

Trini Tidings 2016



Lent/Easter

**Trinity United Church
Portage la Prairie, MB**

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Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Trinity Mission Goal:

“Open our hearts and minds
to welcome each person
as a child of God.”

Ecumenical Good Friday Worship “It is Finished...?”

Please join us at
McKenzie United Church
(11th street NW)
**Friday, March 25
10:30 a.m.**

This is a shared worship
service with the Anglican and
United Churches in
Portage la Prairie.
All are welcome.



Saturday Breakfasts are Back!

Mark your calendars for the
upcoming Breakfasts at Trinity
Saturday mornings
from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
*(no cost – donations are
gratefully accepted)*
Saturday, May 7
*(Mother's Day special –
all male kitchen crew!)*
Saturday, June 11

COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP at TRINITY

**Sunday Services and Sunday
School at 10:30 a.m.**

March 13, 2016

Irish Stew Lunch After Worship

March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

March 25, 2016

Good Friday Service 10:30 a.m.
at McKenzie

March 27, 2016

Easter Around the World
Communion
Handivan Day

April 3, 2016

We welcome the Manitoba
Masons to worship with us

April 10, 2016

Do You Love Me?

April 17, 2016

Strengthening Our Faith
Communion
Handivan Day

April 24, 2016

Love Beyond Measure
Sacrament of Baptism

May 1, 2016

Places of Prayer

May 8, 2016

Freedom Comes in Many
Forms

May 15, 2016

Pentecost - Communion
Handivan Day

Trinity's Special Events Calendar

UCW Spring Tea

Saturday, April 16
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

“Petal” Paint Night

Thursday, May 5
7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, May 7
8:30 – 10 a.m.

Ukrainian Nursery School

Art Show Exhibit

Saturday, May 14
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Trinity Treasures Sale

Fri., May 27, 4 – 7:00 p.m.
Sat., May 28, 9 a.m. – noon

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, June 11
8:30 – 10 a.m.



On March 27, Easter Sunday,
come early, any time after 10
a.m., and enjoy a delicious
selection of baked goods, fruit
and other yummy things will
chatting with fellow Easter
revelers. Then join us for an
all-ages service at 10:30 a.m.
Our Easter Sunday worship this
year will continue our focus on
the world around us by
exploring how Easter is
observed in different parts of
the world.

Did you know? Bermudans
celebrate Good
Friday by flying
homemade kites,
as well as eating
codfish cakes and
hot cross buns.



Trinity's Memorial Fund

At Easter time, we acknowledge the pain and grief of death. We stand beside the cross and weep with the women and men who loved Jesus. We hurry to the



tomb with the disciples unable to believe that life might find us even in the midst of death. We meet the Risen Christ beside the lakeshore and struggle to understand some of life's deepest mysteries.

One of the ways in which the miracle of life in the midst of death is made real here at Trinity is through Memorial donations we receive in memory of friends, family, neighbours and fellow church members who have died. These donations help us to continue the work that our deceased loved ones so faithfully pursued in life. It means that their contribution to this church community lives on after we are no longer able to share the joys and struggles of church life with them in person.

When you are making funeral arrangements for yourself or a loved one, consider naming the church community as a desired recipient of memorial donations. You might be surprised by how big an impact you can have by placing such an invitation in your obituary or funeral plans.

Here at Trinity, memorial gifts can be designated in a variety of ways. Trinity's Memorial Fund is set aside for the work of Worship and Christian Education in this congregation.

Memorial gifts are also gladly received to any other ministry of the church, designated or undesignated. If you wish, acknowledgements of your gift will be sent to the family of the one you remember, as well as a public acknowledgement when we dedicate memorial gifts each year.

Our memorial donations are one of the many ways in which we live out an Easter faith.

The Trinity Memorial Fund seeks to honour the life and faith of loved ones in ways that keep faith alive. We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since November 2015.

*Bruce Cantley
Frank Sissons
Bert Bazin
Mildred Zimmerman
Phyllis Askin
David Guy
Ken Smith
Derek Ferguson
Ken Ferguson
Frank Miazga
Marg & Wally Pehura*

Gifts were also received to the Mission & Service Fund, in memory of Joan Saunders & Margaret Walsh.

Hospital Visiting

Because of the Personal Health Information Act, it is so important to have someone contact the church office (204-857-4471) and request a hospital visit. Even if you sign the hospital consent, your ministers will not know that you are in hospital unless you find ways to tell us.



UPDATE 2016

Trinity Funerals & Baptisms since the November 2015 TriniTidings

Funerals

George William "Bruce" Cantley
December 7, 2015

Phyllis Irene Askin
December 28, 2015

James "Grant" Wilkinson
March 2, 2016

Baptisms

Nate Thomas Brugger
Son of Dean & Tara Brugger
December 27, 2015

Ava Grace Heggie
Daughter of Joel & Blair Heggie
December 27, 2015

Michael Matthews MacLaughlin
Son of
Andrew & Lesley Anne MacLaughlin
December 27, 2015



Can you Speak or Read Aloud in languages other than English? Would you be willing to do so on Easter Sunday? If so, please speak to Beth or Julie as soon as possible.

Did you know? In Michigan, Easter treats fall from the sky! Helicopters drop thousands of marshmallows for people to find for prizes. Can you imagine marshmallows raining from the sky?



Our Lenten journey is beginning. Once again we turn our faces towards the hope of resurrection.

The shining promise of new life that Easter offers calls to us like a beacon. But resurrection is about being raised to the new life that comes out of death. It's that death part that gives us pause as we look forward to resurrection.

Lent is the time when we take a long, hard look at ourselves to see what needs to die in order that we might truly live. Where is the abundant life God intends for us being blocked by fear, hatred, or despair? In what ways have we become accustomed to, even content with, a status quo that falls short of the fullness of life that God offers?

The transformative power of resurrection follows when we become truly ready to let go of those ways of thinking, believing, and acting that limit our capacity to receive and to share God's boundless love.

The first step towards readiness is to become aware—aware of how our attitudes and actions are getting in the way. That's what Lent is for, to take the time to look deeply and honestly at our lives. To identify what needs to change.

What must we let go of, in order that God's love might flow freely through us? May each of us make space in our life this Lent to ponder this question.

The Lenten invitation to self-reflection is both personal and communal.

Let us pray for courage to collectively undertake an examination of our church as well. Where do our beliefs, structures, or practices get

in the way of living out the gospel call to justice and compassion?

What is blocking us from fully embracing reconciliation and right relations? Or from becoming a truly bilingual and intercultural church?

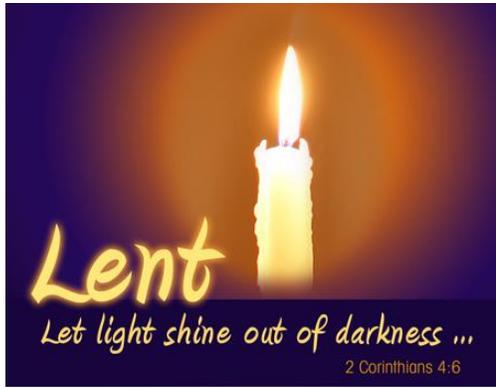
How do fear, apathy, and self-righteousness harden our hearts to the needs and concerns of others? What must we allow to die in our church in order that God may work resurrection among us?

The Lenten road of self-examination is not an easy one. But it is well worth the effort. For as we learn to die to that which does not give life, we open ourselves to the power of God's grace to bring us into new life.

May this be the path we choose during this season of Lent.

Jordan Cantwell, Moderator of The United Church of Canada (available as video message at: <http://www.united-church.ca/news/moderators-lenten-invitation>)

Did you know? In Norway, Sweden and Finland, an Easter tradition is for children to dress up as witches and go door to door asking for treats.



YOU ARE INVITED TO SPEND
EASTER
WITH US

Want to help us Celebrate Easter Sunday? We will be looking for participants to help with small activities during our Easter Sunday morning worship. If you would like a part, please be in touch with Beth or Julie as soon as possible. (No costumes – no memorizing!)

Our next Baptism Sunday will be **April 24**. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please speak to Julie by April 3.



what in the WORLD is going on?

Throughout the Season of Lent, we have been exploring how our faith connects with the world around us. Whether or not you have been able to join us thus far, you are welcome for our “extra, extra” special activities during Lent. “News and Views” Tea Time happens at Windsor Estates every Tuesday at 2 pm. You don't have to live there to come! (The last News and Views will be March 22).

Morning Prayer takes place in Trinity Lower Hall on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Each week our theme invites us to reflect on a characteristic that helps us engage with our world. Still to come: March 16 – “Gratitude” and March 23 – “Courage”. Don't worry, you can still get to work or other commitments by 8:30!

FOND FAREWELL...

Our sincere best wishes to some long time Trinity folk to whom we are saying goodbye. Since our last issue, Anne Rutherford has moved to Winnipeg and Joyce Rutter has moved to Saskatoon. Art and Mary Klassen will be moving to Altona this month. You will all be missed, and your presence will remain in our hearts.



Participants for Good Friday Service Needed:

*T*good
Friday



Trinity is responsible for providing three scripture readers, and three

symbol presenters for our Good Friday worship. You can be of any age. (Scripture readers need to be able to read clearly in public). If you are interested and available, please speak to Julie. We are also collecting some props for use in that service. If you have any of the following that you would be willing to lend, please let us know.

- a wooden cane or walking stick
- dove
- fairly large (but able to be easily carried) angel

Thanks!

Good Friday this year is March 25, 2016

Did you know? Each Easter in Guatemala, the people lace the streets of their villages with colorful sawdust carpets. On their way to Mass, the procession of faithful walk over the vibrant carpet leaving a trail of powdery rainbows in their wake.



Community Food Bank

On the second Sunday of every month we collect food here at Trinity for the Salvation Army Food Bank. This March, we will be collecting for the food bank **every Sunday**, thanks to a challenge from House Group E. So, you can bring food in any Sunday this month.

We also collect toiletries (small soaps, shampoos, sanitary supplies, toothpaste, etc.) for the Family Violence Abuse Prevention Centre (women's shelter) at the same time. You are encouraged to bring food or toiletries with you to leave in the bins in the entryway of the church. Thanks for your support of these important community outreach projects.



Passover Potluck Seder Supper Thursday, March 24 6:00 p.m.

McKenzie United Church

If you would like to attend please contact McKenzie United



(204-857-6027 or by email muc8511@shawbiz.ca) by Tuesday March 22. Be sure to indicate the number in your family who will be attending. (for accurate preparation of the symbolic foods). We will gather at the church at 5:30 p.m. with the service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Did you get a copy of our church's Annual Report? Pick up your print copy in the church office! You can also get all sorts of other information there from Jacquie, from offering envelopes to program information.

Annual Report



TRINITY TREASURES Sale X



May 27 & 28, 2016

Trinity will have another "Vintage Treasures Sale" in the auditorium on **Friday, May 27, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. & Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

We invite you, in your spring cleaning process, to consider saleable items as donations to the sale. **Please bring your donations in starting the week of May 2. Furniture and other large items will be accepted starting May 26.** We will not be picking up items, and clothing will not be accepted. Any valuable items considered to be beyond the scope of the sale criteria will be set aside on a "Silent Auction" table. Direct any questions to Carol at 204-857-8412 or the office at 204-857-4471.

Are you receiving TriniTidings?

If you know of someone who would like to receive TriniTidings, please have them call the office and we will add their name to our list. You may also contact us by e-mail trinityu@mymts.net



Transportation to Church

The Leadership Team of Trinity would like to make it



easier for seniors to get to and from church. We have an experiment that we'd like to try: the Handivan has agreed to make a special "Trip to Trinity" once a month on communion Sundays from Queen's Court, Windsor Estates and Dalton Grove. Volunteers from Trinity will escort seniors to and from worship on the Handivan. Trinity will cover the cost for a flat rate of \$120 per Sunday. If you live in one of those buildings, you can help by using the service. If you don't live there, you can help by coming early for coffee or tea and visiting at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary on those Sundays. Donations will also be gratefully accepted to help defray the costs of offering this service and can be made through your regular offering envelope or in the office during the week. Communion Sundays are: March 27 (Easter Sunday), April 17, May 15 (Pentecost Sunday) and June 12.

Did you know? In Norway, Easter is a 5 day bank holiday in which all the



businesses close save the grocery store on the Saturday before. During this time Norwegians celebrate by reading crime novels known as P askekrimmen as well as watching crime thrillers on TV. There are even mystery stories on milk cartons and magazines. Of course, why Norwegians celebrate Easter with this crime stuff is just one of those mysteries.

Old Eye Glasses –

If anyone has old eye glasses that they wish to donate, they can be placed in the marked boxes at the back of the church. They will be donated to those in need through the Lion's Club.



Games Night



Our group seems to be getting smaller, but the ones who come really look forward to it as most live on their own. The group homes depend on the staff being available.

This month (**Monday, March 28**) at 7:00 p.m. our three teens will be away, so anyone able to help would be much appreciated. Please contact Ferne Green or the church office (204-857-4471).

Trinity Giving Goals January & February

Goal - \$26,427

Given - \$27,927

Thank you!



Give Generously

Goal for March & April

\$30,723

Please help!

Are you on P.A.R.?

Have you thought about making your church donation



by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up, simply email or call Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) or come in some day during office hours (9-12 or 1-4), and she will walk you through the process. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase or decrease your PAR donation by contacting the office any time. Below is a list of some advantages of PAR that the stewardship interest group thought of:

- Environmentally friendly – no cheques, no envelopes
- Helps with personal budgeting
- Easy – no writing cheques, no looking for cash to put in envelope
- Helps with church finances creating a predictable cash flow, especially during summer months when expenditures still continue
- Easy to change by calling the church to adjust up, down or cease
- Less work for the counters on a Sunday and staff accumulating weekly contributions
- Solidifies your intention

Did you know? Switzerland is



not a fan of the Easter Bunny so the Easter Cuckoo is credited with bringing children eggs

instead. Interestingly, they still sell chocolate bunnies.

From the Past Will Come a Future

I sure like that hymn that we sang this morning," said Chris.

"You mean 'In the Bulb There Is a Flower?'" replied Kim. "You really took John Wesley's advice to heart."



"What advice?" asked Chris.

"To 'sing lustily and with good courage,'" Kim said, and added with a wink, "Sometimes I wish you had a little less courage!"

"But that hymn strikes me right to the core. It reminds me of the mystery of death and life—how endings can be beginnings."

After a moment of silence, Chris continued. "Now this is really going to sound odd, but it's got me thinking about an article I read the other day about creating a charitable gift out of a life insurance policy." Kim raised an eyebrow.

"Well," Chris continued, undeterred, "creating a gift of life insurance would be creating something new out of loss."

Kim thought for a moment and said, "Let me guess. You're thinking about those life insurance policies that we took out about fifteen years ago, aren't you?"

"Yes," said Chris. "I've been thinking that we've both got good jobs and our financial futures seem pretty secure, so we really don't need those policies anymore. So they would make nice gifts to the church."

"So how would this work?" asked Kim.

"Well, all we would have to do is either change the ownership of a policy to the church or name it as the beneficiary," explained Chris.

"If we named the church the beneficiary, it would receive the proceeds at death, and the estate would receive a donation receipt.

"But even better: if we made the church the owner of the policies, we would get donation tax receipts now for the cash surrender values—and receive tax receipts for all the premiums that we pay each year after that."

"Hmm," said Kim. "It would seem like a rather painless way to do something for our congregation."

"It puts a whole new spin on resurrection, doesn't it?" said Chris.

*From the past
will come a future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*
Natalie Sleeth,
In the Bulb There Is a Flower
(Voices United 703)

Why not create your own gift of new life through a life insurance policy?

It can be either a new policy, or like Chris and Kim, an existing one. You can name your congregation and/or any mission, fund or program of The

United Church of Canada as beneficiary.

Explore the possibilities! You can be in touch with the church office, or you can contact our regional gift planner, Kathryn Hofley, directly. She can help you set up whatever legacy gift you are interested in.

Kathryn Hofley
Financial Development Officer,
Philanthropy Unit
The United Church of Canada
2438 - 85 Garry St
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4J5
Phone: (204) 943-4844

UCW Spring "Nellie McClung" Tea

*Celebrating 100
Years since
Manitoba*

*women were the
first in Canada
and the British
Commonwealth
to be awarded the right to vote.*



Saturday, April 16

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

in the lower church auditorium
Baking & plants for sale
Come and enjoy treats
and tea or coffee
Admission by donation
All are welcome!
*(Donations of baking and plants
would be most welcome!)*

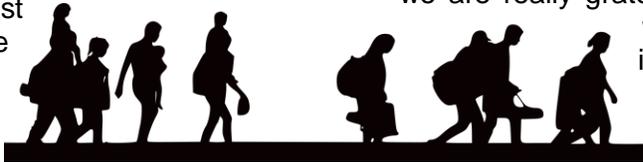
Did you know?



While children in other countries look for hidden Easter eggs, the Germans display their Easter eggs on trees and prominently in the streets. Some will have thousands of multi colored eggs hanging on them. Germans also burn their Christmas trees on Easter Sunday and eat a lot of green foods and spinach on Holy Thursday.

The Refugee Project

The last time we were able to report to you



through this newsletter, our refugee coalition had just begun its work. Many of you will know that much has happened over the last months. The coalition has worked hard to prepare for the arrival of two families. We have been matched with two families from Syria, who are currently in Lebanon. Each has two parents, and three children (mostly boys!) We are currently waiting for them to be cleared for travel.

Do you have some time to spare? Once the families arrive, there will be many opportunities for those who wish to help them get settled into our culture and community. We will need people willing to drive them around, help them with English, and extend hospitality through conversation. You are invited to call Trinity (204-857-4471 or trinityu@mts.net) if you are available to help in any of these areas.

Please note that all of our volunteers who will be having direct contact with the Syrian families upon their arrival will need to have completed a Criminal Records Check and a Child Abuse Registry Check. If you have not already done so, and would like to be part of the group offering support and hospitality (including drivers) when the families arrive, please be in touch with the church office (204-857-4471) so that we can help you navigate the required screening processes without charge.

Many donations came in and we are really grateful for those who helped in outfitting comfortable homes for our two families. Whether it has been time, talent, or treasures, thank you very much for your generosity!



It may be that everything you know about the Masons you learned from *The Davinci Code* or *Murdoch Mysteries*. Freemasonry is the oldest, and estimated to be one of the largest male fraternal organizations in the world. While they are not connected to a particular church, they follow traditions from the bible, and for the most part, its members are Christians. While they have a long (sometimes controversial history), today Freemasonry is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Freemason, or Mason, is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

On April 3, the Manitoba Lodge is coming to worship at Trinity. We look forward to including them in our worship. (And they might bring a surprise or two along – those of you who sit in the balcony might wish to find a different seat that day!)

We are pleased once again to host



the Prairie Sounds Music Festival here from Monday April 18 through Friday April 22. Feel free to stop in and enjoy fine entertainment from some of Portage's talented young musicians.

If you are leaving or arriving for a function during this time, please enter the building quietly if possible (noise in the stairwells tends to carry to upstairs).

"Petal" in Portage la Prairie TD Fine Arts



**Thursday, May 5
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

Trinity auditorium

\$45.20/person (includes taxes)
Please join us for an evening of painting, laughing & creativity - everyone leaves with their very own 16"x20" painting! No experience required. All supplies & instruction provided, by artist Toni Dent. So bring your friends and join the party! Seating is limited, so register early. Registrations preferred online at www.tdfinearts.com, on Trinity's Facebook page or with Iris Yuill 204-857-8708 or kiyuill@hotmail.com. Refreshments and snacks available for purchase. Open to everyone over 10 years of age.

Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns are older than you think! Ancient Egyptians offered them to their moon goddess at the Spring festival. The tradition had become popular in the Greek world by the time of Jesus and by the 6th century, Christians were using them as part of their Easter celebrations.



Most European countries have some sort of special bread that is served at Easter, and hot cross buns have filled that role in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, the United States, South Africa, India and New Zealand. In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I passed a law declaring they were special so could only be sold for burials, Good Friday and Christmas. The penalty for violating the law was that the baker's entire stock of buns must be given to the poor.

English folklore says that buns baked and served on Good Friday could hang in the kitchen for an entire year without going mouldy. Hanging a bun in the kitchen is said to help all the other baking turn out better for the year and protect against fires. The bun hung in the kitchen would not be eaten unless someone was sick and then a small piece would be mixed with water and given as medicine. Hot cross buns were taken on sea voyages to prevent shipwrecks. Sharing a hot cross bun with a friend was said to cement the relationship for the next year. An Irish nursery rhyme goes: "Half for you and half for me, between us two, good luck shall be."

The Walrus Talks Spirituality

Examining faith, cultures, community, and the role of spirituality in our secular society **Monday, April 4, 5:45 pm – 7:30 p.m. Manitoba time.** Presented by *The Observer*, the event is in Toronto, but you can watch a live stream at home, or at **McKenzie United Church** (85-11th St NW)

Speakers include:

Nicole Brooks, creator, filmmaker, performer, playwright and teacher,
Natalie Bull, executive director, National Trust for Canada,
Lewis Cardinal, Cardinal Strategic Communications, specialist in Indigenous education,
Timothy Caulfield, author specializing in ethical, legal, and health issues, *Joan Garson*, president, Holy Blossom Temple,

Michael Ingham, retired Anglican bishop and theologian,
Gretta Vosper,

minister, The United Church of Canada.

You can access the live stream by clicking on this link:

<http://ucobserver.org/walrustalks/>

Are you interested to know more about what's happening in the Middle East?

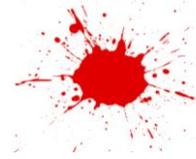
The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel plans to host a 2 hour workshop here at Trinity at the beginning of April. Check our Facebook page or call the office for more information as it becomes available.



The Portage Ukrainian Nursery School invites you to their 4th Annual Art Show **Saturday, May 14 1-3 p.m.**

Trinity Auditorium

This year the children are making Jackson Pollock-style splatter paintings, collaborating at the paint easel with their parent-helpers and exploring their nursery school world through the lens of a camera. Each class is working on larger group pieces that will be up for silent auction. Come and meet our artists as they proudly display their work!



Save the date for a

POOL PARTY!

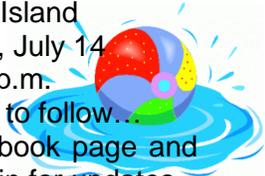
Splash Island

Thursday, July 14

6:00 p.m.

More details to follow...

Watch our Facebook page and the church bulletin for updates.



Did you know? Instead of an Easter Bunny, Australia has an Easter Bilby bring the eggs! One of the reasons behind this change is to create awareness of the bilby which is an endangered species (a marsupial that resembles a mouse). Also, there's a strong dislike for bunnies which are considered pests that destroy crops.



Have you looked at our photo directory lately? We all look so young! That's because it's time for an update. The Leadership Team is looking for a coordinator for this large project. Is it you? We'd love to hear from you.

