

# Trini Tidings 2018




## Advent/Christmas

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 Group – Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie

Instagram – trinityportage

YouTube – “Trinity Portage”

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*Trinity Mission Goal:*

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

### Trinity UCW Christmas Tea



**Saturday, November 24**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Donations of baking, crafts, sweets, jellies, knitting, etc. will be gratefully received. More information to follow.

*Everyone is welcome!*

## COMING UP IN WORSHIP

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

**November 25, 2018**

“Why are Prophets so Annoying?”

**December 2, 2018**

*Advent 1 – Keeping it Real at Christmas: Hope – It's Not What You Expect*  
*Communion*

**December 9, 2018**

*Advent 2 – Keeping it Real at Christmas: Loving Actual People*

*White Gifts will be collected*  
*Children's Christmas Market*  
*UCW Dainties Sale*

**December 16, 2018**

*Advent 3 – Keeping it Real at Christmas: Joy is More Than an Emoji*

**December 23, 2018**

*Advent 4 – Keeping it Real at Christmas: Being at Peace with What Is*

**Christmas Eve Services**

**4:30 p.m. at McKenzie**

A family, interactive service with lots of carols and candles.

**7:00 p.m. at Trinity**

This engaging celebration will invite us to re-define our definitions of peace as we wind up our “Keeping it Real” theme.

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus – “Peace is Here Today”

**10:00 p.m. at Trinity**

A reflective service of communion and candlelight that invites us to experience the peace of God within us this Christmas.

**December 30, 2018**

10:30 a.m. Joint service with McKenzie at McKenzie United Church (85-11<sup>th</sup> St NW)  
Worship leaders: Julie Baker and Kathy Platt

*Come and do your Christmas baking the easy way!*  
The Unit C - U.C.W. Dainties Sale will be held **December 9** following the morning service.



## Trinity's Special Events Calendar

**Trinity UCW Christmas Tea**

Saturday, November 24  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Lunch & Learn – First Contact**

Sunday, November 25  
following worship

**Portage Ukrainian Nursery School Christmas**

**Craft-Bake-Vendor Sale**

Saturday, December 1  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Women's Breakfast**

Saturday, December 1  
7:30 a.m. - Tornados Restaurant

**White Gift Sunday**

Sunday, December 9

**UCW – Unit C Dainties Sale**

Sunday, December 9  
following worship

**Children's Christmas Market**

Sunday, December 9  
following worship

**Service of**

**Remembrance & Hope**

Monday, December 17  
7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Anglican

**Games Night**

**Christmas Lights Tour**

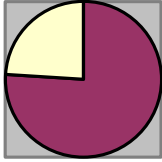
Monday, December 17

**Annual**

**Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, February 10  
following worship

**Trinity's  
Financial Update  
Projected Expenses for  
January-December 2018  
\$273,517**



**Income Received  
to Date**

January – November 16  
**\$174,700**

*With 6 weeks remaining in the year, we have reached 64% of our goal. Please help! We need your donations to reach our goal and continue the ministry we offer together.*

**Deadline for  
2018 Contributions!**

If you wish to top up your 2018 donations, they must be received in the office no later than **noon, December 31**, to be eligible for the taxation year 2018. 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.



Portage Ukrainian Nursery School invites you to their Christmas Craft-Bake-Vendor Sale (featuring over 19 vendors) **Saturday, December 1** 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Trinity United Church Auditorium



**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](mailto: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 Visits**



Trinity's ministers are pleased to visit you while in hospital, but they can't do so unless they know you are there. If you would like the ministers know that you are in hospital so they can look in on you when they are at the hospital, please have someone contact the church. If you would like a visit as soon as possible, you can also ask a family member, friend or someone from the hospital staff to call the church and Julie or Beth will know that you would like one of them to come by as soon as they are able.

Trinity's next opportunity for Baptism will be **Sunday, January 13**. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please speak to Julie by December 9.



**Service of  
Remembrance  
and Hope**

Are you feeling sad this Christmas? Do you sometimes feel out of sync with the world around you? Are you missing loved ones who have died? If you are experiencing grief through the loss of a loved one 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. It is indeed good news for 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 **Monday, December 17** at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Anglican Church (36-2<sup>nd</sup> St SW). Refreshments will follow the service.



**Ways to 'keep it real'  
at Christmas**



Do all of your activities at Christmas time help you celebrate what matters to you? What is the true meaning of Christmas for you? What do you truly enjoy? Try to pay attention to whether what you are doing actually fits in what you want your Christmas to be about. If it doesn't, can you let it go?

## Remembering the Real People we Miss at Christmas

Part of getting real about Christmas is acknowledging that in addition to great joy, we often feel great sadness at Christmas time. The special holiday celebrations



bring to mind people we have loved who are not able to celebrate with us in the same way anymore because they have died. It is for this reason that we hold a Service of Remembrance and Hope each December to allow space for grief as well as joy.

It is also one of the ways in which our Memorial Fund can help us. Donating to Trinity's Memorial Fund or to another cause that was dear to our loved one's heart can help us share the love we have received from them and honour their memory at Christmas time.

Thinking about our memories and those we love can also invite ourselves to ask the question "how do I hope to be remembered?" You can often make a sizable financial contribution to an organization whose work you believe in by placing an invitation in your funeral plans to make donations to that organization. Tell your family, discuss with your preferred funeral home, or make a note with your important papers that "memorial donations can be made to...." Then put that paper away and embrace the possibilities for love and life with your friends and family this Christmas.

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

*Joe Stasiuk  
Verna Blight  
Betty  
Kramble  
Philip Miller  
Ernie Askin  
Ken Yuill  
Roy Tibbett  
Lorena  
Pogue*  
Memorial  
Donations  
were given to

the United Church Women (UCW) in memory of Verna Blight. Donations to the Give Us a Lift Fund were also given in memory of Doug Barber & Frank Case.

### Ways to 'keep it real' at Christmas



Sometimes the reasons we struggle with family relationships during the holidays is because we aren't

well rested enough to be at our best. How could you build regular sleep into your Advent and Christmas plans? Can you incorporate a walk down the street, or even down the hallway on a busy day?

### UPDATE 2018

Trinity Baptisms since the September 2018 TriniTidings  
**Baptism**

*June Taylor Mary Hay  
Daughter of  
Adrianna Boychuk & Skylar Hay  
October 28, 2018*

*Madelyn Jean McDougall  
Daughter of  
Cameron & Roxanne  
McDougall  
October 28, 2018*

## Lunch and Learn – First Contact

In our commitment to truth and reconciliation, Trinity has been hosting viewing and conversation sessions for this APTN show Sundays after worship this fall. Our final session will be on **November 25** from 11:45 – 1:45 p.m. to view **Episode 3 (The Road to Healing)**. Come, have a light lunch, watch the show, and talk with others about what you observe in a safe environment. There is no requirement to have been at previous sessions to attend this one. If you wish, it may help to watch the first or second episode so you have some context. You can do that at the church during office hours or online at

[www.aptn.ca/firstcontact/](http://www.aptn.ca/firstcontact/).  
Alternately, you can read a description of each of the episodes at  
<http://www.firstcontactcanada.ca/episodes/>

### White Gift Sunday



This year at Trinity, we will collect donations for "White Gift" on **Sunday, December 9**. 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.

## Some Thoughts on Books I've Mentioned Lately

Beth Kerr

As most of you know, I love books. In case people are looking for a new book for themselves or others, I thought I would put together a few of the books that



I have mentioned in sermons, the Ordinary Life Retreat and elsewhere over the course of the last 6 months or so.

### Solitude: In Pursuit of a Singular Life in a Crowded World by Michael Harris –

This book takes a sociological rather than spiritual approach to the question of solitude and silence in our modern world. It has a lot of food for thought for anyone who wants to reflect on the value of being alone, being silent and even being bored to the health of body, mind and spirit. Harris invites us to reflect on the value of such things as daydreaming, letter writing as opposed to sending email, and taking time to detach from others so we can think our own thoughts.

### Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks by

**Diana Butler Bass** – Butler Bass explores the practice of gratitude from both a personal and a social perspective. What I appreciated about her book is that she explored not just the benefits of gratitude but also why it can be hard to be truly grateful. She talks about what

you might do when you don't feel grateful and how we can practice gratitude even when things are not going well.

### Convictions: How I Learned

#### What Matters

#### Most by

#### **Marcus J. Borg**

– This is the book that our Friday study group is working through. Borg wrote it when he turned 70 to explore what he had learned over the years

about faith and life. Borg was a biblical scholar and that training comes through in the book. His scriptural references are plentiful and well-informed. However, what distinguishes this book from many of his others is the personal touch. In lots of ways this book is about Borg's life as much as it is about the Bible.

### Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action by Simon Sinek -

-- The Leadership Team has been working with the premise of this book to explore the "Why" behind our life and work together as a church. Sinek helps us to remember that knowing what our primary purpose is can help us to make good choices when we decide what projects and commitments to undertake.

### Braving the Wilderness by

**Brene Brown** – I quoted this book in one of my summer sermons. Brown's books are grounded in sociological research but are easy to read and deeply personal. Her most recent book Daring to Lead is in my plans for study leave at

the end of November but I would also highly recommend Braving the Wilderness for anyone who is looking to figure out how to build and find community in the midst of a world that seems determined to force either conformity or division upon us. There is another way. It's not easy but there is another way.

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/>



## Ways to 'keep it real' at Christmas



Do you ever find that you are trying to pack everything into December? Is December 25 a marathon for you and your family? Did you know that in the church, Christmas is a season that starts on December 25 and goes until January 6? There are 12 days of Christmas (hence the song!) What would happen if you didn't worry about doing everything on the 25<sup>th</sup>? What celebration might you enjoy just as well on December 29?

## Keeping It Real This Christmas

In her book, "Loving my Actual Christmas", Alexandra Kuykendall talks about the state of her Christmas decorations. When it comes time to pull them out, she finds them in a mess so



tangled that she considers throwing them out and just buying new. She vows every year "this year will be different" but by the time Christmas has come and gone, she is exhausted and done. Wanting nothing more to do with the holiday, the decorations get thrown in a pile, with the hope that maybe next year she will do a better job of organizing.

Advent and Christmas are wonderful seasons that are full of activity and fun and meaning. However, they can be just as full of stress, weariness and grief. We feel the tension and pull of not having enough time, not enough money, and being surrounded by imperfect people. We often make plans for some sort of ideal celebration, and can feel let down by what actually ends up happening.

This year at Trinity, we want to explore how we can "keep it real", so that we can celebrate and find meaning in the midst of our lives, however they truly are. We hope that by the time the season is ended, we are grateful for what we have experienced, rather than so frustrated that we want to shove

it all away in a box until we are forced to open it up again. So here's how you can join us:

On Sundays you are welcome to join us at Trinity for worship as we explore our "Keeping it Real" themes:

### December 2

"Hope:  
It's Not what you  
Expect"

### December 9

"Loving Actual People"

### December 16

"Joy is more than an  
Emoji"

### December 23

"Being at Peace with What Is"

We are also inviting individuals and families to use a "Mason Jar" Advent calendar. One way to preserve good things is by canning it in a simple mason jar. (if you aren't familiar with that - ask your parent or grandparent!) We have created Trinity Advent Calendars to help us preserve what we believe is important. Each jar is full of gift tags, each with an Advent prayer, activity, conversation starter, or social media prompt. As each day unfolds, you simply draw a card - and so, day by day, week by week, prayer by prayer, action by action, together we will preserve things like hope, love, joy and peace. There are lots of options (twice as many as you need), so if you don't participate in social media, you don't have to use any of them. If you draw one that won't work for your context, you can draw again. We hope it will be one way that we can experience the richness of this season in our real lives as we count down to that holy night when we celebrate the way God is born in our world and our lives. You

can pick up your Mason Jar Advent Calendar from Trinity on Sundays or during office hours through the week.

For the last 10 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).

## Ways to 'keep it real' at Christmas



There are lots of food duties and expectations at Christmas. Who is going to make your grandmother's buns, or Aunt Ethel's fruit cake? It isn't Christmas without Tony's yule log cake! While these traditions can be treasured, they can also be time consuming, and put undue pressure on families, causing resentment rather than rejoicing. In "Loving My Actual Christmas", (Baker Books, 2017) Alexandra Kuykendall has the following suggestions about food prep to help relish the season:

1. Do what is fun.
2. Do what is meaningful.
3. Do what is budget friendly.
4. Do what is possible and outsource when possible.
5. Do what you can ahead of time.

## Children's Christmas Market

House Group B is once again hosting a Children's Christmas Market on **December 9**. This event was a rousing success the last time we held it.



The children will be invited to attend on their own while parents can enjoy

shopping the UCW dainties sale and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. Shopping assistance will be provided for the children along with gift wrapping! Once the children are done shopping, we will invite the adults to come and browse and purchase anything they would like.

We are looking for new or "like-new" gifts that the children can purchase for a loonie or twoonie on their own to give to grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends! Gift ideas could include but are not limited to; scarves, mitts, gloves, jewelry, lotions and skin care products, gift sets, socks, Christmas ties, Christmas decorations, tree ornaments to name a few things.

This is a perfect time for re-gifting! Items can be dropped off at the church office with Jacquie up until December 7.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Market!

## Ways to 'keep it real' at Christmas



Sometimes we are trapped by our Christmas traditions, and feel like we don't have permission to

change them. Give yourself the freedom to try something new this year. Switch up your menu, or add in new game – if the weather's right, a snow fort building contest might be fun? Invite your guests to bring a baby picture and guess who belongs with each photo.

### "Light Up The Lights" for M&S

Starting December 2, we will be raising funds for the Mission and Service Fund. With each donation made to M&S before Christmas, a light will be lit on the Trinity Christmas Tree. Your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund bring light, love, comfort and joy to ministries across Canada and around the world.

For details about the M&S fund at work, there are several online sources:

<https://www.united-church.ca/social-action> talks about some of the urgent action appeals supported by M & S around the world. At <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-choices>

You can find a download of the report "Mission and Service at a Glance 2018" as well as "Mission and Service Partners and Ministries 2018". You can get printed copies of these documents through the Trinity office on request.



## 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.



Thanks to those that have already dropped off rose bowls at the church office for us to use, it greatly reduces our cost. We can use more so if you have any spare rose bowls in your closet please drop them off before **Wednesday, December 12**.

If you can spare a few minutes to make a brief visit and deliver a small gift on behalf of Trinity United Church we would really appreciate the help. 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](mailto: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 (204-857-7145), Iris (204-857-8708), or the church office. They will be ready to deliver after lunch on **Monday, December 17**.

## Looking for a gift idea this Christmas?

We are often looking for a way to give a meaningful or unique gift to a family member or friend. Consider a donation to the General Fund at Trinity United Church on behalf of someone for Christmas this year. When you make a donation to Trinity on behalf of someone, gift cards are available to acknowledge the donation. You can also designate in whose name the charitable receipt should be issued.



was \$74,466, and so far this year, we have received donations of \$6,150 towards this project. We also replaced our antiquated lift this year. This project cost \$71,305, we received a grant of \$15,000 for this project and raised \$34,644 for the lift. The building fund is used for specific building projects and repairs, not day to day upkeep. Donations to this fund are always gratefully accepted to help us maintain our historic building in ways which continue to serve the church and community today.

**The general fund** is the fund that is used for the day to day operation of our church. This fund covers our overhead and the salaries of our staff, including our ministers, and in turn, how our church is able to minister to our congregation. Our congregation receives inspiration, rejuvenation and services, smaller community gatherings such as study groups, UCW activities, services at seniors' residences and for those unable to attend in person, through social media such as Youtube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Many of our congregation members have received support from our church community throughout their lives, and by designating a donation to the general fund, you will be supporting our day to day ministry. Donations to our general fund continue to be our greatest need.

You can choose other funds such as our Building fund, Give us a Lift fund or our Roof project fund. We had to replace our roof this year. The cost

A donation can be made in a number of ways:

- by dropping off a donation at the church office;
- on Sunday, with the offering;
- by e-transfer to [trinityu@mts.net](mailto:trinityu@mts.net); or
- by a donation through the [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) website.

In all cases, please clearly designate in whose name the donation is being made and in whose name to issue the receipt.

Gift cards are available to acknowledge the gift. If you want to deliver the gift card yourself, you can pick one up in the church office or we can email one to you. If you prefer, we can mail or email a gift acknowledgment directly to the recipient if you provide us with their contact details.

Should you have any questions regarding making a gift on behalf of someone, please call the church @ 204-857-4471 or email @ [trinityu@mts.net](mailto:trinityu@mts.net).

## Coming Soon! Trinity United Church Christmas Ornaments

House Group A will be selling Christmas Tree ornaments for their fundraising project. The cost is \$10 each. These will make a great gift for past, present or future folks connected to Trinity. Ornaments will be available for sale after church until Christmas and at the UCW Tea on November 24, or by contacting any member of House Group A.



Do you want to get your Christmas shopping started and support our church this holiday season? December's House Group is having a Thirty-One gifts sale with 15% of the total sales going back to the church. Everyone that orders will be entered into our "door" prize which could be a free item or a discounted item from Thirty-One. Please see the church office for a catalogue or go to <https://www.mythirtyone.ca/ca/en/2629422>. Please email Angela Mills at [mills1@shaw.ca](mailto:mills1@shaw.ca) or call (204) 871-6319 for more information. Orders must be in by **December 10** to ensure delivery for Christmas.

## Games Night

Our activities began in September with a regular evening. In October we had a Halloween Party with optional costumes and a variety of games. We had a few new participants who enjoyed the treats, prizes and lunch, as well. The tape deck had a ghost invade it, so some of the dancing and musical games did not work out. However, no one seemed to be upset about it and we were able to do some alternative things.



Our next special event will be **December 17**, when we will tour the city lights, have pizza and hot chocolate, sing carols and exchange gifts. If anyone

sees special displays for Christmas, please contact Joyce 204-857-6133, Ferne 204-857-3671 or Mitchell 204-428-6800.

### Ways to 'keep it real' at Christmas



We can sometimes discover we enjoy Christmas the most if we are doing things for others.

What if you took a treat to someone who has to work on Christmas day (at the hospital, the fire station, or the gas pump)? A random act of kindness is the perfect way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

## Christmas Office Hours

- The office will be open until noon, Monday, December 24
- The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26
- There will be regular office hours (9 a.m. - noon, 1 – 4 p.m.) December 27, 28 and 31
- The office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.



For 2018 tax receipts, donations must be received in the office by noon, December 31.

House Group A's Mabel's Labels fundraiser is ongoing. If at



any time you have a need for labels orders can be placed at any time and the 20% commission will continue to be sent to us here at Trinity. Mabel's Labels are labels made for your everyday needs. Please visit [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and search in the top right corner for "support a fundraiser" Trinity United Church (Portage la Prairie) to place your order and support the church at the same time!



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

**January 6, 2019**

Following a Star

**January 13, 2019**

You are God's Beloved Baptism

**January 20, 2019**

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

**January 27, 2019**

Can Anything Grow in January?

## Library Notes



Just a reminder - Trinity does have a library of over 1500 items – books, magazines and videos for all ages.

There are several new children's' books and some are out on the cart.

Those who remember Elizabeth Akkerman will enjoy a book of her life written by her daughter Bea. The book is called "This Little Light of Mine".

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.

