TriniTidings 2017



Spring Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie, MB

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Website: <u>www.trinityunitedportage.ca</u>

Trinity Mission Goal: "Open our hearts and minds to welcome each person as a child of God."

Bantized

May 07, 2017 Owen James Hulme, Child of Mallory & Ryan

Isla Mary Jean Rae, Child of Olivia & A.J.

Keidon Douglas Sissons, Child of Amy & Blye

COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP at TRINITY

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

<u>May 21, 2017</u>

"Groping for a God Who is Not Far Off"

<u>May 28, 2017</u>

NOTE TIME and PLACE Change! Worship at Canad Inns at 10:00 a.m. with the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario –

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Moderator of The United Church of Canada

<u>June 04, 2017</u>

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as _ in heaven."

<u>June 11</u> "Give us today our daily bread."

June 18 "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

<u>June 25</u>

"Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen."

BILLETS

ARE NEEDED! Room(s), breakfast and showers are required for United Church Conference participants from May 25 - 28 (3 nights). Not much hosting is required.

If you are able to host please call: Paulette Connery 204-857-8587 or Kim Sissons 204-239-5404



Trinity's Special Events Calendar

Games Night Monday, May 29 7:00 pm

Trinity Treasures Sale XI Friday, June 02, 4:00 pm—7:00 pm Saturday, June 03 9:00 am—12:00 pm

> **Breakfast at Trinity** Saturday, June 10 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Games Night Windup Monday, June 19

Trinity Pool Party Thursday, July 13 Splash Island 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine?



We now have some new volunteers and everyone is enjoying them along with our teens. Thank you to all who come out to help and also to all the donations of cookies and other treats we thoroughly enjoy.

Because of our extra help and the fact the group homes seem to come only sporadically we could accommodate a few more participants so if you are aware of anyone who would enjoy our games night, we would be able to welcome them. We would prefer someone to bring them to the church but can likely give them a ride home.

Next games night

MONDAY, MAY 29 7:00 pm

Trinity's

As Spring bursts forth with green grass, new leaves, and colourful flowers, our thoughts often turn to the things that bring joy, beauty and new life to our world. Longer days make it easier for us to appreciate the sunshine and the wind, the rain and the trees, the birds and the animals. Spring and summer also provide numerous opportunities to connect with family and friends and to appreciate the people in our lives.

At Trinity, our Memorial Fund is one of the ways that we appreciate the beauty and joy which has been brought into our lives by people we have been privileged to care about on our life journey. Gifts to the Memorial Fund help support the life of this congregation both now and in the future by funding ministries of Christian Education and Worship. You can make a significant contribution to the life and work of Trinity United Church by asking that Memorial donations be made to Trinity in your funeral plans.

Memorial donations can also be made to the General Fund to support our ongoing expenses, 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.

With grateful hearts, we give thanks for the beauty we have known through the lives of the following people in whose honour memorial donations have been received since March 2017:



PORK BBQ COORDINATOR REQUIRED

years, Trinity United Church has held a fundraising pork barbeque over A Friday noon hour in June. At this time, no coordinator(s) have been found for this event. If you wish to see it go forward, and are willing to coordinate it, we'd be glad to hear from you. If you wish to coordinate a different fundraising event instead, the Leadership Team would be glad to hear that too! Thanks to everyone who has contributed time and talent to many pork barbeques over years.

Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it."

L.M. Montgomery



Whether you are a shopper or a de-clutterer, Trinity's awesome sale is back for its eleventh time!

- Please bring donations to Trinity no later than May 31.
 - Furniture accepted beginning June 01.

QUESTIONS:

Iris Yuill 204-857-8708

or Auna Marie Brown 204-857-8911

UPDATE 2017

Trinity Funerals since the March 2017 TriniTidings

Funerals

Michelle Dawn Killam March 06, 2017

> Roy Stronski March 26, 2017

Cornelius Vincent Furdievich April 20, 2017

> Andrew Bird April 29, 2017

Roger Nishi May 3, 2017

FOCUS

Plans for Spring Seeding 2017

Our local project for the Canadian Food Grains Bank is once again making plans to grow crops this year to help alleviate hunger in our world. In 2016, FOCUS raised over \$126,000 for the Canadian Food Grains Bank which after matching contributions from the Government of Canada raised \$630,000 to help with world hunger. Donations to help with inputs can be made out to FOCUS and sent to Tony Peters, RR #2, Box 37, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3A2. Receipts available for donations of \$20 or more.

QUESTIONS/INFORMATION

Flyers are at the usher's station. - or -Talk to Dave Falk (204-856-6626)

Canadian Foodgrains Bank A Christian Response to Hunger

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The governance structure at Trinity has undergone significant changes over the past several years. We have moved from a primarily committee structure to a team, house group and interest group structure. We have had many successes with these changes along with some challenges. I'd like to acknowledge Val Garlick's leadership as we embarked on this journey of change. In addition to her role on the structure task group, Val took on the first chair of the new Leadership Team. Val initiated opportunities for the Leadership Team to be more connected with the congregation through monthly leadership reports as part of the Sunday announcements. She also guided us in becoming more purposeful in demonstrating our gratitude for volunteers by having the Leadership Team send thank you notes every month. Out of a desire to promote a sense of community and connectedness. Val initiated and coordinated monthly Saturday morning breakfasts. Val did so much more, but she is a strong example of what can happen through volunteers. There are many more in the congregation who demonstrate the power of volunteers every day. Trinity cannot function without you.

We are continually faced with the challenge of finding volunteers. Volunteers are challenged with balancing their time between work, family, community and personal commitments. We also must recognize that much of our volunteer base is aging or for health reasons is unable to volunteer as they used to. One of the impacts on Trinity is that we are unable to continue undertaking some events. The Leadership Team made a decision some time ago that if there were no volunteers to run an event, we would discontinue event. We can often get people to help with the work of an event, but have difficulty getting coordinators to lead the event. The Pork Barbeque is one such event that will be cancelled this year if we don't get volunteers to run it. We are faced with a similar challenge in getting a coordinator(s) for the Saturday breakfasts, and come Fall we will need a coordinator for the monthly Handivan transportation.



While we value all of these projects, we also recognize that we cannot do everything and thus we need to be prepared to let go of those projects for which we do not have the volunteer energy at this time. We do not want to do things out of a sense of obligation or because we have always done them but rather want to do what brings vitality to our congregational life.

We would encourage those who are able, to consider how you might contribute to the volunteer ministry at Trinity. Don't be afraid to step forward. There are always others to help you along the way.

Debbie Nelson, Chair

Rock Lake United Church Camp

Summer is on its way, and with it comes the camping season. Consider sending your children to a week or even a couple of days at Rock Lake. It's an experience they won't forget. Everything you need to know about Rock Lake Camp, including registration information is available at http://www.rocklake.com/

If you have teens looking for opportunities for their summer, there are counsellor positions available. Counsellors can sign up for all summer, or only some weeks, but please apply as soon as possible. There is a last minute staff vacancy for the position of Waterfront Director (must have NLS). Interested people should apply immediately!

Rock Lake is so grateful to the people of Trinity who put so much time and talent into making a beautiful quilt for the Rock Lake Camp Quilt Auction held in April. The proceeds were approximately \$14000. Thank you for your support!

Trinity UCW is willing to offer financial assistance to those children who could not otherwise attend Rock Lake, but would like to go. For more information, please call Trinity office or speak to Unit C President, Carol Wiebe.



A message from Val Garlick

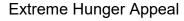
Hello, everyone! As many of you know, I've been managing some significant health concerns in 2017, following a diagnosis of terminal cancer in March. I wish to thank Trinity congregation for all of your support over the past few months. Everything from rides to medical appointments to cards filled with kind words to phone calls, visits and prayers have reminded me of how God's love surrounds us each day.



בסעלבצבעועב וצ כסשועט

Are you available to help out on the weekend

of Thursday May 25 – Sunday May 28? Volunteer helpers are welcomed for many tasks: You can help with the bookstore, or operate the meeting cameras. You can move tables and chairs or drive things and people around. We will need people for the bookstore to take shifts of selling books, but we will also need people who can help set up Thursday afternoon and tear down Saturday evening. If you would like to help, please be in touch with the church office. or be directly in touch with Kim Guy or Owen McKenzie.





The United Church of Canada has launched an Extreme Hunger Appeal as the humanitarian crisis in Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen reaches grave levels. Starvation and extreme hunger are reaching a scale the world has not seen before in these areas. Vulnerable people are most impacted, including children. If you wish to contribute to this appeal, you can do so by putting an envelope in the offering plate marked "Extreme Hunger Appeal", by dropping off cash or cheque at the Church office or through the United website Church of Canada (www.united-church.ca)

Show you Care with a Simple Meal

Many people have been asking what they might do to help support Val Garlick. Val has indicated that at this point in her journey it would be helpful to receive a simple meal each day. A cold meal that Val can either microwave or heat in the oven when she feels like eating would be best.



The "ideal" meal would include a small portion of meat or fish, a potato or some rice or pasta, and a vegetable. Val's preferences at the moment are towards foods without too much spice or heavy sauces. Val does not like fresh tomatoes (cooked tomato or tomato sauces are fine), green peppers, butternut squash, olives, saskatoons or blueberries. If you can help us to support Val in this way, please call the church office to sign up for date so that Val doesn't get 3 meals on one day and no others for a week. Hopefully, many of you will be able to make a little extra when you are cooking for yourself and make up a plate that can be dropped off at Val's. We will be setting up a cooler on Val's porch that meals can be left in. Thank you for helping us be a community who cares for one another.

Confirmed as new members:

April 16, 2017 Jared Verhoeven Angela Mills Kaylee Routledge Andrew Stasiuk

Transferred in May 2017: Dennis and Marilyn McMillan

One of the Best-Loved Prayers of All-Time

Join us this June as we take a closer look at the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Versions of it are found in the gospels of Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. The words you are most familiar with are likely those produced for the 1662 Anglican Book of Common

Prayer. Many other translations and paraphrases of this famous prayer have been made and we will use some of them



during our worship in June. Let's explore together what these ancient words might have to say to us today. We will consider the different sections of the prayer over the span of the 4 weeks.

If you can't feed one hundred people, then just feed one.

Mother Teresa



What is Christian Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is ... everything we think, say and do after we say "I believe"

...how we invest God's 'stuff' for God's mission in God's world.

Stewardship is ...

How we spend our time How we care for our body and make healthy choices Our priorities around money How we choose to employ our talents and gifts How we manage our relationships How we care for the environment How we practice our faith



We are called as individuals and as congregations and communities into God's mission. We participate by giving the gifts that God has entrusted to us. These gifts are everything that We Make the Road by Walking Bible we have: our time, our talents and skills, and our treasure or physical resources. Christian stewardship includes all aspects of our lives. It is about our personal, work, and family life. It is about the good management of donations, including those made to our church.

The Stewardship Team is beginning to work on our Fall 2017 Stewardship campaign. If you have ideas about how we might encourage one another in our Stewardship as individuals and as a congregation, we would love to hear from you. The members of your Stewardship Team are Randy Owens, Jim Moorhouse. Diane Stevenson and Owen McKenzie.

HandiVan News! HauqiAan News!

On Sunday May 14 and Sunday, June 18, the HandiVan has hired their own driver to take people to family or community activities (including church, if you like!) Please book the HandiVan like you would on any other day of the week.

Interested in attending any of the Conference workshops on Saturday May 27? Go to http:// www.mnwo.ca/annualmeeting/ for more information or to register. There are sessions on a wide variety of topics, from stewardship to indigenous relations, from leadership with youth and children to global justice. If you are interested, you are welcome to check it out!



Breakfast at Trinity Saturday, June 10 8:30 am - 10:00 am You are invited to join us for a

special edition of breakfast where we will honour Trinity's "Breakfast Originator" Val Garlick

Study

Since October, a varying group of Trinity-connected folks have been meeting every Friday to talk about one chapter of Brian McLaren's thought provoking book We Make the Road By Walking and the associated scripture passages. We have found the conversations rich and varied talking about such things as right relations, poverty, racism and refugees as well as more personal topics like forgiveness and disappointment and temptation.

Partway through the year, we moved to Queen's Court (suite 102) which has provided us with a living room setting to meet in and allowed those who live in that building to join us more easily. Someone meets us at the door each week to let us in.

We are now taking a break for the summer and plan to resume in September. We are about halfway through the book now and intend to finish it next year.

New members would be most welcome. It is the kind of thing that you can pick up and read a chapter without having read the rest of the book. Each chapter has its own theme. If you are interested, you can borrow the library copy of the book (on the desk in the library) and take a look at the book to see what it is like. Next Fall we will be starting with Chapter 22, "Jesus the Teacher". If you would like your own copy of the book, we will be placing an order in August for more copies, please let us know at the church office. The cost is \$20. It is also available as an ebook for anyone who would prefer that format.

In the Fall, we are also planning to adjust our times slightly. We have been meeting from 10:30 to noon but have discovered that many people need to be some place for noon so we will move our meeting time to 10:15 to 11:45 beginning in September.

There will be a reminder about the opportunity for engaging life and scripture in the Fall but we just wanted to extend the invitation now so that those who wish might consider it over the Summer.



We are ready to become an Affirming Ministry

Two years ago, we formed an interest group on becoming an Affirming Ministry. As a reminder, Affirming Ministries in the United Church publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation. Affirming Ministries honour and celebrate diversity. They declare in words and actions that God loves and accepts people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. And they call upon the rest of the church and society to do the same.

One justice issue is not seen as more important than another. Affirming Ministries work in many different ways towards the healing and wholeness of creation – challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, culture, class or age; working to end racism; promoting economic justice; increasing accessibility; or caring for the planet. Affirming Ministries seek to go beyond issues of gender diversity and sexual orientation to work for justice and inclusion for all people.

Trinity's Affirming interest group spent the past two years providing opportunities to learn about affirming ministry and have developed a vision statement and an action plan. As we prepared the draft action plan, the interest group was pleased, and perhaps a little surprised, with how much of our ministry is affirming in nature.

Formalizing our ministry as affirming commits us to continuing and expanding this ministry in a purposeful and mindful way. Trinity's mission goal provides a perfect base upon which to build our affirming vision statement and action plan.



Trinity's Mission Goal

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

Trinity United Church Affirming Vision statement

In keeping with our mission goal to "open our hearts and minds to welcome each person as a child of God" Trinity United Church is committed to welcoming and including everyone in all aspects of the life and work of our congregation, honoring and affirming each person's uniqueness.

As a community of faith and action guided by Jesus' teaching and ministry, we seek to nurture love, justice and diversity.

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for those in the Trinity family and the community at large, including persons of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, social or economic circumstance.

We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice, freedom and peace for all.

We recognize this is a growth journey for Trinity and we commit to walking this path together, looking for God's guidance along the way.

The next step in our journey is to recommend to the Trinity Leadership team that Trinity United Church proceed with application to Affirm United to seek official status as an Affirming Ministry. Although the decision to proceed rests with the Leadership team, the interest group did not want to make the recommendation without congregational support. To that end, there will be a congregational meeting on May 14, Christian Family Sunday, where the congregation will be asked to vote on making a recommendation to the Leadership team to become an official Affirming Ministry

Affirming Action Plan for Trinity

Doing Already

Inclusive marriage policy Safe Space posters

Sponsored "Listening for Grace" production

Host information sessions on LGBTTQ*

Participate in Portage Pride parade

Newsletter articles

Worship services on what it means to be an Affirming ministry

Large print bulletins available

Hearing assist devices available for services

Printed services are available for those unable to attend services

Lifts available in the building

Monthly rental of handivan to enable shut-ins to come to Sunday services

Right relations work started

Poverty advocacy meeting with MLA

Participation in Habitat for Humanity

Reducing financial barriers to participation in functions/events by moving to payment by donation rather than a set fee.

Host Muslim Friday prayers

Host Indigenous sharing circles

Actions for 2017 and 2018

Join Affirm United

Hold a celebration service

Media release or article

Add Affirming vision statement to website

Add Affirming statement in announcement bulletin

Continue to use newsletter to highlight justice issues

Place rainbow candle on communion table

Place visual cues on exterior of building for public such as rainbow decal on office door and adding to church signage.

Continue to provide education opportunities with a focus on transgender

Join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) reading challenge

Take public stands on justice issues for marginalized people

In addition to the action items listed above Trinity will consider some future action items. First, we will explore replacement of the lift that accesses the sanctuary to better accommodate changing mobility assist devices. Secondly, when space and financial considerations are favourable to renovate our bathrooms we will make them gender neutral.

Learning to Listen

I am discovering that there are some truths I can only grasp when I am willing to let go of everything I think I already know.

This is an excerpt from Moderator Jordan Cantwell's Accountability Report for the meeting General Council Executive, May 6-7, 2017.

I was reflecting recently on the story of Jesus and Nicodemus – the one where it seems like Nicodemus just can't comprehend what Jesus is trying to tell him about spiritual rebirth. This story resonates with me because I often feel like there is some great spiritual truth just beyond the limits of my vision that I should be able to grasp, but which constantly eludes me.

I feel this way when it comes to recognizing how my thoughts and values have been shaped by colonialism. I know it is so... I just don't see what that looks like, or what it would mean to be free of this influence. Yet I know that I need to understand this in order to truly walk in right relationship with all my neighbours. That is why it is such a gift to have so many opportunities to be in conversation with Indigenous folks in our church. They can see it. And with seemingly infinite patience, they are helping me to see it.

This wisdom, however, only reveals itself as I learn to listen deeply with an open mind and an open heart. I am discovering that there are some truths I can only grasp when I am willing to let go of everything I think I already know. This is a very humbling process, which I need to practice continually.

I wonder how we, as a whole church, can practice this kind of listening. What will that require of us? What spiritual gifts might emerge as we learn to do this? I am excited to see where this journey toward right relationships will lead us.

-Moderator Jordan Cantwell



SUNDAY, MAY 28 Worship Service at 10:00 am Canad Inns

There will be no Sunday worship at Trinity, because we will be joining with United Church people from across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario for a very special worship service. The theme of our meeting is "Being the Church not because we have to!" We hope to spend our time and energy on the things that are life-giving and spirit nourishing about life in the church. The preacher will be the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell. Please note the earlier time: 10 a.m.! If you would like to join the choir for that service, please speak to Carol Zacharias. If you would like to help with children's activities, please speak to Julie Baker. Come and be part of the church! All are welcome.



Inviting participants to collect , come have a visit, walk, hotdog and drink.

Pledge forms are available at Alzheimer Office: 204-239-4898

OR register on line at: alzheimer.mb.ca/wfa2017

The United Church of Canada invites you to ask the federal government to end Canada's Safe Third Country Agreement with the U.S.

I see the face of God in refugees' faces... No one chooses to be a refugee. But some of us can choose to make the land a little safer... for us all. The key is to embrace refugees... the harbingers of the changes needed in our world. —<u>Heather MacDonald</u>



The Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States means that refugee claimants must generally seek protection in the first of the two countries that they reach essentially closing Canada's door to refugee claims made at the U.S. border. However, many asylum-seekers in the U.S. are journeying to Canada because the recent anti-refugee and anti-Muslim measures in the United States have made them feel unsafe.

You can help. Ask the federal government to take positive, immediate steps to respond to this situation.

Write to Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, and your member of Parliament (likely Candice Bergen unless you live outside Portage la Prairie) both at House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6. Include your own thoughts, and ask that Canada:

1) withdraw from the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States

2) increase Canada's 2017 refugee settlement targets in light of the decrease in the United States

For more information, check out the United Church website at http://www.united-church.ca/ social-action/act-now/supportrefugees-fleeing-united-states



SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

"What the world needs now....." This summer join us for our shared summer worship services with First Presbyterian and McKenzie United Churches as we explore what the Bible has to tell us about compassion, and leading loving, grace-filled lives. In a world where hate seems to be on the increase, our call as Christians to embrace compassion is more timely than ever.

Date	Location	Preacher	Focus Text
July 2	First Presbyterian (17 Royal Road S.)	John Zondag	Genesis 18:1-8 (Abraham and Sarah offer hospitality to strangers)
July 9	First Presbyterian	Wilma Shirriff	Exodus 1:15-21 (Midwives Shiprah and Puah defy Pharoah to save Hebrew babies)
July 16	First Presbyterian	Julie Baker	2 Kings 6:8-23 (Elisha offers a feast to his enemies)
July 23	McKenzie United (85-11 th St. NW)	Wilma Shirriff	Matthew 9:35-38 (Jesus has compassion for the disciples)
July 30	McKenzie	Beth Kerr	Mark 10: 17-27 (Jesus tells a rich man to give eve- rything to the poor)
August 6	McKenzie	John Zondag	2 Samuel 9:1-13 (David treats Jonathon's disabled son with kindness)
August 13	Trinity (15 Tupper St. S.)	Beth Kerr	Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (God asks the people to care for immigrants and other vulnerable people)
August 20	Trinity	Wilma Shirriff	Luke 10: 25-37 (Who is my neighbour?)
August 27	Trinity	John Zondag	John 5: 1-9 (Compassion is more important than the rules)

-Mark Thain

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.



Thanks to Lori Mackedenski for putting together this edition while Jacquie Bennet has been on medical leave!





Trinity Giving Goal for March \$14 631

Given \$13 698

Thank you for your support.

Giving Goal for May \$14 670 Giving Goal for June \$13 304 Please help!