

# Mini-Trini Tidings



## Fall 2022

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

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### Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We are excited to invite our children back to Sunday School on **September 18**. It will be a different kind of start, but we can't wait to see our friends again after such a long time! Invitations have gone out, so families with kids - watch for yours in the mail. If you are interested in attending, please make sure you contact the office. And for those parents who may consider teaching – let us know! It would only be a commitment of once a month. See you in Sunday School!



## COMING UP IN WORSHIP at TRINITY

You are welcome to join us in person at Trinity or access our online feed through our zoom platform. The zoom link is emailed out each week, is available on our website, and in our Facebook group. If you need help accessing our online worship, please be in touch with the church office. You are always welcome to come through the front doors and join us in person! Doors open before 10 am and we start at 10:30 a.m.

### September 11

Guest Worship Sarah Bruer  
(zooming in from Ontario!)

### September 18

Guest Worship Leader  
Norman Collier  
Welcome back to  
Sunday School!

### September 25

Guest Worship Leader  
Norman Collier

## How does a pandemic end?



Unlike the dramatic announcements and shutdown that we all experienced in March 2020, the phasing out of the pandemic protocols has been much more washed in shades of uncertainty. We know that covid and its variants are still among us. We also know that we are moving into cold and flu season, and health care practitioners expect this one to be more intense than last year. So, people will have to make their own best choices about how to stay healthy,

depending on their own risk factors.

At Trinity, we want to encourage people to make the choices that work best for them, and to honour the wide variety of experience that goes with the human immune system. Masks are welcome, but at this time, they will not be required. We invite you to be respectful of one another's need for space - ask people if it's okay to come close! We encourage you to practice good hand sanitation, and we will also continue to offer an online option for those who wish to participate in church life from home. To care for one another, our primary message is "**stay home if you are sick!**" That is the first and best way we can care for one another. If you are healthy and symptom free, please join us in person. If you do not feel well, please join us online.

## Church Connections



While you can always find us by using the telephone, we have many electronic and online options to keep us connected 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](mailto:trinityu@mts.net) with your preferred email address.

Find us through our webpage [www.trinityunitedportage.ca](http://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).

## In Memory...



*“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)*

In this season of Fall, we remember the rhythm of loving and letting go as we watch the leaves we so enthusiastically greeted as new buds of life a few short months ago change colour and fall to the ground to become fertilizer for next season's growth. So too it is with life and death. As humans we love and live and die. This is holy and beautiful but it is also painful and hard. Too often, it seems like we are just beginning to learn how to love one another well when the time comes to say goodbye and learn the painful art of letting go. One way in which we can continue to honour the love we have shared and allow it to become fertilizer for new growth is through gifts to the Memorial Fund. 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 our last issue of TriniTidings:

Lisa Power  
Anne Rutherford  
Bert Bazin  
Gordon Fraser  
Auna-Marie Brown

### **Thank you for your continued generous gifts of donations!**

Once again, we are expressing our thanks for your continued donations. Thank you to those who give by way of regular offerings, PAR and one time or occasional financial gifts. Each and every donation is appreciated! Your continued financial support allows the Church to operate and to do everything it does!

By way of an update, at the end of August, our total donation income received is \$98,443 or 54% of our total 2022 budgeted amount of \$182,000. This is typical of year to date at the end of August as our church typically sees increased givings in the last quarter of the year.

- The Stewardship Team

**Thank You  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT**

## Financial Update 2022

**May - August**  
Goal - \$45,694  
Given - \$50,318  
**Thank you!**



**Giving Goals**  
September - October  
\$31,557  
**Let's keep it up!**

### **Milestones & Markers...**

Since our last issue  
Funerals  
Gary Robert Merlin Small  
July 8, 2022  
Wayne Kenneth Huffman  
July 17, 2022  
Roy Michael Stronski  
July 17, 2022  
Anne Marie Stronski  
July 17, 2022  
Jannetje (Janny) Kok  
August 9, 2022

### **Sharing Across Cultures** food, fun and faith **Saturday, September 24** **11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

A free event hosted by Knox United Church in Winnipeg, for youth who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Colour). Come out and explore foods, arts, sports and worship that represent some of the diversity of our United Church family. Registration deadline is **September 16**. Call the church office for more information.

## A Note from Julie...

If you have spent any time driving around Portage this summer, you will have no doubt had to take roads you didn't expect. Construction projects of



various kinds have resulted in plenty of detour signs sending you on a path that wasn't where you planned to go. As many of you are already aware, my life took a rather dramatic detour this summer when I was diagnosed with a kind of blood cancer called multiple myeloma. It was a sudden and dramatic turn; my bone biopsy, diagnosis and first chemo treatment happened on the same day!

I am now engaged in weekly chemo treatments, which come with all sorts of unpleasant side effects; my health team calls this the 'learning phase', where we discover how I respond to the treatment. In good news, the tests indicate that the chemo is doing what it is intended to do, which suggests that I will continue this course of treatment for the full 16 weeks, and then proceed to the next phase, which will include bone marrow consolidation (transplant). Unfortunately, in the meantime, my ability to do regular life tasks has been severely limited, and I have had to step back from most of my work at the church. Your leadership team has been very supportive, and is working with me to find ways that I can be involved or helpful in church life, even as I am unable to do very much. I am so grateful for the prayers that have been shared, and the good wishes, flowers, cards and tomatoes that have found their way to my

inbox or my door! I deeply appreciate the kindness, support and care. I am also deeply grateful to the members of the M & P committee who have been working hard to sort out how to

cover the needs of our church when I am unable to fulfil them. I am also grateful for everyone's gracious patience and flexibility as we discover what I am able or unable to do and as others step in to do things they never have done before. May God be with us on this detour for our church community, and may we find hope in the wisdom of our tradition: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow, I fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

## #Every Child Matters

Friday, September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Orange Shirt Day was created as an opportunity to discuss the effects of residential schools and their legacy. It honours the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, celebrates resilience and affirms a commitment that every child matters. The symbol of the orange shirt references a real orange shirt taken from residential school survivor, Phyllis Webstad. She is one of more than 150 000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children who attended Indian residential schools in Canada between the late 1800s and 1996. These schools were operated by the Canadian government and church organizations like ours, and

were part of Canada's official policy to eliminate Indigenous Peoples' languages and cultures, and through assimilation, cause them to cease to exist as distinct peoples. It is estimated that between four to six thousand children died at residential schools, many of whom are buried in unmarked graves that are still being found today.

In a spirit of truth and reconciliation, Trinity United seeks to acknowledge our own connection with the history of the Portage Indian Residential School, and we invite people to participate in Orange Shirt Day. Here are some of the ways you can do that.

On **Friday, September 30**, orange ribbons will be placed on the front steps of the church. Please feel free to come and add your own orange ribbon to the display. Wear orange, and take steps to learn more about the legacy of the residential schools to our community. If you don't have your own orange ribbon to add, the church office will be open with ones you can use on **September 30 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** You can also drop in during that time to learn more about the Portage Indian Residential School, the residential school system, and how The United Church of Canada has been engaged in the work of truth and reconciliation.

Trinity is also a sponsor of the activities that will be held at the National Residential School Museum (Rufus Prince building, Crescent Road West). As specific information about that program becomes available, we will share it, but feel free to simply stop by and see what's going on. We will also share (by email and social media) various educational opportunities as the day grows closer.

## “Rules for Children - no.... Rules for Adults when Children are in Church”

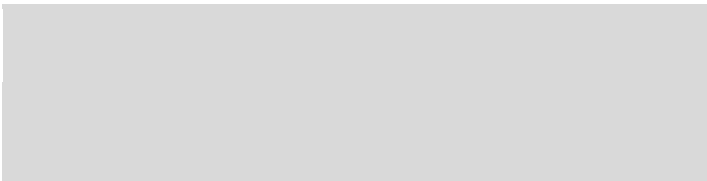
1. If you find that you're sitting in front of a child and they can't see, lean to the side.



2. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.

3. If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take the baby from their parent and walk to the back of the church and rock the child for a while. The parent really needs a break.

4. If the teenagers are whispering give them some Smarties. The rustling and



crinkling will replace their whispering.

5. If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.

6. When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor make sure to give them an extra fun high-five, and then high-five the next five adults that you see.

7. If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood

portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for "The Entertainer" to the pianist and roll with it.

8. When the children can't hear because an adult around them won't take off their puffy jacket and it keeps

squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.

9. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult's eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will

protect the adults who as we know have very short attention

spans and are easily distracted.

10. When a child in front of you is very squirmy, and then they finally turn around and you realize suddenly, "Oh, it's Jesus!" take it in stride and play Got Your Nose till he turns around to the front again.

- *CB Beal*  
*Justice and Peace Consulting*

**ALF Youth Retreat**  
**We All Dream Big!**  
For youth grade 7 and up  
**October 21 - 23**  
Carman United Church  
Carman, MB  
Registration is now open. Call  
the church office for details.

## Creation Time



Those of you who have been around Trinity for some time will recognize the various colours that adorn our sanctuary throughout the year. In Advent we see blue for hope; in Lent, we use purple to show our learning and lament. White shows up for Christmas and baptisms and funerals. Red is the colour of the spirit at Pentecost. They are called "liturgical colours" and represent the seasons of the church year. Green is the colour of 'ordinary time', which comes between various seasons. A number of years ago, a new season was added to the liturgical calendar, that (for a variety of reasons) we never got around to adding to the Trinity calendar. It is called the Season of Creation, and is usually observed through September and the first half of October. The colour for this season is orange, chosen because it is a warm colour, associated with enthusiasm, creativity, fruitfulness, endurance and strength, as well as with sunrise and sunset, fall and harvest, and the changing seasons, nature's last burst of colour before winter. It is the red of passion tempered by the yellow of wisdom. Thanks to Sandra Falk for creating an orange pulpit hanging for us to use this year, as we join the Christian church around the world celebrating the season of creation.