

Trini Tidings 2021



“Making the Connection”

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.

Christmas is Coming...



This coming holiday season will be our second “pandemic” Christmas. We hope that last

year’s complete lockdowns will not be in place this year, but no doubt we will still need to make significant adaptations to our holiday traditions. Do you have ideas about how we could celebrate Christmas at Trinity this year? Join Julie’s Christmas Idea Lab, which will be held **Wednesday, October 27 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at the church. Depending on who is interested, we may also make arrangements for people to zoom in. You and your ideas are most welcome!

COMING UP IN WORSHIP at TRINITY

**Sunday Service
In-person and Online**

10:30 a.m.

October 24

Making the Connection – Part 2

October 31

All Hallows’ Eve and
In Memoriam Sunday

November 7

Guest Worship Leader
Norman Collier

November 14

Making the Connection – Part 3

November 21

Was Jesus a Social (Media)
Influencer?

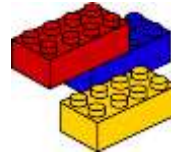
November 28

Advent Begins!

Lego helps us

Make the Connection!

Help us with our lego project from October 24 to November 14!



As part of our stewardship campaign this year, we are inviting people to help build a lego creation, as a sign of the way that people come together to build the church. It will be at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays, and in the office during the week. If you come into the church, please add a piece or several pieces to our build. You are welcome to bring/send in your own piece(s) of lego from home to add, but you won’t likely get it back. If you don’t come in person and want to get us to add a piece for you, please give us a call, or send a message or email and we’ll do that for you.



In this day and age of email scams and phishing, if you should receive an email from either Julie or the Church that looks suspicious, call the church and we will confirm its source.

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).

Calling all Parents of School Aged Children



We are seeking your input on Sunday school ideas. There will be a meeting at Trinity at **November 9 at 7 p.m.** for all interested parents. If you can’t make it, please email your thoughts to Jacquie trinityu@mts.net or call Donna at 204-871-1505.

Church and Halloween



Halloween is a Sunday this year. How will we acknowledge that in church? Julie has joked by noting that “everyone will be invited to wear a mask!” Given what we hear in public conversations, one might assume that Halloween and the Christian Church have no connection to one another. You might be surprised to know of the links. Halloween is an abbreviation of “All Hallow’s Eve”, the evening before “All Hallows” or “All Saints” Day (November 1) and “All Souls” day (November 2). “Hallow” was an old English word for “holy”, and was used to describe a festival for remembering holy people, or “saints”.

What does that have to do with jack-o-lanterns, trick-or-treating, and ghosts and goblins? Well, once upon a time, there was a pagan Celtic festival called “Samhein”, which marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It marked a time of transition between warmth and cold, life and death. The Gaels believed that beginning at sundown on October 31, the boundary between heaven and earth, life and death was very thin, and those who had died could come back and visit. They also believed that if the dead were not happy, they would bring sickness and famine with them, and would do damage to animals and crops.

So on October 31, the people would put on costumes, light bonfires, and imitate sorcery practices to ward off evil spirits and ghosts.

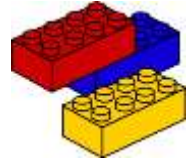
In 835 CE, the Christian church decided to put All Saints Day on the same day as

Samhain, hoping to replace the tradition with one of its own. Instead of death being terrifying and haunted, the church hoped to use the celebration to make it hopeful and holy. Church services were held around bonfires on All Hallow’s Eve to celebrate the work God had done in and through the saints, and to proclaim that neither their stories, nor ours, will end in the grave.

Like Christmas and Easter, the modern holiday of Halloween has been shaped by a number of factors, including paganism, Christianity and commercialism, all mashed together. The tradition of “trick or treat” likely comes, in part, from the fact that poor people would go from house to house and offer to pray for the family’s dead, in exchange for food. In Mexico and other southern countries, Aztec traditions merged with Christian observances in a similar way to create the festival known as Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, a celebration of life and death (Nov 1 & 2).

So this year at Trinity, join us on Halloween where we will observe a hopeful and holy “All Hallow’s Eve”, and remember our saints, particularly the ones to which we said goodbye in the last year. And wear a mask... or even a costume, if you wish!

“There is no word for goodbye in Lakota. That’s what my mother used to tell me. Sure, there are words like toksa, which meant “later,” that were used by people as a modern substitute. She’d told me later that the Lakota people didn’t use a term for farewell because of the idea that we are forever connected. To say goodbye would mean the circle was broken.”



- David Heska Wanbli Weiden, *Winter Counts*

The return of Coffee after Church!



Coffee time is returning in November. We know how much we have missed that opportunity to sit and talk together. We are trying another experiment – isn’t everything an experiment these days? **Starting November 7 and throughout November**, the house group will host a coffee time in the church auditorium downstairs following the church service. To come for coffee/tea, you **must** have proof of full vaccination (you are not required to show proof of vaccination to come to church upstairs – only to attend the social time downstairs). We will also ask that people remain masked until they are seated at tables with their refreshments, but then masks may be removed for eating and drinking together.

Making the Connection A Story

by Randy Owens

This year our stewardship theme focuses on the value of "Making the Connection".

I learned this lesson many years ago, when an elderly friend of ours was in hospital for an extended stay. I knew he wasn't doing well and felt compelled to go spend some time with him, to hopefully add some relief and comfort. I tried a few different times but the door was usually closed and the room dimly lit. I peeked in several times over the span of a few weeks, and thought, "well, he's probably sleeping so should let him rest". I reasoned in my mind that "hey, I tried", and so had done my duty. However, this didn't sit quite right with me. But still, I let the business of life backfill my calendar, probably to reason away the guilt of not making the connection. I tried again weeks later, the door was a crack open this time, but the lights were dimmed again. I peeked in, and as I backed away, heard a faint whisper, "come, come, come in". "Hi", I said gingerly, "it's Randy." "I know it's you", he said to my surprise. I went on to say how many times I had come before to make sure he knew I tried. After a half hour of chatting, my friend was growing tired and I knew it was probably time to wrap up our visit. He said to me, "You know, always take the chance to make a social connection". It can be so important to someone in so many ways that you did not



anticipate, so it is always worth the risk. It's more important than getting 'things' in life, this is life itself!

Well, our family friend passed away not long after that visit, and to this day I have learned to always take the small risk

to connect; you will never regret living this way!

The other lesson I learned from this kind man is that giving a piece of your time in our busy scheduled lives may mean the world to many people, and may be just what they need! The small risk will produce large benefit! The best gift to give anyone, is the gift of TIME! You hear this cliché regularly, but it is internalized for me now.

I found this small sacrifice of taking the chance to connect can apply in many areas of life. If you are somehow stuck in a social rut with a partner, a friend, a spouse, a colleague, a parent, a sibling - take the chance and be the first one to reach out. It may be all that is needed to connect, reconnect, or repair a relationship. Something humans crave is connection. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone else to change first. Give society, your relationships, and your mental health a positive boost; the benefits can last a life time and lift us all up to where we need to be - to survive, and even thrive.

Did you know?
Some people believe that seeing a cardinal is a sign from



God or a message from heaven. The word cardinal comes from the Latin word *cardo*, which means hinge. The next time you see a cardinal (in Manitoba they are rare, but we have pictures!), look closely at it. Trust that God is near.

Portrait of Fall



Looking out my window in October's golden light, I see a beauty unsurpassed, a truly lovely sight. Leaves are saying soft good-byes as they come floating down to make a nature's carpet of yellow, red, and brown. Mountain tops, now turned to white, forewarn of winter chills, while trees, like golden rivers, wind their way up through the hills. Throughout our world's creation you will ever find it thus, kaleidoscopes of color, in God's hand, the artist's brush.

© Alora M. Knight

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/portrait-of-fall>

"Many treat friendships and other human connections as if they are things they can store in a closet where they can come back one day and find them unaltered. Alas, human connections do not survive with this mentality."

- Louis Yako



Making the Connection

The difference your donation makes!

From The Stewardship Team

Thank you for your financial support!

We would like to **thank you** for your ongoing financial support to the church! Despite not being able to physically attend church from time to time, offerings have continued throughout.

Because of you and your generosity, we have been able to continue to share the love of God with our community. Throughout this pandemic, we have learned how to livestream, and have offered regular Sunday morning worship in live form when possible, but also each week “live” through zoom, and with recordings posted later to our YouTube and social media channels. For those without access to technology, we have provided “phone in” options to attend church, and print materials for use at home.



We have marked life transitions with a combination of small group and virtual gatherings, including funerals, weddings, and we even celebrated baptism with 7 families in 2021.

We created and delivered “Just Because – Covid” care boxes to people we knew have been particularly challenged by the pandemic, and sent lots of cards and letters and pocket prayer shawls to those who were homebound or struggling.



We found new ways to celebrate special occasions with virtual pageants and choir anthems, and have provided ‘at home’ kits to families with children.

Because we haven’t always been able to come into the church building, we have attended to the messages we can share outside the doors, with tended gardens, a nativity scene, sign war offerings, and a memorial display for Truth and Reconciliation day.

Following public health orders, we have still been able to offer a safe and accessible space to community support, child care, and recreation programs, from Nursery School to Big Brothers-Sisters, from 12 step groups to the Portage Islamic Association to Taekwondo. We could not have done any of this without your financial support.

The offerings received to the end of September are \$111,963, which is 62% of our budgeted amount of \$182,000. Just a reminder, we passed a deficit budget. Accordingly, we budgeted to take \$25,000 from our Investing in our Future Fund. In 2021, we have received money from

the provincial government in the amount of \$15,000. When you look at the operating budget vs. actual budget on the next page, you will see that we are currently in a much better financial position than we thought we would be at this time of the year. The grant we received from the government has contributed to this, but one major factor is we are still operating with only one minister. This has kept our personnel costs low, but once we hire someone, our personnel expenses will return to the budgeted amount.

If you like comparison charts, you may be interested in taking a look at the proportional giving chart, next page. Although we are not suggesting where anyone should be on this chart, it’s interesting to see where a person’s charitable donations are percentage wise.

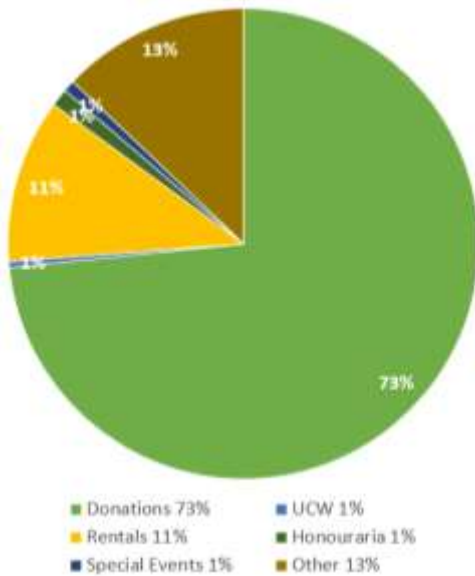


Proportional Giving Chart

This chart helps donors gauge the percentage of their income they already give and what an increase in percentage might look like.

Family Income	Annual			Monthly			Weekly		
	2%	5%	10%	2%	5%	10%	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000	\$200	\$500	\$1,000	\$17	\$42	\$83	\$4	\$10	\$19
\$25,000	\$500	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$42	\$104	\$208	\$10	\$24	\$48
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$83	\$208	\$417	\$19	\$48	\$96
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$125	\$313	\$625	\$29	\$72	\$144
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$167	\$417	\$833	\$38	\$96	\$192
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$250	\$625	\$1,250	\$58	\$144	\$288
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$333	\$833	\$1,667	\$77	\$192	\$385

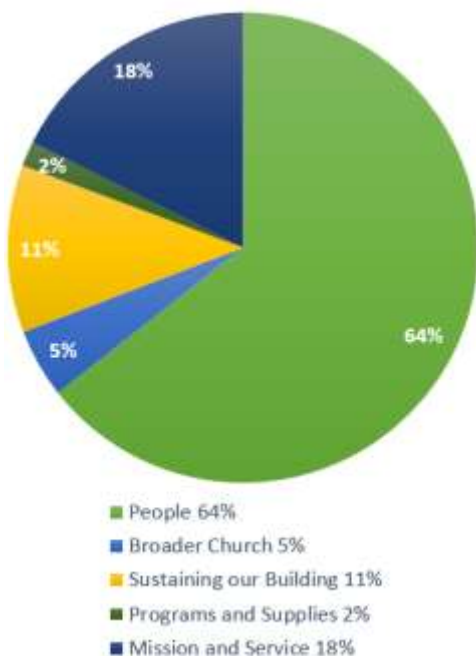
Where does our money come from?



Trinity United Church Operating Budget vs. Actual 2021 Summary to October 22, 2021

	Oct 22, 2021	Budget 2021	Actual to Date	% Budget to Date
Income				
Offerings	\$ 13,054.32	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 125,017.75	69%
UCW		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0%
Rentals	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 27,950.00	\$ 22,595.00	81%
Honouraria	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,330.00	78%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 100.00	5%
Interest	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,095.29	73%
GST Rebate		\$ 800.00	\$ 403.73	50%
Manitoba Bridge Grant	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	300%
10% TWSE (Federal Program)			\$ -	
75% CEWS (Federal Program)			\$ -	
Transfer from Investing in Our Future Fund	\$ 2,083.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,830.00	83%
Total Operating Income	\$ 17,487.32	\$ 248,250.00	\$ 187,371.77	75%
Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 11,329.43	\$ 190,472.00	\$ 119,646.57	63%
United Church of Canada	\$ -	\$ 14,187.00	\$ 10,640.25	75%
Office	\$ 940.76	\$ 11,315.00	\$ 7,827.55	69%
Program Supplies	\$ 53.00	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 1,245.69	36%
Interest Groups	\$ -	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 835.71	31%
Property	\$ 1,815.95	\$ 33,625.00	\$ 22,455.77	67%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 14,139.14	\$ 255,074.00	\$ 162,451.54	64%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 3,348.18	\$ (6,824.00)	\$ 24,920.23	-365%

How do we use our resources?



Financial Update 2021 September & October

Goal - \$27,196

Given - \$28,181

Well Done! Thank you!

Giving Goals

November

\$21,732

Let's keep it up!



Do you want your year-to-date statement of givings?
(Not your tax receipt – that will be sent out in February)
Call the church office 204-857-4471 and Jacquie will provide
you with information of your donations to date.

What are the public health orders for the church right now?

With all of the changes to rules and guidelines over the past year and a half, it is easy to get confused about what is allowed and what isn't. At present, the government public health orders have a



variety of options depending on whether proof of vaccination is required upon entry. Regardless of the options, mask use is mandatory in all indoor public places.

Here's our attempt to clarify what you need to know about



how we're doing things at the church right now.

a) SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH – Proof of vaccination is **not** required. Our sanctuary is large, and allows people to keep distance from those not in their household. Indoor mask use is required. You still sign in at the door, in the improbable case that contact tracing should be required.

Sunday mornings you can also attend online and live via "Zoom". This option is available to anyone who has a computer, tablet, mobile phone, or land line telephone. We particularly encourage this method of

attending church for anyone who is not feeling well.

b) SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AFTER CHURCH – Proof of vaccination will be required. Mask use is required, except when people are seated at tables with food or drink.

c) MID-WEEK GROUPS – These guidelines vary, depending on the size of the group and the function for which they gather. Mask use is required. If a group is meeting that includes anyone who is eligible, but not vaccinated, 25% capacity limits are enforced, up to a maximum of 25 people.

These practices are subject to change if there are changes in the provincial public health orders. If you have particular questions about any of the public health orders, and how they are being implemented, please be in touch with Julie or Jacquie in the church office any time.

Leaving a Legacy

Sometimes we assume that we don't have the resources to leave a legacy after we die, but there are lots of ways to make a difference. Many people choose to honour friends and loved ones after they die by making memorial donations.

You can help people choose where to give that gift by thinking about the things that matter to you. What has made

a difference in your life? After you die, how could gifts in your memory continue to make a difference for others?

You might be surprised at the considerable financial gift you make to any organization by placing an invitation in your obituary or funeral plans that "memorial donations can be made to ..." Often loved ones are surprised by the question of where they want memorial donations to go when they do funeral planning, and you can help them by letting them know your wishes. Tell your loved ones, discuss your desires with your preferred funeral home, or make a note with your important papers that "memorial donations can be made to...."

You can choose any charitable or non-charitable organization to support. A gift to Trinity can be designated in a variety of ways. A gift to Trinity's Memorial Fund contributes to the Worship and Christian Education aspects of our congregation. Memorial gifts are also gladly received to the General Fund which supports the on-going day-to-day expenses of our congregation, the Building Fund which helps us maintain our historic building, or any other ministry of the church you wish to specify.

Since our last issue of TriniTidings, we have been blessed to receive memorial donations in memory of:

- Gordon Fraser
- Cynthia Jordan
- Glenn Waldvogel
- Gerry Johnston
- Don Blight
- Ken Yuill



We give thanks for their lives and faithfulness, and celebrate the ways in which these gifts will help us continue to make a difference.