

Trini Tidings 2017



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 "The Holy Week Story"

Please join us at
St. Mary's Anglican Church
Friday, April 14

10:30 a.m.

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

All are welcome.



COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP at TRINITY

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

March 26, 2017

Who Pushed My Button:

"You Drive Me Crazy"

April 2, 2017

Who Pushed My Button:

"The Family Circus"

April 9, 2017

Who Pushed My Button:

"Who's the Boss?"

Cookie Sale following worship

April 14, 2017

Good Friday Service 10:30 a.m.
at St. Mary's

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday Celebration with
Confirmation and Communion

April 23, 2017

"Believing May be Easy,
but Faith is Slow"

Potluck following worship

April 30, 2016

"Walking the Road of Life
and Faith"

May 7, 2017

"The Gate to Abundant Life"
Sacrament of Baptism

May 14, 2017

"What's Your House Made Of?"

May 21, 2017

"Groping for a God
Who is Not Far Off"

May 28, 2017

Worship at Canad Inns with the
Conference of Manitoba and
Northwestern Ontario –
Guest Preacher:

The Rev. Jordan Cantwell,
Moderator of The United
Church of Canada

Lent Morning Prayer happens
at Trinity every Wednesday
morning at 7:30 a.m. followed
by a simple breakfast. There
are still a few more
opportunities for you
to attend if you wish.
All are welcome
March 29, April 5
and April 12.



Trinity's Special Events Calendar

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, April 8
8:30 – 10 a.m.

**Ukrainian Nursery School
Art Show Exhibit**

Saturday, April 29
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, May 13
8:30 – 10 a.m.

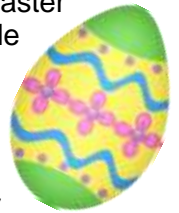
Trinity Treasures Sale

Fri., June 2, 4 – 7:00 p.m.
Sat., June 3, 9 a.m. – noon

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday, June 10
8:30 – 10 a.m.

On April 16, Easter
Sunday, come a little
early (10 a.m.) and
enjoy a festive time
of food and
celebration before
we enter into our
worship celebration at 10:30
a.m. Easter always bring
surprises, but this year there
will be lots of unexpected
moments for us - planned and
led by the confirmation class.
We look forward to celebrating
with them on this joyful day.



For the month of
March, Group E is
collecting the
stickers from
Coop's Fuel Up
to Win contest. Any
stickers you may have can
be brought to church on
Sunday and dropped in the
fancy wrapped box at the south
door exit. The box will also be
available at Jacquie's desk
during the week. Some of the
items that can be won would be
of benefit to the Syrian families
or Habitat Homes (there are 2
homes being built this year).
The Fuel Up to Win contest
ends April 20, 2017.

Update on the Refugee Project

As part of an ecumenical coalition of churches in Portage and area, Trinity has been sponsoring



two families of 5 both originally from Syria. One family arrived in November and the other family arrived in December. Both are busy learning English and getting used to how things work in Canada.

It is hard for us to imagine what it must be like to leave behind everything you have ever known and move to a country where you do not speak the language and the language that is spoken is even written with a different alphabet. And for these families, like all refugees, it is not because they have chosen the adventure of moving to a new country but because it is not safe for them to go home to their own country. Given all the stress of such a move, we continue to be astounded by their resilience and their desire to build a new future for themselves here in Canada.

They have been eagerly embracing Canadian winter traditions – learning how to skate as well as an outing to go tubing which they were disappointed that they could not repeat because winter is almost over. Indoor activities such as bowling and entertaining others for meals have also been popular. If you would like to drop by sometime for coffee or take them on an outing, they would love to meet you. Just let us know at the church office

and we will arrange an introduction.

As we near the midpoint of our yearlong commitment to these families, we will be exploring ways to help them find employment

and discover what their hopes and dreams are for their future here in Canada. To that end, if you have small construction or painting jobs that you might be interested in having someone do, please let us know here at the church office.

Finally, the House Group for April has invited them to join us for a potluck lunch after worship on April 23 so if you have not yet had a chance to meet them, this would be a great opportunity to do so. When considering what to bring for the potluck, please remember that these families are Muslim and thus do not eat pork in any form (includes gelatin which is in marshmallows and some candies as well as lard).

Thank you for all your support of this project. We truly could not do this without your help.



Ever thought of sharing the gift of learning with someone

facing challenges? Portage Learning and Literacy Centre is looking for volunteers to work one on one in a classroom setting with students who struggle with reading and writing and with mathematics. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call Laurie at 204-857-6304 or fill out a volunteer application form at our website, www.pllc.ca.

Games Night

We took a break in January and resumed our activities in February with great enthusiasm.



Sixteen participants, plus staff and volunteers, enjoyed our games, prizes and lunch. Two more people volunteered so we were fine, although three of our volunteers were unable to attend. It's great to have the support.

Next evenings are March 27, April 24 and May 22 at 7:30 p.m. and our June windup will end our year.

Welcome to the Bakr and Al Hallaq Families!



House Group D invites you out to enjoy a potluck lunch following church on **April 23** to welcome the Bakr and Al

Hallaq families to Portage. As you probably know, these families were sponsored by the Portage and Area Refugee Coalition and arrived in Canada in November and December respectively. They are settling into life in Portage and we think it is time for them to experience a warm Trinity welcome! Both families have children and teens, so it would be great to see a crowd of all ages come out. Bring your potluck item and the house group will do the rest! Out of respect for our new friends, please do not bring dishes containing pork or pork byproducts (i.e. Gelatin, marshmallow, lard, bacon, etc.). If your dish is vegetarian or made with Halal meat, please label it as such. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Baker or Stephanie Verhoeven.

“We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.”

When Mary completed university, she was not going to attend the graduation services. All her friends had agreed, “It was only a



piece of paper.” It was “cool” to be anti-establishment. Then Mary’s father gave his famous speech about how “We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.” He pointed out that because Mary’s grandparents had believed in higher education for all their children - sons and daughters - all his children should go to college or university, too. Then he got on a real roll. It was the road system next—how all the taxpayers contributed to the road system which provided safe transportation for Mary to travel to school. And then he talked about “Alice”, her car. Mrs. Lidster from church had sold it to Mary at a reasonable price, because Mrs. Lidster also wanted her to be able to go to university.

And he went on! But the last words Mary always remembered were, “If, in 4 years at university, you haven’t learned that you stand on the shoulders of those who came before you, then you haven’t learned much.” Needless to say, Mary went to the graduation. And so did her grandfather, her aunts and uncles, and the rest of the family. They all claimed a piece of Mary’s success.

We in The United Church of Canada stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Their legacies have kept church doors open, educated and trained disciples, offered care and comfort to those in pain and grief, fed the hungry and visited the sick, answered the call for emergency

relief, and this is just the beginning.

Today the church needs you to leave a legacy. Those yet to come need their opportunity to stand on our shoulders.

So please consider creating a legacy gift for the church through a bequest in your will. You can name the church with a specific bequest. You can also make use of contingent, residual and trust remainder bequests when other specific bequest have been filled, or named beneficiaries have died. You can also make a gift of life insurance. In this case, you make the church the beneficiary of insurance policies, instead of your estate. In that way, you can contribute small amounts at a time to create a substantial future gift. Your estate will also receive tax benefits and avoids probate fees.

You can donate stocks, mutual funds and bonds directly any time, and avoid paying capital gains taxes.

Do you want some help? Do you need sample wordings for your will to ensure your wishes are made clear? Then contact United Church Gift Planner Kathryn Hofley 204-943-4844 khofley@united-church.ca

“Why I Give”

I love The United Church of Canada, and I give so it continues its healthy and vibrant ministry as an all-important alternative voice in a world that needs us and everything we stand for.



While we are not perfect, I cannot imagine my life without this amazing denominational home that I am so proud to serve. It is about love: of faith, of people, of service, and especially of a church that is authentic, faith-filled, and inspired. I give because I am deeply grateful.

Brenda Watt
Stewardship Consultant,
Minister,
Crossfield United Church,
Alberta

Trinity Giving Goals January & February

Goal - \$26,331
Given - \$31,147

Thank you!



**Goal for
March & April
\$28,941
Please help!**

The Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario is coming to Portage!

May 25-28 United Church delegates will descend on our community for their meeting, and we are the hosts! Trinity has an exceptionally capable and committed group coordinating local arrangements and we look forward to your help, as well as the help of surrounding local congregations. The theme of the weekend is "Being the Church – not because we have to!" The meeting itself will be held at Canad Inns – thanks to Jason Hannah, who has negotiated a uniquely positive agreement with the hotel for meals and facilities. Youth will sleep at McKenzie United Church, while Trinity will act as a hosting hub for lots of other things, and may be a workshop locations as well.

Here are some of the ways that you can be involved:

1. You can offer a bed and breakfast for one or more delegates for the weekend. If you can provide a billet, please be in touch with Kim Sissons or Paulette Connery. (see information elsewhere in the newsletter)

2. You can help provide the snacks and beverages for various coffee breaks for the delegates throughout the weekend (see information elsewhere in the newsletter), and speak to Ethel Mae Greenslade, Joy Bray or Sandra Falk for more information.



**I'M GOING TO CHURCH TOMORROW
I'm so excited.**



3. You can help set up or staff the bookstore for the event. We will need a number of volunteers who can move boxes of books, but also people

who are willing to take a shift selling books (you need to be comfortable taking money and filling out credit card slips etc.) Talk to Terry Lee if you could

take a shift or several, particularly Friday and Saturday.

4. You can be part of the team of camera operators who follow the "action" of the meeting. Volunteers are required for Thursday evening, Friday all day, and parts of Saturday, including Saturday evening, as well as Sunday morning.

5. You can be part of a set up and tear down crew – we will probably be moving chairs and tables Saturday evening to prepare for the Sunday morning worship service!

6. If you are a musician, you can help add to the music and singing at the event. Please speak to Carol Zacharias if that is your interest.

7. You can participate as a visitor in the meeting. Please note that there will be workshops open to the public on Saturday at a small cost. As information on the workshops becomes available we will pass it on. If you are interested in

attending, please let the church office know so that we can keep you informed.

8. You can come to the Sunday morning worship service, which will be held at Canad Inns, instead of at Trinity that day. The Moderator of The United Church of Canada will be the preacher. We will also be looking for ushers, and other volunteer help for Sunday morning, if you'd like to do that.

There may well be other opportunities. Thanks to those who have already agreed to help with specific tasks not listed above. While planning thus far has required us to "hurry up and wait", the next couple of months will turn up the level of activity. If you would like to be involved, or offer to help, please speak to any of the members of the Trinity hosting group:
 Kim Guy: 204-857-3551 and Owen McKenzie: 204-856-7040 (co-chairs)
 Jason Hannah: 204-857-4489
 Terry Lee: 204-239-6741
 Sandra Falk: 204-857-6961
 Joy Bray: 204-857-7419
 Ethel Mae Greenslade: 204-857-6904
 Paulette Connery: 204-857-8587
 Kim Sissons: 204-239-5404
 Julie Baker: 204-857-4471

UPDATE 2017

Trinity Funerals since the November 2016 Trini Tidings

Funerals

Gillian Charlotte Harkness
December 19, 2016

Jacobus Kok
December 28, 2016

Shirley Ann Wood
January 6, 2017

Katherine Helen Lamb
February 3, 2017

Mona Violet Baker
February 3, 2017

Elsie Lynne Christie
February 14, 2017

Michelle Dawn Killam
March 16, 2017



Trinity's Memorial Fund

Spring is a time of new possibility.

The snow and ice melts and the ground which has been buried begins to appear.

Tentatively

and yet persistently, new shoots begin to pop through that cold, moist soil. Eventually, new flowers bloom where all seemed dead just a few months previously.

When we die, we can still support new life for the people and organizations we love through bequests in our wills and through memorial donations collected at the time of our funeral or memorial service. You might be surprised how big donation you can make to the life and work of the church or another organization you believe in simply by leaving the instruction "Memorial donations may be made to " in your funeral arrangements.

Trinity's Memorial Fund supports new life here at Trinity by providing funding for worship and Christian Education activities. Whether it is repairs to the sound system so that everyone can hear or gifts for new members at Confirmation or a new laptop so we can more easily show videos in worship and Sunday School, the monies in the Memorial Fund helps us to continue to offer relevant and engaging ministry to people of all ages both on Sunday and throughout the week.

Memorial donations can also be made to the General Fund to support our on-going expenses



(not much sense to have a laptop or sound system without electricity to run it), to the Building Fund to help with upkeep of our historic building, to the Mission and Service Fund to support the outreach work of the United Church of Canada or to

any other particular ministry of the church, if desired. Please talk to us at the church office if you would like more information.

Thank you for all the ways in which you support our life and work here at Trinity.

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 2016.

- David Guy*
- Loreena Pogue*
- Frank Sissons*
- Shelly Ferguson*
- Derek Ferguson*
- Amy Thomas*
- Bert Bazin*
- Gillian Harkness*
- Irene Quigley*
- Roy Tibbett*
- Bunnie Muhly*
- Elsie Mulder*
- Joan Brown*
- Jake Kok*
- Mona Baker*

Wally & Marg Pehura
Gifts were also received to the Mission & Service Fund, in memory of Irene Quigley, Rick Blight and Gillian Harkness. A donation to the General Fund was received in memory of Audrey & Hamilton Sullivan.

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.

Kids at Conference!



There are opportunities for children and youth to participate in the Conference meeting May 25-28 in Portage. If

you are grade 9-12, you participate in the meeting, and have fun and sleep at McKenzie United Church overnight. Cost is \$150 for the weekend.

If you are grade 7-9, you are a Y-TAC (Young Teens at Conference) and you participate in a program for youth during the days and sleep with the older youth at McKenzie. If you are grade 4-6, you are a PRE-TAC (Pre-teens at Conference) and get to spend the weekend with kids your age, and sleep at home!

We're currently researching fun activities and outings around Portage for you! Pre-Tac and Y-Tac costs are \$70 for the weekend and include meals. If you are interested in attending, there are limited spots available. Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/MNWOConf/70394731749263> The Leadership Team may be willing to subsidize costs for youth who request (have your request into the Leadership Team by April 12).

50+ Ways to Live Your Faith

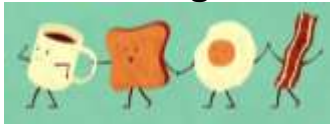
From Trinity Confirmation Class

1. Say good day to everyone
2. Smile
3. Don't hate anyone
4. Share stories
5. Take someone's side when they are down
6. Make time to be with people
7. Baking
8. Checking in with people you don't talk to often
9. Talking on phone
10. Stay healthy
11. Stopping yourself from yelling when you want to (reframing)
12. Reading
13. Be grateful
14. Being mindful
15. Forgiving
16. Plant flowers
17. Be honest
18. Be humble
19. Be kind
20. Do what you think is the right thing to do
21. Be open to change (open-minded)
22. Don't judge
23. Remember everyone is God's child
24. Spread love
25. Sing loud for all to hear
26. Write a letter
27. Keep a diary
28. Give hugs
29. Welcome refugees
30. Draw or doodle
31. Do yoga
32. Dance
33. Encourage (lift somebody up)
34. Volunteer
35. Give
36. And receive
37. Share
38. Live, laugh, love, play
39. Explore other faiths
40. Do not abuse people or power



41. Care for animals
42. Treat all people as equals
43. Make time for the isolated
44. Appreciate nature
45. Be responsible
46. Don't harm
47. Feed the hungry
48. Spend some time alone
49. Be intrigued by things you don't understand
50. Try new things
51. Be still
52. Pray

Saturday Breakfasts Back Again!



Who doesn't love the Saturday breakfasts? Maybe those of you who haven't been to one yet! They return on Saturday April 11. Come and join us any time between 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and get a good start to the day. The menu will include breakfast enchiladas (not spicy, and served with salsa & sour cream), muffins, fruit cups, coffee, tea & juice. Cost is by donation and anyone is welcome.

This year we're inviting different people to organize each breakfast. Would you be willing to host a Trinity Breakfast? Can you gather a small group to help you? We hold them on the second Saturday of spring and fall months. You pick which month. You set the menu. It could be pancakes and bacon, sausage and eggs, fruit and quiche, or whatever your imagination comes up with! If you would be willing, the Leadership Team would be grateful! Sign up for your date through the church office. We are still looking for someone to host May 13 & June 10.

Looking for Billets!

Are you willing to open your home to United Church Conference delegates? We are looking for people who could provide a second home to those attending the meeting from places as far away as Marathon Ontario or Lynn Lake Manitoba. (or perhaps Winnipeg or Roblin too). We need bed and breakfast for Thursday night, May 25 to Sunday morning May 28. If you could offer a space in your home, please speak to Paulette Connery or Kim Sissons. Please also indicate how many people you can accommodate (single, couple, family) and whether you have limitations of any kind (space is for female only, or there is a long flight of stairs to the bathroom, or everyone in the house will be super grumpy in the morning!) You may also be in touch with the Trinity office.



Good Friday Participation!



This year our Good Friday

service will offer a dramatic re-telling of the events near the end of Jesus' life. We are looking for readers/actors who would be willing to take a part. We have small and large parts, as well as roles for people who could shout out a line from where they sit. We are also hoping to form a joint Anglican/United Church choir for one song. If you are interested in taking part in any of these ways, please speak to Julie or contact the church office (204-857-4471).

Save the date
for a



Splash Island
Thursday, July 13
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Are you able to make a caring phone call or visit with someone over coffee or tea on behalf of the church? If so, then the Grief Team would welcome your help. We are looking for people who would be willing to follow-up with someone who has had a death in their family. Typically, volunteers will get asked a few times a year to make contact with someone (usually someone we think they will already know). If the particular contact or timing we are suggesting is not a good fit, we encourage volunteers to say no at that time and we will try you again later with someone else. We like to have a wide diversity of volunteers so that we can connect people to others in the congregation with whom we think they might be able to have a meaningful conversation about their loss. If you have questions or would like to have your name added to the lists, please talk to Iris Yuill or Brenda Moorhouse or contact the church office.



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.



Food at Conference!



United Church Conference is coming to Portage la Prairie this spring (May 26-28, 2017). We are planning for about 300 delegates to attend the conference and for about 500 people to attend Sunday morning worship. We would like to show them some true prairie hospitality with some yummy treats at coffee breaks during the weekend and a celebratory coffee-time after worship on Sunday morning. Working together with the CanadInn team, we have developed a plan where they will provide the food for meals and we will be bringing in coffee/tea service and loaves, cookies and cakes for the coffee time treats (these will need to include treats for special diets). We have a committee in place to organize food and worker needs. We are not in this alone, as several churches within our presbytery have already offered help. Those of us who are on one of the Catering Teams at Trinity will likely receive a phone call in early May asking for some help, but if you are not on a team and would like to contribute some baking for this event, please leave your name and phone number with the church office or speak to Ethel-Mae Greenslade, Joy Bray or Sandra Falk.

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.



We are pleased once again to host the



Prairie Sounds Music Festival here from Monday, April 17 through Thursday, April 20. 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).

TRINITY TREASURES Sale XI June 2 & 3, 2017



Trinity will have another "Vintage Treasures Sale" in the auditorium on **Friday, June 2, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. & Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

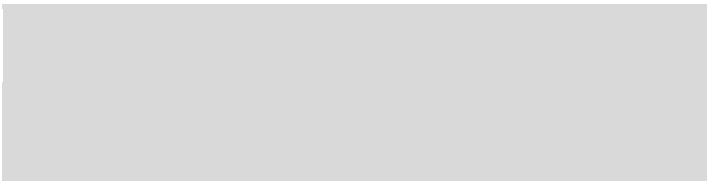
We invite you, in your spring cleaning process, to consider saleable items as donations to the sale. **Please bring your donations in starting the week of May 1. Furniture and other large items will be accepted starting May 29.** We will not be picking up items, and clothing will not be accepted. Any 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 Iris Yuill at 204-857-8708, Patti Brown at 204-857-7145 or the office at 204-857-4471.

The Portage Ukrainian Nursery School invites you to their 5th Annual Art Show



**Saturday, April 29
1-3 p.m.
Trinity Auditorium**

All are invited by the nursery school children to their 5th Annual Art Show and Auction on Saturday, April 29 from 1-3 p.m. in the Auditorium. Come and enjoy the children's acrylic paintings, watercolours, self-portraits, Mondrian-inspired collages and their take on Chihuly glass sculptures. Some small and large art pieces will be available for sale if you'd like to brighten a spot in your home or office.



**McKenzie United Church
Beef Supper**



85 - 11th Street NW
**Wednesday, April 12
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**
Adults (13 and over) \$15.00
Children 6 to 12 \$7.00
Children under 6 Free
Everyone welcome!

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.

He is Risen: Family Devotions for Easter Week - Get free daily devotionals in your inbox from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday by going to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B00NyP6PGJTFenBqN2NQMIJQbkk/view>.

Each devotional is designed to focus on the significance of Easter - in just a few minutes a day!

Save the date – The UCW is having a cookie sale following worship on **Sunday, April 9**. Come and pick your own. \$5/dozen.



Community Clothes Cupboard is looking for donations of gently used clothing suitable for work attire. Donations may be dropped off at Portage Learning and Literacy Centre, 110 Saskatchewan Avenue West, Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:30.

Photo Directories – We are getting closer to having our directories in hand. They are in the final stages of production, and we hope to have them available by Easter. Thanks to everyone for your patience. We know they will be worth the wait!



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



Rock Lake United Church Camp offers a camping ministry for children ages 4 and up. Registration for counsellors and campers is now open for the 2017 camping season. If you are interested in finding out more, check out their website at <http://www.rocklake.com/>



Did you know? You can donate shares of publicly traded companies directly to Trinity United Church. If you are concerned about Capital Gains on shares you own, you have the ability to donate those shares to Trinity, and receive a charitable donation for the full amount of your shares. For more information you can contact Trinity Treasurer Greg Cochrane at 204-871-6293.

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”
- Anne Bradstreet



Our next Baptism Sunday will be **May 7**. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please contact the church office by April 10.

