

Trinity United Church
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EASTER 2024
TRINITY*united*
using our gifts and strengths in the service
of something greater than ourselves

GREETINGS OF THE EASTER SEASON!

It is hard to believe that the celebration of Easter is mere days away! In the 'olden days' we would see many signs of Easter: Bunnies, and Chocolate Eggs widely displayed in advertising in our secular world at this time of year. Illustrations would show green grassy lawns and children playing outdoors. This year, with our strangely almost snow-less winter, that grass and those children are a very possible scenario! Strangely though, those secular images remind us that Easter is a time of resurrection: renewal and hope. Bunnies grow into rabbits, eggs hatch to become a New Thing. And that is just the way Jesus comes to us anew, as the Christ, the Messiah, the Teacher, the Prince of Peace. And we are gifted with a new way of looking at his life, and then at our own lives.



As we move into a new 'church' season, let us pause to reflect on what things we have learned, what things we need to address, and what things we can remove from our plates. One thing we especially learned here at Trinity is that sometimes the right contractor can give the right answers and produce the right techniques that make a chronically wet basement a dry and wondrous space, safe for high-tech furnaces, and people, and where no boots are needed and the moisture in the air is just us breathing! Hallelujah! And we learned that Trinity folks care enough to support the expenses that this aging building requires to be maintained. That caring backed by donations gives us all life and hope.

We may have to address the fact that the choir is half of the number of people in the church on a Sunday morning and that maybe, just maybe, the sanctuary is a bit large for us. On the other hand, we do love the sanctuary with its beautiful stained-glass windows, the quiet elegance of the Table and the piano and the pulpit, and the sense of calm that fills our souls. And, that choir certainly stirs us with its harmonies and passion. Is there some middle ground of too much and not enough? Trinity also feels an obligation to provide meaningful and spiritual services of Worship to those who are unable to attend in person. The technology that allows for live-streaming offers home-bound folks an opportunity to still see local faces and hear local voices and see a familiar setting. And those who are not anywhere near Thunder Bay still have the benefit of being part of a familiar United Church service of Worship.

What things can we remove from our plates?

1. Fear, that the United Church will swoop in and close the church because the building is too big for the congregation. That's not how the United Church works: the congregation makes its own decisions.
2. Concern that the next big Expense, whatever it may be, will just push the congregation over the edge. So far, the love for the building and love for the congregation has helped to maintain what some might say is unsustainable. Again, the congregation makes these decisions.

We are reminded at every Council meeting that the numbers are not being kind: they are both shrinking and growing! In-person attendance is dropping, eagerness to serve on committees has waned to a significant level, and few new faces are arriving at the door to offer their participation. The expenses are growing, as they are in all other aspects of our lives. Can we find a balance? Trinity Treasurer, and Council and all those responsible for maintaining the day-to-day life of the church do their best and right now that is enough. Is that sustainable?

What Easter reminds us is that the direst of situations may re-birth something new. What will be new for Trinity? That is for all of us to try to determine. How do we make better use of our space in a positive,

community-supporting, and life-giving way? Who might we invite to share our space and our philosophy of 'love one another', a philosophy that we are called to live if we are true to our profession of faith? There is no doubt that the Trinity congregation is dedicated, faithful, and aging. There is no doubt that the building we love is too much for us alone. There is no doubt that as the numbers of active congregants declines, new uses and new visions are essential.

Out of Lenten reflection, and Good Friday wounds and deep sorrows, Easter Resurrection brings light and glory. We live in that hope for our beloved Trinity, and trust that our collective energy will produce solutions and a solid future, a New Day. Step one in this Resurrection is willingness to share ideas, share time and share active participation in the life and work of this beloved church.

Let us persevere in our commitment to Trinity, wherever we gather, and to our Faith. Working together we are strengthened. Let us continue to offer encouragement to one another but let us also be realistic in what we may be able to do, knowing that whatever befalls us, as a Family of Faith, we can move into the future proud of what has been accomplished, and steadfast in our faith wherever it takes us. May it be so.

Christina, Pastoral Charge Supervisor

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Pat Jackson)

As we worship through Lent, and on to Easter, we invite everyone to join us on our journey. We know God is with us in our own testing times. We know the example of Jesus is ours to follow. As a worshipping community, as a community of friends, and as a community of faith we know God will lead us and help us understand this journey. In the sacred church moments of music, prayer and reflection, the Peace of God is certain. Happy Easter!

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 17	5 th Sunday in Lent	Trinity	Anne MacDonald
March 24	Palm Sunday & Communion	Pinegrove	Rev. Randy Boyd
March 29	Good Friday	Trinity	Rev. Desire Tiriwepi
March 31	Easter Sunday	Trinity	Rev. Bert VanCook
April 7		Trinity	Rev. Randy Boyd
April 14		St. Paul's	Rev. Desire Tiriwepi
April 21		Trinity	Robert Cosbey
April 28		Pinegrove	Rev. Bert VanCook



MUSIC UNITED WORKSHOP

The "Music Matters 2024" workshop will take place May 2-5 at St. Paul's United and will be hosted by all the TB United Churches. It will include workshops, plenaries and singing opportunities with a Choral Workshop led by Dr. Andree Degenais. **The organizing committee is seeking people willing to billet people coming to the workshop.** Can you help? Volunteer workers are also needed to help with meal service and clean-up. Contact Sandra at 807-630-5610 if you can help.

SPRING FLEA MARKET

All systems are a go for the **March 23 Spring Flea Market.** (9:30-1:30). Deadline for the receipt of donations is **THURSDAY, MARCH 21** at 4:30 pm as time is needed to process and price the items. Muffins may be brought in Friday evening 7-9 pm or Saturday morning. A few more workers can be used for set-up on Thursday or on Saturday. Contact Heather at 807 251-7133 to volunteer or arrange for a pick-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 19	Men's Lunch at Swiss Chalet
March 23	Spring Flea Market
April 18	Ladies' Lunch at Trinity \$10
	Speaker: Travel Tips by Jo-Anne Levata (CAA)
April 19	Trinity Movie Night
May 18	Antique Fair

INTRODUCING JAN HUNTER.....

It's a pleasure to introduce Trinity's new Office AdministratorJan Hunter.

Jan was born and raised in Thunder Bay and is happily married to husband Ross. She is mom to two boys, Kris and Josh. Not to be forgotten, Jan is also mom to Gracey May, a black Labrador retriever, aka Gracey the Greeter who loves her job at Trinity.



Jan owns and operates Bee Happy Candles. which is a home-based candle shop working with bees wax and soy wax. A busy woman, she also works part-time for Independent Rehabilitation Management Inc. (IRM for short). She schedules Occupational Therapists for various assessments within the city and surrounding areas. Pet Peeves? Sitting still and having her picture taken.

Jan works in the office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings (9:30-12:30) and at home on Wednesdays. Drop in and say hello if you are in the area.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRED

The 2024 Budget lists \$20,000 as the target to reach for incoming fundraiser revenue. This is usually achieved by organizing 2 Flea Markets, an Antique Fair, Graveside Gardens and the Christmas event. At this point, two of the events are covered. Leadership is still needed for the following:

Antique Fair

This event sees tables rented to antique dealers and collectors as well as having 'good quality Trinity housewares and jewellery tables. There is also a food bar in Trinity's Cozy Café (aka Assembly Room). Ideally 2-3 people will agree to work on this event and thus spread out the responsibilities. Usual profit is approximately \$4500. The scheduled date is May 18th and planning should begin in early April.

Graveside Gardens

This event was not held in 2023 due to lack of leadership but prior to that, it had been successfully organized for 10 years and brings in yearly revenue of approximately \$2500. With volunteer workers the coordinator(s) will contact previous clients (25 or so), discuss and choose deerproof annuals, prepare the soil and plant. Volunteers are obtained to weekly water the plants as needed for June, July and August. Usually there is little problem in obtaining workers and volunteers. Planning needs to begin in April or early May.

September Flea Market

This is by far, the easiest event to organize and which usually brings in about \$2500. Aside from obtaining key people for the tables, beginning the advertising and making regular donation requests, this project's work is pretty well contained to the week of the event. It is scheduled for September 21st. While it can be organized by one person using the detailed notes on hand, having 2 people makes it easier.

If you have questions or are willing to assist with any of the above events, please contact **Jim Jackson** or **Josie Salonen**. Unless leadership is obtained, the events will not take place and the estimated revenue lost.

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE

In order to be kept up-to-date on Trinity activities, it is important that the office have the correct information on file. It would, therefore, be appreciated if changes to street address and emails are sent to the office as they occur. More important, please advise us of names that should be deleted as situations occur.

If you are now attending another church or do not wish to receive church mailings, please advise Jan, our Office Administrator at 807-345-5621.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING (March 3, 2024)

Thanks to the active participation of those in attendance, and in particular the easy-to-follow presentations of the Chair, Treasurer and speakers, we can boast of a successful Annual Meeting. Here are some highlights:

- a seamless change-over from retired Office Administrator, Joan Bailey to newly hired **Jan Hunter** was experienced. All is going well with occasional continued support from Joan.
- The welcoming news is that Trinity ended up in the 'black' with a balance of \$65,027.99. This is as a result of unexpected donations received from bequests and other reimbursements. The absence of ministerial salary, also contributed. While significant savings, they should not be looked upon as regular achievements.
- Trustee **Brian Babcock** reported that the move of obtaining insurance from the UUC Protect Insurance, the newly created self-insurance plan of the United Church of Canada, resulted in substantial savings for the church.
- A 2024 budget of \$257,500 was presented and approved. **Les Mayes**, Treasurer, noted that some unknowns made it difficult to project costs (obtaining a minister, unexpected repairs on an old building, carrying out of scheduled fundraisers, etc.).
- All efforts will be taken to obtain grants in 2024 for the various programs and repairs that arise. However, it was noted by the Treasurer that an official audit of Trinity's books would be required before application can be made. It would appear that although costly, it would be beneficial to hire this service;
- A covenanting motion to raise the current sum of \$9500 in 2024 for the UC Mission & Service Fund was again approved. Only contributions that come in from the congregation are submitted, so it does not appear as an expense in Outreach as in former years.
- Property Chair, **Jean Murray**, was directed to complete their research for the capital purchase of a lift for Trinity. Our aging congregation, as well as information contained within the Accessibility Act, make this project a major consideration. While various locations were explored, it would appear that the best place for the lift would be outside the vestry in the sanctuary and which would come down into the kitchen, where the current refrigerator, coffee station and dish cupboard are located. While total costs are not known, it is estimated it will be over \$100,000 as carpentry and flooring costs need to be factored in. All attempts will be made to obtain grants, but it is certain that a well-planned fundraising campaign will be necessary. This is not seen as a major problem since many in our current aging congregation already require the service now and which warrants this necessary equipment. Property was directed to submit their final report to Council for study and recommendation to the congregation for approval.
- Nominating Chair, **Anne MacDonald** extended thanks and appreciation to **Ross McCubbin** and the Tech Crew in the balcony for their devoted service involved with the streaming and tech services provided. She also noted that new members are always welcomed for any of the formed committees (Worship, Property, Pastoral Care, Finance, Social, Christian Education, Ministry & Personnel, Outreach, Multi-Site).
- **Jim Jackson**, Chair, noted that the five usual fundraisers are again planned for 2024 but will only take place if sufficient leadership is available to plan them. Currently, organizers are needed for the May 18th Antique Fair, Graveside Gardens and September 21 Flea Market. Contact **Jim Jackson** or **Josie Salonen** for details.
- It was noted that the current newsletters are on Trinity's website
- A possible date of March 16, 2025 was set as next year's annual meeting. With the increased rentals in the church, it is necessary to book necessary events well in advance.

Happy Easter Everyone!