and on the website in early May.



Knitwits

All knitters at any skill level are welcome to join us. Come and get help, give help, share projects, get new ideas or just enjoy the conversation. If you are new to knitting, we are happy to welcome you and teach you some basic stitches. If you need a project, we can make suggestions. As a group, we make prayer shawls for the Caring Connection, plus donations of hats, mittens, and scarves for City Mission Society.

**Wednesday,
May 22
at Noon
in the
Church Parlor**



Were you born in 1939 or earlier?

**If so, you're invited to a party
on Friday, May 31!**

Every year, the Caring Connection holds an annual Birthday Luncheon for all those in our congregation who are at least 80 years young. This year's party will be on Friday, May 31.

Join us for good food, good company and special entertainment - show tunes sung by our own very talented, Marcia Macres!

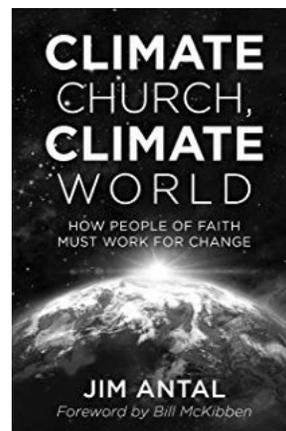
Look for your invitation in the mail. If you qualify but didn't get an invitation, please call the church office so we can be sure you are included in this fun event.

CLIMATE JUSTICE SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE

**Pentecost Sunday
JUNE 9, 2019**

**Afternoon forum
with Rev. Jim Antal**





Every Sunday, our worship service starts with “Words of Welcome”. In a recent Call to Stewardship, Hank Haff expanded on what those words have meant to their family.

“For me the word **Welcome** defines what TriCon is all about. Our family moved to Concord 27 years ago and we have been blessed to be part of this congregation since then. While new to the community we felt welcome here. The church was in a time of transition, but you - the congregation - made sure that we felt at home.

Our daughters, Nancy and Madeleine were young enough to attend the Nursery. Before we knew it, they were taking care of the younger children in that same nursery passing on the welcoming care that they had once received. Later when Nancy was helping teach 6th grade church school, she welcomed the Concord Fire Department in the middle of the church service when some smoke from a snuffed candle set off the fire alarm. Learning another important thing about this church - the importance of forgiveness.

After their first TriCon mission trip, it was clear that both daughters would attend every year during High School. In addition to the joyful experiences of youth group they learned how to help and care for others. I know that these formative years have helped guide them into careers in medicine - thanks TriCon!

Each week, please take the opportunity to extend a word of welcome to old friends, new members and those that you might not have met before. It was very transformative to our family and is at the heart of this church's mission.”

Open Table Donations

May 2019 ~ PASTA SAUCE

marinara, with meat and/or veggies

Please BAG ALL DONATIONS and place in the bin in the Parish Hall.

Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally

Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 5th, with Mentors, 5 - 7 PM

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, May 11th, 9 AM - 3 PM

The Retreat is off-site in Framingham at the Edwards House. Details will be sent in an email to parents/confirmands.

Reading of Faith Statements

Tuesday, May 14th, 7 PM, with Mentors

Confirmation Sunday!

May 19th, 10 AM service.

Breakfast at 9 AM for Confirmands, Mentors, and Parents



Bob Brown,
Sr. Minister
revbobbrown@triconchurch.org
978.204.7739 call or text



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Our Children's Ministry Program in May and June**



Sunday, May 5th

10:00am Mission Projects Sunday

Sunday, May 12th

10:00am Creative Church

Sunday, May 19th

10:00am Creative Church

Sunday, May 26th

10:00am Memorial Day Weekend
Childcare available up to age 5.

Sunday, June 2nd

10:00am Special Worship Celebrating the
Ministry of Jean Vandergrift
11:00am End of Year Games & Activities

**Programming may be subject to change.
Check emails from Carrie O'Brien or Friday's
TriCon emails for up-to-date programming information.*

Yes, our year is drawing to a close, but there is still more faith to learn and experience!!

We have exciting programming scheduled for May including Creative Church and Mission Projects Sundays.

If you have not had an opportunity to help out this year, or if you'd like more opportunities to participate in Children's Ministry, we are looking for more folks to lend a hand on May 5th, 12th and 19th.

Please contact Carrie O'Brien directly if you can jump in! Send her an email at cobrien@triconchurch.org

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.

LIFE CHANGES

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy to David and Patty Braunegg and their family. David's mother, Susan Braunegg, died on April 2. A service was held in PA on April 5.

Heartfelt condolences to Betty and Billy Farfaras and their family. Betty's brother, Deacon Bruce Vidito, died on April 10. A service was held in Worcester on April 16.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Rebecca Purcell, Holly Pompe van Meerdervoort, and Alisha Boyajian for decorating our beautiful Easter altar and the outside planters.

NEWS OF OUR MUSICIANS

Charlotte and Elizabeth Huettig represented TriCon in the Choir & Arts Festival 2019, sponsored by the Choristers Guild (Boston) at Norton's Trinitarian Congregational Church on March 31.

Congratulations to Matt DiBattista for his performances as The Witch in the Detroit Opera's April production of "Hansel & Gretel". Several choir members traveled to hear Matt sing from inside a stunning 15' puppet made by Jim Henson studios. See it for yourself in this piece by Detroit's WDIV-TV news: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gDGWneuCc4>.

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter offering raised \$7,000 for UNICEF's work with immigrant children on the Southwestern U.S. border.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

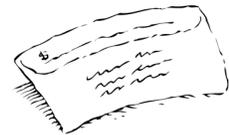


Each year at Christmas and Easter, volunteers decorate the church with special floral displays. We would like to create a **Flower Committee** that would continue that tradition and also be available, on

occasion, to do flowers for a special service or event. If you enjoy flower arranging and would like to be involved, please call the church office or speak to Rebecca Purcell.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Light blue offering envelopes for 2019 are now available in the Parish Hall. Feel free to take as many as you need. Please mark your giving code on your envelopes, if possible.



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.

Your Generous Mission Dollars at Work

MAY 2019 SPOTLIGHT



METTĀ PARTNERS IN MYANMAR

Food. Learning. Hope

Decades of poverty and misrule have left many children in Myanmar in need of food, education, and health care. Some are orphans, while others have families who cannot afford to care for them.

Your generous mission dollars help to:

- *Fund food, shelter, education, and health care on an interim basis*
- *Facilitate the development of locally generated strategies to meet these needs long-term*
- *Support the implementation of these strategies*

METTĀ PARTNERS places particular emphasis on education as the most effective way to reduce poverty, strengthen communities, address racism and prejudice, and promote personal and social transformation.



Learn more at:
triconchurch.org/mission-outreach



SERMONS ON LINE

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

OR

Facebook.com and search
Trinitarian Congregational Church

OPEN TABLE MAYNARD

Open Table Maynard is changing and TriCon's service date is now the THIRD MONDAY of each month with the next date being May 20. We encourage new participants to this program. Volunteers will dish up plates in the kitchen, serve meals in the dining room, clear and rinse plates at the "slop station" or help with dishes in the kitchen. The meal is served at 6, so volunteers are asked to arrive by 5:40 and we are usually finished between 7 and 7:20, depending on the meal. Great restaurants nearby in Maynard offer us the opportunity for dinner and fellowship after we serve the meal, too.

Polly Vanasse 617 584-1705 or
pyoungkeller@gmail.com for questions

MEMORIAL RECEPTIONS COMMITTEE looking for additional members!

If you are looking for a rewarding and important volunteer experience the Memorial Receptions Committee is asking the greater TriCon family to consider helping with our receptions. The commitment is minor as there are many small ways to participate, and the flexibility allows you to help whenever you have the time. Each reception is broken down into focused tasks that, when put together, serve to support a grieving family celebrating the life of a loved one.

So, if you are interested in setting up, arranging supplies, pouring punch or coffee, wrapping up, food prep or reception hospitality in general please contact us by calling the church at 978 369 4837. Whether it would be for one reception or more we appreciate your help and talents! THANKS!

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.



As we move forward living out our Vision

Statement, we have TriCon HATS that identify us as joining together in FAITH, SERVICE, AND MISSION. You can pick one up for \$12 in the church office or Parish Hall. We hope you'll purchase one

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Annual Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council & Town of Concord Holocaust Remembrance Sunday, May 5 – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Concord Town House

The focus of the event will be the impact of intergenerational trauma. There will be a panel discussion with three local adult children of Holocaust survivors: Rosalie Gerut, Irwin Hipsman, and author Helen Epstein of Lexington MA, moderated by Elisabeth Sackton, LICSW. Concord's Town House is wheel chair accessible with ASL interpreters on site. For information email info@cchumanrights.org.



LIBRARY BOOK SALE

On June 1, the Friends of the Concord Library are holding their giant book sale on the library lawn from 10-3 p.m. Thousands of books at rock-bottom prices. Perfect summer beach reads, history, cookbooks, biography, science, all media formats too. Cash and checks only. ATM a block away. One look, you'll find a book!

MUSIC MAKES ME HAPPY Chorus
(joined by a jazz quartet and a champion fiddler)
invites you to a special Sing-with-Us concert

"FOLLOW THE RAINBOW"

Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 3 p.m.

Cotting School Auditorium
453 Concord Avenue – Lexington, MA

~ Reception following the concert ~

www.mmmh-singers.org