

Trini Tidings



Fall 2024

**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 a.m. – noon & 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Trinity's next baptism service is planned for **Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13**. If you, or



someone you know, is interested in baptism, please be in touch with the church office or contact Julie directly ASAP.

When we gather, we remember that we gather on the area covered by Treaty 1, traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



COMING UP IN TRINITY WORSHIP

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.

"Seeking God Together"

September 29, 2024

"God within Us –
An Embodied Faith"

October 06, 2024

"God above Us –Marveling"
World Wide Communion
Joint worship with
MacGregor United
(*here at Trinity*)

October 13, 2024

"God above Us –
Saying Thanks"
Thanksgiving Sunday
Celebration of Baptism

October 20, 2024

"God above Us –
Crying Out"

October 27, 2024

"God above Us – Celebrating"
Julie's 25th Anniversary
Celebration following worship

November 03, 2024

"God beside Us –
Supporting Each Other"
In Memoriam – All Saints

November 10, 2024

"God beside Us –
Studying the Word"

November 17, 2024

"God beside Us –
Welcoming All"

November 24, 2024

"God beside Us – Serving"

Mark your calendar...

Fri., Oct. 25 – Sun., Oct. 27

ALF 2024 Youth Retreat
Gordon King Memorial -
Winnipeg, MB

Sunday, October 27

Julie's 25th Anniversary
Celebration Party
following worship

Church Connections



While you can always find us by using the telephone, and stopping into the office, we have many electronic and online options to keep us connected as well.

Regular emails are sent with updates – if you would like to be added to our email list, 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/UCifQLFZrDcGyY-J3xjDoKA/videos>

You can also follow us on Instagram at [trinityportage](https://www.instagram.com/trinityportage).

Donating from home?

You can etransfer to trinityu@mts.net or Scan the QR code for credit card donations.



SCAN ME

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:

Ken Ferguson
Marlene Coltart
Glen Arnott
Isy Stasiuk

Gifts have also been received in honour of Louise McManus' 90th Birthday.

Did you know that The United Church of Canada will turn 100 on **June 10 2025**? This calls for celebration! What if we could pull together some sort of anniversary celebration with churches in the surrounding area? (June 8 is the closest Sunday to the actual anniversary and it also happens to be Pentecost Sunday – how appropriate!) Julie is inviting people who would be interested to join her in meeting with some people from the United Churches in the area to plan something to help us connect to the wider church of which we are all a part. She would like to have a brainstorming gathering sometime in October or November so that if we wanted to apply for some grant funding that is available for these things, we could do so before the December grant deadline. If you would be interested in helping to create the anniversary event please be in touch with the church office, or connect with Julie directly.



Fall Study Group



We are delighted to share that this fall Trinity is having a study group. This study group offers an opportunity to learn together and explore pressing questions emerging from our contemporary experiences. We are exploring this study group under the theme: “Seeking God Together.” We will meet Fridays at 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. from **September 27 to October 25**.

This theme provides us with an opportunity to deepen our faith in God by having deep and open conversations on ways we can seek God as a community of faith and as individuals. Thus, we welcome the idea of looking at the different approaches to the doctrine of God, getting our conversation on some of the topics that we struggle with such as suffering. In all this experience, we affirm that we are not alone but with friends as we seek God together.

Are you considering of joining? Yes, it is never too late. You can join in at any time and explore together themes and doctrines in an open and safe community. Get in touch with the office or directly with Elijah.

This fall we are looking for participants of various kinds to help us. Throughout this newsletter you will find ways that you can be involved. Please be in touch with the office, or speak directly with Elijah or Julie if you are interested. We'd love to have you.



Your donation of time, talents and/or financial contributions are appreciated!

Thank you for your continued donations to Trinity, both your financial contributions and your time volunteering! These actions are what enables Trinity to provide spiritual guidance, education and support to our members and the wider community.

Our Leadership team looks to some analytical tools when reviewing Trinity's financial health. One tool is the Operating Budget vs Actual Summary, below. You may recall that we passed a deficit budget for 2024. As at August, our actual deficit shown is \$55,033. This is 62% of our budgeted deficit. At the end of August, we were 2/3 or 66% of the way through the year.

Another tool the Leadership team looks at is our church's giving pattern. Briefly - based on the previous three years, the historical pattern of giving is used to guesstimate what Trinity might expect by way of financial donations during the current year. If donations follow this pattern of giving, Trinity would expect slightly over 30% of its total donations to be made in November and December.

Ideally, ending the year without a deficit would be fantastic!

We hope you find this information useful to help you understand what the Leadership team looks to when reviewing and monitoring Trinity's financial health. Should you have any questions regarding any of this information, please speak to any member of the Leadership team or the Stewardship team.

Respectfully submitted by the Stewardship Team.

	August 31	Actual to Date	Budget 2024	% Budget to Date
Income	-	-		
Offerings	\$ 8,699.75	\$ 82,725.02	\$ 190,000.00	44%
UCW	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	50%
Rentals	\$ 2,190.20	\$ 22,186.60	\$ 30,802.40	72%
Honouraria	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,000.00	128%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ -		
Interest	\$ 121.35	\$ 1,226.48	\$ 1,200.00	102%
GST Rebate	\$ 669.11	\$ 669.11	\$ 1,500.00	45%
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ -		
Total Operating Income	\$ 12,180.41	\$ 110,582.21	\$ 229,502.40	48%
Expenses	-	-		
Personnel	\$ 20,261.95	\$ 146,984.75	\$ 243,397.93	60%
Cost Sharing with MacGregor United	\$ (3,671.64)	\$ (27,373.16)		
United Church of Canada	\$ -	\$ 8,991.75	\$ 11,989.00	75%
Office	\$ 709.82	\$ 9,941.70	\$ 12,290.00	81%
Program Supplies	\$ 38.00	\$ 609.28	\$ 2,275.00	27%
Interest Groups	\$ 176.79	\$ 441.53	\$ 1,275.00	35%
Property	\$ 822.14	\$ 26,018.82	\$ 46,694.87	56%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 18,337.06	\$ 165,614.67	\$ 317,921.80	52%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (6,156.65)	\$ (55,032.46)	\$ (88,419.40)	62%



Trinity's Financial Update 2024
May – August
 Goal - \$49,781
 Given - \$41,857
Thank you!
 Fall Giving Goals
September 01 – October 31
 Goal - \$29,887
Please help, and thank you!
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Awkward!

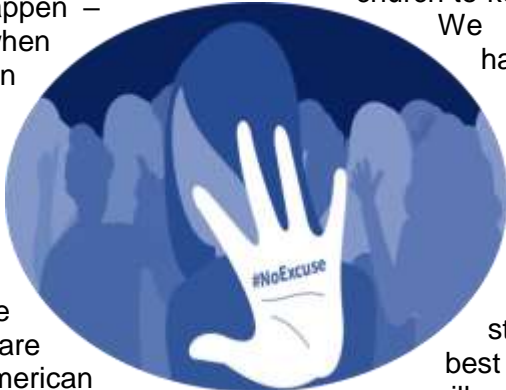
There are things that it can be difficult to name; difficult to talk about; difficult to admit. It is hard to talk about terrible things that can happen – especially when they happen in churches. This is one of them.

We have become aware that the American Catholic composer David Haas has received many credible accusations of sexual abuse and spiritual manipulation, including the sexual abuse and rape of minors age 13-17.

These allegations come over a period of many years, during which time he was working in church contexts and directing church music. Several of his compositions are in our hymn books and music resources, and are well liked by our congregation.

Abuse survivors have asked us to stop using these songs, as they are re-traumatizing. Many American and Canadian churches from a variety of denominations have urged their congregations to stop using his music. In addition, music publishers have removed his work from their catalogues, so our current copyright agreements do not cover his music at this time. We need to be mindful that artists make money from the use of their art (as they should!) but we do not want to endorse those who use their status to lure and abuse minors.

Why are we sharing this information? Most of us don't really pay attention to who actually composes the music



we sing, so we don't associate the songs with this kind of behaviour. But it is a priority for Trinity that we prevent harm and misconduct in our own church to keep it a safe space.

We will not tolerate harassment or sexual misconduct of any kind. For those who do know the story – or maybe have experienced sexual violence, it is important that we stand against it in the best ways we can. So we will pray for the abuse survivors and all people who have been impacted by this awful tragedy. We will stop using these songs in our worship services. After all, we do not worship writers, composers, musicians or songs. We worship the One to whom we sing.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing sexual violence, abuse or misconduct, there are resources to help. If you are at immediate risk, call 911. If you are not in immediate danger, and if you don't know who to call, reach out to our church office, or either of our ministers, who can help you determine where to direct your concern or complaint.

Come and Celebrate Julie's 25 Years at Trinity!

Sunday, October 27

Worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a celebration lunch and brief program.

If you would like to honour Julie personally, please consider a donation to M&S. If you have photos from the past to share, please submit them to trinityu@mts.net by **October 13**, and indicate the year if possible.



Would you like to join a house group and help with things like welcoming, or coffee after church?



Library News



We're having a birthday to celebrate! The United Church of Canada is 100 years old on June 10, 2025. If you are interested in being up-to-date on what and who is the United Church, there are books in the library entitled "UC Unfettered for 2025". This book covers most churches within Canada and beyond with their worship, work and outreach promoting human dignity. The book is an easy read with so much to learn Try one - you will be surprised at how renewed we are!

We are seeking donations for a ribbon skirt project. Angela Roulette and the Mother Earth Network would be grateful for donations of ribbon, elastic and broadcloth in particular. Fabric of various patterns and colours is most welcome.



We are looking for people who would be willing to host space for children each week – we have curriculum material to help out, so you have things to work with.



The Current!

No, it's not a reference to the CBC radio program of that name, nor the lack of flow on Crescent Lake. Instead, it is the name of the curriculum resource we are using this fall for Worship and Faith Formation. It is "current" because it helps us ground ourselves in the present time. The particular theme is "Seeking God Together", because it is easy to fill our time with work, school, volunteering, meetings, family responsibilities, hobbies, chores, etc. while neglecting matters of the heart. This fall, we are claiming Sunday mornings to attend to our spiritual needs. Weekly, in interactive and varied ways, we will explore spiritual practices that can deepen and transform our relationship with God and others. The Current provides us with a host of intergenerational resources so that our Sunday School program can pick up these weekly themes in age-appropriate ways.

So join us as we follow the current this fall. We think you'll be glad you did.



Children's Ministry



This summer a brief survey was circulated through our Facebook group and by email to parents/caregivers of Trinity kids to ask what kind of faith formation programming is important to our families. If you did not receive the survey, please be in touch with the office and we will send it to you. If you meant to respond and just forgot, it's not too late – we will happily receive your input.

In the meantime, we are happy to say that Cadence Matthews will be hosting a Sunday School program weekly this fall, following the theme of our "Current" curriculum, called "Seeking God Together". We are looking for volunteer helpers to host our children's program on days when Cadence is unavailable, or on days when she needs some help because we expect more participants than usual (baptism comes to mind!). Trinity is committed to providing an intergenerational community where people of all ages are welcomed and can find a belonging space; that includes you!

Here's Something You Can Do!

Take a walk or drive around your neighbourhood. (Your neighbourhood might be your apartment building, a city block, or a few miles – whatever makes sense for you.)

What do you notice?

Who do you see?

What do you think God is up to in your neighbourhood? It's not a question we might be used to asking. It's not something we usually look for. But what if we did?

Notice the area where you live with those eyes. Who lives in your neighbourhood?

What happens there?

How does it happen?

Can you see God in action?

Is God inviting you to participate in some way?

How can your church help/encourage you to do that?



Perhaps you would like to help out those who are attending to the aesthetics of space and décor?



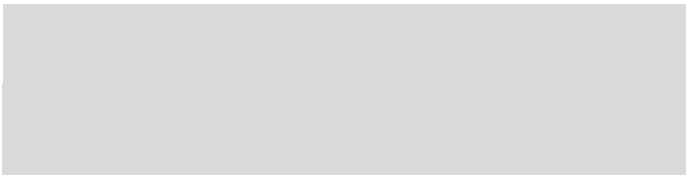
Wild Rice Quartet

Gareth Rice and Friends
Sunday, October 20
2:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican
Tickets \$20 and available at St. Mary's church office. Seating is limited. Light refreshments to follow. Everyone is welcome.



Did you miss a Sunday? Was there something in the sermon you want to share with friends? Are you one of Trinity's friends who doesn't live in Portage la Prairie anymore? Well, we have good news for you. Our sermons are recorded Sundays and posted to YouTube. You can find us on YouTube at "Trinity Portage". Links will also be posted to our Facebook group account so you can find them easily each week. If you would prefer to have a text copy



of the sermon along with the link emailed to you each week, please contact Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net) to get your name on the distribution list for that.



On September 30, we join with those across our country remembering the legacy of residential schools. How can you participate in the journey towards reconciliation?

Honouring the Legacy of Trailblazer Lois Wilson

With great sadness, The United Church of Canada announces the death of The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois M. Wilson, the denomination's 28th Moderator, and the first woman to fill the role. She faithfully served as Moderator from 1980 to 1982. The Rev. Wilson died in hospital in Fredericton, NB, on Sept. 13, 2024. She was 97 years old.



A memorial service is planned for **Tuesday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m.** (Manitoba time) at Metropolitan UC, 56 Queen St E, Toronto, ON. The service will be [livestreamed on YouTube](#).

Milestones & Markers...

Since our last issue

Funerals

Helmut Edmund Schroeder
June 08, 2024

Marlene (née Thierry) Coltart
July 16, 2024

Evelyn Alexia Rheau
July 19, 2024

Georgina Isabell "Isy" Stasiuk
August 24, 2024

Isabel Mary Cowie Matthews
September 21, 2024

Sheldon Philip Hiltz
September 28, 2024

Increasing Accessibility

In our journey to provide a barrier free, safe environment at Trinity, we continue to be aware of accessibility needs. One of those needs for many people relates to hearing on Sunday mornings. Increasing the volume doesn't always help with understanding, but sometimes if you can read what is being said (close captioning), it can making hearing so much easier. In the church, we have to go 'low tech' for this, but each Sunday, copies of the full text of what is spoken up front is available at the entry tables. Feel free to pick one up and follow along!



This fall in our worship we will be having intergenerational readers' theatres each week. Would you like to take part with those?

