

TriniTidings

Spring/Summer 2025

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.

Summer Worship: Volunteers Needed

Since we do not have a house group for the summer, we could use your help to host the other churches on **August 03 & 10** when we are back at Trinity. If you can help with hosting, ushering, sound or coffee, please call 204-857-4471) or email the church office (trinityu@mts.net)

Do you want to support Trinity but don't have any cash to put in the offering plate? We can receive e-transfers to trinityu@mts.net or you can donate via credit or debit card by following the link on our website trinityunitedportage.ca

COMING UP IN TRINITY WORSHIP

This is an exciting moment in the life of Trinity and The United Church of Canada. June 2025 marks the 100 year anniversary of the church, and there will be a number of special worship events to participate in as well as a few regular Sundays in between!

June 01, 2025

Regular worship at Trinity –
10:30 a.m. (Elijah Mwandila)

June 08, 2025

100th anniversary of The
United Church of Canada
Worship and Free Barbeque
Lunch -10:30 a.m.
Island Park, Portage la Prairie
Brought to you by the United
Church congregations of
MacGregor, Gladstone,
Oakville and Portage la Prairie



There will also be a national
United Church service
livestreamed from Gower Street
United Church in St. John's
Newfoundland at 4:30 p.m.
(pre-service begins at 4:00 pm)
<https://www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo?si=ISLvgQ5Fx80qRILR>

June 15, 2025

Regular worship at Trinity –
10:30 a.m. (Elijah & Julie)

Prairie to Pine Regional Council
Celebration of Ministries in
MacGregor – 3:00 p.m.
Rev. Elijah Mwandila will be
admitted into The United
Church of Canada

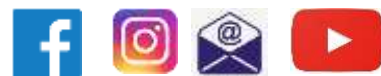
June 22 & 29, 2025

Regular worship at Trinity –
10:30 a.m. (Julie Baker)

July 06, 2025

Summer Worship series begins
with our partner churches.
See separate article!

Church Connections



While you can always find us by using the telephone, and stopping into the office (regular office hours continue through the summer) we have many electronic and online options to keep us connected as well.

On regular Sunday mornings, if you cannot join us in person for worship, you can access our online feed through our zoom platform. The zoom link is emailed out weekly and is available on our website and in our Facebook group.

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/UCifQQLFZrDcGyY-J3xjDoKA/videos>

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

The UCW is grateful to everyone who supported their petunia sales fundraiser.



The proceeds will enable children in the "Chance to Grow" program a chance to participate in sports, music and other nurturing activities. A small amount has come back to the church. Thank you!

The Anglicans are coming!

2025 Summer services

This summer we are pleased to share that there will be a major change to the way we share worship services with our partner churches. For the first time, St. Mary's Anglican Church is excited to be part of our summer rotation, which means that there will be some significant departures from "the way we always do it". In fact, because we have 4 churches in our cooperative, the schedule is even shifted.

This year, we have agreed that we will worship together for just two weeks at each of our churches. For those two Sundays, we will participate in the worship tradition of that church, so for the two Sundays we are at St. Mary's, we will adjust our worship time (10:00 a.m. instead of 10:30 a.m. – don't be late!!!!), and we will also share in the Anglican communion service that is shared weekly by that congregation. (If you hear people talking about the Eucharist – that's communion!) And if we find that those services are a little bit different from what we are used to, just think about how the Anglicans will feel, who will be travelling to United and Presbyterian churches every other week!

Please note that online worship will not be available at First Presbyterian or McKenzie Church. Here's the schedule – mark it on your calendars!

July 6

McKenzie United Church
85 - 11th St. NW
10:30 a.m.

July 13

McKenzie United Church,
85 - 11th St. NW
10:30 a.m.

July 20

St. Mary's Anglican Church
36 - 2nd St SW
10:00 a.m.

(Online access available through a shared zoom link from St. Mary's; look for summer emails to confirm)

July 27

St. Mary's Anglican Church
36 - 2nd St. SW
10:00 a.m.

(Online access available through a shared zoom link from St. Mary's; look for summer emails to confirm)

August 3

Trinity United Church
15 Tupper St S
10:30 a.m.

(Online access available through zoom)

August 10

Trinity United Church
15 Tupper St S
10:30 a.m.

(Online access available through zoom)

August 17

First Presbyterian Church
17 Royal Road S
10:30 a.m.

August 24

First Presbyterian Church, 17
Royal Road S
10:30 a.m.

To end the summer, we are planning for a joint service on August 31 (Labour Day weekend) with all of the partner churches involved. Mark the date and stay tuned for further information as we move through the sum

Find your VISION TV Channel before June 10!

The actual anniversary date of The United Church of Canada is June 10, which is when the church officially came into being in 1925. **At 8 pm Central time, June 10 2025**, watch the TV special celebrating 100 years of progressive community leadership and worship by The United Church of Canada. The 90 minute TV special will have coverage coast to coast, from St. Andrews-Wesley United Church in Vancouver BC to Gower Street United Church in St. John's NL.

KID NOTES

As the school year winds down, our children's programming at Trinity is doing the same. But we're not done yet! Sunday School will continue at Trinity on June 1, and then on June 8 we hope that kids of all ages will join us at the park for the special 100th anniversary event. There will be a kids' area and a photo booth, and church outside! And a free barbeque lunch! Kelly Haapamaki is also looking for children who want to help out with some pre-service music, so come a little early to join in with that. Dress for the weather, because we are going ahead rain or shine. Bring your water bottle if you want (we will have a water station) and your own lawn chairs if you wish. See you at Island Park on June 8 by 10:30 a.m.!

A Gift in Memory

What do you want to be remembered for? It's a great question that we should all ask ourselves from time to time.

Remembering that we are all going to die one day can help us to prioritize the things that really matter to us in our everyday living. If you knew that you were going to die tomorrow, what would you do with today?

Making a donation in memory of a loved one who has died is a great way to celebrate some of the things that were important to them. Were they a dedicated member of their church? Did they love nature? Were they interested in their community? Was their heart at the rink? Did they love music? Whatever the particular passions of our family and friends, we probably don't have to look very hard to find a worthwhile organization that is doing something in our community or the world that would have made our loved one smile. What better way to remember someone who has made a difference in our lives than by continuing to make a difference in the lives of others in their name?

At Trinity, we are delighted when we receive donations in memory of people who have died. Not only does it help us to continue our ministry in the community for the benefit of current and future generations but it also invites us to remember people who have been a significant part of our life and work.

We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose

memory we have received donations since our last issue of TriniTidings:

Marg & Wally Pehura
Roy Tibbett
Lorena Pogue
Waind MacDonald

On May 11, the United Church Women led a special worship service honouring 100 years of women's ministries in The United Church of Canada. They have had different names through the years, (WA, WMS, etc.) but since 1962 women's ministries have been part of the UCW. Kelly Haapamaki put together a little song for the occasion!

(Sung to the tune of Edelweiss)

Our United Church Women's group are talented, hard-working people. They plan ahead, behind the scenes for many special occasions.

Sixty - three years is a longtime. Think of all our past members. Many were bakers extraordinaire! Newcomers can help with persuasion.

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Sixty - three years is a longtime. Think of all our past members. Many were bakers extraordinaire! Thank you with our appreciation!

Milestones & Markers...

Since our last issue

Funerals

Ferris "Waind" MacDonald

May 24, 2025

Baptisms

Hartley Ross Donald Sissons
Son of Kale & Rachelle Sissons
May 18, 2025

It's Seeding Time Again

FOCUS hopes to secure 400 acres of land in the Portage la Prairie, Oakville, Elie and MacGregor areas for inputs this upcoming growing season. The donations we receive at this time of year are used to plant the crops we grow and sell to support CFB. Financial donations can be made out to FOCUS and sent to Travis Rintoul, Box 1226, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3J9. If you have questions or want more information, grab a flyer at the usher's station or talk to Dave Falk (204-856-6626)

As we gather for worship, we remember that we gather on the area covered by Treaty 1, traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dene, Dakota, and Oji-Cree nations and is the homeland of the Red River Metis. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

What did the Moderators Say?

If you subscribe to Broadview magazine, you will know that in their latest issue, former Moderators of The United Church of Canada were interviewed, and shared some of their memories of their time as Moderator, as well as some thoughts about what might come next for the church. Moderators of our church have been in a unique position to observe our church and reflect on its place in the world. Indeed, when we gather in the park on June 8, we will be hearing reflections offered by various past Moderators. Here are just a couple of questions and answers from the Broadway interviews:

What is a highlight from your time as Moderator?

Answer from the **Very Rev. Walter Farquharson, 33rd Moderator, 1990-1992**

Shortly after I was elected moderator, a reporter from a Toronto newspaper posted this scenario: "You are a new minister in a rural congregation – there is knock at the door. You are met by a group of angry parishioners, upset by General Council's decision regarding the ordination of gay and lesbian people. What do you do?" I hesitated, and then said, "Hopefully I'd explain to the group that the doorstep was not the place for the necessary conversation – can we set a time and place when we share a meal and talk together as friends and disciples?" I then added for the benefit of the interviewer, "The church has an

ancient practice of coming to the table to find unity and to discern their call to be disciples of Jesus." A few days later, a story appeared with this headline: "New UC Moderator Says Answer to Church's Problems Found in Potluck Suppers." That article elicited quite a few angry letters, but I began using it as a starting place to recognize that table and conversation were essential places and times for grace to break through the barriers created.

What does the United Church stand for?

Answer from the **Very Rev. Peter Short, 38th Moderator, 2003-2006**

A woman in Saskatchewan said to me, "No one could ever travel all the back roads of The United Church of Canada." She was right, I know because I tried and didn't even come close. The United Church doesn't stand for anything. It doesn't stand at all, it moves. We walk back our work in residential schools. We walk ahead through the emerging landscape of human sexuality. We travel hand in hand with partners. We explore the mysteries of God in new songs. We are and have always been a territory of roads, trails, bridges, portages and streets. No one could ever travel it all.

(Current issues of **Broadview** are also always in the Trinity office if you want to check it out)

This United Church of Ours:

In 2005, The United Church welcomed the Agreement in Principle announced by the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations, which outlines a comprehensive resolution package for former students of Indian Residential Schools.



Here's an option for people who need a medical appointment, but don't need to be seen in person.

Free virtual healthcare service available 24/7, evenings & weekends. Online Doctor for Manitoba and Canadian Residents. Your walk in clinic services from home. Source: QDoc - Virtual Healthcare 24/7 <https://search.app/bLWcD5rJUFESRyVr7>

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 make 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!

An April 30 financial check-in!

As of April 30th, we were 1/3 (or 33%) of the way through our financial year and it's nice to see how we are doing in relation to our budget. When you look at the chart below, you can see at a glance how we are doing.

Let's start with expenses. As you can see, most of the big items are where we expect them to be and as budgeted.

When looking at our income, we are not as far along as we would like to be. Our offering income is 25% of our budgeted income - just something for everyone to keep an eye on!

The work our church does to provide support and worship to our congregation and our greater community is paid for by our financial donations and our time and talents. **Thank you for your generous donations of both money and time!! It is appreciated.**

The Stewardship team

Trinity United Church Operating Budget vs. Actual 2025 Summary to April 30, 2025

	April 30-25	Actual to Date	Budget 2025	% Budget to Date
Income				
Offerings	\$ 9,630.75	\$ 43,015.66	\$ 175,000.00	25%
UCW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	0%
Rentals	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 11,385.00	\$ 32,260.00	35%
Honouraria	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	80%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ -		
Interest	\$ 366.87	\$ 720.78	\$ 1,200.00	60%
GST Rebate	\$ -	\$ 805.08	\$ 1,500.00	54%
Investing in Our Future	\$ -	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	25%
Total Operating Income	\$ 12,777.62	\$ 70,026.52	\$ 266,960.00	26%
Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 32,127.79	\$ 98,993.27	\$ 257,145.96	38%
Cost Sharing with MacGregor United	\$ (3,798.46)	\$ (15,672.67)	\$ (49,828.21)	31%
United Church of Canada	\$ 3,164.75	\$ 6,329.50	\$ 12,659.00	50%
Office	\$ 520.15	\$ 4,768.88	\$ 12,325.00	39%
Program Supplies	\$ 38.00	\$ 170.92	\$ 1,475.00	12%
Interest Groups	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,275.00	3%
Property	\$ 4,578.72	\$ 18,744.73	\$ 45,400.00	41%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 36,630.95	\$ 113,369.63	\$ 280,451.75	40%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (23,853.33)	\$ (43,343.11)	\$ (13,491.75)	

Trinity's Financial Update 2025

January - April

Goal - \$43,942

Given - \$43,016

Please help, and thank you!

Summer Giving Goals

May 1 – August 31

\$44,224

Let's keep it up!

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

How the United Church began in Portage la Prairie

One hundred years ago, the church union movement brought together more than 7600 delegates from across the country to Mutual Street arena in Toronto, and The United Church of Canada was declared into being. In Portage la Prairie, the main participants in this union movement were the members of Grace Methodist Church and Knox Presbyterian Church.

Knox Presbyterian actually began in 1862 and built the building that is presently Trinity United in 1897. Interestingly, while dialogue about church union was happening in the early 1900s, the church leadership determined that the possibility of conflict was too strong and adopted a policy that no one was permitted to address the congregation on the topic of union, either for or against. When the specter of union had to be recognized, only two speakers were invited to address the congregation – one for, and one against. It was June 10, 1925, the actual union day, when the board set out a plan of voting, which was duly taken on June 24, two weeks after the actual union took place across the country. 341 people cast ballots: 233 in favour, 105 opposed. Following the vote, some leaders of the congregation resigned, and some members left the church entirely to form what became First Presbyterian Church. From that point forward, the congregation was Knox United Church.

Methodist roots in Portage go back to 1879, and the Grace Methodist Church was erected in 1891. In 1925, the Methodist churches were all asked to vote on whether to join or opt out of the union with the Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches. When the vote was taken at Grace Methodist Church the vote was a unanimous yes! So as of June



10 1925 the congregation became Grace United Church.

During the early 30s, the financial stresses of the Great Depression were hard on both United Churches. Occasionally suggestions were made to amalgamate the churches, but there was little uptake. Then, in 1935 Grace and Knox planned a joint service of worship to celebrate the 10th anniversary of The United Church. At the same time, the minister from Knox resigned, having received a call from Neepawa. Knox struck a committee to consider next steps, and they quickly convened a special meeting of the board and extended an invitation to the board of Grace church to open negotiations toward amalgamation. Representatives were elected by each congregation for a joint committee on union, which met as early as July 1935. That first meeting approved not only the principle of amalgamation, but also agreed that the name of the church would be The United

Church of Portage la Prairie (Portage United Church), that the minister at Grace church would remain the minister for the amalgamated congregation, and that two people (one from each church) would be tasked with evaluating the properties of both churches and advising which building would be most suitable. By October 1935, there was one United Church serving the community of Portage la Prairie in the building formerly known as Knox. Initially it was hoped that Grace church could be used for Sunday School, but the cost of



heating, mortgage and other considerations dashed these hopes, and Grace was put up for sale.

Meanwhile, a west end Sunday School had been established in the early 1900s under the leadership of James McKenzie as an extension of Knox Church. It served not only Presbyterian children, but children from several Protestant backgrounds. It continued as a Sunday School, connected to Knox Presbyterian, then Knox United, and then the United Church of Portage la Prairie. Through the 1940s, there was much growth in the programs, and when Superintendent McKenzie resigned in 1947, the mission was renamed McKenzie Mission. Growth continued through the 1950s, as special services began being held along with all of the many programs for children, youth, young adults, women's auxiliary and women's

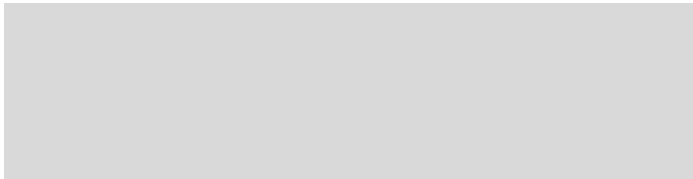
missionary society. An associate minister was hired by the United Church of Portage la Prairie with special interest and consideration at the West End Mission. In 1957, McKenzie Mission became an independent United Church congregation, with the blessing of the downtown church, as well as the Presbytery and General Council.

It was a big year for the local United Church, because it was also 1957 when the Christian education expansion of the Tupper Street building occurred to make space for the programming that was happening there.



The formation of McKenzie United Church did create a bit of a name dilemma: how could The United Church of Portage la Prairie continue with such a name when there were now two United Churches in town?

Re-naming the church on Tupper St was a difficult



process. It was a very busy church and ministry staff were overworked; and initial suggestions for new names were quickly dismissed. It wasn't until 1960 that the congregation finally got to a formal renaming process and chose the name Trinity United Church.

Since then, Portage la Prairie has been served by two United Churches: McKenzie and Trinity. Trinity is now in a collaborative ministry partnership with MacGregor United Church and on June 8 we will celebrate with churches from MacGregor, Oakville, Gladstone and Portage. At this 100th birthday time, it is another time of transition for the church, as many congregations are struggling to find or afford full time ministry. Who knows what the next 10, 25 or 50 years will hold for the United Church of Canada? Given our 100 year history, it is bound to change, and change again.

This United Church of Ours:

As western Canada was settled, communities sprang up but populations remained sparse. It was difficult to sustain a church congregation, so many churches of different denominations came together to form union churches. As the idea spread, denominations were encouraged to look at amalgamation. By 1925, Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists had agreed and the United Church of Canada was formed by an act of parliament. Not all Presbyterian congregations agreed to join.

Over the next year, we hope to present some highlights of our church history. We must not be bound by the past, but we do well to remember our history and to celebrate those who have brought us to this place.

With the 100th Anniversary Celebration coming up, we would like to create a photo yearbook to celebrate and remember all that has happened over the years. Tanis Essery



has volunteered to do this, but it will require the help from all church members! Please send in your photos! These could be from events that have been held in the church, family photos of yourselves or people that are no longer with us, etc. You can drop off actual photos to the church office, they will be scanned and returned (so please indicate who they are from) or you can email your photos to tanisessery795@gmail.com.

A copy of the book will be made for the church and will also be available to be purchased at cost (\$\$ to be determined once the project is finished)

We do not have a timeline in mind for this yet, it will depend on the number of photos received...but please don't wait too long to send them in!

Registration for Earthsong 2025 is now open

Join the fun this summer for a week-long singing experience with some great workshops to help us explore the outdoors, our artistry, our music and our connection with the earth, each other, and ourselves.

The camp runs from **July 14 to 18, 2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day**. There'll be lots of laughter and camaraderie.

This is a safe and inclusive event, open to anyone age 16 and up who wants to sing. No experience required.

Register now at ucim.org

This is a program of the Greening Committee at the United Church in Meadowood (1111 Dakota Street) Winnipeg.

This United Church of Ours:

The United Church has been known for its stance on many political issues and a number of ministers have turned to politics. Peter Dawon was serving in ministry in southern Alberta when he won the provincial Little Bow constituency. In 1937, he was named Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly and held that post until his death in 1963. He was the longest-serving Speaker in Alberta history. Ministers elected federally include Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg), Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg), Robert Oliphant (Toronto) and Walter McLean (Waterloo.) Former moderator Lois Wilson was named to the senate by Prime Minister Jean Chretien in 1998.



Things to bring to Island Park June 8:

Yourself! People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend this special event! Bring a friend! Bring a relative!

A lawn chair (lots of chairs and tables will be available, but you might want the comfort of your own)

A water bottle / "to go" cup (coffee, ice tea and water will be available, but you might want to fill your own bottle instead of using paper cups)

Name tag – do you happen to have one of those permanent name tags that Trinity ordered once upon a time? Because we will be representing so many churches, we will have name tags available, but it's the perfect opportunity for you to pull out your magnetized one and use it!

Dress for the weather – we have a tent, pop up shelters and the Ukrainian Band stage so we will gather rain or shine!



This United Church of Ours:

The church is WAY more than its ministers. Indeed, the church is nothing without all of its members. And yet, many ministers have impacted the life of Trinity and helped carry out its work over 100 years. Here's a look back at the ordered ministry staff who have served this community of faith:

1925-1935 Rev. J.W.

Cruikshank (**Knox Church**)

1926-1928 Rev J.W. Melvin

(**Grace Church**)

1928-? Rev. A.R. Maunders

(**Grace Church**)

? – 1935 Rev. Hyslop Dickson

(**Grace Church**)

United Church of Portage la Prairie

1935-1937 Rev. Hyslop Dickson

1938-1943 Rev. George Abernethy

1944 – 1944 Rev. W. Royle & Rev. Meek

1944-1949 Rev. Allan Martin

1949 – 1953 Dr. W. F. Clarke

1952- 1955 Rev. Robert K. McLean

1955-1959 Rev. C. Lynd Barbour

1958-1959 Rev. Doug Rupp

1955- 1960 Rev. H.I. Bowman (sometimes shared with McKenzie United Church)

Trinity United Church

1960-1966 Rev. H.I. Bowman

1960 -1962 Rev. Alex Filshie

1961-1962 Rev. Oliver Hodge

1962-1973 Rev. Norman

Quigley

1966-1967 Rev. Robert Burton

1967-1974 Rev. Doug Rupp
1974-1981 Rev. John Oldham
1974-1981 Rev. Jim Scott
1981-1986 Rev. John Gould
1981-1986 Rev. Dorrie Archibald
1986-1993 Rev. Don Ross
1987-2007 Rev. Ross Taylor
1993-1996 Anne Duncan DM
1997 Rev. Peter Denton
1999 – Present Rev. Julie Baker
2008 – 2020 Beth Kerr DM
2024 – Present Rev. Elijah Mwandila

