

Trini Tidings

Fall 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.

Coming soon...

Trinity's UCW

Produce, Preserves & Pastry

Donations of all garden produce (raw or preserved) and baked goods welcome and appreciated. Watch for more information to follow.

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 Peace Together"

September 14

Peace with God –
Born of the Spirit

September 21

Peace with God –
Vine and Branches
Worship leader exchange with
guest: Simba Mazhara
with lunch to follow worship

September 28

Peace Within –
Known and Loved

October 05

Peace Within –
Letting Go of Worry
World Wide Communion

October 12

Peace Within –
Peace of Heart and Mind
Thanksgiving Sunday

October 19

Peace With Others –
Jacob and Esau

October 26

Peace With Others –
Isaac and His Neighbours
Confirmation & Baptism

Donating from home?

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

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/UCifQQLFZrDcGyY-J3xjDoKA/videos>



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

Our next baptism Sunday at Trinity is planned for **Sunday, October 26**. If you are interested please be in touch with Julie as soon as possible **(by October 5)**.

Big Brothers Big Sisters invites you to their Come and Go Open House, **Thursday September 18 from 2-6 p.m.** Drop by and see what we are up to.

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.

We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since our last issue of TriniTidings:

Waind MacDonald
Bert Bazin
Roy Lyall
Jim Pehura
Lynn Switzer

Portage Learning & Literacy's Newcomer Settlement Services is in need support for their new families. In particular, they are looking for mentors that may have time to meet about once a week to help the family navigate their new environment. There is also a need for anyone with a pick-up truck to help move a family when needed. Interested volunteers can call Robin at 204 857 6304 ext. 282 or e-mail robin@pllc.ca for more information.

Milestones & Markers...

Since our last issue
Funerals

Roy Andrew Lyall
June 21, 2025

James (Jim) Wallace Pehura
June 27, 2025

Karen Lynn Conrod
July 04, 2025

Lynn Harry Switzer
August 26, 2025

We also honour the memories of Ken Holland, Betty McFarlane, Dave McBurney & Ed Ross

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!

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.

Thanks to your generosity at the August 31 joint Anglican, Presbyterian & United service at McKenzie, **\$543.45** was donated to the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen.

Our Financial Picture

We now have the financial picture to the end of August, 2/3 of the way through the year. A review of the Operating Budget vs Actual is always interesting. Some points to take note of are:

- The offerings received to the end of August are 52% of the budgeted amount, but that is to be expected. Trinity usually receives a significant amount of donations during the last 4 months of the year and we anticipate this will also occur this year.
- Trinity has received \$25,000 from its "Investing in Our Future" account and has budgeted to take another \$25,000 from this fund by the end of the year.
- Unfortunately we are showing a deficit of \$51,744 as at August 2025. This is definitely something to keep an eye on, but as stated earlier, we anticipate receiving a significant amount of donations during the last 4 months of the year.

Although not shown on the operating vs actual chart, our PAR (preauthorized remittances) now account for approximately 75% of our offerings received! Giving by way of PAR allows you to continue to support the church during times that you are not physically present on Sundays and allows the Leadership Team to budget, knowing what to expect by way of income on an annual basis.

Our income mostly comes from your donations. A big **thank you** to all of you who give by way of PAR and all of you who give by way of Sunday donations, e-transfers, Canada Helps or any other means!

The Stewardship Team

Trinity United Church				
Operating Budget vs. Actual 2025				
Summary to August 31, 2025				
	Aug 31-25	Actual to Date	Budget 2025	% Budget to Date
Income				
Offerings	\$ 9,503.25	\$ 91,464.02	\$ 175,000.00	52%
UCW	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	80%
Rentals	\$ 2,620.00	\$ 22,360.00	\$ 32,260.00	69%
Honouraria	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 2,000.00	168%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 300.00		
Interest	\$ 131.08	\$ 1,224.63	\$ 1,200.00	102%
GST Rebate	\$ 1,344.70	\$ 2,149.78	\$ 1,500.00	143%
Investing in Our Future	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	50%
Total Operating Income	\$ 14,099.03	\$ 149,848.43	\$ 266,960.00	
Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 21,545.36	\$ 186,938.33	\$ 257,145.96	73%
Cost Sharing with MacGregor United	\$ (3,904.51)	\$ (33,201.63)	\$ (49,828.21)	67%
United Church of Canada	\$ -	\$ 9,494.25	\$ 12,659.00	75%
Office	\$ 523.06	\$ 7,297.98	\$ 12,325.00	59%
Program Supplies	\$ 405.00	\$ 548.09	\$ 1,475.00	37%
Interest Groups	\$ -	\$ 91.79	\$ 1,275.00	7%
Property	\$ 2,279.23	\$ 30,423.13	\$ 45,400.00	67%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 20,848.14	\$ 201,591.94	\$ 280,451.75	72%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (6,749.11)	\$ (51,743.51)	\$ (13,491.75)	

Trinity's Financial Update 2025

May – August

Goal - \$44,224

Given - \$48,428

Thank you!

Fall Giving Goals

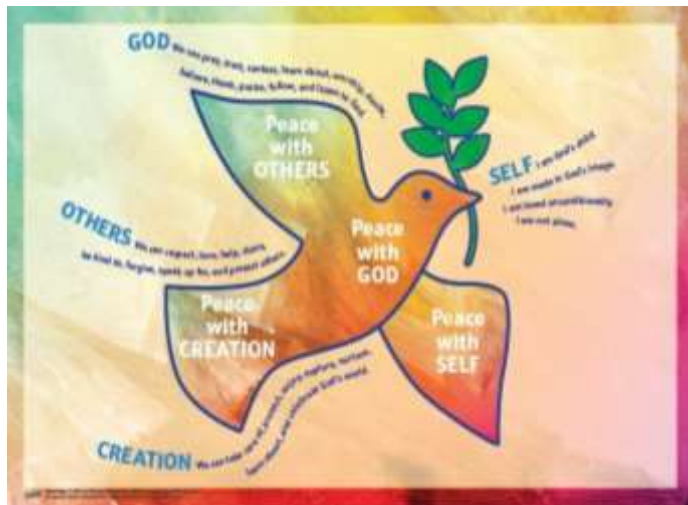
September 01 – October 31

Goal - \$21,517

Please help, and thank you!

Your generosity is greatly appreciated

“Seeking Peace Together”



Our souls and spirits receive nourishment in many ways. Indeed, it is our hope at Trinity that we will be able to engage at many levels and with all our senses to connect with what truly matters in our lives and in the world. One of the ways we hope to do that this fall is by working with the “Current” curriculum: “Seeking Peace Together”. It will take us through 12 weeks of worship and faith formation as we explore God’s shalom. The Hebrew word shalom means “peace” and it signifies all of life being complete, healthy and whole. Shalom is a broad vision for what God intends our world to be. It isn’t just the absence of war or violence, but has multiple aspects: peace with God, self, others and creation. Jesus shows us the way to peace with God through prayer, praise, forgiving, believing and following God’s ways together. Our weekly themes will use stories from the bible to help us delve into those topics – the specific themes are noted on the front page of our newsletter. Broadly, the first three weeks will encourage us

to notice God in the everyday aspects of life and consider how a life of faith connects us with God’s peace. Then we will get a little more specific: from September 28-Thanksgiving, we will explore finding peace “within”, which can be a particular challenge in the active fall season. There are many pressures and stresses that

weigh upon us: relationships in families can be strained, friendships don’t always last, school or work can be difficult, and activities can result in a busy life with little downtime. The scripture texts for these Sundays will help us be grounded through all the joys and trials of life. From mid-October to mid-November we will use some Old Testament stories to illustrate the conflicts we often experience or observe in our own lives – among siblings, neighbours, people we disagree with and even nations. Practical strategies for making peace with others are a focus of weeks 7-10. Finally, we will end our exploration of shalom with a couple of weeks where we take the broadest view and explore peace with our world and peace with all of God’s creation. We will look for peace and beauty in the world around us. We trust that this curriculum theme will help us engage with all our senses and at all levels so that there is something for everyone, regardless of your age and stage of faith formation.

Ways you can participate in this theme, beyond simply attending worship: whether or not you are part of a house group with responsibilities, this fall, please feel welcome to help out with leadership in worship (there will be interactive portions each week), or with children (either upstairs or downstairs). We will be looking for ways to enhance our worship environment, so if you have ideas about how to decorate for a particular theme, or you have something that would be appropriate to display, please check in with the office or one of our ministers. If you wish to host a social or educational event based around our theme, we would be glad to hear about it – or post about it in our Facebook group. Julie is always looking for theme photos to enhance our Instagram account, so if you are a photographer and would like to share thematic photos for our Instagram feed, we would be glad to share them. You can share your own photos in our Facebook group as well. #SeekingPeaceTogether. We look forward to all of the ways that our spirits can be nurtured through our explorations together.

Have you heard of Ukulele Church?

Do you have a ukulele in your life that needs a reason to get used? If you’re looking for a weekly worshipping online community from across Canada and around the world, this is for you. Visit us at ukulelechurch.com to register or email cstuart@united-church.ca for more information.

Trading Spaces

Over the last few years, the Prairie to Pine Region has welcomed a number of ministers from partner churches in international locations, who have

joined the admissions process to become ministers in The United Church of Canada. They are serving in a variety of (mostly rural) locations throughout our region. One idea to help welcome these ministers and provide support to them was to create a kind of "pulpit exchange", where they might invite each other to lead worship in their ministry context. It might give them all a glimpse of what other churches in the province are doing, to see a bit of the geography, and help them get to know more United Church people in general.

As a recently admitted minister into the United Church, Elijah gets to participate in this initiative, and our collaborative ministry has been partnered with the United in Spirit Collaborative Ministry in Steinbach and Niverville. Sunday September 7, Elijah travelled to Steinbach, and then on **Sunday, September 21**, Trinity will host a visit from Simbarashe Mazhara, who will lead the service for us. **Please join us for worship and plan to stay for lunch after church.**



Popularly called Simba, he is currently serving as the Spiritual Leader for United in Spirit Collaborative Ministry, Steinbach & Niverville, where he has been since October 2022. Simba initially served as a Lay Minister in Zimbabwe before



enrolling into the seminary for theological training. He was then ordained into the United Methodist tradition in 2008. He came to Canada in 2015 and started his journey with the United Church in Newfoundland. Simba is passionate about social justice; hence, he found it worthwhile and fulfilling to serve in, among and with the UCC.

He is a husband to Martha, a father to two teenage boys, & an inquisitive learner, both from structured systems & from the community through experience.

Prairie to Pine Region is offering an in-person session of Pastoral Care Visitors training **Saturday, September 27 at McKenzie United Church, Portage la Prairie, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The day will focus on honing the skill of active listening and discussions around Palliative Care Visiting and Medical Assistance in Dying (M.A.I.D.). Rob Reed and Barb Jardine will be joined in the facilitation of the day by one of our Hospital Chaplains, Joe Ball. **Registration deadline is September 18.** Please contact the office with questions or for registration information.

McKenzie United Church

Book Sale

Sunday, September 21 & 28 (starting at noon both days)

Love books? We've got stacks. Come and browse a wide variety of books to find your next page-turner. By donation, with proceeds going to Mission & Service.

Would you be part of our revitalized property team?

There is always something that needs fixing, tending to, caring for, in the Trinity building. For the last few years we have relied on very dedicated individuals to try and look after all of the needs alone, and with a building that is 128 years old – or even the part that is 68 years old – there are simply too many things to keep on top of! The leadership team would like to offer support to our current dedicated volunteers by adding a few others to a property team that could share the load. If you would be willing to add your time or talent, we would like to invite you to join us! (And if you like ladders/heights, we really want to know about you!) Please be in touch with Donna Matthews or the church office to hear more.

ALF 2025

Youth Retreat

for Grades 7 to 12

Friday, October 24 –

Sunday, October 26

St. Paul's United Church
286 Nelson St. W., Virden, MB

Theme:

Commemorating 100 Years of being the United Church - What's the history that got us here?

We are living in a time when it is likely that every year will be a transition year around ministry with young people. Small ones get older, and older ones graduate and head off to new and exciting opportunities. On the home front, we will continually need to re-evaluate what is needed, and what we can offer to children and their families in the area of faith formation. This fall, we are still discussing what might be possible on a weekly basis at Trinity and for what age groups. We are hoping to talk with families with small children to try and coordinate a once/month Sunday program for littles. If your family would be interested in being part of that sort of schedule, please be in touch with the church office. If you have young ones, we hope to be in touch with you soon! We plan to communicate as much as possible so that you know our plans for any given week, because we also know that your plans can be fluid. Regardless of our plans or lack thereof, children and their families are always welcome. As we pledge every time we baptize a child: "May our example and words support your efforts to provide loving, caring homes for your children. On behalf of the whole church, wherever your children may grow and search for love and for God, we offer our support, love and care, now and in the days to come."

Autumn Blessings...

Fall is a time when life can get very busy with activities. It is easy to get caught up in the schedule and forget to nurture joy in your life. Here are some suggestions for ways to change your hectic day.

First, be selective. We know how important it is to choose carefully what we eat. Why not what we feed our minds? For one month, try to be selective of the type of programs you watch, the quality of radio you listen to, the magazines you read, the movies you go to see. You may choose to minimize experiences that encourage violence and anger. This kind of material may entertain us, but it does not give us joy. Indeed, it usually does the reverse.

Next, try going to the library without any goal. Find a seat magazine that catch your fancy. The idea is to discover new areas of interest or simply to be lightly entertained, with no objective in mind.

Take an hour and walk in a local park or playground. Ride a swing. Lie in the grass. Watch children play. During this time, try not to think about yourself. Rather notice the things around you. Carry a notepad to jot down distractions so you don't have to attend to them in the moment.

Or if you prefer indoors, take in the arts centre display, or take a warm bath for half an hour.

Finally, be thankful. Reflect on your physical gifts: eyesight; hearing; and the abilities to speak, stand, walk, touch, smell, taste, and so forth. For each thing, give thanks to God. Reflect on your shelter, food, safety, kitchen, bathroom, and

give thanks. Whatever comes to mind, find something in it for which you can be thankful. Try to get into the habit of thankfulness (rather than the normal habit of complaint). Each night as you go to sleep, see how many things you can think of to give thanks for that day. You may discover that the list is so long, you will fall asleep before finishing it.

Based on Ideas from Rabbi David A. Cooper, in his book "God is a Verb"

On **September 30**, join in the Remembering the Children: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event on Parliament Hill. This 90-minute program is a united effort of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Algonquin Nation, APTN, and CBC/Radio-Canada. It begins at 3:00 p.m. ET (**2 pm Manitoba time**) and all are welcome. If you know someone in or near Ottawa, suggest they attend in person! For those of us here at home, it will be broadcast live on APTN and on YouTube. <https://trw-svr.nctr.ca/parliament-hill/>