

Rector's Report

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

Dear Friends,

For the past six years, I have served on the board of an ecumenical body committed to bridging social divides for greater mutual understanding across human diversity. The mission of Paths to Understanding (PTU) is to gather neighbors together in order to foster greater trust within our context as a counter measure to forces that rely on social division and fear for gaining power and privilege. PTU is committed to bringing communities together through public leadership and civic partnerships.

Wisdom communities like churches, mosques, and temples, and other community groups can make a difference by inviting neighbors to a Potluck. As the PTU website shares, PTU believes that when people of diverse cultures, traditions, and identities gather together in public, people in the larger community breathe a sigh of relief. They begin to hope that we are not as divided as we feared and that we can relate to each other as human beings.

This year, I am inviting PTU staff to orient Trinity members to a program developed by PTU called the Potluck Project as an opportunity for Trinity to host later in the year, at a time we would determine. The program is designed to bring real people together and into real conversations, helping move people from ideas *about* each other to relationships *with* each other. PTU Executive Director, Terry Kylo observes, “We’re not just helping communities come together—we’re helping people find courage they didn’t know they had and a healing they haven’t imagined.”

Political scientist Jenna Bednar outlines *governance for human social thriving* as based in four pillars..

- **Dignity** – Everyone deserves to be needed, heard, and able to shape our shared life.
- **Community** – True belonging means mutual investment, not just being in the same room.
- **Beauty** – Joy, creativity, and awe remind us that life together is worth the effort.
- **Sustainability** – Caring for our shared future gives our work purpose and direction.

These ideas match the *Vital Conditions for Well-Being* developed by the Rippel Foundation. These conditions include: humane housing, meaningful work, lifelong learning, belonging, and civic muscle. Social change or transformation happens through establishing and practicing healthy social norms—like trust and cooperation—spread through genuine relationships. *(Continued on next page)*

Trust and cooperation are not realized through laws alone. They grow through repeated contact with trusted people across community “bridges.” My hope is that Trinity will serve as social bridge by hosting the Potluck Project for healing dialogue across the larger community – including diverse faith and wisdom leaders, local leaders in governance and educational institutions, as well as law enforcement and legal representatives.

Please save the date of **Sunday, JULY 26, 2026** following the 10:00am service as a forum with PTU staff in preparation for Trinity hosting a Potluck Project. You can visit the [PTU website](#) to learn more about the work of PTU and the Potluck Project, and view many other resources, including Challenge 2.0 podcasts hosted by Jeff Renner that cover a wide variety of social issues and concerns.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rachel+
The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, Rector
Vice-President of the PTU Board of Directors

Deacons's Article

Dear Friends,

This seems to be a busier time for me than I expected. My work on the Commission on Ministry (COM) has taken a fair amount of my time with several liaison meetings with the five discerners assigned to me. Discernment takes time, in some cases years, and the support of others is imperative as individuals prayerfully consider what it is that God is calling them to do in their lives. I feel privileged to be able to walk alongside these individuals and help in any way I can. In addition, we have monthly meetings with the whole COM to discuss how better we might serve those in discernment as well as how we might be a resource to others who also walk alongside discerners.



This past memorial day weekend there was a group of about 14 of us who went over to Sacred Waters to participate in a work party. It was good to see old friends and meet some new ones too. We were able to get several of the garden beds back in shape, share meals together and just enjoy each others company in a beautiful environment. The picture I've included here is from that weekend; the view from the wrap around deck where I stayed. Sacred Waters is an incredibly beautiful & peaceful environment to be in.

Also at the end of May we held another eucharistic minister training and we are pleased to welcome 3 newly trained Eucharistic ministers. I give thanks to those EM's already licensed who came to share their wisdom with our newbies. Trinity is blessed to have many individuals serving in this ministry and of course we are always looking to welcome more of you in whatever capacity you can serve whether vested or coming from the pew.

Finally, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to you all to join Trinity at the 4th annual Snohomish Pride Parade which takes place on Saturday, June 6, 2026 10-11:30AM. This is a joyful, community-led parade through downtown Snohomish. Hope to see you there.

Until next time.

*In His Service,
Deacon Pat*

