

TRINITY NEWS

October 2016

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

Rev. Scott R. Harris, Pastor
Ginger Smellie, Editor

Members & Friends,

What does the Bible mean in Genesis when it says that God created human beings in God's image as male and female? I used to think, as many do, that God creates some bodies and pours a soul into that body, any soul. Mine just happened to be a male one. A White male one. Living in America. Something that comes with so many advantages I am aware that I pretty much hit the cosmic lottery. But a closer look at the text reveals a few things. First of all, at the time when this part of the Book of Genesis was written, God the Son had not taken on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. That means that God, as yet, had no physical body and therefore no gender. Yes, God is referred to as "he" and "father" in the Old Testament, but there are also Old Testament passages that refer to God as a nursing mother, a mother hen caring for her chicks, etc. So to be created in the image of God must not have anything to do with our bodies, but must have to do with the fact that we have a soul.

If we bear the image of God at the level of our soul and we were created male and female in the image of God, that must mean that our souls were created with a gender that transcends our physical bodies, our "y" and "x" chromosomes, etc. That means that the way in which we manifest the image of God in which we were created is different for males and females.

God wanted to show the world something of his strength. Is God not a great warrior? Isn't that what Miriam and Aaron sang after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry ground? Has God not performed the daring rescue of God's beloved in coming into the world as Jesus and dying on the cross? And this is why God gave us the sculpture that is man. Men bear the image of God in their dangerous, yet inviting strength. Women, too, bear the image of God, but in a much different way. Is not God a being of great mystery and beauty? Is there not something tender and alluring about the essence of the Divine? And this is why God gave us the sculpture that is woman.

It would be a mistake to look at a sculpture and mistake it for the thing it represents! Our gender is something much greater, much more desired and more foundational to being made in God's image than our bodies and genes. When we deny who and what we are, we deny that part of ourselves and others that bears the image of God.

Grace & Peace,
- Pastor Scott

In the month of August Pastor Scott gave the following sermons:

On August 7th our sermon was "Faith – Being Confident When You Have Every Reason to Doubt" with scriptures from Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40. The point of this sermon was that faith is being confident when you have every reason to doubt. We were encouraged to trust Jesus, even when it seems absurd to do so.

On August 14th the title of the sermon was "Hold Onto Hope" which was based on Isaiah 5:1-7, Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2 and Luke 12:49-56. In this sermon we learned that even though they didn't receive the promised savior or inherit the promised Kingdom of God, the great heroes of the faith in the Old Testament held onto hope. Like them, we do well to hold onto hope, even when things seem tough.

On August 21st our scripture readings were from Jeremiah 1:4-10, Hebrews 12:18-29 and Luke 13:10-17 and the sermon was titled "What's Really Important?" In that sermon we learned that to Jesus people were always more important than policies, even the Torah/law! Based on His example, we may wish to re-evaluate some of our hard-line positions in light of loving grace toward people.

On August 28th Pastor Scott, Kathy and Tim were out in Oregon visiting friends.



We will be studying the story of the Exodus. In ancient times, nothing was bigger than Egypt. Powerful pharaohs, strong armies, and a multitude of gods. God's people were no match against the Egyptians. In this Bible Study, discover how God answers the cry of God's people when they are persecuted and proclaims Himself Lord to them and their oppressors.

Bible Studies will take place on Wednesdays beginning at 7:30 in the Library Lounge on the following dates with the following subjects:

October 5th: How Big Is Our God?

October 12th: Israel in Bondage: God Hear Their Cry

October 19th: The Finger of God: The Plagues

October 26th: Watch with Me: Israel Leaves Egypt

November 2nd: The Lord Reigns: The Red Sea



BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
October 11th at 10:00 a.m. To go to Port
Newark

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BROEK CIRCLE – will meet on Tuesday
October 25th at 1:00pm at the home of BJ
Tingley.

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If you ordered soup Oct 16th is the pickup
date. The next soup delivery will be in
December.

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JACOBA CIRCLE – will meet on Monday
October 10th at 7:30pm in the Library Lounge,
hostess Joan Beil.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

LEVIEILLE, Phil and Camille
1328 Yarnell Station Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37932

MACAULEY, Nora
220 S 18th St.
Lewisburg, PA 17837-1606



World Communion SUNDAY
October 2nd – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



October, 2016

1. Dee Cox
8. Ruth DeRuyscher
10. Linda Raysick
30. Joshua Jackson

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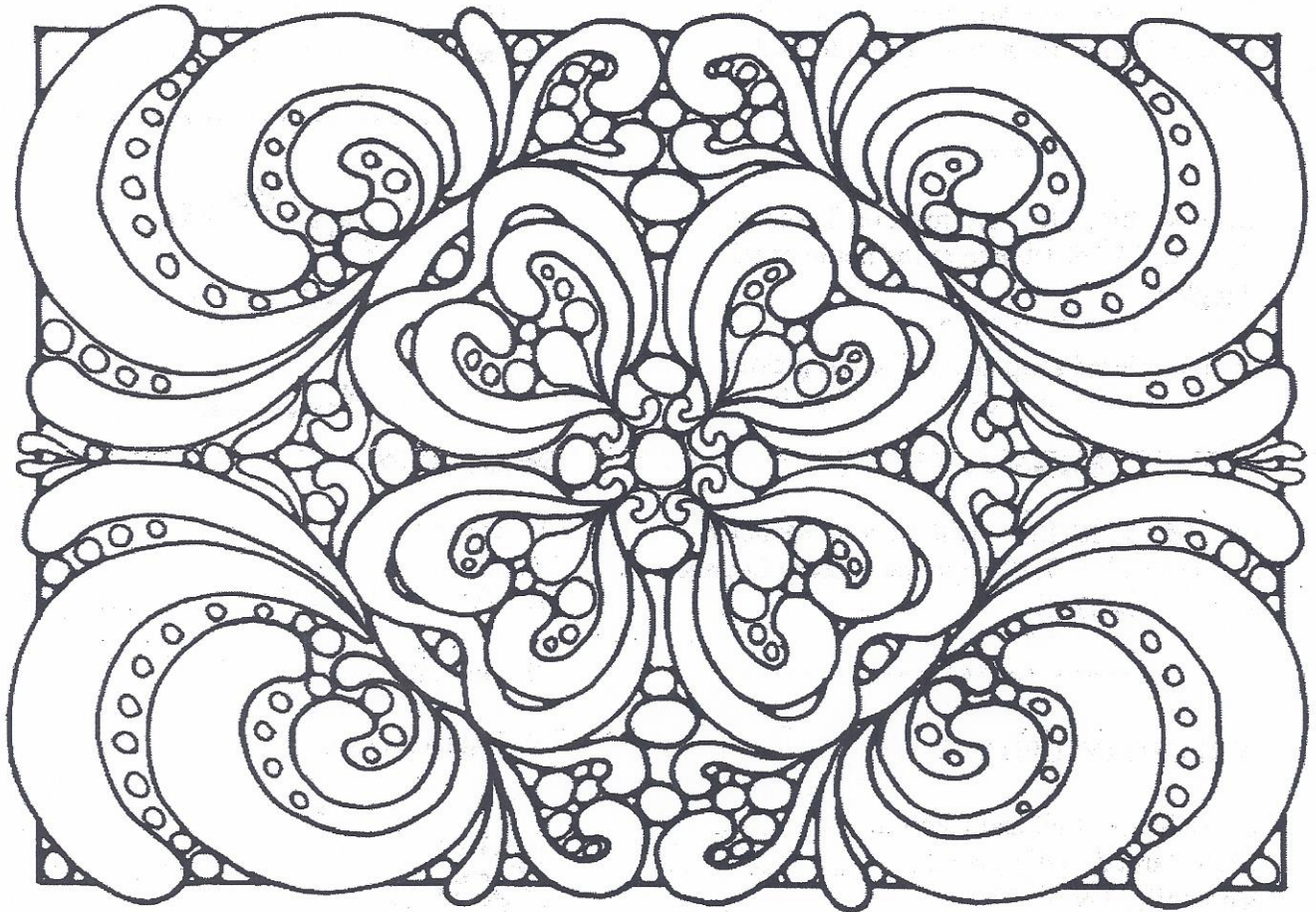


October, Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, October 16th

TRINITY'S VERSION OF THE ADULT COLORING BOOK



Get out your crayons and relax!



October



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Every Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary						1.
2. World Wide Communion 	3. Consistory 7:30 pm	4.	5. Bible Study 7:30 pm	6. Choir 7:30 pm	7.	8.
9.	10. Jacoba Circle 7:30 pm	11. Broek Circle 10:00 am	12. Bible Study 7:30 pm	13. Choir 7:30 pm	14.	15.
16. *Soup pick- up *Newsletter Deadline	17.	18.	19. Bible Study 7:30 pm	20. Choir 7:30 pm	21.	22.
23. 30.	24.  31.	25. Broek Circle 1:00 pm	26. Bible Study 7:30 pm	27. Choir 7:30 pm	28.	29.