

May 2020

I've been listening to a lot of people talk about how they are managing with social distancing and quarantine. Some, like my retired brother living in rural Maine, joked, "I've been socially isolated for years! No big deal." There are a number of people who have actually found sheltering at home quite appealing. Generally, these are the contemplative types who are well practiced in seeking out solitude as an important aspect of their overall well-being. Also, most of them don't have young children scrambling about demanding constant attention. Younger families I have spoken with are really challenged by the 24/7 demands, the disrupted routines and shattered boundaries between work and home life. Then there are those who live alone and are feeling quite detached and coping with isolation. For all of us, this prolonged physical separation can lead to increased feelings of loneliness.

No matter what your particular circumstances are or how you are managing "social distancing" as the weeks turn into months, the fact is that we are social creatures. We are hard wired to be part of something greater than ourselves. To be in caring

relationship with one another is vital to our sense of self-worth, our spiritual grounding, and even our physical well-being. Social isolation can be progressively overpowering and have serious health risks.

It's no surprise that sociologists and psychologists have clinically concluded that humans need to be in community but what is interesting is that they also observed that we thrive best when we both give and receive affection. It is not simply getting attention that combats loneliness, it's just as important to our self-worth to feel valued as someone who has something to give to others as well. We all need to feel we truly belong to something other than ourselves. This is how we gain meaning. Belonging to one another gives purpose to our lives.

This is the great gift we have at TriCon Church. Each one of us is a critical component to the whole. As Paul wrote to the Corinthian church,

*"The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable*



*members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but **the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor12:22-27)*

The pandemic is teaching us how inextricably connected we are, whether we know it or not. Even in self quarantined isolation we remain part of something larger that is rooted and nurtured in love and compassion. Nothing can ever sever that.

If you are feeling the effects of loneliness; loss of meaning, loss of your sense of self, please reach out to someone you trust and talk about it. This is a difficult time and we need one another to get through it. When we connect with others in all honesty, vulnerably, without pretense or disguise, we begin to recall where we belong. Our purpose and value begin to take shape once again. Sharing the full spectrum of our true emotions

with one another is how we are meant to live. The Church was made for this.

**You belong at TriCon Church** and the truth is that we would be diminished without you. So, let us continue to reach out to one another in every way we can; handwritten notes, phone calls, positive posts on Facebook, and even brief text messages or tweets. The simplest exchange begins to rekindle a sense of belonging. Also, join us every day for **Zoom@Noon** or any of the multiple ways TriCon is staying linked. Our on line meetings and contact information are here in the newsletter and on the website.

I look forward, with great anticipation, to the day when we are physically present and together again, but through this shadowed valley of uncertainty, we will walk together as one body, following in the Way of Christ. It's who we are, have always been and will continue to be. God is not finished with us yet!

In faith and hope,

*Rev. Bob Brown*  
Senior Minister

Therefore, since it is by  
God's mercy that we are  
engaged in this ministry,  
we do not lose heart.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:1



### **The Servant Girl at Emmaus**

Painting by Diego Velasquez, c. 1620

I love this painting. I first saw it when I received it as a gift (a reproduction of course!) from a colleague in 1995. I had asked Joe to preach at my Installation on the text from Luke which we typically know as *The Road to Emmaus*, and he gave me this painting at that time. It hangs over my desk in my office at church.

What happened on the road to Emmaus is that the resurrected Jesus comes and walks with a couple who are going from Jerusalem (where Jesus had been crucified) to Emmaus. They don't recognize Jesus until the end of the day when they are at an inn. At the dinner table, Jesus breaks the bread, they recognize him, and he disappears. Then they recall their day of walking with him and the light dawns - he'd been with them all along!

Isn't it just like that? We're so engrossed (understandably) in our grief, that we don't see that Jesus is right with us. Though we don't get the resurrected Jesus anymore - rather we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, who some would say is rather elusive. Perhaps. But what if we consider the perspective of the servant girl in our painting here? Noticing that something remarkable is happening in the other room there...

Perhaps the kids have settled into a peaceful moment while playing together. Perhaps the sun peeks through the clouds long enough for a quick stroll up and down your street between zooms. Perhaps the person dropping off your dinner lingers a bit to listen as you share about your latest conversation with your son/daughter. Perhaps you receive a call from someone you'd never expect. Perhaps you find you've relaxed some as our quarantine time continues. Perhaps...(you finish the sentence)...

As we move through these weeks of the Easter season heading towards Pentecost (May 31) when we receive the Holy Spirit which assures us that God is with us even to the very end of the age, as we move through quarantine time, watch for the movement of the Holy Spirit - Jesus - God. Because He is / They are present, as close as the other room. Take a glance over your shoulder and see what you see. With you on the journey,

*Gail*

Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life

**What is ZOOM at Noon?** We are hosting daily check-in chats, online, via the platform Zoom. You can join us with video and audio through your PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device. Or, you can telephone into the meeting, audio only. You do not need to create a Zoom account. Simply click on the link on the home page of the church website, or found in a daily email reminder, and "join the meeting" to see some familiar faces, and to let us know how you are doing. These chats are designed to be about a half-hour in length, and you can jump in or out as your schedule allows.



Look for this in your email or online for a live link to the daily chats. Simply click at noon.

You can phone into the meetings by calling:  
1-646-558-8656 and using Meeting ID: 194 349 653

Need help?? Call or text any staff member! Or, check out the instructions on [triconchurch.org](http://triconchurch.org)

On Sunday mornings at 10 AM, we are hosting

*online worship services.*

Please look for a link in your email, or simply go to [www.triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org) to click on the live link on the homepage to join us.

**EMAIL CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER REQUESTS  
to Bob or Gail - anytime!**



You can watch the weekly worship service on YouTube, either LIVE at 10AM on Sundays, or throughout the week. Please SUBSCRIBE to our channel.



www.triconchurch.org

TriCon's website homepage is updated on a weekly basis and is a huge resource of great information, including the latest sermon, weekly updates, children's ministry activities, youth group, newsletters, etc.

We've included live links to our daily 'Zoom at Noon' check-in chats, our online Sunday worship at 10 AM, and the texts and audio of the scripture and sermons.

Though our building doors may be closed, we ARE OPEN to all of you.



ABOUT ▾ WORSHIP ▾ EDUCATION ▾ MISSION ▾ CALENDAR NEWS ▾ SIGN UPS  
PAYMENTS



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM FOR ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING, YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMING, OR PHONE. – ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING



**DAILY ZOOM @ NOON**

JOIN US DAILY FOR "ZOOM AT NOON", CASUAL CHECK-INS HOSTED BY CHURCH STAFF OR CLERGY (12:00PM-12:30PM), TWO OPTIONS: 1. ZOOM VIDEO MEETING, 2. DIAL IN BY PHONE FOR AUDIO ONLY – [...]



**CONTACT US**

CHURCH OFFICE  
info@triconchurch.org  
978.369.4837, CLICK LINK FOR CLERGY/PASTORAL CARE CONTACT

## RECENT POSTS



**WATCH CLIMATE JUSTICE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 4/26/20 VIA YOUTUBE**

April 26, 2020 / [Worship](#)



**SUBSCRIBE TO TRICON'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

April 25, 2020 / [Worship](#)



**WEEKLY UPDATE (4/24-5/1)**

April 24, 2020 / [Announcements](#)



**Children's Ministry Weekly Activities (PreK-8th Grades) dated 4/26/20**

April 23, 2020 / [Children's Ministry](#)



**Book Reading "Creation" by Children's Ministry Director Carrie O'Brien**

April 23, 2020 / [Children's Ministry](#)



**Book Reading "We're All In The Same Boat" by Children's Ministry Director Carrie O'Brien**

April 2, 2020 / [Children's Ministry](#)

## CALENDAR

« APRIL 2020 »						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

**TU 28** "Zoom at Noon" Church Chat (12:00PM-12:30PM)  
Tuesday, 04/28/2020 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm UTC-5

**WE 29** "Zoom at Noon" Church Chat (12:00PM-12:30PM)  
Wednesday, 04/29/2020 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm UTC-5

**WE 29** Senior High Youth Discussion Group via ZOOM  
Wednesday, 04/29/2020 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm UTC-5

**THU 30** "Zoom at Noon" Church Chat (12:00PM-12:30PM)  
Thursday, 04/30/2020 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm UTC-5

If you are having any trouble accessing things on our website, please be in touch with Marcia Macres: [mjmacres@triconchurch.org](mailto:mjmacres@triconchurch.org).

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**  
to TriCon's YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/TriConChurch](https://youtube.com/c/TriConChurch)



LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP  
SUNDAY @ 10AM



A weekly email with loads of ways to stay in touch and feel connected is sent out each Friday.

If you're not getting that in your inbox, please let Amy Bruning know, [abruning@triconchurch.org](mailto:abruning@triconchurch.org).

### A Note on Stewardship - Pledges

*We are very grateful to the many who have responded to date - checks have been received and donations set up online. It is especially gratifying to receive little messages of appreciation for the worship services and continuing support for our on-going efforts to keep our community together.*



In the face of this global crisis, TriCon Church continues to offer hope, fellowship, spiritual connection, encouragement and care to those who need it.

Because of your support we are able to continue to

- Hold Sunday Worship and many other ministries online
- Organize ways to minister to the most vulnerable in our community
- Offer care and resources for those facing hardship
- Support the elderly and others who may be isolated.
- Continue our support for the organizations that provide direct services for those less fortunate.

It's an extraordinary privilege to shine the Light of Christ, offer comfort and bring hope in this time of crisis. The Church was made for this.

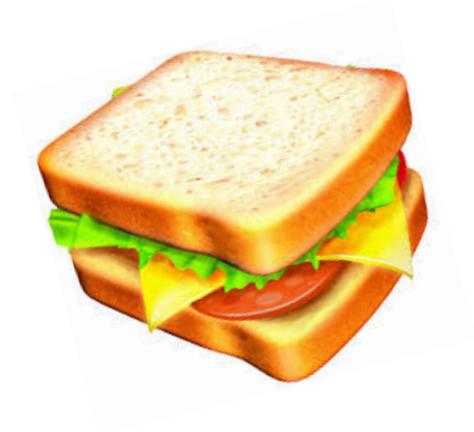
**Everything we do at TriCon Church is only possible because of your continued support.** While the church building is closed, expenses continue.

Pledges and offerings can be mailed to the church or dropped off in the mail slot in the Walden Street door. On-line payments may be made thru our website either by electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank or by credit card. **Thank you!**

## Make a Sandwich – Make a Difference

Homeless ministries continue to need the support of fresh food donations. Common Cathedral in Boston invites us to help with some "to-go" food for their community. Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday into May they will receive our donations at Emmanuel Episcopal Church (15 Newbury Street) between 8-9am. Type this link into your browser, or find the link in our weekly email: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4aafa829aaf94-common>  
Questions? Contact Rev. Gail Miller ([revmiller@triconchurch.org](mailto:revmiller@triconchurch.org), 978-831-3482)

Photos from Gail's kitchen at home!:



Mike and Sophia preparing 50 pb&j sandwiches for Common Cathedral



Ready to go to Common Cathedral in Boston!



## MAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY at TRICON



Every Sunday, while Children's Ministry programming is on hiatus due to our current health crisis, I am emailing faith-based ideas, videos and activities that you and your family can do at home, including Story Time with Carrie, Creating a Sacred Space, Baking Prayer Pretzels, Making a Gratitude Wall and Sharing HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND FAITH with Others.

If you are not receiving my emails, please contact me. I am also available if you have any questions or would like more ideas of ways you and your family can grow closer to God at home.

### **Join us for Sunday Worship and Church Chats via Zoom**

Zoom is an on-line conferencing service that provides opportunities for large and small groups of people to connect via video and/or by phone. Our 10:00am Sunday Worship Services, including a Children's Message each week and Noon Church Chats, hosted by staff, are accessible via Zoom. Refer to the on-line email from TriCon church for information on how to access these opportunities.

Information about all of the above can also be found on our Church website at [www.triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org).

Blessings,

Carrie O'Brien  
Children's Ministry Director  
[cobrien@triconchurch.org](mailto:cobrien@triconchurch.org)

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

We are continuing to meet for DG on Wednesday nights and Youth Group on Sunday. Since we cannot meet in person, we are meeting via ZOOM.

Some of our recent activities via Zoom have been **Trivia Night** and **Bingo**, complete with prizes.



*Party!*

On our most recent YG, we had a **Netflix Party Movie night**, hosted by Mission Trip Leaders Dave Boisvert and Paul Mahoney. We enjoyed watching Ferris Bueller's Day off together, complete with movie trivia questions throughout the

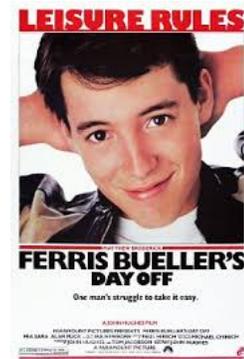
movie. We were also joined by several of our MT leaders for the night.

Thanks again Paul and Dave for such a fun night!

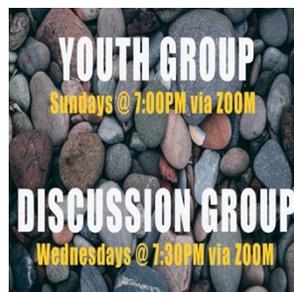
We've also initiated an 'old-fashioned' pen-pal program amongst the teens in the Youth Group.

Youth Group will NOT meet on Mother's Day, May 10th, or over Memorial Day weekend, May 24th.

Discussion Group continues to meet each Wednesday.



The links to join are sent out via email and are texted each "day of" via the GroupMe app. Email Christine Kelley, [ckelley@triconchurch.org](mailto:ckelley@triconchurch.org) with questions.





*From Vickie Wagner,  
Music Director*

# MUSIC

My favorite month of the year is May, when the world is bursting with signs of rebirth. The month was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of childbirth and nature, by the early Greeks. And the ancient Romans honored Flora, the goddess nature and flowers, throughout May. So, it's no wonder that for centuries the Roman Catholic Church has devoted the month of May to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Those of us who are life-

long Protestants tend to think of Mary only as the mother figure in our nativity set. But it's worth remembering that she was there for the whole story. She witnessed it all, from birth to resurrection.

With that in mind, I share a link to this beautiful video posted by my friend Ruth Cunningham, a founding member of the renowned women's vocal quartet *Anonymous 4*. Ruth writes: "This Marian improvisation of mine was filmed in 2016, my first year at The Wisdom School conference in Chartres, France. We filmed in a lovely nearby chapel, but there is wonderful footage of Chartres and the labyrinth, recently shut down due to the Corona virus."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0S5sPZ48Z0&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop#menu>

## Looking for a new hymn to sing while washing your hands??

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

(The German text of this hymn first appeared in a 1662 manuscript. In 1842 it was paired with a folk tune from Silesian folk tune. By 1850 it arrived, in English translation, to America.)



## *In Sympathy*

**We are saddened by the recent losses of a some of our long-time TriCon members.**

Our deepest sympathies are with Fritz Kussin and Rebecca Purcell. **Allene Kussin** passed away on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Allene was a faithful and active member of TriCon since marrying Fritz Kussin and moving to Concord. Allene was the devoted sister of Rebecca Purcell. Allene served on many committees here at TriCon, organized a May Art Show, and brought her spiritual thoughtfulness to many Small Groups as a facilitator and participant.

We mourn the death of **Chuck Stevenson**, who passed away peacefully on April 28th. A member of TriCon since 1981, Chuck was a devoted and joyful member of the Senior Choir. As a young jazz musician living in New Orleans, he was personally involved with the birth of Preservation Hall. He was also the proud father of TriCon's traditional Jazz Sunday service, which he founded in 1994. For many years the Easter Sunrise services at the North Bridge were enlivened by the trumpeting of Chuck and Matt, his younger son. Chuck's spirit and humor, as well as his boisterous voice, will be greatly missed. Our sympathies are with his children and their families.

**Peter Brooke** died on April 1st. Peter was an internationally known pioneer in the field of venture capital based on his belief that venture capital should serve as an effective economic tool, contributing to growth, employment and a sustainable economy particularly in developing countries. He and his late wife, Anne, were devoted supporters of organizations promoting the arts, music and nature, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Nature Center.

Sympathies are with the Lawson family following the death of **Ray Lawson** on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Ray joined TriCon in 1937! He and his late wife were regular participants in the TriCon "couples club" in the 1950s, and were active in the life of the church, until moving to New Hampshire.

**Barbara Platt** died on April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 98. A member of TriCon for over 50 years, she joined the church in 1965. Barbara served on numerous church committees, was active on women's fellowship and a regular office volunteer for many years. Barbara is remembered as always having a smile on her face. Our sympathies are with her daughter and family.

In this time of social distancing, isolation from friends and families, economic uncertainty, the disappointment of missed school, graduations, sports, projects, and all the many things that make up our rich and busy lives, we hope you know that your church, TriCon, is here for you. Please let us know how we can help.

**If you don't have email or a computer, you can still telephone into our Zoom meetings/worship. You can call the staff at any time. Let us know how we can help keep you connected!**

Clergy & Staff Contact Info:

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Amy Bruning	abruning@triconchurch.org	978.394.1916
Carrie O'Brien	cobrien@triconchurch.org	781.405.2850
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Marcia Macres	mjmacres@triconchurch.org	978.273.1896
Christine Kelley	ckelley@triconchurch.org	978.337.6171



**You have to laugh!**

Lots of clever lines going around – here are some of our favorites:

- My new car is so great - recently I've been getting three weeks to the gallon!
- It's given new meaning to "I wouldn't touch him with a six-foot pole."
- The world is upside down – senior citizens are trying to sneak out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay in.
- We are turning into our dogs – we roam the house all day looking for food, are told "no" when we get too close to strangers, and get really excited for a car ride.



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TO:

Visit our updated and streamlined website for  
lots of great TriCon information:

**[www.triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org)**