

STAR TREK™

and Christian Faith



PACE Class – April 23, 2017

Discussion Outline

- Gene Roddenberry
- The Star Trek “universe”
- The social impact and appeal of Star Trek
- Latest findings – search for extraterrestrial life
- United Methodist Perspectives

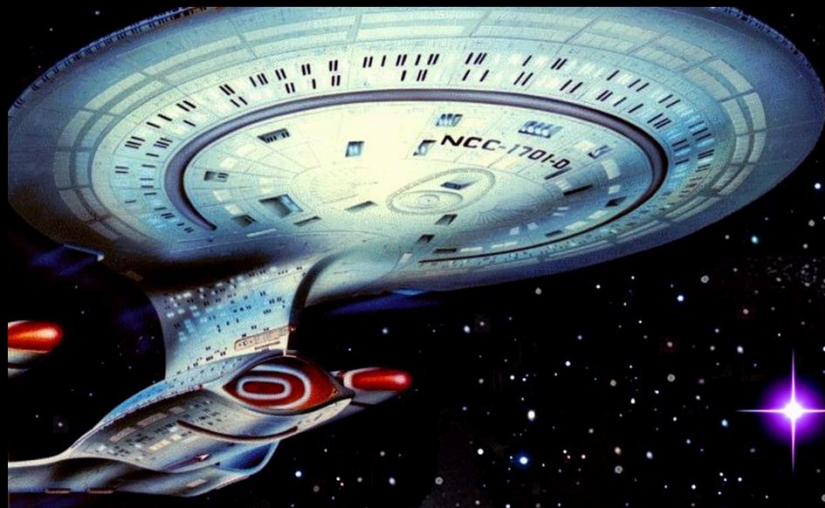
Gene Roddenberry – 1921 – 1991

“Great Bird of the Galaxy”





STAR TREK



STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION





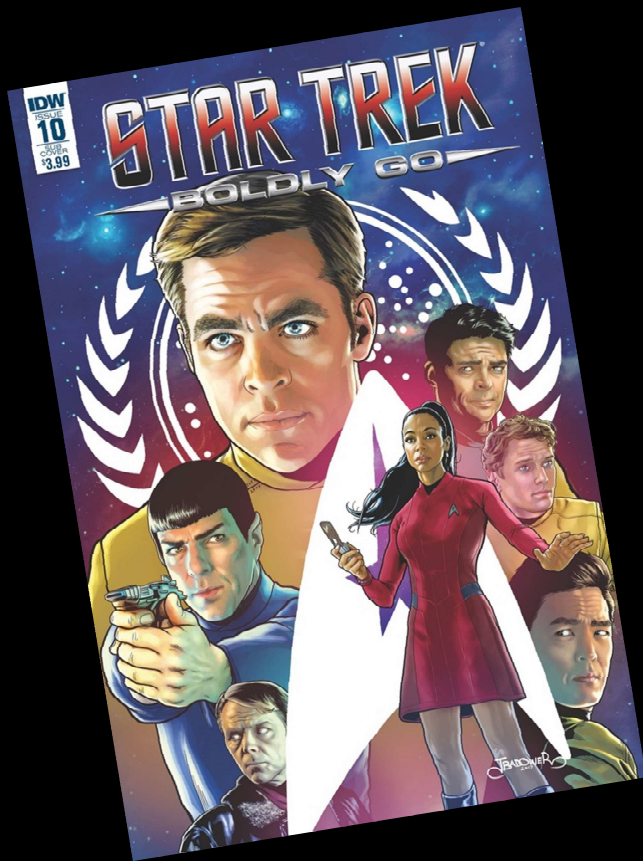
STAR TREK
VOYAGER





The logo for Star Trek: Discovery is centered on a dark blue background with a grid of orange lines. The words "STAR TREK" are in a large, silver, 3D-style font with a blue glow. Below it, "DISCOVERY" is in a smaller, orange, 3D-style font with a blue glow. The background features a blue planet at the bottom and several bright blue stars.

STAR TREK
DISCOVERY



STAR TREK
BOOKS

STAR TREK
THE ANIMATED SERIES



BOLDLY GO!

STAR  TREK™

THE EXHIBITION

BLACKPOOL • UK

July 8, 2016 – December 31, 2017

Blackpool, UK



February 04, 2017 - June 04, 2017
Calgary, Canada

The background of the poster features a dark blue space scene with a starry sky and a glowing blue planet horizon at the bottom. On the right side, a Starship Enterprise is shown from a low angle, with its saucer section and nacelles illuminated by blue and red lights. The text is overlaid on this scene.

STAR TREK

THE ULTIMATE VOYAGE

50TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT TOUR

LIVE IN CONCERT WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

50 YEARS OF
BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES,
GROUNDBREAKING TV &
AWARD-WINNING MUSIC.

July 23, 2017
Royal Festival Hall
London, UK

THE OFFICIAL
STAR TREK
2017 CONVENTION



AUGUST 2-6, 2017 • THE RIO SUITES HOTEL • LAS VEGAS, NV

The image features the Philadelphia Phillies logo in a stylized, red, cursive font with a white outline. Two blue stars are positioned above the 'i' and 'l' in 'Phillies'. The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a baseball stadium at dusk or dawn, with various advertisements visible on the outfield fence, including 'Coca-Cola' and 'RE/MAX'. To the right of the main logo, the word 'vs' is partially visible in a white, outlined font.

Phillies vs

STAR TREK

THE CRUISE II

Hosted by
George Takei



January 5 – 11, 2018
The Caribbean
from Miami, FL

The appeal of Star Trek

- Optimistic vision of humanity's future; full of promise and bright with hope.
- Embracing Diversity

Diversity? Still a long way to go..

- While surveys show 67 percent of American churchgoers think their congregations do enough to encourage diversity, eight in ten worshipers still attend services in which a single racial or ethnic group makes up at least 80 percent of the congregation.
- Christians have theological reason to pursue more diversity. We worship a God who is diverse in God's own self (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and who brings people "from every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9) into Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:12-18).
- Reverend David Ealy, pastor of Hawfields Presbyterian Church in Mebane, North Carolina, thinks Star Trek's presentation of diversity powerfully parallels "the vision God has for the church. Everyone [on the Enterprise] had their gifts and roles but they were never in a vacuum." The church can show society an even more compelling, real-world model of diverse community united in common mission.

The appeal of Star Trek (cont.)

- Optimistic vision of humanity's future; full of promise and bright with hope.
- Embracing Diversity
- Hope in tumultuous times – the mid 1960's
 - Simultaneous Hot and Cold Wars (Vietnam and the Soviet Union)
 - Protests / Race riots
 - Space race underwayProject Gemini



The appeal of Star Trek (cont.)

- Optimistic vision of humanity's future; full of promise and bright with hope.
- Embracing Diversity
- Hope in tumultuous times – the mid 1960's
 - Vietnam war
 - Race riots
 - Space race underway
- Science and Technology





The appeal of Star Trek (cont.)

- Optimistic vision of humanity's future; full of promise and bright with hope.
- Embracing Diversity
- Hope in tumultuous times – the mid 1960's
 - Vietnam war
 - Race riots
 - Space race underway
- Mastering Technology
- Exercising Humility



One Man has resurrected the Glory that was Rome...
...In the 20th Century

MERICVS I

BREAD
AND
CIRCVSE

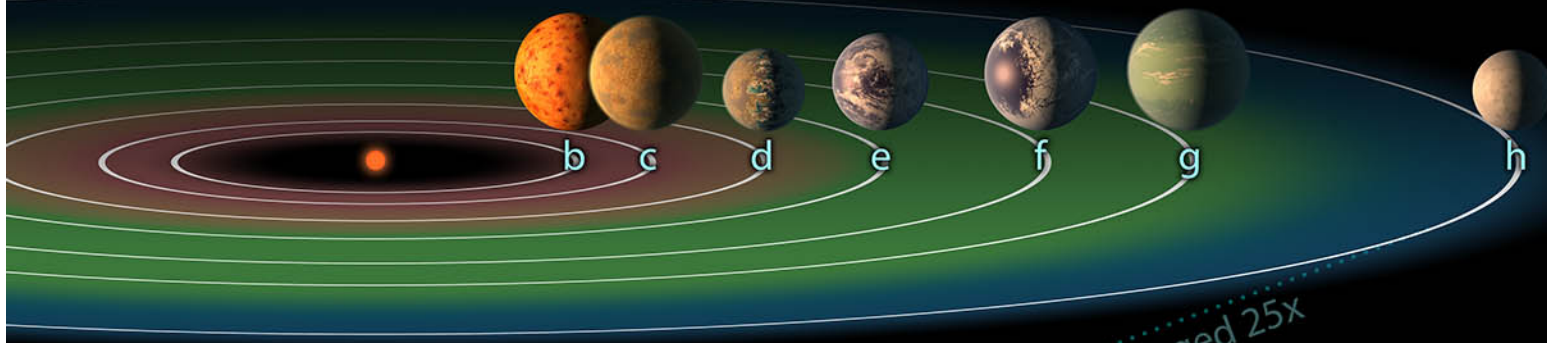




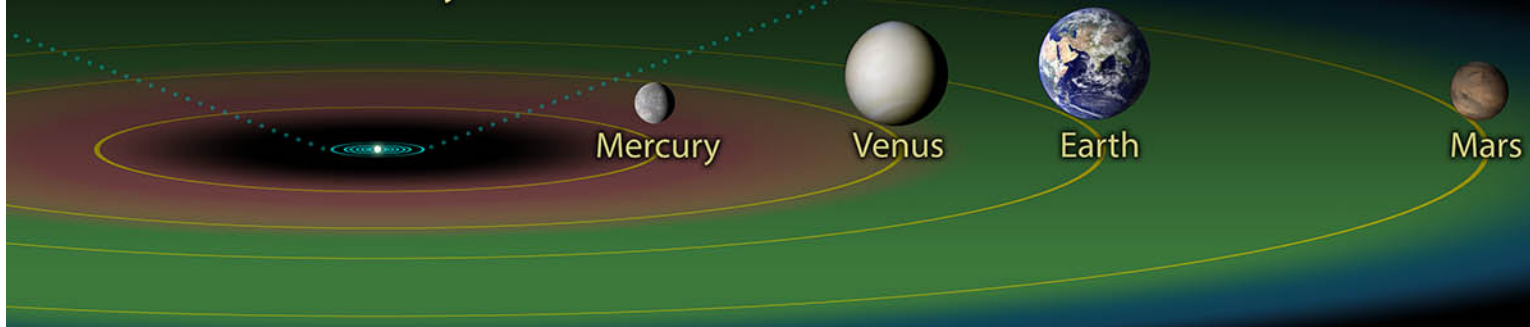




TRAPPIST-1 System



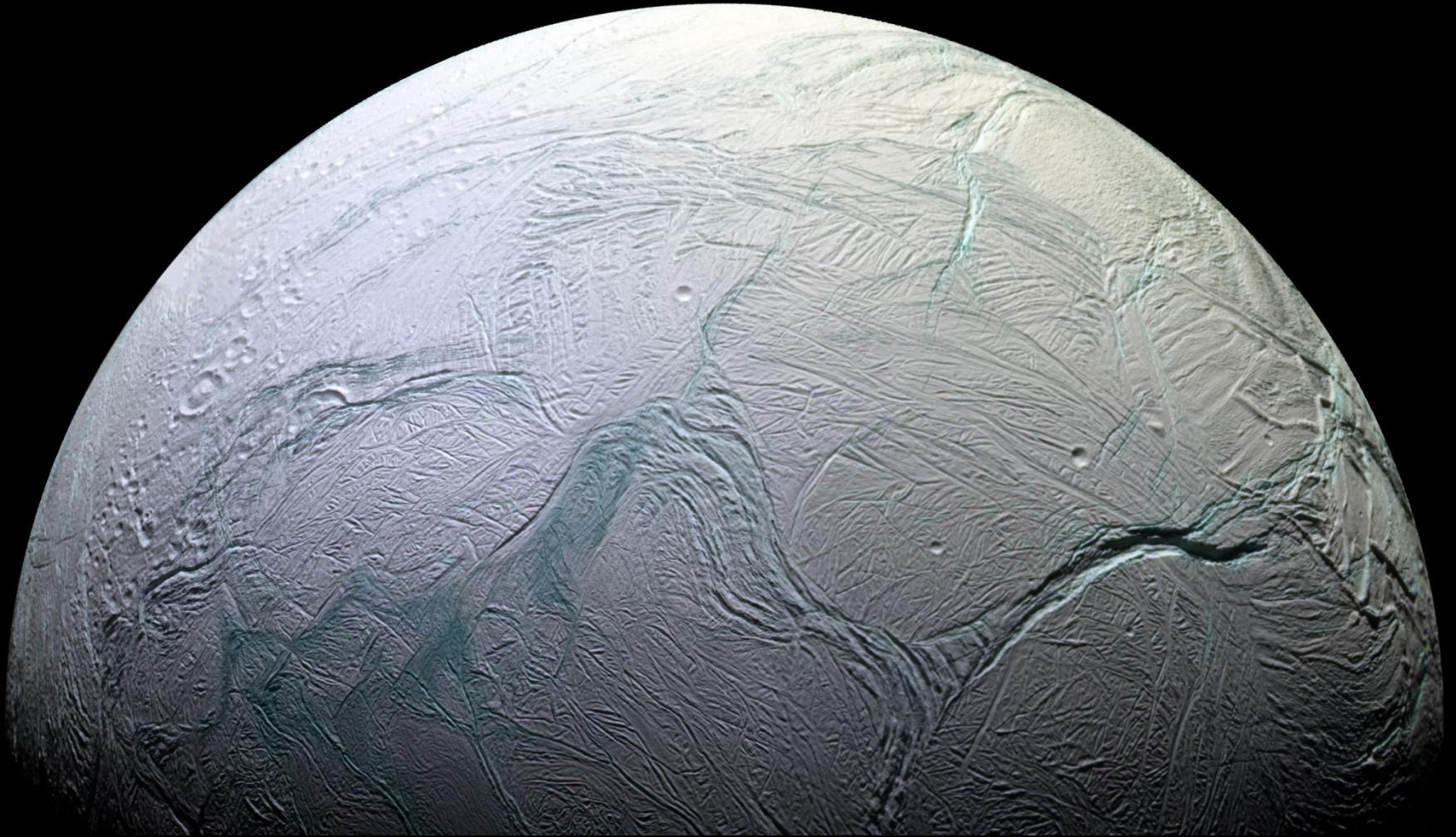
Inner Solar System



Enlarged 25x

Illustration

Enceladus



So what is Life?

and other perplexing questions...

- The Heliocentric Challenge
- “If We Made Contact With Aliens, How Would Religions React?”

So what is Life? and other perplexing questions...

- The Heliocentric Challenge
- “If We Made Contact With Aliens, How Would Religions React?”
- Core Patterns in the Universe



United Methodist Perspective

From The Book of Discipline:

- ¶160.E, the church recognizes that “the universe, known and unknown, is the creation of God and is due the respect we are called to give the earth” and rejects efforts to weaponize space.
- ¶160.F, “We recognize science as a legitimate interpretation of God’s natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims of science in describing the natural world and in determining what is scientific. We preclude science from making authoritative claims about theological issues and theology from making authoritative claims about scientific issues. . . . We find that as science expands human understanding of the natural world, our understanding of the mysteries of God’s creation and word are enhanced.”

United Methodist Perspective

From “The Long View” – Reflections on God, Life and Nature:

- “The theological history of the church is that we have consistently made God too small and ourselves too important. In the sixteenth century, a Herculean effort on the part of scientists was required to overcome the church’s objections to the observable fact that the earth revolves around the sun rather than the other way around. Unfortunately, there have always been those in the church who resist scientific discoveries that demonstrate that God is much bigger than we thought.”

- Don Underwood



Resources –

- www.startrek.com
- <http://www.kevincneece.com/the-gospel-according-to-star-trek.html>
- https://www.nasa.gov/topics/technology/features/star_trek.html
- <https://www.nasa.gov/content/the-search-for-life>
- <http://memory-alpha.wikia.com/wiki/Portal:Main>
- <http://www.lcarscom.net/>
- <http://www.startrekdesktopwallpaper.com/>
- <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060028/>
- <http://www.treknews.net/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StarTrek/>
- <http://tricorder.xprize.org/>
- <http://www.roddenberry.com/>
- <http://vitotechnology.com/star-walk.html>
- UMC FaithLink – Star Trek and Christian Faith (Sep 4, 2016)
- UMC FaithLink – Life in Another Solar System? (Mar 26, 2017)