

OCTOBER 2021

Unreliable Winds

Recently I came across this devotional written by the Reverend Cameron Trimble, founder & CEO of Convergence.org. I thought it a powerful metaphor for our time.

In general aviation, when a pilot is approaching an airport to land, we are required to listen to a field-specific frequency to get the weather report (ATIS)...

All of the information in an ATIS report is helpful, but there are two critical pieces that a pilot is listening for - the altimeter setting and the wind direction/speed. The altimeter setting allows us to accurately measure the distance between the ground and the airplane. The wind direction and speed tell us which runway we should use. We always want to land INTO the wind. Landing with the tailwind risks you floating off the runway, something we want to avoid. :)

This past week as I was completing a flight and coming into land at an airport, I switched over to the frequency and listened carefully for these pieces of information. The altimeter setting was 30.06 and the winds were "unreliable. "

I chuckled, thinking if that wasn't a metaphor for our time, I don't know what is.

These days feel we're all flying in unreliable winds. We're being blown in all kinds of directions that feel scary and disorienting. We are trying to land safely, but the forces of politics, power and change are making our journeys feel dangerous. Our natural

instincts are to cling to control. We tighten our hands on the yoke of what brings us security - our jobs, family and money. We think, "It's up to me to see us safely through. I better be in command."

*But that is exactly the **wrong thing to do.***

When good pilots encounter turbulence, they LOOSEN their grip on the yoke. They trust that the plane is designed to fly, adjusting to the wind to maintain steady, stable flight. If the pilot grips the yoke tightly, it makes the plane less able to adapt. It increases the risk to the flight.

Instead, in the greatest turbulence, you learn to "fly loose." Holding the yoke gently between your fingers, you let the plane do what it was designed to do - fly straight and level. You may need to make corrections to help increase stability, but trying to control the plane reduces the flexibility needed in the aerodynamics of the plane to fly as safely as possible.

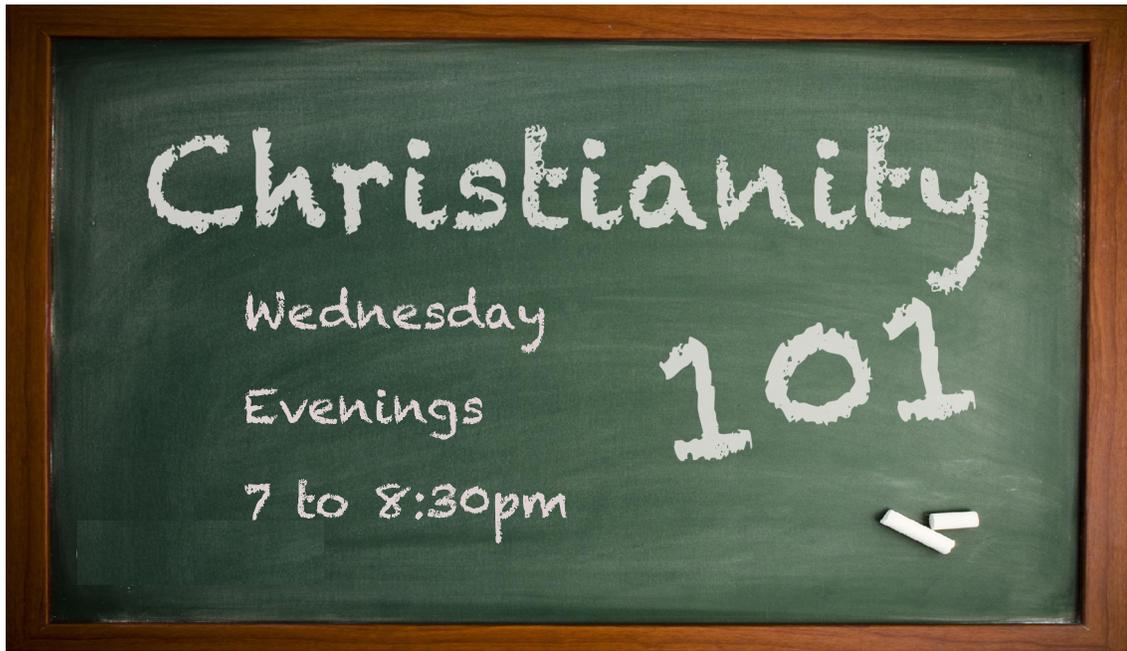
We are flying in unreliable winds these days. So, lighten your grip and see if your life begins to fly more smoothly.

As we move forward together this fall, let us loosen our grip, fly loose and trust that God has designed us to fly together.

In faith and hope,



Rev. Robert Brown, Senior Minister



What does it mean to identify as a “Christian” & follow in the Way of Jesus?

Beginning Wednesday October 13th for 6 consecutive weeks, Rev. Bob Brown will host an in person/Zoom (hybrid) Bible Study that will focus on the commonly held beliefs among Christians. The format will include teaching from scripture and how past tradition informs our faith today. We will then break into small groups for discussion. Join us in person at TriCon in our new “zoom-room” or sign in on-line for what promises to be a compelling look at the faith we hold.

October 13	How do we understand THE BIBLE
October 20	Who is JESUS
October 27	GOD & the Holy Trinity
November 3	Guilt, Shame, Grace & FORGIVENESS
November 10	Denominations, United Church of Christ & TriCon Church
November 17	Statements of Faith

(Participants will be invited to write & share a faith statement.)

*****if possible, please plan to attend all 6 weeks*****

Please sign up on-line or call the church



Now that we are worshiping both in person and on Zoom and living into new ways of being the church and “doing” church, the Deacons have discussed and decided that we will receive the Lord’s Supper in the following way.

If you are worshiping at home:

- You will continue as we have for the past 18 months, using your own elements.

For those who come to the Sanctuary:

- You are invited to bring your own elements from home, and to keep them with you in the pews until we come to that part of the service.
- or
- We will also provide individual elements (a gluten-free cracker and grape juice) in small sealed containers which you can pick up as you enter the sanctuary. (The ushers will pick them up and recycle them after worship.)



Another word for Communion is the *Eucharist*, which comes from the Greek word for Thanksgiving. When we share in this meal together, we are offering thanks to God for Jesus, whose death and resurrection we remember with the bread and the cup. We trust and pray that our souls will be nourished in the gathering and the sharing, no matter where we’re sitting and no matter what we’re receiving. Thanks be to God!

With you on the journey,

Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life



The following is a list of safety precautions and conditions that we plan to follow starting September 12th, until further notice ...

- Masks will be REQUIRED by all individuals, regardless of vaccine status
- We will not ask vaccination status, or require a sign up
- Windows and doors will be open as much as possible
- We will have organ music and instrumentalists, but no choir and no congregational singing
- People serving as lay leaders, ushers, greeters, and church school volunteers must be vaccinated
- We will have fellowship time outside, weather permitting, or in the parish hall

For those who prefer to view the **service remotely**, we have equipment in place to provide live streaming of the services through our current worship ZOOM link (Meeting ID 219-932-059; <https://zoom.us/j/219932059>). We are working with a vendor to install a permanent, 'high-tech' set up to provide a fuller remote viewing experience, but that will not be completed until into the late fall at the earliest.

TriCon Church strongly encourages those of age and eligibility to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is the best tool available to help us regather safely, and to protect children under twelve in our congregation and families.



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| 3rd | Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister, preaching; Communion Sunday |
| 10th | Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life, preaching |
| 17th | Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister, preaching |
| 24th | Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister, preaching |
| 31st | Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister, preaching; Joining Sunday |



TRICON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our children are the next generation of faith, and we have both their physical safety and their spiritual health in mind. We offer opportunities for Pre-Kindergarten – 8th Grade children/youth and their families to grow in faith through learning about *Who God Is* through exploring our four pillars of Faith: Jesus, The Bible, Communion, and Prayer while engaging in fun and meaningful activities. Nursery care is available every week for our youngest.

Children spend time in the beginning and end of our 10am worship with their families AND in our NEW Exploring Faith Space located on the 1st floor of our Children's Wing or outside play on the yard.

Volunteers (Faith Guides) are members of our church who are NOT parents of current children in programming, giving you the opportunity to recharge and enjoy worship. Of course, parents are welcome to participate if you choose.



October programming dates: Sundays, October 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Children's Ministry for both our Voyagers and SEEKERS takes place on Sunday afternoons at 4pm instead of Sunday mornings. Content will include mission-based activities as well as exploring the four pillars of faith and how they apply to their lives. We will meet outside as weather permits. Otherwise, we will meet inside in the airy Parish Hall and lower level. On Sunday morning, Voyagers and SEEKERS will remain in worship for the duration of the service.



Upcoming October schedule: Sundays, Oct. 3rd and 17th.



- While indoors we ask that everyone wear a mask to protect those most vulnerable, including younger children who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine.
- All Children's Ministry Volunteers must be vaccinated.
- Hand sanitizers are available throughout the property.
- Windows will be open during indoor programming spaces .

If you are new to TriCon...WELCOME..., please reach out to Carrie O'Brien, Children's Ministry Director, for more information about youth and children's programming. cobrien@triconchurch.org

Youth Group

Sundays, October
3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st
6:00 - 7:00 PM (*note new time)
Meet in play yard

Discussion Group

Wednesdays, October
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Mission Trip 2022

The TriCon Youth Mission Trip will take place during the February public school break. More details will be coming.



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

Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life
revmiller@triconchurch.org
978.831.3482 call or text

Christine Kelley is our high-school Youth Leader, leading our Sunday evening Youth Group, our Wednesday evening Discussion Group, and our annual Youth Mission Trip.

Be sure to let the church office know if you are new to our community and have high-school age children.

MASK POLICY: We will require masks when indoors.



TriCon Church - The Story Continues

October is the time of year when we ask worshipers to make a pledge or a gift for the coming year. Our church has no outside funding; no denominational revenue. We are dependent on contributions from parishioners to maintain the facilities, pay the staff, provide the services, support all the activities and maintain our commitment to the many outreach organizations that help those less fortunate.



In the next few weeks, you will receive a brochure telling the church's story and a letter and pledge card asking you to join in supporting our faith community and its ministry and mission. Please respond promptly and generously so that TriCon can move forward into 2022 with continued vitality, faithfulness and opportunity for the next chapter!

At a recent service, Jake Brown shared the following message

The story of TriCon continues, the book expanding as we add chapters. It is already a weighty tome, reflecting our long history with roots dating back to 1636 and a formal founding in 1826. We each wrote our own chapters in this story when we made the decision to join TriCon, or just walked in (or clicked the link) on a Sunday morning.

A chapter was written starting in September 20 years ago. From evil, tragedy, violence, and loss came the Al Filipov Forum, for Peace and Justice, a resurrection - a new life molded from the ashes of September 11th.

So, what is our next chapter?

For our church, perhaps it is the ability to broaden our appeal, to enable participation in church whether you're in Concord on a Sunday morning or in Topeka on a Tuesday watching a recorded session from your hotel room. TriCon could even

be part of summers on the Cape or in Maine from the comfort of your front porch. Imagine if those who moved away could remain engaged members of our TriCon community through the virtual connectivity we have discovered over the last 18 months?

Perhaps it is us continuing to work for racial equity and justice, even when the lighthouse of the world's focus has moved elsewhere. This would echo the early days of our Church, which by the 1830s - before the civil war - had a formal resolution stating our "solid stance against slavery".

Perhaps it involves a focus on climate change and the energy this topic generates within the younger generation and our very engaged youth group.

What is the new life that will spring from the ashes of Covid-19? We don't know yet. For our

world, our community, it may be a greater appreciation of the importance of family time, of focusing on what matters, of finding flexibility in work to flex our family and faith muscles. It could be a dawning realization that we, as a global community, are more alike than dissimilar, that we really are all in this together, whether through COVID, climate change, or crises of democracy.

Maybe the forced time at home is leading to a reflection on the importance of family, faith, and the foundational strength of a global community.

We are fortunate to have precedent in authoring our next chapter.

As many of you know, our church has recovered from actual ashes. Our church building was built from the ashes of a fire that destroyed the previous structure in 1924. We can do this. We've done it before. In time -but slowly. It will require - your time, your talent, and your treasure. There are no shortcuts on Jesus' path.

In 5 years, we will celebrate TriCon's 200th anniversary. What chapter will we write between now and then? We're writing it right now. And we're writing it together. It will require courage, trust, perhaps a leap of faith. But as we leap, as we take that step and take that risk, we do so with the power of community and the conviction of faith. I look forward to leaping with all of you.



The church offices are open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Please feel free to come in to say hello or conduct any church business.

TriCon Staff - we are here for you!

Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister..... revbobbrown@triconchurch.org
.....978.204.7739
Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life..... revmiller@triconchurch.org
.....978.831.3482
Vickie Wagner, Music Director vwagner@triconchurch.org
Judy Walpole, Church/Business Administrator..... jwalpole@triconchurch.org
.....978.884.7976
Amy Bruning, Communications Director..... abruning@triconchurch.org
.....978.394.1916
Carrie O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministry cobrien@triconchurch.org
Christine Kelley, Youth Leader ckelley@triconchurch.org
Marcia Macres, IT Coordinator..... mjmacres@triconchurch.org
Jamie Aromaa, Sexton..... call church office: 978.369.4837

Ushers Needed



We are in need of USHER volunteers. Would you like to help? It's an easy job, and you can do it with your spouse or TriCon friend!

If you are willing to be included in our usher/greeter pool, please email info@triconchurch.org, or call the church office. We also have a **SIGN UP online through our website** too. We're booking dates through the holidays.

This is a fun way to help out and greet our fellow parishioners! Thank you!

Need help with the Online PHOTO Directory?

Contact parishioner Elaine Ayres -- she can help with first time log in, uploading a photo, or arranging for someone to help take a photo of you for the directory.

SAYCHEESE



ejanird@gmail.com

You can access the

directory through our website.

TriCon KnitWits



will meet in the parlor at 11 AM: 10/20; 11/17; 12/1.

Contact Betty Farfaras: bfarfaras@verizon.net

New Hearing Aids?

Did you know that our sanctuary has a hearing loop? That means if your hearing aids are relatively new, chances are that they are equipped with a t-coil. If so, when in the sanctuary, change the setting on your hearing aids to the t-coil setting and the sound system in the sanctuary will do directly into your hearing aids. If you have any questions, talk with your audiologist.



TRICON MEMBERSHIP

Do you feel TriCon is your church home? Are you interested in joining TriCon, or learning more about membership?

We are hosting a JOINING during the Sunday, October 31st worship service.

If you're interested in joining on that Sunday (or any future date) please let us know. We'd love to talk to you more about membership at TriCon.



jb.robaille190@gmail.com
sarahphart@earthlink.net
abruning@triconchurch.org

**Women of Spirit Group: Spiritual
Discovery,
Support and
Community,
on ZOOM**



The fall dates for
the Wednesday
morning 7:00

a.m. group will be:
October 6th
October 20th
November 3rd
November 17th

The fall dates for the Thursday
evening 7:30 p.m. group
will be:

October 14th
October 28th
November 11th

If you are interested, please feel free to
contact Cheryl Shea
(cheryl.shea@verizon.net) who
facilitates the morning sessions, or Liz
Crowell (Lbenema@gmail.com) who
facilitates the evening sessions.



The Men's Anchor Group meets every other
Tuesday, the first and third of the month,
from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, in the TriCon
Church parlor. This group is for men of all
ages who discuss and share issues of

religion and spirituality in light of
contemporary culture. It is a supportive
opportunity to share life stories and find
connection with one another.

OCTOBER 5th & 19th
Contact: Greg Howes
greg@howesinsurance.com



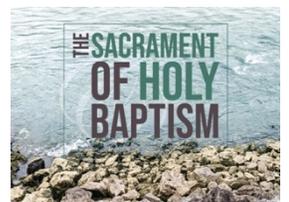
We offer prayers of sympathy for Beth
Vause and her family. Beth's father, John
Skinner II, passed away August 31st, 2021,
in Michigan.

It is a joy to announce the birth of **Ella
Caroline Swaim, born September 15th** to



Tyler and Megan (Donelan) Swaim. C.C.
Donelan and Bob Donelan are beaming
first-time grandparents.

Interested in Baptism? We will
be scheduling baptisms this fall,
as we regather in the sanctuary.





Most every Sunday, we look for people to provide two flower arrangements to adorn the front of our sanctuary. The flower arrangements are then given away to TriCon folks, typically those shut-in or suffering an illness or hospitalized. The donor is always welcome to take both, or just one, home with them.

Any florist, or personal garden arrangement, welcomed. Your name and dedication are printed in the bulletin.

SIGN UP for a Sunday through our website, or contact the church office.

TriCon Church has a ZOOM ROOM!



On the 2nd floor, we created a Zoom Room, which has a professionally installed monitor and ipad controller, enabling committees and other meetings the option to meet in HYBRID. Those who wish to be in person can meet in the large zoom-room, while some others who are not able or comfortable to be present, can still participate fully through Zoom.

If you are the chair of a committee and think you would like to use the zoom-room, please call the church or email the office staff.



TriCon Church, its ministers and staff, will NOT solicit you via email. Emails that appear to be directed from church requesting gift cards or monetary help are not to be trusted. Unfortunately, this is a common phishing scam. Mark as SPAM or JUNK and DELETE.

As always, if you are unsure, please call your sender before you purchase anything or share any information.



TriCon Church has been a longtime, faithful supporter of our neighborhood food pantry at Open Table for those among us suffering food-insecurity.

Open Table in Maynard, MA, provides pantry items on a weekly basis. They are in particular need of COFFEE and TEA. Ground coffee (not whole bean and no k-cups or pods), and tea bags (not whole leaf).

Please leave your pantry-donation items in the food bin in the parish hall during the open office hours (M-F, 9-4) or Sunday mornings. Thank you for your support!

www.opentable.org



Concord Area CROP WALK

Sunday, October 17th - begins at 1:30 PM

The Concord CROP Walk is on Sunday, October 17 at 1:30, beginning at First Parish.

Visit concordcrop.org for details.

This walk is ideal for all ages, families with strollers, and leashed pets!

The route is 3.5 km, beginning and ending at Frist Parish. The walk goes through historic Minuteman National park, going across the Old North Bridge. Pre-walk music is provided by the Concord-Carlisle High School Pep band. Cookies and cider are served at the end of the walk.

You can participate as a walker or donor! You can complete a 'virtual walk' as well, similar to last year.

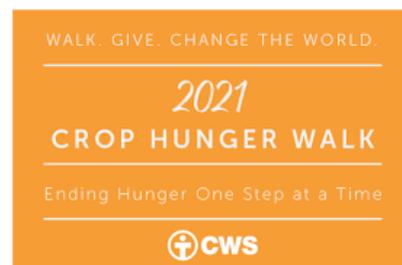
TriCon's support will benefit Church World Service, which is currently helping resettle refugees from Afghanistan; rebuilding earthquake-destroyed homes in Haiti; and providing long-term cleanup from Hurricane Ida in New Orleans. The Walk also supports several local food programs, helping our neighbors in need.

All our activities will be outdoors and we encourage you to wear a mask while mingling with others before and after the walk.

Contact Holly Darzen with any questions: rdarzen@comcast.net.

The CROP Walk's Bradshaw award is given each year to someone who has supported the Walk loyally for many years. This year, CROP will **honor the memory of Gail Kearns** in celebration of Gail's years of dedicated planning for each year's event on the Concord CROP Board and her efforts managing the Banner Contest, among other activities.

Past TriCon recipients of the Bradshaw award include Polly Vanasse, Carl & Carol Miller, Betsy Swaim, Fred White, and Chris & Laura Lindop.



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Rev. Bob Brown ³ Communion Voyagers/seekers 4pm YG 6pm	4	Men's Anchor Group 7AM	5 Women of Spirit 7AM Youth Discussion Group 6-7pm	6	7	8
Rev. Gail Miller ¹⁰	11 Indigenous Peoples day office closed	12 Deacons meeting 7pm	13 Christianity 101 Bible 7-8:30pm Youth discussion 6-7p	14 Women of Spirit 7:30 pm	15	16
Rev. Bob Brown ¹⁷ CROP Walk Voyagers/seekers 4 YG 6pm	18	19 Men's Anchor Group 7AM Prudential Barn	20 Christianity 101 7-8:30pm Women of spirit 7 Knitwits 11am Youth DG 6-7p	21	22	23
Rev. Bob Brown ²⁴	25	26	27 Christianity 101 7-8:30 pm Youth DG 6-7p	28	29	30
YG 6pm						
Rev. Bob Brown ³¹ Joining Sunday YG 6pm						

OCTOBER newsletter



Return Service Requested

TO:

phone: 978-369-4837
fax: 978-287-0406
email: info@triconchurch.org
website: www.triconchurch.org

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