

Trini Tidings 2021



Easter

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Portage la Prairie, MB**

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COMING UP IN TRINITY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

March 14, 2021

Grow With Us-
The Garden of Weedin'

March 21, 2021

Grow With Us –
Producing Fruit

March 28, 2021

In-person worship resumes

Palm Sunday
Guest Worship Leader:
Norman Collier

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday
Joy in the Garden!

April 11, 2021

When Can I
Come out of Hiding?

April 18, 2021

Guest Worship Leader:
Wilma Shirriff

April 25, 2021

Rejection & Kindness

Can You Help Us with our plans for Easter Sunday?

Here are some ways you can participate, and we would love your help.

1. If you have been growing a garden, or some sort of growing project through Lent, take a picture, and share it with us. We need pictures in our office **by Tuesday, March 30.**

2. If you would be willing to make a brief video as part of a bigger video project, we'd love to hear from you. It is pretty simple task involving reading a line or two and passing some flowers. For more information, be in touch with the church office as soon as possible. We're hoping to have those videos in **by Palm Sunday, March 28.**

3. If you would like to be part of our music recordings for Easter Sunday, rehearsal material is available now, and it's time to get singing!



If you plan on coming to church in person.... We could use your help. As you know, different people will make different decisions about coming to church in person, or attending online. As such, house groups may be looking for help to fill in the support roles that allow us to gather in person. If you plan to attend in person, and would be willing to help out a house group fill their volunteer roles, please be in touch with the church office and

we will connect you with the applicable house group leader.



The UCW is once again able to offer Chance to Grow petunias for sale (Healing Waters petunia-bacopa). Stay tuned for more info and contact the church office for more details in April.

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).

Ways to Observe Good Friday



Trinity will not be offering a Good Friday service this year. However, there are many different ways you can observe this holy day at home. Perhaps you might choose one of the following options.

1. Alternative online service options will be provided via social media and email updates a few days prior to Good Friday.

2. Perhaps you might take two minutes of silence to honour Jesus' life and death, and pray for those who continue to be unjustly crucified in our world. If you wish, read a bible story of how Jesus died. If you would like a story bible version, be in touch with the church office, and we can make one available to you. You might say this prayer (or similar words): *Loving God we come into your presence and we/I can only be still. Still because we do not know what to say or do. This is a day for sadness, it is a day for lament; it is a day to acknowledge all of the things we wish were not so.... Be with us in the shadow of the cross. Be with us in our grief this day. Sit with us in our gloom. Stay with us so that we may find a sure ground of faith, a firm support of hope and the strong assurance of your love -*

today, and each time bad things happen. Amen.

3. If the weather allows, go for a walk by yourself, and notice your surroundings – where are the signs of life and death visible? If weather or mobility to do not allow, find a window in your home where you can see outside. Consider the lessons in Jesus' words in John 12:24: *"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."* (*The Message translation*)

4. On Friday or Saturday, visit a cemetery. Perhaps tend the grave of a family member, friend or stranger.

5. As we continue our "Grow With Us" theme, reflect on Wendell Berry's poem, "The Man Born to Farming." To hear Wendell read his poem, visit <https://onbeing.org/poetry/the-man-born-to-farming/>. How does this poem connect to Jesus' story for you?
The grower of trees, the gardener, the man born to farming, whose hands reach into the ground and sprout, to him the soil is a divine drug. He enters into death yearly, and comes back rejoicing. He has seen the light lie down in the dung heap, and rise again in the corn. His thought passes along the row ends like a mole. What miraculous seed has he swallowed that the unending sentence of his love flows out of his mouth

like a vine clinging in the sunlight, and like water descending in the dark?

6. Good Friday often offers space for solitary reflection, but we do not need to face this day alone. As Thomas Bandy says, "God's call is rarely a call to do something. It is always a call to be with somebody." Certainly, Jesus' death came because of his commitment to live in love and justice for God's people. Who in your circle might be finding this a difficult day? How can you reach out to them today?

7. Somewhere in your home, clean, oil or even paint a door. Focus on the divine activity of opening and closing doors. Pray as you work.

8. Sing a Good Friday song. It might be something like 144 VU "Where you there when they crucified my Lord?" *Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble...* or it might be one that speaks to the Easter sense of vigil, like 182 VU "Stay with us through the Night". *Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the pain. Stay with us, blessed stranger Till the morning breaks again.*

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 life of Jean Finnie, Mildred & Clayton Zimmerman, Elmer & Rita Zimmerman, Auna Brown & Art Klassen, in whose memory we have received donations since February 2021.

When can we come to church in person?

The government public health orders continue to urge us to be careful and cautious as we move towards re-opening. However, guidelines do allow us to have up to 25% capacity for church services at this time. As such, the Leadership Team has decided that those who wish to come to worship in person may do so as of **Palm Sunday, March 28 2021**. (Provided there are no changes to the order). We will still continue to offer church online via Zoom, and those who wish to participate online are encouraged to do so, particularly as it allows those who wish to be present in person to come in safety. If you are feeling unwell in any way, we urge you to stay home and join us online, rather than come to the church building.

For those who attend in person, please remember that masks will be mandatory, and that households must still distance from one another (this is true even for those who may have been vaccinated). You will be asked to sanitize your hands as you enter, and names and phone numbers will be recorded for the purposes of contact tracing, in the unlikely event that it is required by public health. Please enter through one of the black Tupper Street doors (sanctuary or office level). All other entry doors (including the green south door) will remain locked. The elevator will be available for use – one person



at a time, with external operators as required. While we are glad for the

opportunity to have more options to gather together at this special time of year, there are several things that we simply will not be able to do together yet. We will not celebrate communion on Easter. There is no Sunday School, although children are welcome to come and stay with their household group. We will not be able to sing hymns together, or have our Easter breakfast. We look forward to a time in the future when we can welcome the whole family back together for food and celebration, but for now, we take it one small step at a time.

Thank you

From The Stewardship Team
Once again, thank you to everyone who continues to support Trinity. We are pleased to report that as at the end of February we had more \$ come in than we spent. This is partially thanks to the \$5,000 we received from the government of Manitoba through their pandemic Bridge grant. We do not know how long government assistance will be available.

However, our offerings received up to the end of February are below the **budgeted** amount. As we move forward this year, we anticipate the offerings will grow to match or exceed the budgeted amount. Your ongoing financial support is always needed and greatly appreciated!



A short video!!

What does Trinity and our church community mean to you? We are looking for individuals that would talk about what Trinity means to them. This would be a short video that we would post on social media.

We have people joining us for Sunday worship, following us on FaceBook or Instagram, or watching YouTube who are non-members of our Church. We want to let people know what Trinity means to you, whether it's the work the church does in the community or how you find community, strength, faith, spirituality or positive reinforcement from our church community. At the end of your video, we would provide a link in case anyone wanted to give a financial gift to Trinity. This would give us a way to ask for a financial contribution from non-members, in a positive way.



Trinity Markers and Milestones

since the February 2021

TriniTidings

Deaths

Jean Finnie

February 13, 2021

Joyce Rutter

March 3, 2021

Baptisms

Jake Lucas Brugger, son of

Tara and Dean Brugger

February 28, 2021

Millie Nicole Talbot,

daughter of Deanna &

Colin Talbot

March 7, 2021

Kaycee May Reykdal,

daughter of Kayla &

Chris Reykdal

March 7, 2021

Easter Sunday Joy in the Garden



You can join us to celebrate Easter in two ways this year.

If circumstances or your preferences keep you at home, you are welcome to join us LIVE ONLINE via our Zoom platform for our special Easter celebration which will begin at 10:30 a.m. Advantages of being at home include being able to join us from the comfort of whatever place in your home

you choose, and you can even stay in your pajamas if you wish! There will be no Easter breakfast this year, but you can participate in online church over breakfast at home! The video portions of our Easter service are likely easier to see on your home devices than in the light of the church sanctuary. You can sing out loud! As we know well by now, you protect the health and safety of your community by staying home as much as possible.

However, provided public health orders continue to allow us to have 25% capacity for church, you can also choose to join us LIVE and IN PERSON at Trinity on Easter Sunday, and worship will begin

at 10:30 a.m. Advantages of coming to the church building include the opportunity to celebrate Easter in the presence of others from your church family who may not live in your house! While we can worship anywhere, it is true that the church setting can provide a heightened sense of mystery, awe and wonder. While we will make use of technology to share in worship, you don't have to be responsible for it or figure out how to connect to zoom! You can ring bells and sing in your heart. We will take every precaution to ensure that the health and safety of the faith community is maintained for those who attend in person.

We have recently learned of the death of K. Thomas Haggerty, 87, of Airdrie Alberta. Tom started his work with the church here at Trinity Portage, active in many areas of the church, including couple's club that he

and Elaine attended together. His involvement at Trinity led to an opportunity

where he, Elaine and their children spent 8 years working with the Shanta Bhwan Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal on behalf of The United Church of Canada (1963-1967; 1968-1972). Tom later served congregations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan during 9 years of Designated Lay Ministry.

**March 2021
Giving Goal -
\$11,699**

*Please help!
Your generosity
is greatly
appreciated.*



Manitoba 150

We also have some happy news to share. The Manitoba government has released the names of the 150 community builders who



are being recognized in honour of Manitoba's 150th birthday for their contributions to the life and well-being of our citizens. Due to the pandemic, the announcement was delayed, although the honourees have known since last spring. We are pleased to note that of the 150, 4 are from Portage la Prairie, and 2 of those are honoured primarily for their contributions through this church! **Auna-Marie Brown** was recognized, primarily for her support of Syrian refugee families, (while the award at this point is posthumous, we are so glad that she knew of it before she died; she was quite humbled and honoured by the recognition) and we want to

congratulate **Ferne Green**, recognized primarily but not only for the Games Night program she has coordinated for so many years.



Giving from Home

Thanks for continuing to support our church! We are grateful for the ways you are giving, whether that's by a cheque dropped off to the office, by e-transfer to trinityu@mts.net, credit & debit card gifts through the office or online. We appreciate your generosity & if you need help to access any of these options, call the church office.

