

Trini Tidings 2019



Advent/Christmas

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

Phone: 204-857-4471

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Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Trinity's "why" goal...

To build an inviting community so that we can connect and engage meaningfully with God, ourselves, and others.

Trinity UCW "Tea of Lights"



Saturday, November 23
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Donations of baking, crafts, sweets, jellies, knitting, etc. will be gratefully received.

Everyone is welcome!

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

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

November 24, 2019

"Making Hard Choices"

December 1, 2019

Advent 1

"Christmas Around the World -
Germany and Europe"

Communion

December 8, 2019

Advent 2

"Christmas Around the World -
Australia and the Pacific"

White Gifts will be collected

December 15, 2019

Advent 3

"Christmas Around the World -
Mexico and Latin America"

UCW Dainties Sale

Advent Mexican Brunch

December 22, 2019

Advent 4

"Christmas Around the World -
Egypt and the Middle East"

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 p.m.

After journeying around the world this Advent, we come back home for Christmas. In this lively celebration of Jesus' birth, we consider what it means to celebrate "Christmas at Home".

10:00 p.m.

A reflective service of communion and candlelight to help us celebrate Christmas in the midst of our contemporary North American lives.

*Come and do your Christmas baking the easy way! The Unit C - U.C.W. Dainties Sale will be held **December 15** following the morning service.*



Trinity's Special Events Calendar

Trinity UCW Christmas Tea

Saturday, November 23
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Portage Ukrainian Nursery
School Christmas
Craft-Bake-Vendor Sale**

Saturday, November 30
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 8

UCW – Unit C Dainties Sale

Sunday, December 15
following worship

Games Night

Christmas Lights Tour

Monday, December 16

Service of

Remembrance & Hope

Wednesday, December 18
7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian

As we explore Christmas around the world, join us for a Mexican brunch on **Sunday, December 15**, after church.

Cost will be by donation.

Hosted by
House Group A.



Portage Ukrainian
Nursery School
invites you to their
Christmas Craft-Bake-Vendor
Sale

Saturday, November 30

10 am-1pm

Trinity United Church
Auditorium

Vendor Tables, Nursery School Families & Children-Baking, water colour Christmas cards, Santa ornaments, wrapping paper & peppermint hot chocolate. All are welcome!



Christmas Around The World

Have you ever wondered how people in other places celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons? What traditions bring meaning to others and what new insights might they shed on our own celebrations? This year during Advent we will travel around the world to explore how the Christmas story takes flesh in different places.



Advent 1 December 1

Germany and Europe

Germany is the birthplace of many of our Advent and Christmas traditions such as Advent wreaths, Advent calendars and Christmas trees. Germany is also well known for Christmas markets, children writing letters to the Christ Child, and Christmas angels. Come and explore what a "Frohe Weihnachten" might look like.

Advent 2 December 8

Australia and the Pacific

What would it be like to celebrate Christmas under the heat of the summer sun? Christmas comes at the beginning of summer vacation for children in Australia and celebrations often include barbecues, picnics, beach days and camping trips. Fresh seafood is often on the menu for Christmas Day rather than turkey. Carols by candlelight

are also popular and most communities host one featuring local bands and artists singing Christmas music. You're invited to wear bright, summer-inspired clothing!

Advent 3 December 15 *Mexico and Latin America*

One interesting feature of Advent in Mexico is a procession called Las Posadas. Posada is Spanish for Inn or Lodging and Las Posadas remembers Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Nativity scenes (often life-sized), fireworks and poinsettias (which grow wild in much of Latin America) also feature prominently in Mexican holiday festivities. Christmas Eve, known as "Noche Buena", is a very important day with family celebrations and Midnight mass.

Advent 4 December 22 *Egypt and the Middle East*

The Middle East is the geographic setting for our biblical Christmas stories, but Bethlehem today has changed a great deal since biblical times. Now a Palestinian community, Christians celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem with Jews and Muslims and an intriguing mix of cultures and traditions. There are processions and festivities in Manger Square, complete with chicken shawarma, falafel, and a big screen viewing of the Midnight Mass. Jesus' early life was spent in Egypt, and about 15% of Egyptians are Christian today. They belong to one of the oldest Christian

denominations in the world, the Coptic Church. In Egypt (like in Ethiopia and Russia and other places where the Coptic or Orthodox tradition is prominent), Christmas isn't until January 7. For Coptic Christians, the 43 days before Christmas are called Kiahk and during this time Christians observe the Holy Nativity Fast by not eating any animal products. On Coptic Christmas Eve, people go to worship usually starting at about 10:30 p.m. and sometimes going until 4 a.m. After that they go home to share a meal which includes all the things they couldn't eat during Kiahk. The traditional Christmas greeting is "Eid Milad Majid" which means "Glorious Birth Feast".

Tradition Tidbits – If these four themes intrigue you, be sure to follow us on social media for the Tradition Tidbit of the day each day during Advent. We'll travel around the world and learn a little bit about how Christians in many places celebrate the holy days. You can follow us on Facebook by joining our Facebook group (Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie), on Instagram by following "trinityportage" or on Twitter at "ChurchPortage".



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.

Service of Remembrance and Hope



Sometimes you just don't feel like celebrating. Perhaps you are going through a difficult time in your life. Perhaps someone close to you has died. Even if that's true, Christmas can be for you too. Each year Trinity and other churches (Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United) offer a special service during the Christmas season for those who are experiencing bereavement or other losses. It can provide a break from the bright festive activity of the season to remind us that we are not alone, even when we don't feel particularly "merry". This year, the Service of Remembrance and Hope will be held at **First Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18.** Everyone is most welcome at this reflective service, which will include an opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones for those who wish. It is open to anyone who wishes to come, regardless of church background. Refreshments will be served following the service. For more information, or if you have questions, please feel free to speak to Julie.

UPDATE 2019

Trinity Funerals & Baptisms since the September 2019 TriniTidings
Funerals

Elizabeth Louise Mavis Armishaw

September 27, 2019

Evelynne Irene Callander
November 1, 2019

Baptisms

Sophie Pearl Mak
Child of

Kevin & Amanda Mak
October 20, 2019

Kyler Matthew Blayne Senio
Child of

Daniel & Brittany Senio
October 20, 2019

Thomas Everett Alvin Freeborn
Child of

Ashley & Gillian Freeborn
October 20, 2019

Isla Raeanne Sissons
Child of

Blye & Amy Sissons
October 20, 2019

Tess Rylie Reign Braden
Child of

Cole & Courtney Braden
October 20, 2019

Heidi Michele Sissons
Child of

Kale Sissons & Rachelle Roteliuk
October 20, 2019

Deadline for 2019 Contributions!

If you wish to top up your 2019 donations, they must be received in the office no later than **noon, December 31**, to be eligible for the taxation year 2019. 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.



A note of thanks from ALF leadership ...

Thank you to Trinity United Church in Portage la Prairie for hosting 62 participants (grade 7 to 12), 27 young leaders (16 to 28 years) plus Julie Baker as chaplain, Reynold Anderson as Knowledge Keeper, and Twila MacNair as regional staff. The volunteers at Trinity kept us well fed (thanks Robin, Jocelyn and your many helpers!) as we explored the theme of "Where in the World" – connections between faith and land; in the bible and today. Over the weekend, we learned and connected with one another through games, singing, worship, dancing, and swimming in Portage's awesome wave pool. We also spent time in age based home groups for small group discussion, games, and relationship building activities. Rey shared some Indigenous teachings and invited those who wished to join him outside the church at sunrise each morning for a pipe ceremony to offer our prayers to The Creator.

The ministers at Trinity included us in a very participatory worship service on Sunday morning, including Bible quizzes on our devices ...and prayers, spoken by the children of their congregation, and then sent on some pretty amazing flights from the balcony into the hands of random congregation members who were encouraged to pray the prayers throughout the week.

Thanks to all the young people who participated in and led the retreat and thanks to Communities of Faith and individuals who shared their resources to offer this experience young people.

“There’s no place like home for the holidays”

The song “Home for the holidays” is probably familiar to many of us. It was written in 1954 by Al Stillman and Robert Allen and recorded that same year by Perry Como. This song and others like it are popular even decades after they were written, I think, because there is a longing in many of us to be surrounded by the people we love at Christmas-time. I think “home” in this sense is likely less about a place and more about the people.

Most of us have probably experienced years where the circle around the table was incomplete because we couldn’t travel home for the holidays or some of our family was not about to make it home. When someone we love has died, that sense of incompleteness is even more acute. We know that next year and the year after that, there will be an empty place in our sense of home every holiday season. It is okay to be sad in these moments. Our memories often bring us a mixtures of joy and tears.

Sometimes it can be meaningful to acknowledge someone we are missing at Christmas time by making a contribution in their honour an organization or cause they believed in. If the Church was important to your loved one, you might consider making a Christmas gift to Trinity’s General Fund which helps to cover our everyday expenses,



Trinity’s Memorial Fund which contributes to the worship and Christian education ministries of

the church, Trinity’s Building Fund which helps maintain our historic building or the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada

which helps us reach out to others around Canada and the across the world. If another charity was important to your loved one, I am sure they would be delighted to receive a Christmas gift in honour of your loved one.

Trinity gratefully acknowledges that memorial donations have been received in memory of the following people since the last issue of Trini-tidings:

Norman Quigley
Maxine Schroeder
Philip Miller
David Guy (Papa)
Doug Barber
Barb Atchison
Jim Howatt
Harry Peirson

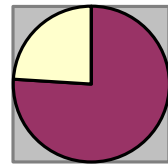
Making a Gift of Stocks to Your Congregation

When you gift shares and mutual funds to your congregation:

- You don’t pay annual gains tax on donated shares and units
- The ministries you care about receive your generous gift
- The Foundation provides this service at no cost to you or your congregation

Visit <http://bit.ly/giftofstock> for more information or call 1-866-340-8223. Email fdn@united-church.ca

**Trinity’s
Financial Update
Projected Expenses for
January-December 2019
\$277,697**



**Income Received
to Date**

**January – November 15
\$192,256**

With 7 weeks remaining in the year, we have reached 69% of our goal. Please help! We need your donations to reach our goal and continue the ministry we offer together.

Are you on P.A.R.?



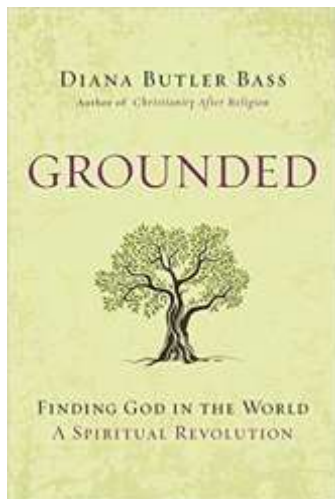
Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)?

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.

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.



Friday Study Group



Beginning in early January, the Friday morning study group is going to be exploring a new book called Grounded: Finding God in the World by Diana Butler Bass. Dr. Butler Bass explores what she describes as a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. *Grounded* guides readers through our contemporary spiritual habitat as it points out the ways in which people experience God everywhere in the world around us – in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the world as a whole. Anyone who wants to join us on the journey is most welcome. Our Friday group meets each week at Queen's Court from 10:15 to 11:45. If you want more information or would like the church to order a copy of the book for you (approximately \$20), please speak to Beth or contact the church office.

For the last 11 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 the last three years at 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).



“Light Up The Lights” for M&S



Starting December 1, 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/stories/mission-service-101> is a great place to start if you want to know more. Learn more about where the money goes, whom it helps, and why it matters at <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-choices>. You will also find downloadable annual reports for M & S at that link. If you would like printed material on the Mission and Service Fund and what it does, be in touch with the Trinity 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.

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 **Monday, December 9**.

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 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 16**.



Friends are Gifts



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 send a kid to camp in the Yukon, or help a child in Angola with school supplies. You can support farmers in Columbia or seniors in Victoria. You can show support for reconciliation where communities are struggling to overcome legacies of colonization and violence. 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/>

White Gift Sunday



This year at Trinity, we will collect donations for "White Gift" on **Sunday, December 8**. 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.

Looking ahead to
Sundays after Christmas
Sunday Services and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
December 29, 2019
 "New Years Around the World"
January 5, 2020
 "On the 12th Day of Christmas Around the World"
January 12, 2020
 Jesus was baptized as an adult!
 Celebrating baptism with some adults at Trinity!

Games Night



We held our Halloween Party & Games Night on October 28. We had lots of treats, fun games and dancing & costume prizes. Our number of participants was down from usual, but those who came enjoyed the fun. Next up is our Pizza Party and Tour of the City Lights on **Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m.**

Anyone having information on specially decorated homes, please contact Joyce (204-857-6133) or Ferne (204-857-3671) so we can have a good tour.

Christmas Office Hours

- The office will be open until noon, Tuesday, December 24
- The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26
- There will be regular office hours (9 a.m. - noon, 1 – 4 p.m.) December 27, 30 and 31
- The office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.



Do you want to support Trinity but don't have any cash to put in the offering plate? We can receive e-

transfers to trinityu@mts.net or you can donate via credit or debit card by following the link on our website trinityunitedportage.ca Thanks for all the ways that our supporters contribute to our life and work.



House Group C's Outreach project for the month of October was to



ask the congregation to donate new mitts/hats for the children at La Verendrye School. As many children lose, forget or simply don't have these items, we thought we could help. Trinity was very generous in their contributions and we collected 58 pairs of mitts and 32 hats. The school was very appreciative and thanks everyone for thinking of them.

Lions Prairie Manor Foundation Christmas Tea & Bazaar Sunday, December 1

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Lions Prairie Manor
 24 – 9th Street SE



Admission by donation
 All proceeds will go to the Lions Prairie Manor Foundation for resident comforts

For 2019 tax receipts, donations must be received in the office by noon, December 31.