

News You can Use to Connect People to Christ & Each Other!

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INVITING PEOPLE TO MAKE CONNECTIONS TO CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

Concord Trinity UMC FEBRUARY 2023

W W W . C O N C O R D T R I N I T Y . O R G
(314)842-2060

From the Desk of ...

Pastor Mary Rodgers-Weaver

Hello Concord Trinity Friends,

Every month I write this first article in the newsletter, and I'm almost never lacking in things to say. But this month stumped me.

I thought for days about what I could write, what I needed to say, what needed to be heard.

I didn't want to make it something cheesy about Valentine's Day, or mention the new year again, or duplicate what Lori says about Lent beginning on **Ash Wednesday (see page 6)**.

But then something popped in my head, and maybe this is just something I'm feeling, but I doubt it.

Unfortunately, we have had a lot of deaths in our church community lately. If my count is right, nine people have passed since last November. And that is only counting members and constituents of our church. We have had family members of church members pass, too, some that we have inadvertently not caught until later.

It's draining on all of us. It is sad and brings us down. It forces us to look at our own mortality and reminds us how finite we really are. So it's a good thing Lent begins in February (on the 22nd) and that we have Valentine's Day in February! (Continued)

Lent is a time for us to grapple with our humanity and mortality. We are given the opportunity in Lent to reflect on who we are in this world and if we are reflecting Jesus out to the world.

And Valentine's Day can be cheesy, yes, but it is also a time for us to tell the people we love that we do so, and why. We aren't here forever, our loved ones will pass away, our time isn't forever, but we can share with those we love how much they mean to us, and Valentine's Day reminds us of that.

And most of all, we are reminded that our Creator loves us unconditionally, in all our humanness, in all our messiness and brokenness. God loves us. And that though our time here will end, we will all be together for eternity. **Happy Lenten Valentine's Day!**

Blessings to you, Pastor Mary



Financial \$napshot from the Church Leadership Council

Operating Budget	December 2022	Year-to-Date	2022 Annual Budget
Revenue	54,350	635,999	679,000
Expenses	52,125	698,033	678,142
Net Income (Loss)	2,225	(62,034)	858
Mortgage Balance	98,791		

let's make connections!

Pastor's Gathering Event

Have you started attending Concord Trinity (in person or online) recently and want more information about our mission and ministries?

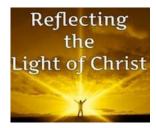
Are you wondering if this might be a good place for you to grow in faith and serve in community with others?

Have you been a regular attendee for some time, but haven't yet made the commitment to join as an active and professing member? (Professing meaning that you profess Jesus as the Lord of your life and take the vows of membership including prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness)

Well, wait no more...we are having an informal Pastor's Gathering Event on Sunday, February 5th at 11:30 am after worship for anyone interested in learning more about Methodism, Concord Trinity, and how to connect. Pastor Mary will present some background information and then be available for your questions. Contact Nancy Merrell at (314) 842-2060, or nmerrell@concordtrinity.org, to register. See you there!

Thank you for your Generosity, Concord Trinity!

The total Christmas Eve offering was \$9,152. One-third will go to Feed My People, one-third to Urban Harvest and one-third to our CTUMC Mission, Service and Justice Ministry.



Acolytes • Communion Helpers •

Sound Board Techs
 Video Desk Techs
 Scripture Readers
 Liturgists

"Mandatory" Training for Current and New Worship Volunteers Sunday, Feb. 19th 3 pm

If you're a worship volunteer of many years or just decided to give it a try, please plan to attend this Feb. 19th training session. This is because we want to give new and returning volunteers all the same information, including small changes coming soon!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Worship Updates

Lori Scott, Director of Worship

New Sermon Series for February - The Book of James

Have you ever studied the New Testament Book of James? Our *Real Faith* sermon series will bring three weeks of inspiration from this short letter which contains helpful hints on daily living, written by James called "the Lord's Brother."

Here Comes Lent - Ash Wednesday is February 22nd!

Begin the season of Lent by attending Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 7 pm. This is a time to remember who we are, and whose we are, as we receive the mark of ash. All are welcome.

Concert Series Scholarship - Applicants Wanted

Do you know a promising high school senior who plans to major in music, dance or theater at college? **All eligible seniors from the community are welcome to apply** for the CTUMC Concert Series \$1,000 Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by calling the church office at (314)842-2060, or contact Lori Scott at lscott@concordtrinity.org. Application deadline is Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Fun Afternoon with "Handbells & Chocolates"

You are invited across the street at Christ Memorial Lutheran February 26th at 2 pm to sample chocolate and listen to handbell choirs from throughout the St. Louis area including our own New Spirit Bell Choir (a recent combination of Jubilee Ringers / Undampened Spirits). Afterward please be sure to come back to CTUMC for our February Free Concert!

Schedule of Free Concerts for All to Enjoy at CTUMC

February 26th Equinox Chamber Players

March 26th Matthew & Jennifer Mazonni Flute/Piano

April 30th Mark Akin, Guitarist

(All concerts are at 4 pm with a Free Will Offering Admission)



SHOW LOVE BY DONATING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO THE ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK

FEBRUARY 18

11AM-2PM

CONCORD TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5275 S. LINDBERGH BLVD | ST. LOUIS | 63126

PREFERRED ITEMS

CANNED MEATS & FISH | PEANUT BUTTER
MAC & CHEESE | BEANS GRANOLA BARS | JELLY
CANNED SOUP AND CHILI





Bring your food donation items any time to CTUMC, during office hours or on Sundays, or on Saturday, February 18th between 11 am - 2 pm.

Celebrate Black History Month

by J.T. Young

Friends,

As you likely know, February marks the commemoration of Black History Month, a time set aside every year to acknowledge and celebrate the African-American community. I think that, as Christians (especially ones living in our particular context), this should serve as a time of reflection for us.

We can't ignore the long history of racism in our country: hundreds of years of slavery, Jim Crow laws, discrimination, and (most recently) the killing of unarmed black people at the hands of police. And this should hit close to home specifically for us St. Louisans as we remember the killing of Michael Brown and the resulting Ferguson riots.

As a predominantly white church - which sits only a few miles from a predominantly black city - shouldn't we always be reflecting on the ways in which we can be standing in solidarity with the black community and ways we can make an impact in the fight for racial justice? And you might be thinking, "Well, sure; that sounds nice, J.T. But where would I

even start?" That's a great question.

As someone who teaches at the university level, one thing I seek to instill in my young, burgeoning college students is that education is the doorway to creating change. We can't hope to make an impact on any particular issue until we've attempted to deeply understand that issue.

And as a predominantly white church, the burden of education is on us; it's not the responsibility of the Black community to educate us. So, in the spirit of education, here is a list of books and resources that I would recommend to anyone wanting to become more educated about Black history, the history of racism, and the Black church:

Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019 by Keisha Blain

Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God by Kelly Brown Douglas

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone (continued)

The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

(Boston University Center for Antiracist Research bu.edu/antiracism-center)

As Methodists, we've taken a vow to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" and educating ourselves about evil, unjust, and oppressive issues is a step in that direction. At Concord Trinity, we have ministry teams and Concord Co-ops working at these intersections. Come along and join us in this important work!

Grace + Peace,

J.T. Young, MDiv

Ministerial Director of Discipleship and Mission



Our Heartfelt Thanks

All of us on the CTUMC staff are grateful to you for the love gifts at Christmas time.

Thank you for your generosity!







A network of small, cooperative gatherings revolving around spiritual reflection and community engagement.





concordtrinity.org/concordco-ops

You are welcome to sit in with a group any time . . . these small groups will not have a book study but will have lots of fellowship, food and discussion. Bring a friend! For more info, please call the church office or visit

concordtrinity.org/concordco-ops

Updates from Living Memorials and Legacy Committee

The Living Memorials and Legacy Committee of Concord Trinity United Methodist Church continues to honor the members and constituents of our church who have passed away with a donation to Feed My People, our local Food Pantry. Our most recent donation recognizes those who died in mid-to-late 2022: Fritz Berger, Marcella Dill, Dale Ferrington, Jeanne Flynn, Judy Heil, Loretta Krepps, Elsa Kuhlenberg, Maurine Seibert, Irma Spindel, Fran Layton, and Trevelyn Zander.

Some contributions received are designated for specific purposes and we strive to follow those designations. Recent designated contributions that have been paid out are:

\$1,175.00 Designated for the General Budget of CTUMC.

\$535.24 Designated for the Concert Series.

\$150 Designated for Food Pantry at Feed My People.

\$150 Designated towards furniture for the office of the Director of Discipleship and Missions.

As other designated contributions are disbursed, they will be acknowledged in future reports. The Living Memorial and Legacy Committee continues to welcome donations, memorials and tributes. All donations are acknowledged and are greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office or the committee with any questions.

In Memoriam

Please join us in sending up prayers of comfort for these families:

For Ronda Fowler who lost her mom on Dec. 22, 2022

For the family of Jeanne Flynn who died Dec. 28, 2022

For the family of Elsa Kuhlenberg who died Dec. 30, 2022

For Nancy Lancaster who lost her husband, Dick, on Jan. 7, 2023

For the family of Boyd "Brandt" Gormley, who died Jan. 7, 2023. We are thinking of his wife, Jennifer; son Seth; and mother Judy Gormley.

For Lori Scott & family on the death of Lori's mom Jan. 31st.

Classes for Adults

MONDAYS 10 am Sisters Bible Study (room 223)

MONDAYS (6 week study) *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*

room 222 6:30 pm 1.16.23-3.6.23 (see page 5)

TUESDAYS 1 pm Bible with Bob Class (room 223)

THURSDAYS 8 am Men's Bible Study (room 222)

9:30 am Thursday Sisters Bible Study (room 222)

SUNDAYS 9 am Christian Living Adults Sunday School (Rm 120)

10:15 am Travelers Adult Sunday School (room 222)



United Methodist Women - Join Us!

Sarah Circle - second Thursday of each month @ 10 am in room 223

Circle Two - second Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Yarn Angels Knitting Ministry - every Weds. 9 am

Classes for Kids

Kids 3-1/2 to grade 5 Family Worship Time on first Sunday of

each month, we will worship all together with families and kids for Communion Sunday. Kids grade 3 & younger are welcome to enjoy our Pray Ground in the

Sanctuary.

Kids 3-1/2 to Grade 5 Sunday Morning Children's Gathering

Time on week 2, 3, 4 of the month 9 am come to Sanctuary with family at 9 am worship, and after around 15 minutes, all

kids will follow teachers to kids'

classrooms.

Kids 6th - 12th grade Every week, 9 am Sunday Morning Youth

Gatherings in room 224

(See pages 17-20 for more Concord Kids' and CTYouth information)



EVENTS YOU CAN JOIN

Join us Every Sunday for Worship 9 am and 10:30 am **YOU** are invited to these Events! (Classes are listed page 12-13)

Mon/Weds/Fri All Year 'Round, Walking Group, 8 am

Mondays & Thurs. All Year 'Round, Pickleball, 9 am

Tuesdays/Fridays All Year 'Round, 10:30 am Chair Exercise,

11:30 am Zumba (SAJE Community Group runs

these classes, all invited!)

Every Wednesday Join us! Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm/

Sanctuary All invited to help us "Make a Joyful

Noise!" Lscott@concordtrinity.org

2nd Mondays UMW Circle TWO invites you to the Monthly

Meeting 6 pm (Second Monday of the Month,

Trinity Hall)

2nd Thursdays UMW Sarah Circle 10am, Rm. 223

Join them every Second Thursday of the Month!

2nd Wednesdays Cans, Cards & Soup Adult Fellowship

Time, 12:30 pm - 4 pm with light food, card games and nice conversation (Every Month, Second Weds.) Please call the church

office to register.

2nd Saturdays Cutting Edge Card Makers, all invited to lend

a hand creating / gluing beautiful cards, every Second Saturday of the month, 10 am, room 223.

2nd, 3rd, 4th Children's Sunday Morning Gatherings

Sundays of the month Check in at our welcome desk @ 9 am
(No Sunday Morning Gathering on First Sundays,

Communion Sunday so families can partake of

Holy Communion together)

Every Sunday Youth Sunday Morning Gatherings 9 am, Room 226

Combined Bell Choir 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Youth Group Evenings 6 pm (South Entrance)

Feb. 7th Confirmation Classes Begin, grade 8 and up!

Mon., Feb. 13th All Welcome to Church Leadership Council

Meeting (6:30 pm, room 223) - Join them the

second Monday of each month

Sat. Feb. 18th FoodBank food drive at CTUMC, public and

church friends welcome to donate non-perishables

between 11 am and 2 pm (or bring donations to

Sunday worship any time).

Sat. Feb. 25th LifeWise STL volunteer day all welcome 10a-Noon

(Register by calling church office or Samantha

at (636)366-6638.) Register Here

Mon. Feb 27-Mar 20 Weekly discussion on gun violence lead by

Suzanne Gentry of the Social Justice Team.
All welcome! Please register with the office or at concordtrinity.org/socialjustice (Room 223)

Saturdays in April Payne Stewart Kids' Golf Camp 10a-Noon

(please register at concordtrinity.org/kids-ministry)

Questions? Just call the church office (314)842-2060

More Events Coming - Check your weekly Email Update, Call the Church

Office, visit Facebook.com/ConcordTrinity, or concordtrinity.org

To Pastor Mary and all the staff that made Trevelyn's memorial service on January 7th so wonderful - thank you! To all those who have sent cards, called and prayed for us, thank you! The love and support that surround us through this difficult time made such a big difference.

Dorothy Zander and Family

Thank You, CT Family!

by Samantha Fomera, Directory of Family Ministries

Dear CT Family,

2023 has begun with a flood of excitement from our Kids' *Measure Up* series with a new rotation of kids-ministry mentors! Huge thanks to Jenny Elphingstone who has continued to serve, along with Margo Balinski, Michael Klein, and Lei Anne Parish who have said YES to serving! They have been such a blessing to our kids as they've been learning about who Jesus is and what that means for their lives. In Youth Ministry, we have an amazing team who has taken the lead in the *Catalyst* series about faith informing and propelling our actions. This month, we begin to shift into a missionally minded series called *On the Flip Side*. This will help our young people begin to identify their own sparks when it comes to making a difference in our schools, communities, and world. Our students will get to explore missions locally before going out of state in July to be on mission in a very rural area.

Dates to Remember (call the office to register or concordtrinity.org):

- --Family Serve Day @ LifeWise STL February 25th 10a-12p Open to your ENTIRE family - all abilities & ages welcome. Let's start Lent serving in love! Click HERE to register.
- --Payne Stewart Golf Camp Saturdays in April REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Cost: \$95/Camper Click HERE to register.

--CT Youth Mission Trip – July 8-15

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 1

Cost: \$400/person Click <u>HERE</u> for more info.

--Concord Kids Day Camp — July 31-Aug 4 REGISTRATION OPEN!!! SPACE LIMITED!

Cost: \$115/Camper Click HERE to register

Thanks to our generous congregants, we have scholarships available for

all events! So, if you or someone you know needs the funds to attend – PLEASE reach out to me so your young person can experience these amazing opportunities in connection with each other and Jesus! There is still room to be part of this growing ministry! Reach out to serve!



with gratitude + samantha fomera Director of Family Ministries (636)336-6638

sfomera@concordtrinity.org

PS - All invited! When you visit Facebook.com/ConcordTrinity, click the link there to join our Family Ministry Connect Group. This is a place to brainstorm, to chat about parenting toddlers and teens, to think about mission opportunities, to organize carpools to youth group, and get first-hand knowledge of discounts to events, sneak peaks for what's coming, and SO MUCH MORE!



Bring a Friend! CTUMC Kids and Youth 2023 (check for updates concordtrinity.org)

- -Kids' and Youth Sunday Gatherings (Also Youth Sunday Evenings)
- -All invited to join our Family Ministry Connect Group on Facebook
- -Join a CTUMC Co-op with Your Family (pg. 6)
- -February 7th Confirmation Classes Start (Grades 8+)
- -Golf Camp Coming in April
- -Youth Mission Trip July 8-15 (register by March 1)
- -CTUMC Summer Day Camp July 31 Aug. 4th





All are welcome to join Concord Kids for our work day with LifeWise as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ and serve the "least of these" among us. Bring the family to serve - no special equipment or skills required!

Questions? Email sfomera@concordtrinity.org or Text/Call 636.336.6638

Where:

LifeWise

1321 S. 11th St. St. Louis, MO 63104 When:

Saturday

FEBRUARY 25 10A-12P

"...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

- Matthew 25:40



2023 Confirmation

TUESDAYS 7-8:30p | Feb 7-May 16

Open invitation to Grades 8+ for 2023 Confirmation Cohort Sign up now for this time of exploration of what it means to follow Jesus!



We'll look at why Jesus had to die and rise from the dead, what the Bible has to do with 2023, and so much more. The exploration will involve a hopeful field-trip to some different places of worship and discussion of various world religions.

no pressure. no fast decisions. YOUR decision.



Student must register by Jan 31 to join this year's cohort! Register on Realm, call 314.842.2060, or email sfomera@concordtrinity.org







Concord Trinity Payne Stewart Golf Experience

Saturdays April 1st - April 29th



Church Leadership Council Invites You!
All welcome to our monthly meeting every 2nd Monday evening, 6:30 pm room 223: Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8all year 'round.

Have a Question? Just ask one of our council members before/ after worship or get their contact info in Realm:

Bob Pennycuick (class of 2023)

Darren Mitchell (class of 2023)

Di Nichols – CLC Chair (class of 2023)

Dave Genthon (class of 2024)

Gale Preston – Lay Leader (class of 2024)

Glenn Kvidahl (class of 2024)

Kurt Oakes (class of 2025)

Sarah Lord (class of 2025)

Jami Jackson (class of 2025)

Parker Givens (class of 2025)



Concord Trinity UMC Staff (314)842-2060

Rev. Mary Rodgers-Weaver

Lead Pastor (ext. 101) mweaver@concordtrinity.org

Lori Scott, Director of Worship Arts (ext. 104) lscott@concordtrinity.org

Emily Mehigh, Bell ChoirDirector emehigh@concordtrinity.org

Alison Weatherby, Accompanist aweatherby@concordtrinity.org

Samantha Fomera, Director of Family Ministries (ext. 109) sfomera@concordtrinity.org

J.T. Young

Ministerial Director of Discipleship and Missions (ext. 103) jtyoung@concordtrinity.org

Katie Klein

Director of Communication and MultiMedia (ext. 105)kklein@concordtrinity.org

Stacy Loenneke

Office Manager (ext. 100) sloenneke@concordtrinity.org

Joel Stassel

Property Manager (ext. 106) djstas@charter.net

Marilyn Roseberry

Business Administrator (ext. 108) mroseberry@concordtrinity.org.

Nancy Merrell

Coordinator of Care & Connections (ext. 107) nmerrell@concordtrinity.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 am - 4 pm Fridays Office Closed

Info@concordtrinity.org (314) 842-2060

Through Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/concordtrinity</u>
Through Realm <u>www.onrealm.org</u>