

# The Fisherman

Trinity Congregational Church  
70 Middle Street Gloucester MA 01930  
978.283.1442

July 2021

## Expect the Unexpected: Be Open to Possibilities

The heat of the day on which I'm writing to you has me remembering the story of Abraham sitting outside his tent by the oaks of Mamre "in the heat of the day." Obviously, Abraham didn't have a nice sea breeze there, so I'm reminding myself not to complain because I can go outside and sit in the shade under the locust tree between the church and the thrift shop and enjoy a bit of breeze. But that scene from Genesis 18 is at the beginning of one of my favorite Bible stories, a story that I selected for my ordination day. It's the story when God announced that God (always doing a new thing!) was going to do something utterly unbelievable in Abraham and Sarah's life. This is the story where the Lord visits Abraham when three travelers stop by Abraham's tent and Abraham shows them hospitality in serving them food and drink, washing their feet and resting. While they were visiting, Sarah was listening from the other side of the tent entrance. When the visitors told Abraham the divine intention that the next time the visitors came by, Sarah would be with child, Sarah laughed! In my case, it wasn't a child that was gestating but a call to ministry, and it reminds me still that we are never too old, nor too settled in our ways, nor too -- you fill in your own word here, tired, busy, whatever -- for God to work amazing things in our lives.

Ask me any time, and I'll tell you about my call to ministry; it's a bit too long to re-tell in a newsletter story! But the point, I think,

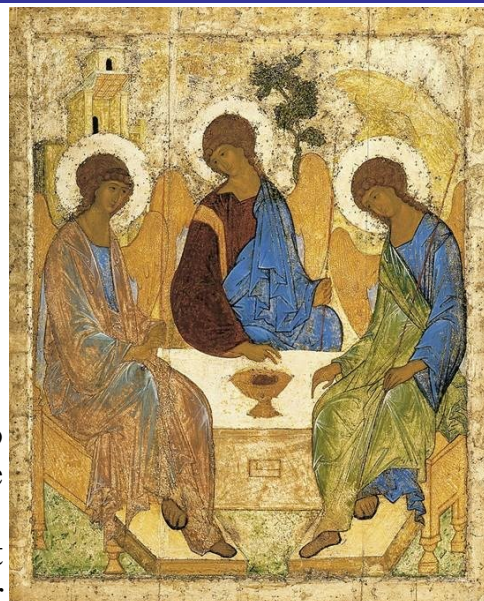
is always to expect the unexpected when it comes to our always-

creating, always-loving, always gracious God! To be open to the possibilities! To say yes!

While many churches slow down during the summer, we here at Trinity are in the beginning of our church fiscal year, and we've kind of hit the re-set button! You'll see in these pages that the deacons are busy continuing to work to nourish the spiritual life of the church. The Missions Committee's work continues unabated as its members seek ways to help others, and then make it happen! The Standing Committee and the Covid Team continue to work and adapt to provide as safe an environment on our campus as is reasonably possible. The bell tower project is under way and the work on the capital campaign is beginning. We are beginning to populate a team to explore ONA. The thrift shop is a thriving and active outreach to the community. (And who knew one might secure a faux floor plant/tree there?!) And that's just part of the work; our dedicated and excellent Moderator and the Council uphold the efforts and prayers of the entire Trinity community!

In July and August we'll enjoy labyrinth meditations on the beach at Wingaersheek as

*Continued on Page 3*



## Deacons Doings

- \* On Sundays there will now be a **Deacon-of-the Day!** Deacons will assist the minister, make sure everything is set up, outside or inside, for Sunday service.
- \* The **Care Network** is being reorganized since we have retiring Deacons as well as new Deacons. If you don't know who your Deacon is, please contact any one of us:- Elsa Marshall, Jan Bell, Carol Batdorf, Deb Paul, Bev Harloff, Kathy Hamilos, Shelagh McCauley.
- \* Our **Church Directory** is available by contacting the Office Manager,
- \* Megan Sweeney at [trinity@trinitycongregational.org](mailto:trinity@trinitycongregational.org) or 978.283.1442.
- \* **Pastor Norma will be on vacation** the weeks beginning July 11 and 18, August 22 and 29. Coverage will be available for those in need. Contact your Deacon.
- \* Per request, the **Lectionary** has returned to the Fisherman! Please see Page 11.
- \* Don't forget to sign up to bring **flowers** on any Sunday. The sign up board/sheet is available near the office and outside on Sundays.

## Inside this Edition

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- \* **Prayer Rock , Bristol VT**



Take a moment to enjoy our new tree and its recently added companion plants!

## Expect the Unexpected—continued from Page 1

well as Picnic and Sunset Vespers at Plum Cove beach. The Seaside Strummers ukulele group will have its initial meeting in August, and our Scripture Prayer Group will begin in August as well. We plan to gather back in the sanctuary for Sunday worship on August 1st, as long as the community recovery from Covid continues.

### Open and Affirming Exploration

One of the particular items Trinity asked Pastor Norma to do – and she agreed! – is to explore with us an Open and Affirming designation for our church.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is a designation that began in the United Church of Christ in 1984 when the Massachusetts Conference adopted the first Open and Affirming resolution in the UCC. The following year, the UCC General Synod adopted a resolution "Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming." Since then, updated resolutions have been passed, and hundreds of congregations, campus ministries, conferences and other bodies of the United Church of Christ. When a church covenants to be Open and Affirming, it is saying that we welcome and affirm into the full life and ministry of the church persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

It's important to realize, though, that the spirit of ONA is more than affirming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. The meaning of an ONA declaration should be the commitment to affirm *every* person because they

God is always doing a new thing! I hope to see you on Sundays and at our other get-togethers this summer. May your July be a time of refreshment and joy!

*Pastor Norma*

are children of God - those of any age, ability, race, culture and ethnicity, family configuration, health status, immigration status, whether with children or not, as well as any other description that



might separate us. A true welcome respects and honors every person, their story, their gifts and their needs. A welcome to some but not others is no real welcome.

In order for a church to be listed ONA by the Coalition, it must present a covenant that makes reference to the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. There are examples that we can use to guide us. In addition, nearly all churches choose to expand their welcome to name other groups that have been oppressed and include them in their welcome covenant. If we choose to become an Open and Affirming Congregation, we will discern together what our covenant will be.

If you're interested in helping with this process – and it is a process! – please let Pastor Norma know. She'll be getting a team together over the summer with an eye to beginning our explorations together in the fall!



## Owen Parsons is an Eagle Scout

Congratulations to one of the newest Eagle Scouts in the USA, our own Owen Parsons!



Owen was honored on June 19<sup>th</sup> at an Eagle Court of Honor, and we express our gratitude to Owen's parents, Kim and Brad Parsons, as well as the Boy Scout mentors and leaders who guided the way, and to all of Owen's fellow scouts with whom he's worked and enjoyed scouting for so many years. Pastor Norma was delighted to be invited to give the Invocation, and to share in the joy of such a wonderful day! Congratulations, Owen!



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## July 4th Sing-a-Long

On Sunday July 4th, immediately after worship, we will have a brief sing-a-long of favorite songs about our country.

Please plan to stay after worship if you would like to join in!



## Council's In-Person Service Protocols

Church Council is making plans to allow us to resume in-person Services, August 1, 2021. We will be asking everyone to adhere to the following protocols to promote safety and to make our worship as welcoming as we can to any of God's children who may attend and praise God together with us. As part of our protocols we will not be singing in the sanctuary in August. In addition, we are looking at the very recent reports regarding the Delta variant, and whether that will have any effect on our projected dates. We will keep you informed.

Our in-person protocols include:

- If not vaccinated, wear a mask.
- To accept Communion in pre-packaged containers.
- To look for the Offering at the back of church.
- To honor distancing between pods—the sanctuary will be marked off.
- To refrain from holding of hands or singing

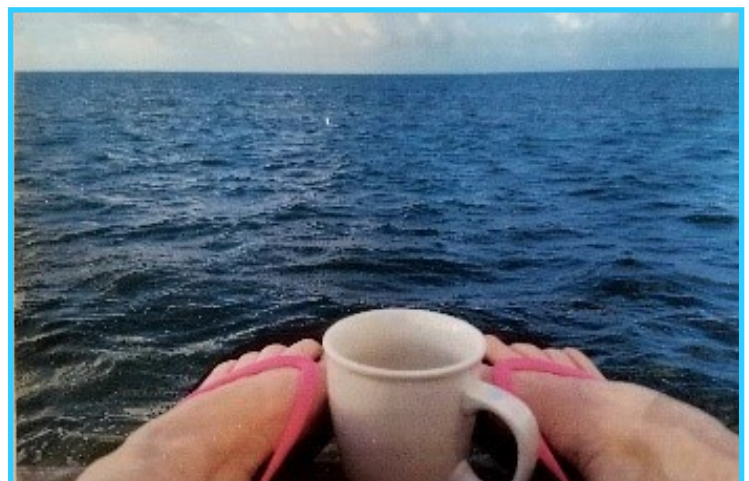
Most importantly, to remember we are a community struggling with best practices in a pandemic. Please allow Council to review and adjust as time goes on and people get more comfortable.

## Bell Tower Project and Capital Campaign

Work on the Bell Tower is scheduled to begin mid-August. Stay tuned for more information from the Bell Tower Committee and the Capital Campaign Team as we move forward! Thank you!

## Coverage Plans for Pastor Norma's Vacation

Pastor Norma is taking 2 weeks of vacation starting July 11<sup>th</sup> and she will be back with us for Sunday worship on July 25<sup>th</sup>. On July 11 and 18, we will have **Peggy Bendroth** with us leading worship. If you have a pastoral care emergency while Pastor Norma is away, please be in touch with your awesome deacon care person so that they may contact the minister who will be providing pastoral care coverage. If you can't reach your awesome Deacon Care Person, you may call the Deacon Chair, Elsa Marshall 978.578.1850.



## Missions Musings

We delivered food to the Open Door this month. This donation included nine large bags of assorted food, two cases of individual bottles of Boost and a case of pasta. The food pantry was so appreciative of our continued support.

Summer can be a difficult time for families due to the lack of school meals. Boxes of cereal, juice drinks, peanut butter and grape jelly as well as mac'n'cheese

would certainly be appreciated.

The Action Shelter has asked for large bottles of shampoo and conditioner as well as sunscreen. There is a basket for these donations as well as a food basket at our Sunday services. Items can also be dropped off with Megan, at the church Mon-Thur 9-1:00PM.

We thank you for all you do for our community.

## Welcome to TCC Summer:



- ◇ Service start at 10:00 AM July 4th
- ◇ In-Person Services planned August 1st  
*(Details on page 4)*
- ◇ Zoom Coffee Hour is suspended
- ◇ Labyrinth Meditations
- ◇ Supper Picnic and Sunset Vespers
- ◇ Bell Tower Project begins
- ◇ Volunteers Needed at Cape Ann Thrift Shop
- ◇ Pastor Norma will be on vacation weeks beginning July 11 & 18 *(Details on page 2)*
- ◇ Wednesday Scripture Prayer Group

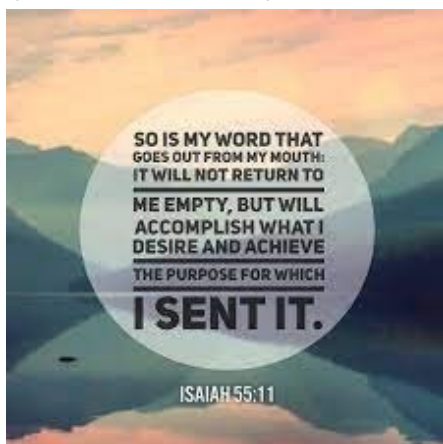


## Summer Spiritual Nourishment

### Scripture Prayer Group

Do you like to pray with scripture? Would you like to pray with scripture together with others using a method that allows the spirit to settle deeply with us in our sharing? You're invited to join us in a Scripture Sharing Group that will meet **weekly on Wednesdays at 10 AM** in the parlor. We'll be starting on **Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** in the parlor—or outside if it's nice weather.

We hope to see you there!



### Labyrinth Meditation @ Wingaersheek

Many of us find the ocean and the beach to be places of *spiritual nourishment*. What if we could employ some tried-and-true methods for meditation on the beach? Join us for two labyrinth meditation events at Wingaersheek Beach (weather permitting). The dates are chosen to provide us a low enough tide to mark out a small labyrinth on the beach and have some time together with this ancient spiritual practice. When you arrive at Wingaersheek, park in the lot, then walk out onto beach by the snack bar boardwalk and walk to the left side of beach. Staying on the soft white sand, our meeting



place will be by the big rocks on left. Look for the bright red Trinity Church banner! If you

can't find us or if the weather looks "iffy" call Pastor Norma on her cell at 617-356-7436. (Please note: Although by 3 PM there should be enough parking for all, there usually is still a parking fee at 3 PM for non-residents.) . Look for the **bright red Trinity Church banner, see pic on page 10!**

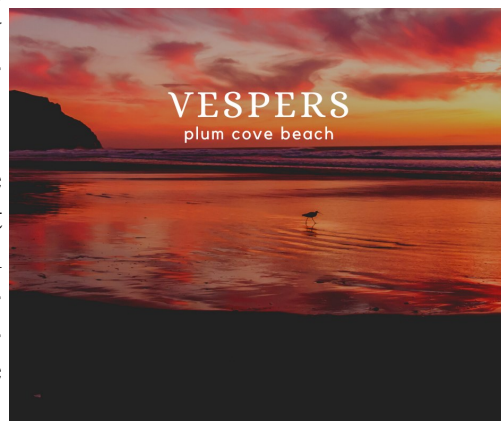
\* **Wednesday July 7 at 3 PM**

\* **Wednesday Aug 4 at 3 PM**

### Supper Picnic and Sunset Vespers @ Plum Cove Beach

Sunset, a picnic, vespers, and YOU! What could be better?! Please join us for Supper Picnics and Vespers at Plum Cove Beach. We'll meet

and enjoy one another's company while we eat a light picnic, then pray vespers together as the sun sets.



Please

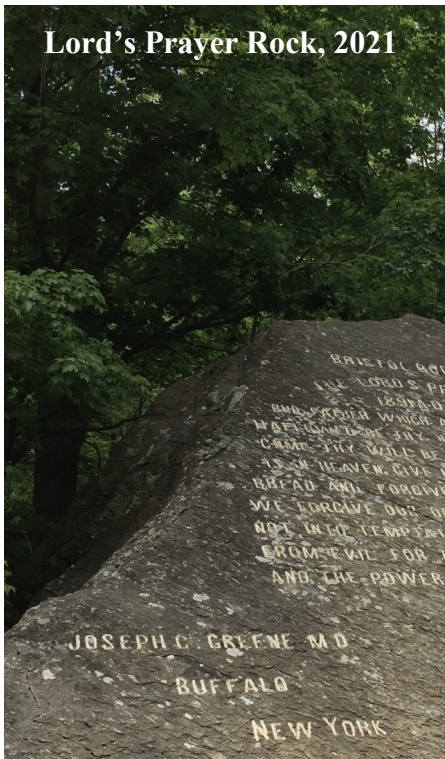
bring a light picnic supper and bug spray.

**Notes:** The parking in the area requires a Gloucester resident sticker. If you don't have a Gloucester resident sticker on your car, or if you have a sticker and are willing to provide a ride please call Megan so we can attempt to provide connections for rides. Look for the **bright red Trinity Church banner, see pic on page 10!**

- **Wednesday July 28, at 7:30PM (sunset 8:07 PM)**
- **Wednesday Aug 11 at 7:00PM (sunset 7:40 PM)**
- **Wednesday Sept 15 at 6:15PM (sunset 6:52 PM)**

## Prayer Rock, Bristol Vermont

Shelagh and Roy McCauley recently visited the Lord's Prayer rock in Bristol VT and shared a photo (color, below) and a bit of history with us:



Lord's Prayer Rock, 2021



Lord's Prayer Rock, c. 1915

Bristol. It was a hazardous trip because at every bridge the logs might roll off the wagon. When the boy passed the huge boulder at the base of the hill coming into Bristol village, he offered a silent prayer of thanks because he had completed the most dangerous part of his trip. Years later he had the Lord's Prayer carved on the rock in memory of the prayers he had offered there as a young boy."

The **Lord's Prayer Rock** is located in Bristol VT—it remains as it was, and in the same location, when it was carved 125 years ago in 1891!

The carving idea is attributed to Dr. Joseph C. Greene. Since his death, there have been two versions of how this idea came to be a reality. Which "version" seems more plausible? Without proper documentation, subsequent generations are left to wonder.

"The first version is that, as a young Quaker boy, <Dr. Greene> drove heavy loads of logs along the Nine Bridge Road to the mill in

The second version of the story is that lumbermen traveled the Nine Bridge Road bringing heavy loads of logs to the mill. In the winter, the grade of the road made it nearly impossible to travel into Bristol Village. To urge their "teams" onward, they resorted to "rough language". In turn, the good doctor decided to carve these words as a gentle reminder to the lumbermen to "watch their language".

Source: <https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/2017/02/05/history-space-lords-prayer-rock-bristol/97492630/>

B&W Photo: Bristol Historical Society; Color: R McCauley



## Updates: Bible Study and Seaside Strummers

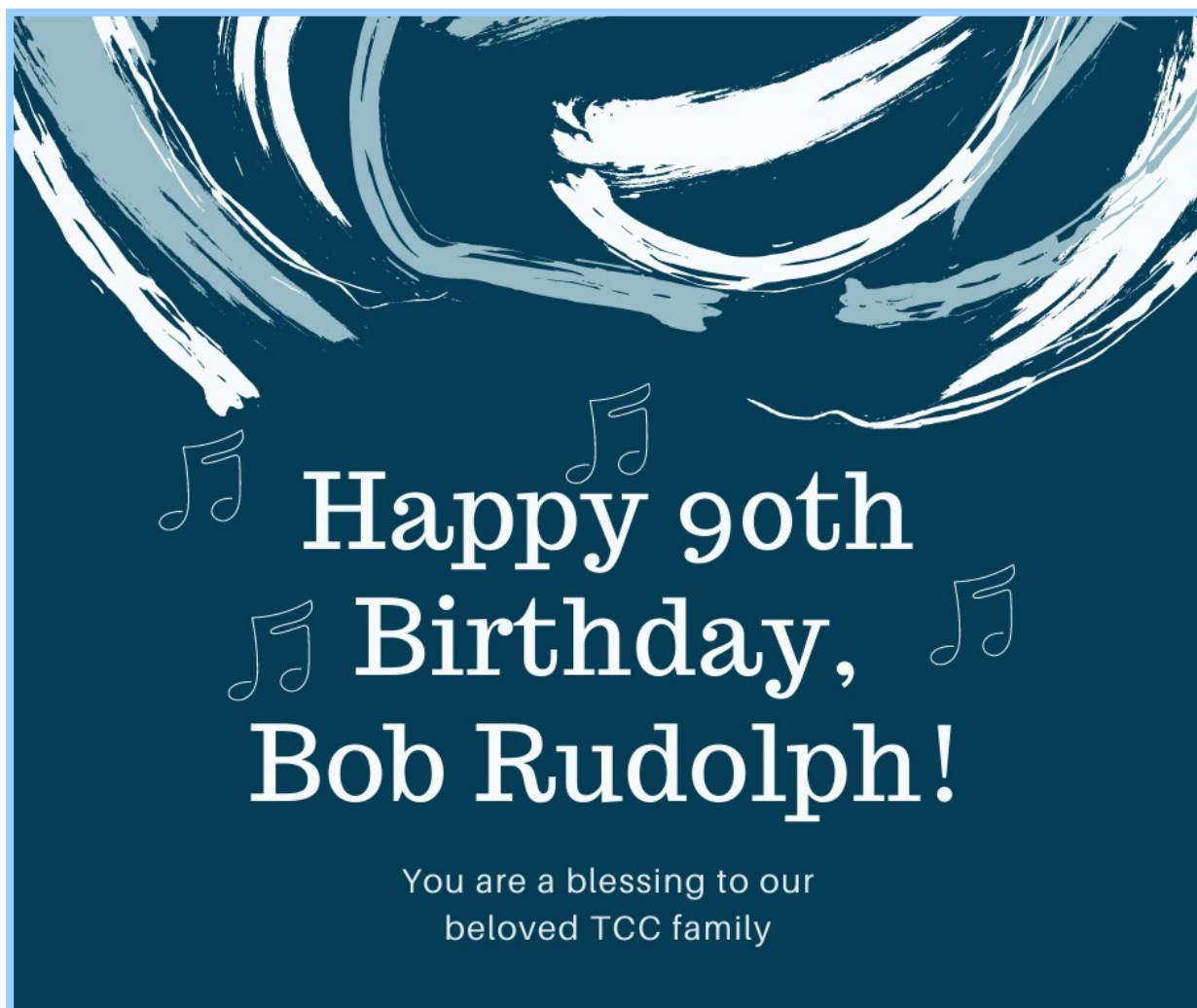
### Bible study

If you're interested in Bible Study, hold that thought! We've decided to hold off starting the Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series until the fall.

### Seaside Strummers: Ukulele Group

The Seaside Strummers will have their initial meeting on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM at the church. We'll meet out-

side if the weather is nice so that we can sing while we play! We're just learning how to play, so please join us; ukulele is fun and easy to play! Usually uke groups just strum chords and there's no complicated picking involved. Pastor Norma envisions this group to be one that the larger community will be invited to join as we move forward, so plan to invite your friends!



## From Megan: Members & Mission

Each edition we close with the words: “Trinity is a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.” As one of your newest TCC Friends, I see the work everyone is doing. The impact you are making. The depth of your faith. Hearing/Reading via the Fisherman submissions reaffirms that you (the collective) are genuinely focused on the greater good. It is a humbling experience for this newbie, and why this newsletter, The Fisherman, is such a powerful

platform for discovery. It amplifies the message, the work that each committee or each member is doing to “nourish the spiritual life of the church”.

My hope is that we can use the Fisherman to deepen our connection to TCC, the community and to each other.

In Service,  
Megan Sweeney  
TCC Office Manager

**Our new TCC  
Event Banner!  
Look for it at the events  
listed on Page 7.**

**TRINITY  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UCC**  
Gloucester, MA

## Sailing History



Roy McCauley's photography skills capture our imagination.

Only a few weeks ago, the Fuller shallop - a replica of the shallop brought to America aboard the Mayflower in the 17th century—stopped in Gloucester. Roy caught a glimpse as it was on its way to Plymouth to be reunited with the restored Mayflower II.

The Pilgrims used the shallop—a 33' open vessel—to explore the coastline of what is now Massachusetts. It is reportedly the vessel the Pilgrims used to discover Plymouth Harbor.

More information about the shallop and its plans for the future can be found here: [https://www.salemnews.com/news/local\\_news/showcasing-a-shallop/article\\_4ef8174d-c60b-542d-8bd6-3976300a3890.html](https://www.salemnews.com/news/local_news/showcasing-a-shallop/article_4ef8174d-c60b-542d-8bd6-3976300a3890.html)

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References –July 2021 (Year B)

**Thurs., July 1**

Psalm 48  
2 Samuel 2:1-11  
1 Corinthians 4:8-13

**Fri., July 2**

Psalm 48  
2 Samuel 3:1-12  
2 Corinthians 10:7-11

**Sat., July 3**

Psalm 48  
2 Samuel 3:31-38  
Matthew 8:18-22

**Sun., July 4*****Sixth Sunday after Pentecost***

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
Psalm 48  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

**Mon., July 5**

Psalm 21  
2 Samuel 5:1-10  
2 Corinthians 11:16-33

**Tues., July 6**

Psalm 21  
2 Samuel 5:11-16  
James 5:7-12

**Wed., July 7**

Psalm 21  
2 Samuel 5:17-25  
John 7:1-9

**Thurs., July 8**

Psalm 24  
Exodus 25:10-22  
Colossians 2:1-5

**Fri., July 9**

Psalm 24  
Exodus 37:1-16  
Colossians 4:2-18

**Sat., July 10**

Psalm 24  
Numbers 10:11-36  
Luke 1:57-80

**Sun., July 11*****Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
Psalm 24  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

**Mon., July 12**

Psalm 68:24-35  
2 Samuel 6:6-12a  
Acts 21:27-39

**Tues. July 13**

Psalm 68:24-35  
2 Samuel 3:12-16  
Acts 23:12-35

**Wed., July 14**

Psalm 68:24-35  
2 Samuel 6:16-23  
Luke 7:31-35

**Thurs., July 15**

Psalm 89:20-37  
1 Chronicles 11:15-19  
Colossians 1:15-23

**Fri., July 16**

Psalm 89:20-37  
1 Chronicles 14:1-2  
Acts 17:16-31

**Sat., July 17**

Psalm 89:20-37  
1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 16:4-13  
Luke 18:35-43

**Sun., July 18*****Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
Psalm 89:20-37  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**Mon., July 19**

Psalm 61  
2 Samuel 7:18-29  
Hebrews 13:17-25

**Tues., July 20**

Psalm 61  
2 Samuel 8:1-18  
Acts 20:17-38

**Wed., July 21**

Psalm 61  
2 Samuel 9:1-13  
Luke 15:1-7

**Thurs., July 22**

Psalm 14  
2 Samuel 10:1-5  
Colossians 1:9-14

**Fri., July 23**

Psalm 14  
2 Samuel 10:6-12  
Colossians 3:12-17

**Sat., July 24**

Psalm 14  
2 Samuel 10:13-19  
John 4:31-38

**Sun., July 25*****Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

**Mon., July 26**

Psalm 37:12-22  
2 Samuel 11:14-21  
Philippians 4:10-20

**Tues., July 27**

Psalm 37:12-22  
2 Samuel 11:22-27  
Romans 15:22-33

**Wed., July 28**

Psalm 37:12-22  
2 Chronicles 9:29-31  
Mark 6:35-44

**Thurs., July 29**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 32:19-26a  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22

**Fri., July 30**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Joshua 23:1-16  
1 Corinthians 11:27-34

**Sat., July 31**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Judges 6:1-10  
Matthew 16:5-12





*Trinity is a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.*

Thank you for contributing and reading *The Fisherman*. Everyone is encouraged to submit items, photos/captions and articles for publication! Please do so by the 21st of each month via Email: [trinity@trinitycongregational.org](mailto:trinity@trinitycongregational.org) or mail to:

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