



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Spire

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February 2019

The World Is How We View It

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

In today's world it isn't always easy to talk about spiritual things. Our world is sort of how we think of it. When we think the world is godless and soulless, it tends to become that. And so, if you and I want to live in a world made in God's image, then you and I need to purge ourselves of all the ways we view this world that stop us from realizing the life and world God wants us to have. Understanding all the various worldviews is the key to breaking free of the power they have over the human mind and soul.

There have only been a handful of worldviews in modern history and normally they function on a subconscious level. We tend to be unaware of their existence. Here is a simple typology of the different worldviews that have shaped human history 'til now.

The Ancient Worldview- This is often reflected in the Bible. Everything on earth has a heavenly counterpart. If war begins on earth, then God must be warring with some cosmic deity or force. Likewise events initiated in heaven are mirrored on earth. This is a way of saying that every material reality also has a spiritual dimension, and every spiritual reality has

physical dimensions.

The Spiritualist Worldview- In this view, creation was followed by the "fall." Spirit is good, material is bad. Our world is an asylum into which spirits have fallen from a good heaven. The religious task is to rescue one's spirit from the wiles of the flesh and regain the spiritual realm from which we have fallen. This worldview is still a powerful factor in sexual hang-ups, eating disorders, negative self-images and the rejection of one's body. This spiritual worldview is also reflected in those forms of the Christian faith that over-emphasize the goal of getting to heaven and escaping this present vale of tears.

The Materialist Worldview- is the dominant worldview in the US today. This view claims there is no heaven, no spiritual world, no God, no soul; nothing but what can be known through our senses and reason. The spiritual realm is illusion. There is no higher self, just complexes of matter, and when we die we cease to exist except as chemicals and atoms. People have to create values, purposes, and meaning for themselves. The only right and wrong are what societies agree upon for the purposes of survival and tranquility.

(Continued on page 2)

The Theological Worldview- This view concedes earthly reality to science but claims special privilege to the spiritual realm. Many seminaries once taught that science tells us how the world was created, religion tells us why. The price paid for this schizoid worldview is the loss of a sense of the whole and the unity of heaven and earth.

The Integral Worldview- This view sees everything as having both an outer and inner aspect. Heaven and earth are seen as the inner and outer aspects of a single reality. In this view, soul permeates the universe. The universe is suffused with the divine. Spirit is at the heart of everything, all creatures, all living things are potential revealers of God. This worldview makes biblical information more intelligible for people of today than any other worldview, the ancient one included.

Worldviews determine what we are allowed to believe about the world. And, we may be the first generation in the history of the world that can make a “conscious” choice between these worldviews. You and I can, must, decide which worldview best describes the world we encounter, and whether or not we want to take personal responsibility for our own worldview’s relationship to what happens in our church, our country, and the world. And, what its future will look like.

Shalom, Jim

Membership Update

Death

Peggy Trapp

Address Changes

Len Holmberg
14203 W White Rock Drive
Sun City West AZ 85375

Diane McCullough
6251 Old Dominion Dr. 059
McLean VA 22101
703 970-3743

Andy & Oakie Russell
2500 Canyon View
Pasadena, CA 91107

Shelley Stevens
5270 Lower Allison Rd
Athens OH 45701

Ruth Thoenelt
21105 Cardinal Pond Ter #118
Ashburn VA 20147

Are you moving?

Please send your new address to the church office (703-356-3312 or info@umtrinity.org). Thank you. This will ensure that we have all the correct information to send news and contribution statements to the correct address.

If you are interested in **joining the church** or learning more about our ministries, please contact a pastor or the church office.

Three Thoughts from 2019's First Snow Day

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

It has been awhile since we had a snow storm in our area so when it descended on Jan 12, I was caught off guard. But after struggling through it while being stuck in my house for almost three days I came to realize it was quite a spiritual experience.

Life is Unpredictable

Weather forecasters were not helpful in preparing for the storm. Some said it was going to be heavy while others thought it might just pass over. Even the ones who called for snow hedged, saying it could be a couple to eight inches. I'm reading this and thinking "You guys are NOT helpful at all!"

Moreover, the snow came on the weekend. As a pastor, anything that interferes with Sunday worship stirs anxiety and frustration. Therefore, Saturday night was an uneasy restless affair. Early Sunday morning the staff exchanged a flurry of texts and decided the storm was not heavy enough to cancel services but warranted for us to urge caution to parishioners. We had about fifty in attendance for both services. The sense of uncertainty made me anxious the whole morning before church.

However, during the first service a sense of peace came over me because I became aware of my annoyance at unpredictability. I chuckled a bit thinking this is really nothing. Life seems capricious and thus inconveniently annoying. That's what makes it so interesting.

Snow is Beautiful Yet Dangerous

The moment I opened my front door the wintery neighborhood took me back a bit; so beautiful! As I was driving to church on I-66, Vivaldi's *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* played in my head. My eyes intermittently wandered onto tall snow-covered trees on the sides, reminding me of those in Ansel Adams' photos. Then my car slipped a bit because the pavement was still covered with slush. It was a beautiful slow trek slipping and sliding through I-66, on through Chain Bridge Road and into the Trinity lot. I was thankful to arrive safely with a heavy dose of respect for beauty all around me.

Resting is Difficult Work

Snow covered everything, life came to a standstill. Schools were closed and it was an unexpected day off. So why couldn't I enjoy it? Because the amount of work does not diminish. Even though it seems like a day off, I will have less time to tackle all the tasks before me. Thoughts like these swarmed my head the whole Monday morning and afternoon. Then finally around 5 p.m., I relented. I am just going to relax and enjoy this time with my family. Relaxing is really difficult.

With this past storm as a reflection point, I'm ready for the next one. Bring on the snow!

When the Church Finds Itself at a Crossroads

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

If you have been around United Methodists for any length of time, you know that we like committees, gatherings of people and food—maybe not in that order. Our polity (the way we're organized as a church) is structured in a way that encourages this (the committees and gatherings, not the food).

Trinity is a member of the Virginia Conference. Each conference across the globe meets annually to discuss the business of their area. Once every four years, representatives from each conference come together for General Conference. It's there that items are voted on that can change our Book of Discipline (BoD)—the scary-sounding name of what is, for all intents and purposes, the rule book of the worldwide Methodist Church.

What does the BoD say? First, all people are welcome here.

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church: The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth.

¶ 214. Eligibility: All people may attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection.

During at least the last two General Conferences (2012 and 2016), attempts were made to have discussions about what the church should do regarding two topics: ordaining gay clergy and allowing clergy to perform weddings of same-sex couples. Here's what the BoD states about the ministry of the ordained:

¶ 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

A special committee (the Commission on a Way Forward) made up of clergy and laity has worked for the last two years on a plan for the church. Here are the commission's three suggestions.

One Church Plan (recommended by the Council of Bishops of the UMC): Allows conferences to make decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than having a single standard throughout the worldwide

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

church. It removes certain language (mentioned above) from the BoD. It gives conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to decide whether to ordain gay clergy or allow same-sex marriages. This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

Traditionalist Plan: Affirms the current language about homosexuality in the BoD and seeks to strengthen enforcement (against clergy) for violations of church law.

Connectional-Conference Plan: Creates three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values. Annual conferences would determine their affiliation with one of the connectional conferences. Local churches who choose a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference could vote to join another conference.

A special session of the General Conference has been called to hash out a plan. These three plans, plus any others that may be brought forth, will be voted on at the meeting on February 23-26 in St. Louis. This is not the final step. The regular General Conference and each annual conference must also approve the final plan. You'll find more details at umc.org.



We'll have a town hall meeting following worship in March to discuss which plan was selected and what happens next. Please be in prayer for all those in attendance and for our United Methodist Church.

What's New on Our Blog: tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Ask Henny

- Love Your Pet Day: <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-tk>

Crafts for a Cause

- Upcoming work sessions: <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-tp>

Music

- Trinity's Choirs contributions to February 2019 worship
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-tn>

Schedule of Events

Feb. 4	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	Read the latest update: https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-tp
Feb. 6	Widows' Support Group 6:30 p.m.	Meets in the Fellowship Building.
Feb. 10	Martha's Table Sandwich Making Sunday	
Feb. 12	Book Chat 6:30 p.m.	<i>Less</i> , by Andrew Sean Greer
Feb. 16	Christ House	
Feb. 18	Office Closed	
Feb. 18	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-tp
Feb. 19	Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.	Meeting by telephone
Feb. 24	Third Grade Bible Presentation 10:30 a.m.	
March 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	
March 6	Ash Wednesday	

Attention 3rd Graders

Bibles will be presented on Sunday, February 24, during the 10:30 a.m. service. If you will be present, please ask your parent to send your name to hlatta@umtrinity.org.



Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship Services

at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) – 9:30 a.m. (Sept–June)

Children's Education –10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Communion and Healing – Noon

Celtic Evensong & Communion—5 p.m. (last Sun. of month)

Here to serve Christ and you:

James C. Sprouse – Senior Pastor

Eileen Gilmer – Associate Pastor

Keith Lee – Associate Pastor

Jerry Rich – Director of Music

Michelle Zenk—Director of Children's & Youth Choirs

Harriet Latta – Office Manager

Jose Luis Nuñez-Ruiz – Sexton

Janine Whitfield – Director of Parents Day Out Preschool

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone: 703-356-3312

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E-mail: info@umtrinity.org

Web Site: umtrinity.org

Instagram: [trinityumc_mclean](https://www.instagram.com/trinityumc_mclean)

Facebook: Trinity UMC, McLean

Twitter: UMTrinity

Blog: tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Youtube: UMTrinity

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a vibrant, growing church home for all who seek companionship, direction and inspiration in their lives as they develop a personal, relevant relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We are anchored in Scripture and energized by congregational commitment. Trinity Church fosters the Christian values of joy, faith, service, hope and love.



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