

Trini Tidings 2021



Early Fall

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

Phone: 204-857-4471

e-mail: trinityu@mts.net

Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Can We Try for Communion?

While we have celebrated communion online several times during the last couple of years, the last “in person” communion service at Trinity was March 1 2020. Public health orders may require us to change plans, however our current intention is to hold a communion service on **Sunday October 3 2021**; often celebrated as Worldwide or World Communion Sunday. To address public health and safety, we will not use a common loaf or cup, but people will receive individual portions of bread and juice. You are welcome to join us or, if you prefer, to celebrate with us online.



COMING UP IN WORSHIP at TRINITY

September 5

The end of James is the beginning of faith

September 12

On the Right Path

September 19

What do you have?
Go and See.

September 26

Guest Worship Leader
Norman Collier

October 3

It's All Connected
World Communion Sunday

October 10

Giving Thanks!

October 17

Guest Worship Leader
Norman Collier

October 24

Mystery Theme Part 2

October 31

All Hallows' Eve and
In Memoriam Sunday

November 7

Guest Worship Leader
Norman Collier

November 14

Mystery Theme Part 3

November 21

Was Jesus a Social (Media)
Influencer?

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. If you have not been receiving email and you are already on our distribution list, please be in touch so we can discover the glitch!

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).

Small Gestures

Thank you God, for small gestures: for an acorn squash left on the doorstep, for an unexpected card in the mail, for encouraging email, for cats that sneak in with a smug look, for music that touches the soul, for cups of tea, for ladybirds on the windowsill, for wind chimes. Thank you God, that, when life gets overwhelming, you send kindness through friend, stranger, and nature; that when life feels like it's swirling out of control, you have us held in the palm of your hand.

-Katrina Crosby

Attend church virtually from wherever you are on Sundays!

It has been a full year since we began live-streaming Sunday worship from the Trinity

sanctuary via the Zoom platform. Through internet technology, we have been able to offer a way for people to come to church from their homes, whether that's in Portage or even from locations in Saskatchewan or Ontario. As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the leadership team is working on plans to enhance safety as we gather in person this fall. However, regardless of plans or shifting public health orders, we will continue to offer online access to Trinity services. At this time, we will continue to utilize Zoom for the live Sunday morning experience. We will also record portions of the Sunday morning gathering to be uploaded to our YouTube channel for any time viewing. You can find the link to our YouTube channel on our website, or go to YouTube and search for "Trinity Portage".

For any who have not yet had the opportunity, here are instructions for accessing our Zoom Livestream. If you have a mobile phone or tablet, download the zoom app, and on Sunday mornings, go to the app and click "Join a meeting". Enter the meeting ID: 646 070 0716. You will be asked for a passcode which is: trinity. Some people prefer to click on the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6460700716?pwd=SW9RZDBYVTR>



[pekc0ZWfHwKZ3bXN4Zz09](#) (also listed weekly in our Facebook group, our regular emails or on our website), and let the app open from there. In this case, you will not be asked

for the passcode. If you access through a browser, rather than the app (on a desktop

computer for example), you can just click the link, and it should take you right to the live feed.

When you enter the meeting, say "yes" when you are asked to join audio, or you won't be able to hear anything. You can still control whether your microphone or video is on. You can also choose whether to keep the close captioning on your screen or to hide it, if it's distracting. You are invited to discover the chat function, where you can type a message to anyone else online, or submit a prayer request.

You can also listen to the live feed on your land telephone line. You will have to dial a long distance number, so depending on your phone plan, you may incur long distance charges. When you dial in, you will enter the meeting ID: 646 070 0716. Any of the following numbers will access the zoom feed, even though they are routed through different parts of Canada:

1 204 272 7920 (Manitoba); 1 587 328 1099 (Alberta); 1 647 374 4685 (Toronto); 1 647 558 0588 (Toronto); 1 778 907 2071 (British Columbia); 1 438 809 7799 (Montreal). If you have trouble getting through on one, try another!

If you need help accessing Trinity online, instructions may

always be found at our website. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact us via our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) or give us a call in the church office during the week.

It's time for another Confirmation Program!



This fall, Julie will be reaching out to families with youth who are in grade 8 and up who may be interested in a confirmation program. Depending on how the school year looks, we could offer it during the fall or after Christmas, so start thinking about what timing might work best for your family. We are also hoping to run a companion program for adults (yes, parents of confirmands, I'm looking at you!) who never got the opportunity as youth to investigate some of the faith questions that confirmation allows. If you would like to register your interest in either program, please be in touch with Julie. Otherwise, watch your inbox for opportunities to share your opinions and schedule preferences!

Communities in Bloom and Manitoba 150

In celebration of the Communities in Bloom and Manitoba 150, Trinity's gardens were featured in the Herald leader Press this

summer. In case you missed it, here is our very talented gardener, Mitchell Omichinski's full garden story.

"I had the privilege of taking over Trinity Garden 2 years ago which had been built over many years with volunteers from Trinity under the stewardship of Brenda Moorhouse. The majority of the plantings are perennials that have been in place for many years and seem to do very well along the south and east sandstone walls of the church. Spring emergence of these plantings takes place about two weeks earlier than anything I have experienced at my home or in town generally.

The perennials range from tulips, daffodils in the early Spring to lilies in early Summer with day lilies flowering in early July, daisies, yarrow and hollyhocks along with the striking purple Russian sage and a few others I haven't identified. There are stone crop ground cover in some areas and variegated dogwood, cistine cherry, globe cedar and hedge-type coniferous to round out the planted shrubs.

The garden has one large tree which is a rosy bloom crabapple, under which are planted 3 or 4 varieties of hostas. On the annual side, the UCW committee from the

church annually provides so called fusible combinations of three or four varieties of flowers typically involving petunias. These were planted mostly along the east side of the church along with a variety of marigolds that were contributed by a member of the church.



I planted in addition a border of dusty miller along the same side and also a row of canna lilies which I have propagated for many years on my own property. Many canna lilies are also planted along the south wall at various locations serving as a counterpoint to the perennial shrubs and flowers mentioned above. Also the north side features hanging baskets of petunias from Solomon's as well as a planter which was built and added along one of the north entrances of the church.

This year was challenging in establishing the annuals due to the many gusty windy days from every direction in the month of May and early June. The late threats of frost were also challenging in preserving the annual plantings. Just to fill in and accent a few areas, tomato plants and pepper plants were also added. I am also trying to establish a few roses and the very challenging clematis".

-Mitchell Omichinski



Thank you, and an update

From The Stewardship Team
We are pleased to report that as at the end of July, we are showing a surplus! This surplus is as a result of 3 major factors, we have received a total of \$15,000 from the province of Manitoba, we have been taking \$2,083 per month from our "Investing in our Future" fund and we currently only have one minister. We do not anticipate receiving any further money from the province and we are hopeful our ministry staff vacancy will be filled in the near future.

Our offerings to the end of July, both in person and by PAR, are \$2,259 less than our budgeted offerings. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church despite not being able to attend church in person.

We invited Cornell Pashe to speak in June on the topic of Circles of Reconciliation and Treaties. We were extremely pleased with the turnout of attendees, of which 35% were nonmembers of our congregation.

Financial Update 2021

May - August

Goal - \$46,393

Given - \$46,730

Thank you!



Giving Goals
September - October
\$27,196

Let's keep it up!

Think Tank Opportunities

What's a think tank?

Well, generally, it's a group of people who gather to provide ideas and advice around a particular topic or issue. With all of the changes to the way we do things brought on by the pandemic, we need wisdom about how to best be the church in this time and place. So, over the next few weeks and months, you will see opportunities to be part of a think tank group. If a topic is of interest to you – particularly if you care about it, please consider being part of the think tank gathering. You don't have to worry that you need to bring answers – we'll figure those out together. Coming up soon, we will be looking for people who would be willing to be part of the HYBRID WORSHIP think tank. What should Sunday mornings look like, now that we have some people online and some people in person. How can we be engaging, interactive, and intergenerational, while also keeping the community safe?

Also coming by the start of October will be a CHRISTMAS think tank – we are not in the same place as last year, but this Christmas is likely not going to be whatever use to pass for normal, either. Want to be part of sorting out what it will look like at Trinity this year? We may also soon be in



a position to gather think tanks to explore what is possible in KIDS PROGRAMS and MUSIC.

If you are willing to be part of a particular think tank topic or conversation, please be in touch with Julie or the church office, and we'll reserve a chair for you at the table.

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day has recently been recognized by the Federal Government as a new statutory holiday: a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is meant to give public servants an opportunity to recognize the legacy of residential schools. The designated paid holiday for federal employees also addresses one of the 94 calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public

commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process." In Portage la Prairie, the history and legacy of residential schools is close to home; indeed Trinity United Church had a very close

relationship with the Portage Residential School for many years. (For more about Trinity's connection to the residential school, visit the history tab on our website). The Leadership Team hopes to be able to place a visible reminder of that history with a simple exterior display at the church on September 30. We invite everyone to wear orange, and participate in local commemoration events, as public health orders allow. Grand Chief Arlen Dumas (Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs) issued a statement when the bill was passed, saying, in part, "I note that this now national day on September 30th each year began as a grassroots movement of First Nation people. Phyllis Webstad, who is from the Stswecem'c/Xga'tem First Nation, was simply one voice that spoke out about her experience in residential school and her voice grew to a National day of recognition eight years ago. I remind everyone that it takes just one unwavering voice to stand in their truth; just one voice that calls out for others to join;

which then becomes a set of voices that stand in unison and speaks out; which then becomes the voice of an entire

country that now stands as in unison to demand change and action. This is a reminder to all, that a single grain of sand can tip the scales. To all First Nations and allies alike, please join that voice; join that call to action."



We're Hiring!

Are you interested in contributing to the life and work of Trinity United Church in a new way?

We have an exciting opportunity as a Congregational Designated Minister that we are looking to fill.

Under the supervision of the Coordinating Minister, this position will contribute to our Affirming Ministry in the areas of community building and faith formation. Community building functions include organizing and participating in regular visits to hospital, personal care homes and shut-ins; providing training to lay visitors and teams; preparing and leading funeral services as required. Faith formation functions include encouraging the recruitment and development of lay people with gifts to share in the work of the community of faith; in consultation with volunteer leaders, plan, resource and offer leadership for Christian education programs as required; and working with lay leaders to promote education and action around the work of justice and peace at the local levels. Full position description is available by contacting the Trinity United Church – Portage la Prairie office at the email below.

Please submit a resume and cover letter explaining how you meet the qualifications to: trinityu@mymts.net

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



Note: successful candidate will be subject to satisfactory security checks (child abuse registry, vulnerable persons, criminal record).

Milestones &

Markers...

Since our last issue

Funerals

Gerald "Gerry"

Wendall John Johnston

July 2, 2021

Dallas James Denslow

July 17, 2021

Judy Elizabeth Archibald

July 23, 2021

Dennis Wayne Roy

July 24, 2021

We also acknowledge the deaths of:

Don Blight March 26, 2021

Dick Street June 28, 2021

Lorry Nicholson July 26, 2021

Baptism

The pandemic has required us to be creative about the ways we celebrate the traditional sacraments of the church. We were able to adapt our traditions to celebrate a series of baptisms each Sunday of Lent in the early part of 2020.

We hope to make space in October and/or November for baptism if there is interest (and provided public health orders and 4th wave cases permit). If you are interested in baptism this fall, please be in touch with Julie and we will make a plan and schedule a date!



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 Cynthia Jordan, Steve Cheverie, Don Blight, Bert Bazin, Marnie Barr, Gerry Johnston, Judy Archibald, Dick Street, Gordon Fraser & Lorry Nicholson, in whose memory we have received donations since May 2021.

*"'Tis a fearful thing
to love what death can touch.
A fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be-
to be,
And oh, to lose.
A thing for fools, this,
And a holy thing,
a holy thing
to love.
For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.
To remember this brings painful
joy.
'Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing, to love
what death has touched."
(Yehuda HaLevi)*

UCW Members!

Plans are underway for a September meeting. Stay tuned for more details.



“I don’t know – maybe?”

There are so many questions before us these days. A month ago, with vaccination rates increasing, there was great optimism that we were moving out of the pandemic stage of life with Covid-19. And then we started to hear concerns about what the fourth wave might look like, due to the movement of the Delta variant. And suddenly old questions re-emerged. What is the capacity of our building, and what size of gatherings are allowed? Are masks required? When can we go back to singing? When can we serve coffee and cookies?

YES
MAYBE
I DON'T KNOW

What about children’s programming? When will church start to feel more normal again?

It seems that the common answer to these and all the other questions across sectors from recreation to education from community organizations to churches to businesses is “I don’t know – maybe?” At their recent meeting, the Trinity Leadership team struggled with creating a vision for next steps. What can we do? When? How? It was determined that at this time, we assume that some among us are unable to be vaccinated (we know for certain that this is true for those under the age of 12). We assume, also, that while vaccinations are a good

protection against the most serious outcomes of the virus, they do not prevent the circulation of Covid-19. We assume that public health orders are going to shift and shift again over the next few months. We therefore must take a cautious approach to protect the health and safety of all people, particularly the most vulnerable among us.

For now, we will maintain the pattern of hybrid online/in person Sunday gatherings that we have been using for the last number of weeks. For those who attend church in person, physical separation will be maintained and we will encourage those from separate households to sit 6 feet apart. If indoor mask use is mandated, we will abide by that requirement, but even if it is not mandated, we will encourage mask use, particularly when people are not seated, but moving about in the building.

We will continue to find alternative options to congregational singing – using pre-recorded music, live instrumental music, and perhaps soloists (if we have any volunteers? – Be in touch with Julie if you have other ideas). We are committed to being a place where children are welcomed and safe, but we are challenged to come up with a safe option for children’s programming at this time. We would welcome hearing from those who are also invested in these principles, who would be interested in figuring out what a new vision for Sunday School might look like. We are considering options for ways to share food and drink safely together, and are hoping to be able to offer a communion service in the church building

on October 3. As always, we will encourage people to observe good hand hygiene practices and to stay home if you don’t feel well, and come to church online or by phone instead.



Becoming Nakuset: The Story of a Sixties Scoop Survivor
September 8, 2021. 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Manitoba time)

Nakuset, a Cree woman from Lac la Ronge, Saskatchewan, is a well-known Indigenous activist and Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montréal. As a young child, she was taken from her home in Thompson, Manitoba and adopted into a Jewish family in Montreal. Becoming Nakuset is her story. After a screening of the short film, Tony Snow (Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region), will guide us through a Listening Circle with both Nakuset and Dan Milner, also a survivor of the Sixties Scoop agenda.

For more information, or to register, see <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/410-becoming-nakuset>

In addition, the United Church will be offering an Online Orange Shirt Day Panel called Indigenous Children Then, Now, and Tomorrow **Wednesday, September 29, 2021 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Manitoba time** Registration details will be available at the start of September at <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/upcoming-webinars>