

From: Trinity office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org
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NOUS

APRIL 2026

Reflective Note

I've been thinking a lot about Mary Magdalene lately. Across all four Gospel accounts of the resurrection, she's the only one named in each account as first to the tomb. Was she the most faithful disciple? She had the resolve and strength to stay with Jesus from cross to tomb, returning again to take care of his body. Jesus himself sent her as the first evangelist, the "apostle to the apostles."

Over the years, Mary's leadership was downplayed or overlooked in favor of focusing on the men in the story. Even worse, through much of church history, Mary has been disparaged as a prostitute, a deeply sinful woman, even though there is nothing in the Gospels that makes the same claim.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

Worship

4/2 - Maundy Thursday- John 13:1-17; 31b-35; Mark 14:22-42; Isaiah 53

4/3 - Good Friday

4/5- Easter Sunday - "I have seen the Lord!" - Psalm 118:21-29 John 20:1-18

4/12 - Second Sunday of Easter

4/19 - Third Sunday of Easter, 4th annual ecumenical Earth Day worship at Turner Pavilion

4/26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

MAUNDY THURSDAY	<u>APRIL 2 AT 7PM</u> Service at Trinity
GOOD FRIDAY	<u>APRIL 3 AT 12PM</u> Good Friday Cross Walk starting at Blessed Sacrament <u>APRIL 3 AT 7PM</u> Service at Trinity
EASTER VIGIL	<u>APRIL 4 AT 8PM</u> Begin in Woodbine Cemetery and proceed to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church
EASTER SUNDAY	<u>APRIL 5 AT 10AM</u> Service at Trinity, followed by an Easter egg hunt, & brunch
4TH ANNUAL ECUMENICAL	<u>APRIL 19 AT 9:45AM</u> Turner Pavilion



What's in Session?

The Session met on Sunday, March 15th. Here are a few highlights:

- Grounds for Hope shared that the Concept Draft recently received clearly reflected the priorities and feedback we offered. We want to encourage everyone to offer feedback on the Concept Draft, which will be displayed, in part, on large printouts in the Commons over the next few weeks. In addition, a more complete document is available on our website: <https://www.trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org/proximity-project>

The final opportunity to offer feedback will be Sunday, April 19, at 3pm, in person at the church house. Let us know what you think!

- Stephanie S. shared exciting plans to attend the Whitehorse Worship and Arts Conference this summer, in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. She promises to return! She will be attending with another clergy colleague and cohort member from her Executive Leadership program at Princeton. The final week of residency for that program will take place in May.

- Two of our new Elders are co-chairing a revived Outreach committee, focused on how we can reach out and work more closely with our neighbors and the larger community. Donna Barber is planning an educational opportunity in June, focused on pollinators and geared towards children and families. Lizzy Healy suggested ways we might welcome JMU students to use space at Trinity as they prepare for finals, especially since Carrier is still closed. Many wonderful and exciting ideas were shared, including:

- Playground and/or lawn parties
- Gardening activities
- Game nights
- More support for college students
- Meal prep events
- LGBTQIA+ focused watch parties or book clubs
- English language learning support, including expanded support in conjunction with the Clothes Closet (navigating community resources)

- Skill share nights (bike repair, reducing one-time use products and packaging, budgeting, mending clothes, etc...)

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these ideas, or have other to share, reach out to Donna Barber or Lizzy Healy.

In Our Prayers



UBUNTU

“I am ‘I’ only in relation to you”

This Southern African philosophy translates,

“I am because of you”.

Desmond Tutu describes it,

“My humanity is caught up and bound up inextricably with yours.”

It is in acknowledgment of our interconnectedness that we pray.

You are invited to use the following prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession adapted from the Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer, [as you reflect on the weekly prayer list.](#)

God of all mercies, we praise you that you have brought us to the new day, brightening our lives with the dawn of promise and hope in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for

the warmth of sunlight, the wetness of rain and all that nourishes the earth...

the presence and power of your Spirit ...

the support and encouragement we receive from others ...

those who provide for public safety and well-being ...

the mission of the church around the world ...

Merciful God, strengthen us in prayer that we may lift up the brokenness of this world for your healing, and share in the saving love of Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for those in positions of authority over others ...

the lonely and forgotten ...

children without families or homes ...

agents of caring and relief ...

the church (all over the world).

Fellowship





April Birthdays

Reece Nolt, 3rd
Sally Boucher, 5th
Hedy Reese, 5th
Terry LePera, 6th
Susan Estep, 10th
Cameron Crannell, 12th
Ann Rainard, 13th
Patti Warner, 13th

Tyler Brino-Dean, 15th
Kate Rascoe, 15th
Hannah Facknitz, 22nd
Michelle Davis Sinclair, 23rd
DeAnne Chenoweth, 25th
Micah Sachs, 26th
Liz Healy, 30th

April Baptisms

Ben Harris, 1st
Teresa Harris, 3rd
Sherry Satin, 10th
Sara Holben, 11th
Malcolm Cameron, 12th
Emily Kempfer-Ware, 13th

Galen Brown, 14th
Oliver Atwood, 16th
Stuart Davis, 18th
Malaya Esquerra-Johnson, 20th
Mary Lou McMillin, 25th
Mark Facknitz, 30th
Heather Ma, 30th

Get To Know our House Steward:

Mark Facknitz (Class 2028)

How long have you been at Trinity?

Since 1999, *mas a menos*

What makes you feel appreciated?

Eye contact and a soft touch on the arm make me feel appreciated.

Most meaningful thing...

In the past year?
working on behalf of the Nabarangpur Mercy House.

In the last decade?

Path you almost took but didn't

Were it not for the war in Vietnam, I would have

finished my work as an English professor.

In life?

In life: Paul, Hannah, Alice.

gone into the foreign service. I also gave serious consideration to furniture making.

Favorite Bible story?

²⁰“When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. ²¹ He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat’s head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. ²² The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.” – Leviticus 18:20-22.

I’m impressed by the sacrifice of the person who leads the goat to the edge of the wilderness; and I am particularly awake to the fact that of the two goats in question, the scapegoat is the lucky one. Not what most people understand by the term ‘scapegoat.’

Nurture

The trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the anti-semitism nurture series will be postponed until June. More updates to come.

Join us as we continue learning how to be loving and inclusive of all God's children. Each month, we will focus our attention on a key term and explore possible actions that we can take. This month, we consider "ableism". [Learn more about this here.](#)

Mission

Stroll for Your Soul

Centering Space invites you to “STROLL FOR YOUR SOUL” this spring.

Do you need some encouragement to get back in your walking shoes this spring? Are you a walker or a runner seeking mindfulness on your daily walk/run? Are you a biker or a hiker wanting inspiration with your exercise? "**Stroll for Your Soul**" invites us to be aware of God’s presence while we walk, run, or cycle, and offers 23 daily Emails inviting gratitude, mindful attention, and inspiration as you walk, jog, run, bike, or stroll. If mobility issues limit your walking, you can “stroll in place” at home.

Join Sara Holben in this 23-day adventure! You do the exercise wherever you choose. You can do this as a solitary contemplative practice. Or you can invite your friends or family to join you in person or from a distance. The daily emails will run from May 1-23. [You can sign up here to indicate your interest in receiving the daily emails and share the names and emails of those who may join you!](#)

Caregiver Support Group

“There are only four kinds of people in the world: Those who have been caregivers. Those who are currently caregivers. Those who will be caregivers, and those who will need a caregiver.”

~ Rosalyn Carter

Rosalyn’s words remind us that no matter our stage in life, care-giving or receiving, will be part of it at some point. And many of us may be experiencing the challenges of caregiving in multiple ways. What remains important is we must care for ourselves so we can best care for others. Easier said than done.

One way we can do this is to offer support to one another. In response to the observation that there are many caregivers at Trinity and a verbalized interest in a support group of this kind, we will be offering a caregiver support group here at Trinity. The group could include current, previous, and/or future caregivers.

The intention of the group will be to:

- Create space for caregivers to have a period of respite
- Allow a safe space for sharing the challenges of caregiving
- Provide opportunities to learn from one another
- Meet regularly at first and intentionally thereafter as convenient for the group

The group will:

- be facilitated by Pastoral Care Associate, Barbara Bowman

- follow, in general, Take Back Your Life: A Caregiver's Guide to Finding Freedom in the Midst of Overwhelm by Loren M. Gelberg-Goff, LCSW

If you have an interest in participating in a Caregiver Support Group, please contact:

Barbara Bowman at pastoralcare@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

by Sunday, April 12 so that we may begin the group by late April.

“Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn’t know possible”

~ Tia Walker

From the Shenandoah Press

Hunger Funds Update

submitted by Sara Holben, for Hunger Funds Subcommittee

Even as we enter Spring and all its promise of “new things,” many of our partners who receive our Cents-ability Hunger Funds tell us that the only “new thing” they see is the increase in need among people struggling to feed their families every day.

Our partners at the Mountaineer Food Bank wrote a thank you to the presbytery for our donations in 2025 and told us that last year...

“As families faced delayed benefits, lost wages, and increased uncertainty, demand for food assistance rose sharply. Despite these obstacles, Mountaineer Food Bank met growing needs by providing more than 19 million meals to individuals and families experiencing hunger. This impact was only possible because of your compassion and steadfast commitment to our mission.

“In 2025, our food bank drivers traveled more than 49,000 miles to deliver food to neighbors and partner agencies across the 48 counties we serve. Their dedication ensured that children, seniors, veterans, and all families had reliable access to nutritious food, no matter the distance.”

If you're looking for information or ideas on how to get involved with Cents-ability - check out our website at: <https://shenpres.org/cents-ability/>

You'll find information, ideas, and even a Can-wrapper you can use to put a reminder on your table at home (or at your church each time you gather for a meal) that it only takes a few cents a day to help make a difference in someone's life.

Every cent we give makes a difference. Let's “spring forward” with our donations in 2026 to help end hunger.



Shenandoah Presbytery Churches Certified as Earth Care Congregations



Three of our churches have certified as Earth Care Congregations by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2027: **Shepherdstown, Trinity, and Winchester First**. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that take seriously God's charge to “till and keep” the garden, that is our shared common home.



Since 2010, this PC(USA) program certifies and celebrates environmental ministry across four major areas of a congregation's life: worship, education, facilities, and outreach in the community. This program currently has 4.5% of all PC(USA) congregations and continues to grow each year.

Earth Care Congregations exist as important examples for congregations across the country. One of the goals of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. By the time a church has recertified for several years, the earth care ethic becomes ingrained in a congregation's culture, spreads to the surrounding community, and impacts the personal lives of individual church members. Obtaining this status speaks to the serious commitment that our named churches have made to care for God's earth.

Shepherdstown, Trinity, and Winchester First are just three of the 373 congregations in 42 states that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year. This denominational program for churches has lasted longer and been more successful than some other models we've seen and the individual churches that deserve all the credit for the success of the program. Our Earth Care Congregations are vital parts of their communities and inspirational witnesses to caring for God's creation and we are so grateful for their presence in the world," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Supper Club



AN IDEA IN THE MAKING: The Lent/Easter Team is exploring the idea of creating some 'Supper Club' (or Lunch Club) groups. The idea is that 6-8 people would be grouped together and then they would decide when they could meet at a time convenient to ALL.

Their initial gathering can be a pot luck meal or one person/couple could host and provide the meal. Once you meet the GROUP will decide: how often you will gather, whether you will meet in each other's homes or eat out or alternate between a home and eating out; how the meal will be prepared (pot luck or prepared by one person/couple); what the evening/lunchtime will look like...will you eat and go home? Stick around and play board games? Watch a movie together? Or vary from time to time?

There is NO 'One Size/Format Fits All'! Each group will decide for themselves.

IF this is an idea that 'rings true' for you, please contact Mary Lou McMillin by text (540-820-5927) or email: maryloumc1@comcast.net. I have contacted those who participated in the Epiphany dinners as a 'place to begin' but ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!

Opportunity for Action

Houses of worship, schools, hospitals, courthouses, day care centers and domestic violence shelters have historically been recognized as "sensitive locations," protected from immigration enforcement actions. That guidance was repealed last January.

Gina Bondurant, a longtime friend of Trinity, is collecting letters to send to Rep. Cline, urging his support for HB 1061, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. You may write your own letter and bring it to the church office by April 3, [or use the attached sample letter](#)

Meet a Man You Perhaps Never Knew: Homer Cornish



I did not know him well, but for a number of years Homer Cornish and his second wife, LaRue were godsend for our work at the Clothes Closet at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, Va. (His first wife was named Alice, now deceased, and LaRue died in 2014.) Homer and Alice had two children, Trent and Jennie, and later were blessed with two grandchildren. At our church we only knew Homer and LaRue.

The memorial service outlined Homer's lifestyle—a great helper of anyone needing

help. That was mainly how I knew him in his retirement from the ministry, as I watched him help sort clothes, hang clothes, help those looking for certain sizes. In general, doing whatever was needed most.

[Read the Full Blog Post by Melodie Davis Here](#)

Gift Cards

Do you have any gift cards you are not going to use? The Harrisonburg Education Foundation (HEF) can use them for prizes for their 5th annual Thanks A Lotto. Every HCPS staff member receives a lotto card during Teacher Application Week in May & HEF is trying to get as many prizes as possible. Gift cards can be turned in at the church office. Contact Virginia Healy with any questions.

Cleaning Supplies

In order to support Open Doors and the Navigation Center here in Harrisonburg, we will collect donations, with a different category of focus each month. In April, we are asking for cleaning supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular office hours.

One Great Hour of Sharing





On Easter Sunday, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>), one of three national offerings of the PC(USA). The One Great Hour of Sharing supports our denomination's responses to disaster recovery, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration issues and refugees.

Spring Yoga Session



Centering Space is pleased to announce registration is open for the next Spring yoga class led by Robin Atwood. The Yoga Session begins Tuesday, April 21, and runs through May 26, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

We suggest a donation of \$35.00 for this 6-week class; however, Centering Space will continue to provide this class at no cost to participants. [You can register here.](#) You can [pay online here](#), through the [Trinity's online giving portal](#), or with a check/cash when you come.



Trinity Presbyterian Church gathers on land that was part of ancestral hunting grounds and travel routes of various groups of indigenous peoples. We acknowledge, with gratitude, these stewards of the land through the ages.

Our mailing address is: 725 South High Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 09:00am - 3:00pm

STAFF:

Pastor, Stephanie Sorge: stephanie@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Pastoral Care Associate, Barbara Bowman: pastoralcare@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Church Administrator, Christabell DeMichele: office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

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