

Trini Tidings 2017



Advent/Christmas

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Group – Trinity United
Church Portage la Prairie

Trinity Mission Goal:

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

Advent Brunch



House Group A invites you to join us after worship on **Sunday, December 3** for an Advent Brunch (pancakes, sausages, fruit). Cost is by donation. Let's start our Advent journey together with good food and good company.

COMING UP IN WORSHIP for Advent & Christmas Sunday Services and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.



Come Darkness, Come Light

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, let us celebrate how we find God in the midst of darkness as well as light. Our culture tells us to turn away from darkness. It's scary. We feel like it might be unsafe. Outer darkness can remind us of the shadows within us. Yet the darkness can also be a place of life and growth. The darkness has gifts to offer us if we are willing to open ourselves to them. This Advent, let us welcome the gift of both darkness and light as teachers on the path of life.

December 3, 2017 Advent 1

“Darkness Can Help
Things Grow”

Advent Brunch follows worship

December 10, 2017 Advent 2

“Darkness Prepares for
New Birth”

White Gifts will be collected

December 17, 2017 Advent 3

“Darkness Brings Dreams”

Afternoon family movie event

December 20, 2017

Service of
Remembrance & Hope
7:30 p.m. at McKenzie United

Four Opportunities to
worship in a United Church in
Portage la Prairie on
Christmas Eve!

10:30 a.m. at Trinity

“Darkness Lets Us See the
Stars” Advent 4/Christmas Eve in
the morning! A cozy Sunday
morning worship for all ages.

4:00 p.m. at McKenzie

A more informal, interactive
worship experience before
supper!

7:00 p.m. at Trinity

A lively service designed to
engage young and old alike.
This communion service will
also feature participation of the
junior choir.

10:00 p.m. at Trinity

This communion service will
offer a more reflective tone for
those who want to end the
evening with quiet and
candle-light.

December 31, 2017

10:30 a.m. Joint service with
McKenzie at McKenzie United
Church (85-11th St NW)
Trinity and McKenzie ministers
will co-lead a New Year's Eve
morning worship around tables
with coffee and muffins!

You are welcome to attend any
or all as fit your plans best.
Each service will have
storytelling and carol singing,
but will still be quite different, so
you could choose to come to
several! However you choose
to celebrate, it is our prayer that
your life, and the lives of those
you love, will be touched by the
holy in life-giving ways
this Christmas.

*Come and do your Christmas
baking the easy way!*

The Unit C - U.C.W.
Dainties Sale will be
held **December 10**
following the morning
service.



Christmas is a time for Giving White Gift Sunday



This year at Trinity, we will celebrate White Gift on **December 10**. All donations of toys, winter wear, gifts, non-perishable food and gift cards that you bring will be shared with the Salvation Army for Christmas hampers (or to the Portage Family Abuse Prevention Center or the Canadian Mental Health Association, as appropriate). Please do not wrap your gifts. There will be a box in which to deposit any gift cards.

If you are unable to attend worship on the 10th, you can make a donation to the office any time before December 11.



Do you want a way to make Christmas less about “the stuff”? Are you looking for gift ideas that can make the world a better place? The United Church of Canada is pleased to offer you Gifts with Vision. You can build a well, or aid displaced persons. You can give hot meals to a hungry person, or empower indigenous youth. You can send a child to camp or to school. With Gifts with Vision, you give a gift to friends or family to support the good work of your choice. Catalogues are available at the church, or go online to <https://www.giftswithvision.ca/>

As you receive your Christmas cards and letters this year, please take a few moments to save the stamps. The UCW saves stamps to support the leprosy fund. The value of these stamps is increased if the postal cancellation is marked over the stamp. Stamps may be left at the church office.



Extending the Hand of Friendship at Christmas

Each year at this time, Trinity makes a special effort to connect with members of our faith community who, for reasons of health or mobility, are no longer able to attend Sunday worship. It is important to us that there are ways to still feel like part of the family, even when you can't come to the church.



Congregation members are invited to make a brief visit and deliver a small gift on behalf of all of us. This year, the gift project is being coordinated by Patti Brown and Iris Yuill. If you, or a member of your family, would like to be remembered in this way, please be in touch with the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) so that we can make sure you are on the list.

If you are willing to help deliver, please be in touch with Patti, Iris, or the church office.

Advent Pause – an evening to be still awhile in community

Wednesday, December 13
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
McKenzie United Church
(11th St NW)

- Audrey MacFarlane will play some reflective music
- Labyrinth will be set up for those who want to walk it
- No program – no agenda – time to sit and read thoughts on Advent themes
- Come – breathe – sip tea – relax



Trinity congregation members most welcome!

Ever heard of MAD LIBS?

They are silly stories that you make by filling in the blanks with pre-determined words. On page 8 of the newsletter you'll find a Christmas story with some blanks to fill in.

But first you need to randomly choose your words. (They can be Christmas-themed words, or not ... your choice!) Here's what you need!



- an adjective (a describing word)
- a verb (action word)
- another verb
- a holiday tradition
- adverb (a word that describes an action)
- a colour
- an adjective
- an adjective
- a plural noun (person, place or thing – then add an “s”!)
- a type of weather
- a verb
- an adjective
- an adjective
- a noun (person, place, thing)
- noun
- a date (month and day)

Service of Remembrance and Hope

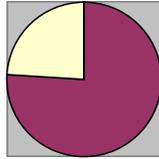


It is said that Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year. Certainly, the lengthening nights and gloomy skies can emphasize feelings of sadness and depression. The emphasis on family activities can make the ache of loss more acute when there's an empty space at the table. When you are grieving, you can feel out of sync with the jingle bells and invitation to be merry. If you are experiencing grief either through the loss of a loved one, loss of health, loss of relationship or for any other reason, please consider joining us for our annual Service of Remembrance and Hope. This gentle, reflective service provides an opportunity to gather and remember that the message of Christmas is not just for the joyful. We can gather to light a candle in memory of someone we have lost, or we can go to support those who are feeling sad. We can all remember that Christmas offers good news to the poor, the lonely, the afraid and the tired. Once again, we are cooperating with McKenzie United, First Presbyterian, St. Mary's Anglican and Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Churches to offer a shared service on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. at McKenzie United Church** (11th St NW). Refreshments will follow the service.

Trinity's Financial Update

Projected Expenses for January-December 2017

\$268,771



Income Received to Date

January – November 24

\$204,342

With 5 weeks remaining in the year, we have reached 76% of our goal. Please help! We need your donations to reach our goal and continue the ministry we offer together.

UPDATE 2017

Trinity Funerals & Baptisms since the September 2017 TriniTidings

Funerals

Mavis Esther Hoehn
October 16, 2017

James (Jim) Barclay McKay
October 19, 2017

Harvey Malcom Kane
October 27, 2017

Jean Allison Mutala
November 13, 2017

Robert (Bob) Murray Johnson
November 14, 2017

Baptism

Simon Leigh Mak
Son of

Amanda Case & Kevin Mak
October 15, 2017

Trinity's next opportunity for Baptism will be **Sunday, January 7**. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please speak to Julie by December 10.



Deadline for 2017 Contributions!

If you wish to top up your 2017 donations, they must be received at the latest in Sunday's offering, **December 31**, to be eligible for the taxation year 2017. Charitable donations in Manitoba (after the first \$200) receive a 46% tax credit. This means that if you pay income tax, your donation costs you roughly half of what you give.



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 calling the office any time.

Hospital Visiting

Because of the Personal Health Information Act, and a new hospital computer system, it is so important to have someone contact the church office (204-857-4471) and request a hospital visit.

Your ministers will not know that you are in hospital unless you find ways to tell us.



Their Light Shines On

Over the past several months Trinity has been fortunate to receive substantial financial support from some of our members upon their death. While we wish that these faithful members were still with us sharing in the everyday life and work of the church, we are grateful for the ways in which their foresight continues to bless us even now that they have died.

Bunnie (Marguerite) Muhly left us \$25,000 in her will. This bequest provides \$10,000 now to the Unspecified Bequest Fund and \$15,000 to be invested with half the proceeds going to Mission and Service and half to the Unspecified Bequest Fund. Thank you Bunnie! If you would like, you can name Trinity or any of its funds in your will. Talk to your legal advisor about how to plan a bequest to Trinity or its successor organization in your will.

Val Garlick named Trinity as one of the beneficiaries of her retirement plan. We have received \$19,182.33 from that designation. We are also one of the named beneficiaries in Val's will and will receive a share of her estate at a later date. Thank you Val! The church can be named as a beneficiary for retirement savings plans as well as life insurance policies if you so choose. This can result in a substantial donation when you die.

Eva Sissons took out a gift annuity for Trinity many years ago. When she died, that annuity matured and \$44,173.23 came to Trinity as her designated recipient. Thank you Eva! This form of planned giving allows you to

receive income during your lifetime while planning a substantial donation to the designated charity upon your death. For more information on how to set-up gift annuities or other forms of planned giving, please contact Kathryn Hofley, United Church Gift Planner at 204-943-4844 or khofley@united-church.ca

We have also been fortunate to receive the gift of shares from several living individuals over the past year. Depending on your financial situation, such a donation might be beneficial either now or at the time of your death. Consult a financial advisor about the benefits and drawbacks for your own situation but if you would like to donate mutual funds or shares or bonds, please know that we can happily receive those too.

Even if a direct donation such as these is not appropriate for you, you can make a substantial contribution to Trinity by designating Trinity as one of the desired recipients for Memorial Donations at the time of your funeral or memorial service. You might be surprised at how much a simple line such as "Memorial Donations can be made to" in your funeral arrangements can raise for the church or another cause you believe in.

Since the last issue of Trinitidings, Memorial donations have been gratefully received in memory of:

Eva Sissons
Lynne McKibbin
Val Garlick
Ken Yuill

Trinity will gladly receive donations for any of our funds or projects.

- Donations to the Memorial Fund are used for Worship

and Christian Education Purposes.

- Donations to the Building Fund help to maintain our historic building to facilitate our current and future ministries.
- Donations to the Operating Fund help to cover everyday expenses such as heat, hydro and salaries.
- Donations to the Mission and Service Fund help with the outreach activities of the United Church of Canada.
- Donations to the Unspecified Bequest Fund are used for whatever needs arise in the church outside our usual budget. This can include various special projects as well as capital expenditures.
- We also have a new fund for which we are accepting donations — the Give Us a Lift Fund. The Give Us a Lift Fund supports our efforts to replace the lift by the office entrance that is used to access the sanctuary. For more information on this project see page 6.

Every donation, small or large, helps Trinity to continue to be a source of light in our shadowed world. We are grateful for all our donors, both those who still walk beside us today and those who have died. We celebrate how the light of each person helps us to walk together with courage and faithfulness even in the midst of life's darkness.



Growing the Light through the Mission and Service Fund

Making a donation to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada is one of the ways in which you can participate in the on-going ministry of the church across Canada and around the world. Join us each week for a video Minute for Mission highlighting the work of one of our partners in Canada or around the world.

December 3

Learn about how the Healing Fund is changing lives and healing the wounds of Residential Schools in British Columbia

December 10

Hear about how the Middle East Council of Churches helps teenagers from Syria who are refugees in Lebanon continue their education

December 17

See how Wesley Urban Ministries in Hamilton, Ontario helps the homeless and refugees make a new start.

December 24 (morning)

As we journey to Bethlehem to hear the story of Jesus from long ago, learn about the work of Wi'am who is striving for non-violent conflict resolution in modern-day Bethlehem.

These are just four of the many different programs supported by your donations to the Mission and Service Fund. M and S supports:

- campus chaplaincies on university and college



- campuses across the country,
- emergency relief efforts after natural disasters
- around the world,
- church camps to engage our children and youth,
- health care programs for marginalized peoples,
- rural and remote churches whose communities are not large enough to be self-sustaining
- food security programs in Canada and around the world
- theological schools that help prepare ministers for service to the church
- innovative new ministry ideas that need seed money to get started
- and much more.

Your gift this Advent to the Mission and Service Fund will help light a light on our Christmas Tree and also help bring the light of healing or hope to someone in Canada or around the world. Please give generously.

Christmas Office Hours

- The office will have regular hours, Friday, December 22.
- The office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26
- The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1.

For 2017 tax receipts, donations must be received in Sunday's offering plate, December 31.



Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Hidden Treasures & Portage Plains United Way presents a Homemade Christmas, **Tuesday, November 28 from 6 – 8 p.m.**, Trinity auditorium. \$40 Soap Making (make & take), \$20 Glass Fusing for children (make & pick up). No experience needed. All supplies provided. Many colour options. Purchase your ticket by Fri. Nov. 24 at Big Brothers, Big Sisters Office or email bbbsportage@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



Games Night



Our next games night is November 27 at 7 p.m.

In December we will tour the lights, enjoy pizza and hot chocolate, sing carols and exchange small gifts. The cost for each person is \$5. The date of this event is **December 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

We have had a few new attendees from Visions of Independence who seemed to enjoy our Halloween Party and plan on coming back.

We can always use Bingo prizes, tumblers, mugs, ornaments, notepaper & pens, toiletries, socks, gloves, CDs, DVDs, calendars, toques and jigsaw puzzles.

The UCW would like to thank everyone who supported their Fall Tea. From donations received to those who attended – thank you!



“Gift Us a Lift”

One of the ways that Trinity lives out our mission goal “Open our hearts and minds to welcome each person as a child of God” is by ensuring accessibility to our building. While the historic nature of this church building makes it challenging to remove all barriers to access, we continue to strive to make it possible for anyone who wants to be part of our church life to access all parts of our building.

To this end, in 1982, a lift was installed from what is now the office door on Tupper Street to allow access to both the basement level and the sanctuary. That lift has served us very well for many years and we are grateful to all those who contributed to its installation and who have supported its upkeep and maintenance. In 2013, as part of our renovations to the West Wing, a second lift was installed. This lift is accessed through the green ramped door along the side of the West Wing and allows access both to the basement and to the renovated nursery school space upstairs in the West Wing. We are grateful for the ways in which this enhances accessibility for the parlour kitchen and auditorium areas by allowing us two lift options to get to the basement level.

Over the past several years, we have noticed that the lift to the sanctuary is aging and larger mobility devices do not fit in it well (or at all). While the new lift in the West Wing helps



reduce that problem for the basement level, it does not allow access to the sanctuary. We believe that sanctuary access for Sunday worship, special services like Christmas

Eve, funerals and weddings as well as for community functions like the Prairie Sound Music Festival and various concerts is vital. To that end, we are

committed to replacing this lift with a new, slightly larger one. We wish we could put in an even bigger lift but the new lift must fit in the same location as the existing lift which places constraints on its potential size.

The cost for this new lift is estimated at just under \$60,000 and plans are underway for the new lift to be installed in the summer of 2018 during a time of the year when having the lift out of commission for an estimated 6 weeks will be least disruptive to the life of our community of faith. We will keep you posted about the dates when the lift will not be available and apologize for the inconvenience we know this will cause.

In the meantime, to make this project a reality, we need your support. If you would like to help us improve the accessibility of our worship space, please consider making a donation to the Give Us a Lift Fund. You can do so by dropping off or mailing a cheque to the church office indicating it is for the Give Us a Lift Fund, on-line by credit card through Canada Helps (click Donate on our webpage

trinityunitedportage.ca and select “Give Us a Lift” from the fund drop-down box), or by marking Give Us a Lift on your offering envelope. It is also possible to make donations of stocks, mutual funds or bonds to this or any other Trinity Fund. If that is of interest or you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471).

For the last 9 years, Portage la Prairie's Women of Mother



Earth Network, led by Angela Roulette, has offered a free Christmas Day dinner. It has been held at various

churches, and again this year it's coming to Trinity. It takes place **December 25 from 1-3 p.m.** and everyone is invited. Volunteers cook, serve and visit, and even provide musical entertainment for those who come. If you would like to help, you can be in touch with the Trinity office (204-857-4471), or contact Angela directly (204-240-6259).

Library Notes



As we come to Advent and then Christmas, the library has many resources on celebrating Advent & Christmas. These include “how to”, serious and fun reading around the season. Do come and have a look!

United Church Women of Canada Celebrate their 55th Anniversary

A letter received by Trinity's UCW from David Armour, Director of Philanthropy & Cheryl Curtis, Manager, Mission & Service Giving

For the good works of the United Church Women in the world, and for the sake of God's mission, especially for the generosity to Mission & Service – thank you.



The UCW has always been extraordinarily generous with Mission & Service giving and it has enabled life-changing mission and ministry, including:

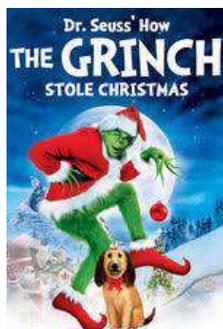
- Indigenous ministries and the work of right relations
- Global justice, peace, ecological, and human rights initiatives
- Community, justice, and chaplaincy ministries across Canada
- Theological education and support for the vocation of ministry
- Faith formation programs for all the people of our church
- Support to congregations in transition or ministering in remote locations
- Innovation for ministry, including mentoring and coaching

We know the UCW raises funds in many creative ways, from large fundraising projects, to congregational thrift shops, to simple things like “one muffin at a time”. The “can do” spirit of the United Church Women is worth celebrating in a very big way.

The United Church Women, through meaningful and generous gifts of money and time since 1962, have contributed over \$134,497,151 for Mission & Service, and it is largely due to this kind of support from the grassroots of The United Church of Canada.

We thank you every UCW member for your generosity for God's mission. You have made, and continue to make, a difference in the world.

Trinity United Church
House Group A
cordially invites you to our
**Free Christmas
Movie Afternoon**



**December 17, 2017
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
(in the sanctuary)

popcorn and juice will be served
All are welcome!

For more information, call
Amy Chappellaz (204)871-0228

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of Country/Christmas Music with Johnny Dietrich, Kicking up Dust & the Sharpe Sisters, here at Trinity,
December 3 from 2 - 4 p.m.
Tickets \$12/ea, and available through Trinity.

All proceeds going to support Portage School Division's Breakfast Programs.



How to Survive a Winter Service When the Boiler Has Broken Down

Canada can be cold, and church heating systems are temperamental. It is circumstances like these that separate the average United Church attender from the hardcore worship enthusiast.



1. Keep your parka on. The expression “Sunday best” should be expanded to include clothing that is well-insulated from the cold. Mittens, toques, down-filled coats, and boots say “I love my faith, but I’m not willing to risk hypothermia for it.”
2. Re-evaluate your need for personal space. Especially if only a small but faithful remnant have braved the cold, huddle together in one pew to share body heat.
3. Candles add warmth. Okay, not a lot of warmth – light bulbs actually give off more heat – but candles also give off a cheery glow that creates the impression of warmth.
4. Keep moving. Tap your feet. Clap. Dance. Let the Spirit move you, and in the process keep the blood moving to your extremities.

Excerpt from The Unofficial United Church Handbook (edited by Scott Douglas and Nanette McKay)

The UCW asks that if you have left a baking dish or serving container here at the church after various functions, please collect it and take it home.

Christmas Fun

This is a collection of games that work well with a mixed crowd of adults and children. They're ideal for family and office Christmas parties.

Blind Christmas Tree Ripping: For this game you need green construction paper.

Give everyone a chance in attempting to rip a sheet of green construction paper (behind their back) in to the shape of a Christmas tree (they mustn't take a look at their trees, only when they have finished creating their tree). Once they've finished ripping, and before they look, give them little stickers to brighten their tree with. Once finished, hang everyone's tree up and also have everyone judge for the best looking trees.



Find the Ornament: Take close up pictures of ornaments that are hung on the Christmas tree. Hang all the pictures on the wall with a number alongside each one. Each guest is offered a sheet of paper numbered to complement the ornaments. Have

each guest locate the ornament around the tree and mark it from the list as they find it. They can't take the pictures off the wall. The first ones to complete the list wins. This could also be played with teams.

YOUR MAD LIB STORY!

Back on page 2 of this newsletter you chose some words. Now's the time to put them to use. Fill in the blanks of this story with the words you picked and have a laugh! Get someone else



to choose some words and see how the story changes. Christmas Eve at Trinity church is a __A__ time. I like to __B__ every year and __C__ with my family and join in my favourite Christmas activity of __D__. The Christmas tree is __E__ decorated with __F__ lights and __G__ decorations. There's always lots of __H__ storytelling and festive __I__. Sometimes it's really __J__ and sometimes we __K__ candles. Some people wear __L__ clothes and others wear __M__ __N__. My favourite part is when the __O__ sings carols! I hope you can join us at church __P__. Joy to the world!

Holiday Sausages: Divide your group into two teams. Teams line up and face each other (each on their own side). An individual from one team is chosen to begin by asking a person in the other team a question. They can ask any question. However the answer is always "Holiday Sausages". The person answering must not laugh or smile, and if they do so successfully, their team receives a point. If the answerer laughs or smiles, the questioner's team gets a point. Everyone plays this until all have had a turn or two. Whichever team ends most abundant in points is the winning team!

There are a few round table cloths that have gone missing. If you have taken them home to launder them and have forgotten to bring them back, the UCW would appreciate having them returned.

MISSING

**Looking ahead to
Worship in the New Year**
Sunday Services and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

January 7, 2018
Splashed With Love
Celebrating Baptism

January 14, 2018
Can you hear me now?
Communion

January 21, 2018
The courage to change

January 28, 2018
Renewing Our Faith



Trinity's Special Events Calendar

Advent Brunch
Sunday, December 3

White Gift Sunday
Sunday, December 10

UCW – Unit C Dainties Sale
Sunday, December 10
following worship

Family Christmas Movie
Sunday, December 17
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Service of
Remembrance & Hope**
Wednesday, December 20
7:30 p.m. at McKenzie United

**Annual
Congregational Meeting**
Sunday, February 4
following worship



Would you like a copy of Trinity's Advent prayer calendar to follow at home? Copies will be at the church beginning November 26.