

Trini Tidings



February 2021

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

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Trinity Mission Goal:

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

NOTICE OF MEETING: Trinity United Church will hold its annual meeting virtually this year. It is important to note that it is possible to participate regardless of the technology that is (or is not) available to you. **It will be held via ZOOM on Sunday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m.** In addition to the usual business items of reviewing the year, approving a budget and appointing leaders, we will also be appointing new trustees, approving the Trinity ministry profile, and approving decisions about our ministry staff team positions going forward. Written materials for this meeting will be available as of February 16, and will be shared broadly via email. If you need copies in print or any other format, please be in touch with Jacquie in the church office.

Spring is Coming – Grow with us this Lent!

The vaccine rollout will be slow, we know. The new Covid-variants

make us cautious, and the public health restrictions will not be released quickly. At this point, we must assume that church will remain online for the foreseeable future, and in person options will stay limited. Once again we come to a new season of the church year, and we need to figure out how to observe it together, but in our homes.

During the Season of Advent we encouraged everyone to create an Advent wreath that they could light at home to mark the Sundays leading to Christmas. For Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and goes through to Easter Sunday on April 4, we are encouraging you to **create a garden for inside your home** that can be the focal point for your Sunday church or whatever ways you observe Lent this year.

What can you use in your home to make a Lenten garden? See how creative you can be! You are, of course, welcome to be as simple or as extravagant as you wish. You can plant a single seed in a peat cup, or make a whole indoor atrium! You can use plants you already have in your home, and arrange and tend them in a new way, but hopefully in a way that you can watch them grow. You can plant some window herbs or make a teacup garden. Even a Zen garden with sand, rocks, a



candle, and some succulents would be a great idea. There are lots of internet sites with

hints about making dish gardens or meditation gardens if you need help or

ideas.

<https://www.backyardboss.net/indoor-garden-ideas/> has 45 different ways to make a garden inside your house! It is an old Finnish tradition to grow grass during Lent – adding bits of china, rocks or even animal figures for visual interest as the season goes on. <https://www.kitchenparade.com/2007/02/observing-lent-with-children-lenten.php> has lots of step by step advice and suggestions if you want to make a grass or clover garden.

We know that buying just a few seeds or a little bit of soil isn't an easy thing to do. So while we hope that you will be creative by using things you have at home already, if you need supplies to get you started, please contact the church and let us know what you are missing, and we can figure out a curbside pickup or drop off plan for you.

It is our hope that people will share with us photos of how their little garden is progressing. We might invite people to log into Zoom church a little early on Sundays to do some show and tell. As we get closer to Easter, we hope that enough people are growing things in their houses that we need to have a “How does your garden grow?” show and tell session online.

**Trinity Markers and
Milestones**

since the
November 2020 TriniTidings
Deaths

Margaret (Peggy) Rushton
November 27, 2020

Auna-Marie Brown
December 15, 2020

Arthur (Art) John Klassen
January 1, 2021

Judy Elizabeth Archibald
January 24, 2021

**COMING UP IN
TRINITY WORSHIP**

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

February 7, 2021

“Lifted & Renewed”

February 14, 2021

Guest Worship Leader:

Leith Saunders

February 21, 2021

Lent begins

Grow With Us –

Preparing Holy Ground

Zoom communion

February 28, 2021

Grow With Us-

Planting Seeds of Faith

March 7, 2021

Grow With Us-

Nurturing Growth

March 14, 2021

Grow With Us-

The Garden of Weedin’

March 21, 2021

Grow With Us –

Producing Fruit

*Connections with gardens,
even small ones,
even potted plants, can become
windows to inner life.*

*The simple act of stopping and
looking at the beauty around us
can be prayer.*

-Patricia R. Barrett,
The Sacred Garden



In a recent article for The United Church of Canada, the Rev. Paul Walfall invites us to honour and celebrate the contribution of Black people to our country and our church. He notes: “Within The United Church of Canada many Black people have made their contribution for the church to carry out its mission. In 1974 the Very Rev. Wilbur K. Howard was elected the 29th Moderator of the church. There are many Black people, past and present, who continue to offer sterling service at all levels of our church — too many to name, but I give thanks for their contribution in shaping our church.” He goes on to note that there are other lessons that Black heritage can teach us, and he points to the West African symbol of Sankofa, a reminder of the rich legacy the peoples of Africa offer to the world. The symbol is usually seen in the form of a bird with its head turned backward carrying an egg in its mouth, suggesting the need to reach back into the past to get that which is important for life today. It has also been associated with the proverb which says that it is not wrong to go back for what you have forgotten.

What wisdom there may be for us in this uncertain time! As we move forward, let us not be afraid to admit when we make mistakes; not be afraid to go back and try again – pick up what we have missed or forgotten.

**Other ways to
“Grow With Us”
this Lent**

Devotional materials for Lent will appear and be available on our various social media platforms and via email. **If you would prefer any of your Lenten materials in print,** please be in touch with the church office, and we will gladly make arrangements for you to receive print copies to use at home.

SINGERS!

We know how hard this pandemic has been for those who of us who like to sing together with others. We know that if we want to sing we have to stay far away from one another (20 feet is the latest estimate). However, at Christmas we gathered a group and put together a song – recorded one person at a time, and while it wasn’t the same, it was pretty fun. Check out our YouTube channel to see our version of Silent Night if you missed it.



Easter will need some music this year too. Would you like to help us create it?

Rehearsal recordings are created and you practice by singing along before coming into the church to be recorded. If you have appropriate devices, you can even record yourself at home, if that’s easier.

If you would like to join your voice to our Easter songs, please be in touch with the church office so that we can get you music and you can start to practice singing along at home!

"Re-earthing is the process of re-connecting ourselves with the earth. Practically, we learn to nurture the soil and grow the things we need; psychologically we become 'grounded' and more balanced as we develop our awareness of how the earth under our feet supports and connects us; emotionally we gain a sense of well-being, when we connect with it as our home; intellectually we learn more about it at every opportunity; metaphysically we honour it as one of the four elements; and, on the spiritual plane, we learn to respect and reverence the Earth, as a manifestation of the divine creation, of life energy, whose evolutionary history from the beginning of the universe all beings share."
 - Urban Permaculture and Urban Ecology: Re-Earthing the Cities



Are you on P.A.R.?



Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up, simply email or call Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net or 204-857-4471) or come in some day during office hours (9-12 or 1-4), and she will walk you through the process. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase or decrease your PAR donation by contacting the office any time.

"Each one has their own most real thing. Mine is the garden."
 - Louisa Yeomans King



**February 2021
 Giving Goal -
 \$11,987**
*Please help!
 Your generosity is greatly
 appreciated.*

Good News!

At the end of 2020, we are reporting a surplus!!

How we got to a surplus is a result of a few factors. Firstly, the continued financial donations from the congregation and others are the mainstay of this church. Secondly, we currently only have one minister. This has decreased our expenses. Thirdly, we have received money from the provincial government and the federal government.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support Trinity through your donations! All of these donations are appreciated and gratefully accepted.

Thank you to the Province of Manitoba and to Canada for providing grants and wage subsidies!

Looking forward to 2021, we do not know what government funding will be available nor for how long. Also, having only one minister is a temporary situation, so our salary expense will return to normal. With this in mind, we continue to ask that if you are able to provide extra financial support, it is always appreciated!

*The Stewardship
 Team*



What's up with our Ministry Positions?



Staff Changes

With the resignation of Beth Kerr effective June 2020, the February 2020 annual meeting directed the Leadership and M & P teams to investigate options for the future that would meet our ministry needs but also align with the need to reduce our ongoing financial deficit load. A committee was struck up to explore and develop a new position that would meet the needs of Trinity and at the same time provide much needed support for our current minister.

The committee felt that what would work best for Trinity from both a practical and financial standpoint, was to explore options other than the position of a part time minister.

Following a lengthy process that explored what responsibilities needed to be fulfilled, the committee determined that in addition to modifying some of the responsibilities of our current staff, a 30 hour per week position held by a lay Congregationally Designated Minister (CDM) would serve Trinity well. We hope that you will attend the Annual Meeting on February 21 2021 to learn more about the responsibilities this new position will entail as well as the direction the committee will take in its job search.

How to Participate in Trinity's Annual Meeting

Everyone who is interested in the life and work of Trinity church is welcome to attend the annual meeting. It is the practice of our church to have the confirmed members pass a motion at the beginning of the meeting to give all participants the right to vote on some or all of the decisions before the meeting. You can attend the meeting on your land line telephone, on your computer, or any mobile device (on mobile devices you will need to download the zoom app if you don't already have it).

As of February 16, the Annual Report will appear on the Trinity Website, and copies will be emailed or printed for any who wish to have an individual copy.

There may be other printed information that will be useful. A general email will be circulated regarding printed information. If the church does not communicate with you by email and you are interested, please be in touch with the church office so that we can get you whatever information you require.

The meeting will be held online on **Sunday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m.** Try to have the most recent version of Zoom on your device. For any who are brand new to zoom, we would invite you to log on at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting so that you can make sure you can hear and understand what's happening. At the start of the meeting at 1:00 p.m. we will go through the various procedures for those who wish to speak



and how we will make decisions, so that everyone is on the same page. Here is the link for the meeting for those using

computers/devices:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6460700716?pwd=SW9RZDBYVTRpek0ZWZhWkZ3bXN4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 646 070 0716
Passcode: trinity

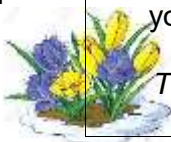
If you phone in on your land line telephone, dial one of the following long distance numbers and use the listed meeting ID number when prompted. *(If you are not covered by a long distance phone plan, please be in touch with the church office to have your expense covered).*

+1 204 272 7920
+1 587 328 1099
+1 647 374 4685
+1 647 558 0588
+1 778 907 2071
+1 438 809 7799

Meeting ID: 646 070 0716

If you would like to try connecting in advance, let the office know and we can schedule a brief practice run for you.

The many great gardens of the world, of literature and poetry, of painting and music, of religion and architecture, all make the point as clear as possible:
The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden.
If you don't want paradise, you are not human;
and if you are not human, you don't have a soul. –
*Thomas Moore,
The Re-Enchantment of
Everyday Life*



Mission & Service Fund

Herb's Story Is a Testament of Care – Thank You



Image credit: First United Church Community Ministry Society

Thank you for giving through Mission & Service this Christmas season. Your support means the difference between life and death for people like Herb.

In his late 60s, Herb spent three winters living on the streets. During that time, he had five bouts of pneumonia. This summer, Herb turned to First United Church Community Ministry Society's shelter, which your Mission & Service gifts support.

Now, for the first time in years, Herb has a home of his own.

"I have my own place—the first place of my own in decades. The apartment was all shiny when I moved in. It is my sanctuary. It is going to protect me from another case of pneumonia this year. I couldn't do another winter on the street. I'm so grateful to be where I am today. I'm bound and determined to do some good," he says.



Your generosity makes it possible for people like Herb the world over to receive physical essentials like food and shelter as well as spiritual ones like love and compassion.

Grow With Us this Lent – A house hold activity

While you will check in and care for your Lenten garden on an ongoing basis, you might wish to



schedule a regular time when your household visits your garden (whether you are a household of 5 or a household of 1). Here's something you can do:

When you visit the garden, begin by talking about your day.

1. Share your highs and lows. Don't skip over this part. What was the best part of your day? What was the worst? Daily/regular sharing of the highs and lows of life helps people of all ages to be more self-aware while strengthening communication and connection with others. No judging! When someone feels judged for what they share, they will stop sharing!

2. Now look at your garden. Do you notice any changes? Maybe you will notice something that invites your action. (maybe you need water!) Or maybe you will notice that you just need to be patient.

3. Think back to your highs and lows. Is there anything that needs you to act on it? Is there something about which you just need to be patient? Can the garden teach you anything today?

4. Now share a prayer together, asking God to be with you and help you through your highs and lows – feel free to be specific.

5. Finally, bless one another and bless your garden. You can use your own words, or you might say something like: "When God looked at the world being created, God said, it is very good. God is good, and God's

goodness is in me. God's goodness is in you. Amen." Or you might try: "God told Moses to notice that he was standing on holy ground. This garden is God's holy ground. We are God's holy ground. Thanks be to God."

A Gift in Memory

The Trinity Memorial Fund seeks to honour the life and faith of loved ones in ways that keeps their memory and significance alive. We also receive memorial gifts to the Operating Fund, the Mission and Service Fund, and any other ministry of the church.

We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since November 2020:

Auna Brown
Mary Domes
Art Klassen
Col. Hamilton & Audrey Sullivan
David Guy
Clayton Zimmerman
Joan Saunders
Margaret Walsh
Jeanne Saunders
Irene Cochrane
Marg & Wally Pehura
Lorena Pogue
Roy Tibbett

A gift was also received to honour the Leadership Team & Trinity Staff.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust." - Gertrude Jekyll



February 16 is Pancake Day!



Pancakes are associated with Shrove Tuesday, the day preceding Lent, because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar. Lenten tradition invites people to consider what practice they might take up or let go to deepen their spiritual life. For some people, giving up rich foods allowed them to take on a kind of Lenten fast. This year at Trinity we're inviting people to consider a growing practice through Lent. On **February 16**, why not make some pancakes for supper and think about what kind of growing you would like to do this Lent? Here's a simple pancake recipe to help you out! Mix the following dry ingredients: 2 cups flour, 3 tbsp sugar, ½ tsp salt, 1 tsp baking powder. Combine 2 beaten eggs, ¼ cup melted butter and 1 ¾ cups milk and slowly stir into the flour mixture. Cook in a heated pan over medium high heat (or on a griddle at 325 degrees). (This will yield 9 6-inch pancakes)

Ways to Give When there's No Sunday Offering Plate



We are so appreciative of the ways that people have continued to make their financial offerings to the church, even when

we can't physically come to church Sunday mornings. Your gifts allow us to continue our ministry in creative ways, as best we can.

You can still drop your Sunday morning envelopes off at the church. The office is open through the week, and a secure mailbox is outside the office door. If you come into the office during open hours, you can donate by credit card or debit card, if that's more convenient than writing a cheque.

Given that we can't get out and about as easily this year, consider making your donation from your home via e-transfer to trinityu@mts.net or you can donate via credit or debit card over the phone to the Trinity office (204-857-4471) or following the link on our website www.trinityunitedportage.ca Thanks for all the ways that our supporters contribute to our life and work.

"Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds, the harvest can be either flowers or weeds."

- Author Unknown



When can we come to church again?

CHURCH at HOME

With the new variations of Covid-19 appearing, and the delays in the vaccine rollout, public health is promoting extreme caution as re-opening phases are considered.

Even when in-person gatherings are allowed, the group numbers will remain smaller than the original yellow, orange and red guidelines suggested. Once we re-open for hybrid in-person/zoom church (like we were able to hold in September and October) the leadership team will want to make sure that all those who wish to come in

person are able to come without complicated reservation systems in place for each Sunday.

Indeed, our primary concern is always the ongoing health and wellbeing of all those in our community.

At this time, church is online only, and will remain so for most, if not all of February. We will endeavor to share communication broadly if there are any changes available for March. As public health orders change, if you have any questions, you can check our website or your email for the most recent information. If you do not have computer access, you can always phone the church office (204-857-4471). When the office is closed, the answering machine still provides the most recent information about public health orders.

"Although weeding, cutting back, and transplanting are activities that may seem repetitive and never-ending, when seen as a necessary and integral part of the overall unfolding of the garden scheme, they become purposeful rather than boring. In fact, what may appear on the surface to be tedious physical work may, in the actual doing, be spiritually liberating. In taking time to contemplate the small — in observing the details of our gardens — we can experience life on a manageable scale."

- Marilyn Barrett,
Creating Eden:
The Garden as a
Healthy Space



Church connections



Who could have guessed how important online communication would turn out to be in a pandemic? While you can always find us by using the telephone, we have many electronic and online options as well.

Regular emails are sent with updates – if you have not been receiving these and you would like to, please email us at trinityu@mts.net with your preferred email address.

Find us through our webpage www.trinityunitedportage.ca, at our Facebook page, or in our active Facebook Group – Trinity United Church, Portage la Prairie. Our YouTube channel is Trinity Portage, at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifQQLFZrDcGyY-J3xjDoKA/videos>

You can also follow us on Instagram at [trinityportage](https://www.instagram.com/trinityportage), and our Twitter handle is [@ChurchPortage](https://twitter.com/ChurchPortage).