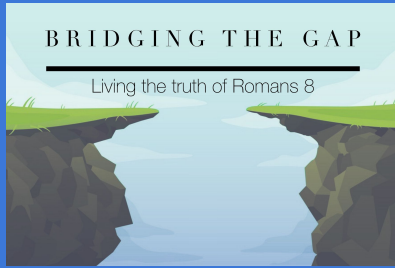


# TPC Weekly Newsletter

March 17, 2024



## BRIDGING THE GAP:

### Groaning for Glory

*Romans 8:18-25*

#### The Reality of Pain and in the Life of a Christian

*Pain Is Just Part of the Process*

St. Patrick was given the opportunity to baptize King Aengus, an Irish king. During the ceremony, St. Patrick leaned on his sharp-pointed staff, accidentally stabbing the king's foot. When the baptism was over, St. Patrick looked down and saw a pool of blood. Realizing what he had done, he begged the king's forgiveness. "Why did you suffer this pain in silence?", Patrick asked. The king replied, "I thought it was part of the ritual."

The king wasn't wrong. When we trust Jesus Christ, leaving our old life of rebellion against God and embracing our new life of peace with God, everything doesn't magically become easy, safe, and comfortable. Pain and suffering is part of life for those in Christ..

*Inevitability of and Inadequate Explanations for Pain*

#### The Inevitability of Pain

"No matter what precautions we take, no matter how well we have put together a good life, no matter how hard we have worked to be healthy, wealthy, comfortable with friends and family, and successful with our career — something will inevitably ruin it." (Tim Keller)

#### Inadequate Explanations for Pain

"While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life's joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world's sorrows, tasting the coming joy." (Keller)

#### The Reason for and Remedy of Pain in One Instance

We need look no further than the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. The cross is the historical nexus of our "cosmic treason" against God, the consequence of our sin, the ransom paid to redeem and rescue sinners back to God, and the ongoing "conformative work" of the Holy Spirit in everyone that is in Christ.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Weekly Announcements

- Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45 AM.
- Digging Deeper bible study on Monday at 10 AM.
- Home Dartball match against Portland Presbyterian Church on Monday at 7:30 PM.
- Session meeting on Tuesday at 7 PM.

To provide flowers for worship, please sign up on the Worship bulletin board or contact Sherry.

Please know that your ministry support is a valuable means by which God is reaching, teaching, & growing followers of Jesus Christ. As always, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and your financial partnership.

### Mission Opportunities

Burrito making kits are available.

### Upcoming Events

Annual children's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. Your help is needed! Please help by donating candy, empty plastic Easter Eggs, or better yet...filled plastic Easter Eggs. Likewise, we would really love your help volunteering during this event. Contact Rebecca Perry for more information.

### Greeter Ministry

Please look for a warm, welcoming friend to meet & greet you on Sunday mornings. In addition, the greeter will lock all the church doors by 10:15 AM, except for the glass doors to the Narthex. If you need any help, please ask our greeter. We hope everyone will take a turn being this warm, welcoming presence.

We would love to have you sign up to serve as a Sunday morning greeter. To do so, put your name on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

## Groaning for Glory

*Present Suffering and Future Glory - v. 18*

The magnitude of the future glory awaiting us (and the creation) far exceeds any and all suffering we may endure in this life.

*The Groaning of the Creation – v. 19-22*

The Creation's Eager Expectation (v. 19)

Something is amiss, not yet right, and the creation knows and remembers. It groans longing to experience redemption and renewal.

The Creation's Appointed Futility (v 20-21)

The creation is not at fault for the corruption it experiences; we are! What was meant to be our ally in glorifying and enjoying God, has become our adversary to glorifying and enjoying God.

The Creation's Agonizing Anguish (v. 22)

Groaning under the corruption it suffers because of our rebellion against God.

*The Groaning of the Children of God – v. 23-25*

The people of the world groan for the earth's healing, but they do not groan like the people of God, who do so for the redemptive restoration of the entire creation.

Those who are in Christ groan with and like the creation does. We groan as those agonizing against our old nature, even as we lamentingly groan for the Holy Spirit's help now and the Lord Jesus Christ's full and final healing brought about at His triumphant return.

*Strength for today...*

God hath not promised skies ever blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways always for you.  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.  
But He hath promised strength from above,  
Unfailing sympathy... undying love.

– Author Unknown.

*Bright hope for tomorrow...*

Out of the darkness, out of the dark forbidding soil  
The pure white lilies grow.  
Out of the black and murky clouds,  
Descends the stainless snow.  
Out of the crawling earth-bound worm  
A butterfly is born.  
Out of the somber shrouded night,  
Behold! A golden morn!  
Out of the pain and stress of life,  
The peace of God pours down.  
Out of the nails -- the spear -- the cross,  
Redemption -- and a crown!

– Author Unknown.

## Prayer Joys & Concerns

### *Thanks and Praise*

Birthdays: Steve Jewell (3/20), Jane Kurfees (3/22)

Anniversaries: James & Elizabeth Ray (3/22)

### *Needs and Concerns*

#### Those who are grieving...

The family and friends of Rev. Ed Gayhart

#### Those needing help/healing...

Janet Husband

Ashley (the Husband's grand daughter)

Carol Redd

Phil Strohmeier

Monica (the Bloor-Brandt's neighbor)

Steve Conn

Sandy Koukola

Rev. Bob & Rev. Camille Williams-Neal

Ellen (Kay Nolan's cousin) - multiple myeloma

Greta Bemisderfer

Harvey (Miller's great grandson)

Tracy (Miller's daughter)

Ghyll Simoneschi

Gwen Tomblin

Susan Bauer

Jean Paulmann

Jane Kurfees

Josh Jones (Jane Kurfees nephew) - heart problems

Robert (Lois Bringhurst's brother)

Bill (Jim McDaniel's brother) - cancer

Jake (Jude's brother)

Joan (Jake's wife)

Spencer Hardin (Sheryl Yoffe's friend)

Nella (Jude's aunt)

Craig (Jude's cousin)

Judy (David & Jude's neighbor)

Spike Frederick (Andy's friend)

Donna Primm (Andy's friend)

Toka (Sherry Pritts' friend)

#### Situations and Circumstances...

The mission and ministry of TPC

The war on Israel

Persistent societal violence

Volatile political tensions

Economic concerns

The violence/brokenness of our city and the world

Students, teachers, staff

Medical caregivers, police, elected officials

The many ministries of TPC (Burrito Riders, Faith & Art Center, OCC, Sew 'n Sews, EACM, Maryhurst, Fellowship of Christian Athletes)



## **Easter Week Services and Activities**

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
10200 Shelbyville Road  
Louisville, Kentucky 40223

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28 at 7pm

Good Friday Service, March 29 at noon

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday March 30 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, March 31 at 7am

Easter Bread Fellowship, March 31 following the sunrise service until 9:45am

Easter Worship Service, March 31 at 11am



### **Easter Flower Cross**

We will continue our tradition of filling the Easter Cross with fresh flowers this year.

Please bring freshly cut flowers for the cross to the church on Easter Sunday between 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. so our volunteers can fill the lovely Cross. There will be buckets of water in the Narthex if you want to bring them in on Saturday, March 30.



The background features several colorful Easter eggs: a teal egg with white flowers at the top center, a pink egg with blue floral patterns on the right, and a pink egg with blue floral patterns on the bottom left. There are also yellow vertical bars on the left and right sides, and pink oval confetti scattered throughout.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH  
2 PM**

**Egg Hunt | Bounce House | Crafts**

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**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10200 SHELBYVILLE RD  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40223**

# “Let’s Get Together”

April 14<sup>th</sup> – last day to sign-up



## Fun, Food & Fellowship!

Take this opportunity to get better acquainted with other adults in our church family. Meet to share a meal together. It's your choice. It can be breakfast, lunch, brunch or dinner.

The sign-up sheet is posted on the Fellowship bulletin board in the hall.

Please Sign Up!



## Operation Christmas Child – 2024 Quick Facts

### **DISCIPLESHIP:**

- **The Greatest Journey** is a follow-up discipleship experience offered through local churches to many of the children who receive shoebox gifts. The **12-lesson program** introduces boys and girls to salvation through faith in Jesus and encourages them to grow as faithful followers.
- Over the past 30 years (since 1993), **more than 50 million children** have been discipled, **including 25 million children who have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!**
- **Shoebox to Bible:** After a child completes the 12-weeks discipleship program, a **New Testament Bible** is given to each child in their language. So far, **over 36 million New Testaments** have been given to graduates through our local church partners.
- Samaritan's Purse trains over **240,500+ volunteer teachers** to lead children through The Greatest Journey program.
- In 2023, The Greatest Journey discipleship program was translated in **91 languages** and reached **98 countries!**
- In 2023, over **5.1 million children** participated in **The Greatest Journey** discipleship program and there were **nearly 2.9 million decisions for Christ**, equating to 331 children coming to faith each hour!
- Pray for over **5.5 million children** to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program in 2024!

Stay tuned. OCC Quick Facts regarding **to the Ends of the Earth** are coming next!



## Operation Christmas Child Donation Opportunities

The Mission Committee requests your consideration in making shoebox gift donations throughout the next several months so our supplies will be plentiful for our shoebox packing event to once again be held July/August.

The items being collected are:

**UNDERWEAR      SOCKS      T-SHIRTS      FLIP-FLOPS**

These items may be for boys or girls in sizes appropriate for ages 2-4, ages 5-9, or ages 10-14. We intentionally pack more boxes for ages 10-14 as statistically the least number of boxes are packed for this age group.

You may drop off your donations from now through the end of June into the bin provided in the Narthex. We will periodically gather the donations, update our inventory, and sort the items according to sex and age.

Please consider donating to this worthy ministry. And join us in praying that Trinity's 2024 Shoebox Season will be fruitful!



# Christian Education Opportunities

## Koinonia

The Koinonia class is a seminar-based gathering that is presently focused on an introduction to the New Testament (its formation, history, background, and content). It spends some time on the individual books but at this point doesn't make an in-depth study of a particular one. In the past, the class has studied the history of the Church and a long-term study of the book of Acts. This coming year the focus will be on the writings of Paul, other letters, and the book of Revelation. The first gatherings will consist of a review of covered material. Participants can join the class in the Parlor or via Zoom.

Resources include video lectures from Dr. Dale Martin of Yale University and presentation slides. The style is a relaxed one with much attention paid to questions, concerns, and insights of those involved.

## Digging Deeper

There are two important ways we immerse ourselves in the Word of God. One way is through the sermon during our gathered times of worship. The other is through personal and corporate Bible Study. To this end, and in addition to the other Sunday school classes we offer, Pastor Steve leads this study as we dig deeper into the Bible passage for next week's sermon. We gather on Monday mornings at 10 AM in the Library.

If this study interests you, please contact Pastor Steve ([stevejewell356@gmail.com](mailto:stevejewell356@gmail.com)).

## Women's Sunday School

The Women's Sunday School class meets at 9:45 in the library. We will begin studying Max Lucado's book, *Trade Your Cares for Calm*, on April 14. In addition to seeking greater understanding, we share joys and concerns and enjoy fellowship with one another.

The leaders of this class are:

Lois Bringhurst [loisbringhurst2@gmail.com](mailto:loisbringhurst2@gmail.com)  
(502) 819-8936

Cathy Dawson [ccdawson47@gmail.com](mailto:ccdawson47@gmail.com)  
(502) 693-3710

Lucie Fulmore [lfulmore@twc.com](mailto:lfulmore@twc.com)  
(502) 802-5096

## Youth Group

The Youth Sunday School class meets at 9:45 in the Youth Room downstairs, and is open to all Middle and High School students seeking to deepen their understanding of God's Word. The Youth class aims to study the Bible and apply God's Perfect Word to the lives of students as they navigate their teenage world. This fall, the class will dive into a study of the teenage battlefield. Led by Rebecca Perry, the youth will study how to shine the light of Christ—whether we are at school, out with friends, or at home. In addition to studying, the youth will also meet once a month for evenings of fellowship and fun!

## Sprouts Sunday School

Kids ages five through 4th grade are invited to join this group to learn more about growing in Christ. We will study how to grow and produce the fruit of the Spirit. This Sunday School is led by Diane Jewell ([djewell35@gmail.com](mailto:djewell35@gmail.com)). We welcome all young eager learners.

## Nursery Care

If you have a little one (0-4 years old), nursery care is available upon request. Diane Jewell is eager to sing, play with, and entertain your children, so you can worship God without worry or distraction. Please let Diane or the Greeter know you would like to make use of our nursery care.

## Weekly Reminders

Please consider joining one of the classes and/or small groups we offer:

- Koinonia Class led by [Rev. Bob Williams-Neal](#) at 9:45 AM.
- Women's Sunday School Class at 9:45 AM (please contact [Cathy Dawson](#) or [Lucie Fulmore](#) for more information)
- Youth Sunday School Class for middle school and high school students at 10 AM (please contact [Rebecca Perry](#) for more information).
- Sprouts Sunday School Class for ages 5 thru 4th grade at 9:45 AM (please contact [Diane Jewell](#) for more information).
- Digging Deeper meets on Monday mornings at 10 AM.

If you're unable to worship with us in person, join us via [Livestream](#) on Sundays at 11 AM. Our online worship bulletin is [posted here](#).

If you have a need, a prayer request, or have information you would like to share with the rest of the Trinity family, please contact [Pastor Steve](#), [Sherry Pritts](#) (Church Secretary), [Andy Cannava](#) (Clerk of the Session), [Brenda Miller](#) (Chair of the Deacons), or your mini-flock shepherd. Please [click here](#) for the updated mini-flock list.

To view our 2024 Leadership & Committees list, please [click here](#).

If you would like to make an online gift and/or donation to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church, [please click here](#).

Consider sending our college students an encouraging note or card.

### College Students Addresses

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Brunswick, ME 04011

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