



Trinity In Touch

Trinity UMC is an inclusive, progressive community of faith in which persons grow in faith, love and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

January Worship & Events

Sunday, January 2

Epiphany
Worship at 10 a.m.

Saturday, January 8

Mission Trip Meeting at 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 9

Baptism of the Lord
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Church Council at 12:15 p.m.

Gathering Meal at 5:30 p.m.

YoTrinity at 6:15 p.m.

Monday, January 10

Financial Peace University begins 13 week class at 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 16

Human Relations Day
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

UMW Soup Supper at 12:15 p.m.

4/5er's Event at 5:30 p.m.

YoTrinity at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 22

Griffins Game at 8 p.m.

YoTrinity Great Bake-In at 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 23

Ecumenical Sunday
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 30

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering Meal at 5:30 p.m.

YoTrinity at 6:15 p.m.

New Year = Blank Canvas

Dear Friends,

What an incredible Christmas it has been! Our boys were all home for the first time in two years and it was so exciting picking them up from the airport. The first arrival from Raleigh, North Carolina, on Dec. 21, was James and his wife, Chelsea, who is expecting our first grandchild, Xander. Yes, it's a boy! Next came Steven and Natalie from Portland, Oregon on Dec. 22, and finally, Daniel and Dominique, also from Portland, Oregon, on Dec. 23.

So, on Christmas Day along with our other son, Gareth, we gathered 'round the table for our Christmas dinner. Turkey, stuffing, sugar carrots, brussel sprouts, roasted potatoes and parsnips and little sausages wrapped with bacon; it was yummy! It was also good to have our family in worship at Trinity.

Worship at Trinity on Christmas Eve was really wonderful with over 500 in attendance. The 4 p.m. Children's Service was very exciting and the children were thrilled! It was fun singing along to Matt Parrott playing Christmas carols on his guitar. The 7 p.m. Carol Service was really peaceful with the beautiful rhythm of lessons and carols proclaiming the birth of our Savior Jesus! The 9 p.m. Candlelit Communion service really made me feel in the mood for Christmas, with the singing of Silent Night in the darkened sanctuary!

Well, my boys are slowly leaving one by one; it's not good! Yet, I am looking forward to the New Year and everything that it holds. The newness of a blank canvas of a whole year and the potential for many good things to unfold with my life, my family and my church.

I feel very excited about Trinity UMC this New Year. We have planned a tremendous worship program to look at the life of Jesus and see how he was radical, passionate, intentional, risk-taking and extravagant. Have a look at the information on the next page and commit yourself to worship with us for the next four months! We believe that if you do, you will feel the radical, passionate love of Jesus that many feel at Trinity!

May the New Year be the best year for us all!

David



Within the Trinity Family Circle

Caring Coins

Caring Coins will be collected for *In The Image* during January. In *The Image* links gently used clothing, house wares, furniture and appliances with families in need in a manner that enhances dignity, embraces choice, and encourages participation and builds a community of diversity. In *The Image* is an independent, faith-based, ecumenical non-profit organization. It serves the greater Grand Rapids area with two locations. Please share your coins with this important ministry.

Children's Ministry Blog

As Conference Coordinator of Children's Ministry, our own Glenys Nellist has recently created a blog, which she hopes will serve to support, encourage and inspire all Children's Ministry leaders! You should check it out and become a follower, kidsministrymatters.blogspot.com.

Young People's Ministries Launches New Website

The United Methodist Board of Discipleship's Young People's Ministries has revamped its web site, www.globalyoungpeople.org, with interactive features to better serve young leaders across the globe. Some of the new features include chat, text message subscriptions, free monthly webinars, grant and scholarship information and weekly stories highlighting ministries with young people throughout The United Methodist Church.

Our Sympathy is extended to...

... The family of Lois Whitmore, who passed away on December 9, 2010.

... Laura Brant and her family. Her father passed away recently.

Dear Trinity UMC,

... Thank you to everyone who participated in my class during Advent. You really made it a great one! -Dr. Bob Smith

... Thank you for your contribution to PARA of \$110.65. PARA is able to fulfill its mission of matching volunteers from churches with newly arrived refugee families. -Jotham Ippel, Refugee Resettlement Supervisor

... Thank you so much to everyone who donated items to our Children's Classrooms. It is very much appreciated! -Nichea Guy, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Coming Up in Worship in 2011

When Christ is born, the whole world changes – or does it? Our post-Christmas worship will center on “what comes next.”

Jan. 2 - One Service at 10 a.m. - Epiphany Service with Holy Communion

Jan. 9 - Regular Schedule Resumes - New Year Covenant Service

Jan. 16 through Feb. 20

Living the Gospel Life - The life and ministry of Jesus the Christ is our model and our call to gospel living. In this series, we'll look at Jesus with fresh eyes and open hearts, seeking to see him as he truly was, is and calls us to be.

Jan. 16 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Untamed and Open to God

Jan. 23 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Radical

Jan. 30 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Passionate

Feb. 7 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Intentional

Feb. 13 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Risk-Taking

Feb. 20 Jesus and the Gospel Life: Extravagant



Events and Opportunities for January 2011

To have an event listed in the February Trinity in Touch, submit your content to Laura at office@grtunc.org on or before Monday, January 24.

Trinity at the Griffins!

Saturday, Jan. 22, Game starts at 8 p.m.

Trinity once again will have a Griffins Hockey January Blast! Join us as we sit center ice and watch Grand Rapid's own Griffins! Cost is \$15 per ticket.

Order your tickets from the Church office or Nichea Guy (orangecelt00@aol.com) by **January 16**. Checks can be made out to Trinity UMC. Tickets will be available at the Will Call window on game day. HURRY! Do not RSVP late or you will miss a great night of fun! Everyone is welcome!



Winter Items Collection

Join the children of Trinity in collecting new hats, mittens, scarves and socks for the school children at Congress School. Many of the children in our neighborhood and who attend Congress will not have the warm clothes needed to attack our cold Michigan winters. Your donation will help those children stay warm and dry this winter.

This would make a great family time activity, to talk about helping your neighbor and purchasing the donations. Love in Action! Your donation can be placed in the collection box in Parlor or lobby area. Thank you so much.

Celebrate the Child

We are very fortunate to have an amazing nursery program here at Trinity. We have also been blessed with many births in our Trinity Family. The sounds of their cries and laughter resonates an uplifting joy that excites the church. We would like to take the month of January and invite you to catch a glimpse of the nursery, embrace our newest members with your love and encourage our young families into the life of the church. Watch for the Sunday Celebration where we lift up this crucial ministry in the church. "...let the children come to me."

Interested in Operating the Sound System?

WANTED! We need volunteers to be trained in operating our sound system in the Sanctuary, Parlor, Discovery Room and Fellowship Hall. At the present time there are very few trained personnel for weddings or funeral services. If interested, please sign-up on the *Take Time for Trinity* insert in Sundays bulletin or contact the church office (456.7168, office@grtunc.org).



Scout Sunday is Coming

Scout Sunday - Spaghetti Dinner - Pinewood Derby Sunday, Feb. 13

All Scouts (Boy, Girl, Cub, Venture, Brownies, etc.) are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church that day.

Troop 215 will once again sponsor a spaghetti dinner following the 11 a.m. service. We will also host the Second Annual Trinity Pinewood Derby. Sign-up in the Parlor to participate in the derby and/or to order a car kit in the parlor on the three Sundays prior to Scout Sunday (Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 6).

Contact John or Bonnie Czuhajewski (575.8545) if you have any questions.

Music News & Notes

January Music at 11 a.m.

Jan. 2: On this Epiphany Sunday, Husband and wife Larry and Diane Biser will serve as guest organist and vocalist during Chris Dekker's absence. The Chancel Choir will *not* participate in worship.

Jan. 9: The Chancel Choir will resume their participation in worship and will sing *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* by Carl Mueller.

Jan. 16: Organist Chris Dekker will play Herbert Howell's *Psalm Prelude no. 3* during the prelude. The piece depicts the text of Psalm 23:4 in dramatic fashion. The Chancel Choir will sing *God Be in My Head* by John Rutter.

Jan. 23: The Chancel Choir will sing *Hope in God* by Carl Wiltse and *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* by Dale Wood. Organist Chris Dekker will play Johann Sebastian Bach's *monumental Prelude and Fugue in B-minor (BWV 544)* during an extended prelude. The Matin Ringers will also give musical offerings.

Jan. 30: The Chancel Choir will sing *O How Amiable* by Ralph Vaughan Williams in addition to Larry Visser's arrangement of *Peace I Leave with You*. The Trinity Ringers will also participate. Organist Chris Dekker will play Alec Rowley's beautiful composition, *Benedictus*, and will also play Bach's famous "Little" *Fugue in G-minor* as the postlude.



The Orchestra is Back!

The Trinity Orchestra will be participating in the 11 a.m. worship service on April 17, Palm Sunday. If interested, please contact Director of Music Ministries, Christopher Dekker. In order to have adequate time to choose and prepare music, the deadline for signing up for this ensemble is **Sunday, February 6**.

Attention Young Musicians

All children eighth grade or below are invited to share their talents in worship during the prelude of the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 20. Both vocalists and instrumentalists are encouraged to join, regardless of level of ability. If you or your child are interested, please contact Director of Music Ministries, Christopher Dekker.



Do We Have Your Email?

The parents of choir children and youth are encouraged to check their email prior to each service in which their choir participates in worship for pertinent information regarding warm up rehearsal times and locations. An email is sent each week to all applicable families. If your child participates in choir but you aren't receiving these emails, please contact the church office.

Organ Recital

Organist Christopher Dekker will be performing a recital at the Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church following a short worship service featuring the singing of hymns on January 23, at 6 p.m. The concert is being held to rededicate their recently renovated organ, and will be a celebratory event featuring a variety of music. The church is located at 1239 Fuller Avenue SE in Grand Rapids. Admission is free, and the public is warmly welcomed.

Warm Up with a Bowl of Soup

Sunday, Jan. 16, following the 11 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall

You can do all of these great things in one afternoon for a small donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children:

- Savor a bowl of hot soup from a variety of Trinity favorites.
- Make your own salad creation from our salad bar.
- Enjoy great fellowship with our Trinity Church Family.
- Support the mission work of United Methodist Women here and around the world. Proceeds will continue the work of United Methodist Women through their Pledge to Mission.



...Speaking of The United Methodist Women

Here is an update on the Trinity United Methodist Women 2010 finances.

We received \$4,708.25 for our events (funerals, lunches, dinners, Deanna House program, Christmas by Candlelight, etc.).

We utilized profits of \$700 from the Rhea Haines Fund and donated this amount to UM Community House for their new roof project, in addition to our regular \$100 year pledge for general expenses.

We paid our \$2,000 pledge to District for our pledge to Missions, plus mission recognition gifts to Carole Lyman for our Easter breakfast, a memorial for Marilyn Lee and Prayer and Self-Denial collection \$84.

Expenses for lunches, postage for care packages for college students, poinsettia sale costs, Equal Exchange coffees/teas, left us with a year-end balance of \$2,083.40. We are entering 2011 with a healthy balance ready to meet our obligations.

We wish to thank all those who worked and committed a pledge to Trinity UMW. Now would be a good time to offer your pledge for 2011 so we can keep the good momentum going! We cannot do anything without the dedicated volunteers who are so faithful and support UMW. So a deep gratitude for all who help in any way.

Human Trafficking Laws Tightened in Michigan

Two policy initiatives sponsored by State Representatives Dudley Spade (D-Tipton) were sent to the governor Dec. 16, after being passed in the final hours of the 95th Legislature. The initiatives include a 5-bill package that makes Michigan's human trafficking laws some of the toughest in the nation and a bill to provide for the forfeiture of assets that are used in the commission of identity theft. Today, more than thirty have laws regulating human trafficking.

According to statistics compiled by the United States Department of State, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year and the trade is growing. Of those victims, 70% are female and 50% are children. The majority are forced into the commercial sex trade. An estimated 200,000 American children are at risk for trafficking into the sex industry. The largest number of people trafficked into the United States come from East Asia and the Pacific followed by Latin America, Europe and Eurasia, respectively.

The legislation includes the following provisions: 1. A bill to

strengthen Michigan's current human trafficking statute by providing clearer and cleaner definitions and providing meaningful penalties for violators. 2. A bill to add human trafficking to the list of offenses that qualify for prosecution under Michigan's racketeering statute so that prosecutors can go after not only the individuals involved, but also those that support them and fund their activities. 3. A bill to provide for the seizure and sale of any assets used in the perpetration of the crime. 4. A bill to provide for restitution to the victims to help compensate them for lost wages, and their terrible suffering and give them some means with which to restart their lives.

This legislation passed the House with overwhelming support on a vote of 104-3. The United Methodist Church calls for the abolition of sex trafficking (2008 Book of Resolutions, "Abolition of Sex Trafficking" Paragraph 285) Scripture references are Ecclesiastes 4:1 and Isaiah 42:22. The Women's Division of the United Methodist Women offers program resources and encourages local units to become involved in this issue.

Sunday Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 9

Social Media and the Church

Led by Matt Parrott in the Discovery Room. A look into what Social Media is, how it is growing and how it can help spread the word of the Church.

We will take a look at the growth of the internet, addition of sites like Facebook and Twitter, and how Trinity can harness their power to reach a wider and more diverse audience.



Jan. 16

Back to the Future

Led by David Nellist in the Discovery Room

Jan. 23 and 30

Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity

Led by Nichea Guy in the Discovery Room. A study written by Dr. Dana Robert, Union Theological Seminary (New York) invites us to see the mission of the church through 21st Century lenses. Join us for presentation, dialogue and discussion on this vital new way of understanding our role in Global Ministries. A study of the Women's Division/United Methodist Church.

Other Adult Education Opportunities

Mondays, Jan. 10, through Mar. 28, at 6:45 p.m.

Financial Peace University



This 13-week course covers, debt elimination, retirement investments, college funding, and most importantly the peace of communication when it comes to dealing with your finances. Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is taught by Dave Ramsey himself using DVD's. To sign-up, for more information or questions, please call Tara Lafferty (773.8001, rtclafferty@charter.net).

Jan. 10, 2011 - Super Saving (Attend free!)

Jan. 17 - Relating With Money

Jan. 24 - Cash Flow Planning

Jan. 31 - Dumping Debt

Feb. 7 - Credit Sharks In Suits

Feb. 14 - Buyer Beware

Feb. 21 - Clause and Effect

Feb. 28 - That's Not Good Enough

Mar. 7 - Of Mice and Mutual Funds

Mar. 14 - From Fruition To Tuition

Mar. 21 - Working In Your Strengths

Mar. 28 - Real Estate and Mortgages/The Great Misunderstanding

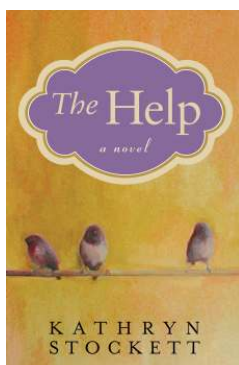
Childcare is provided. Kits are \$100 per couple. Past FPU members can attend all sessions for free at anytime!

Book Discussions

Spiritalk

Meets Jan. 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett (We will also make reference to *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee in our discussion.)



Dissident Daughters

Meets Thursdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This weekly book study group meets in the Fireside Room and will be reading the books as *Spiritalk*. New members are always welcome!

Be sure to the check out the enclosed Adult Education brochure in this newsletter for the rest of the Winter/Spring 2011 line-up!

Also included is a preview of what Trinity is using Social Media for and how you can join in and be in the know!

January

At Trinity UMC

For Sunday Schedule See Next Page

1
New Year's Day

2	3 Office Closed 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	4 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	5 9am Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 6pm Trustees, Library 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm Symphonette, Fellowship Hall	6 11am Matin Ringers, Sanctuary Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room	7	8 10am Mission Trip Meeting, Discovery Room
9	10 4pm Vision Team, Discovery Room 6:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee, Fireside Room 6:45pm Financial Peace University, Discovery Rm 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	11 6pm CM Teen Club Staff, Parlor 5pm Memorials and Endowment, Fireside 6pm Finance, Fireside 6:30pm Children's Council, Library 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	12 9am Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5:30pm CM Kids Club Staff, Parlor 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm Symphonette, F. Hall	13 11am Matin Ringers, Sanctuary Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 6:30pm Trinity Ringers, Sanctuary	14	15
16	17 Office Closed 6:45pm Financial Peace University, Discovery Rm 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	18 3:30pm CM Teen Club 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	19 9am Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5pm CM Kids Club 7pm CM Tutoring 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm Symphonette, F. Hall 7pm Prayer Shawls, Fireside Room	20 11am Matin Ringers, Sanctuary Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 5pm CM TMO 6:30pm Trinity Ringers, Sanctuary	21	22 10am Believe Out Loud Training, Parlor 8pm Griffins Game 8pm YoTrinity Great Bake-In
23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! 6:30pm Stewardship Committee, Fireside RM 6:45pm Financial Peace University, Discovery Rm 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym 7pm CM Council Meeting, Parlor	25 3:30pm CM Teen Club 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	26 9am Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5pm CM Kids Club 7pm CM Tutoring 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm Symphonette, F. Hall	27 11am Matin Ringers, Sanctuary Noon GRPS Solo and Ensemble, Sanctuary/Choir Room Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Newsletter Crew, Parlor 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 5pm CM TMO 6:30pm Trinity Ringers, Sanctuary	28	29
30	31 6:45pm Financial Peace University, Discovery Rm 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym					

January Sundays At Trinity UMC

Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
<p>2</p> <p>Epiphany</p> <p>9:30am Nursery Opens</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>*Nursery, 0-2 Years</p> <p>*Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings</p> <p>*K-2nd Grade, Horizons</p> <p>*3rd Grade Bible Class, Explorers</p> <p>*4th-5th Grade, The PIT</p> <p>*6th-12th Grade, The Alley</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education</p> <p><i>*Social Media and the Church</i>, led by Matt Parrott, Discovery Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>12:15pm Church Council</p> <p>3:15pm Kindermusik Village, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>3:30pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room</p> <p>4:30pm Kindermusik Our Time, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>4:30pm Carol Choir, Discovery Room</p> <p>4:45pm Kindermusik Imagine That!, Horizons Room</p> <p>4:50pm Wesley Singers, Sanctuary</p> <p>5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:15pm YoTrinity</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Human Relations Day</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>*Nursery, 0-2 Years</p> <p>*Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings</p> <p>*K-2nd Grade, Horizons</p> <p>*3rd Grade Bible Class, Explorers</p> <p>*4th-5th Grade, The PIT</p> <p>*6th-12th Grade, The Alley</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education</p> <p><i>*Back to the Future</i>, led by Pastor David Nellist, Discovery Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>12:15pm UMW Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>3:15pm Kindermusik Village, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>3:30pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room</p> <p>4:30pm Kindermusik Our Time, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>4:30pm Carol Choir, Discovery Room</p> <p>4:45pm Kindermusik Imagine That!, Horizons Room</p> <p>4:50pm Wesley Singers, Sanctuary</p> <p>5:30pm 4/5er's Event</p> <p>5:30pm Spiritalk, Fireside Room</p> <p>6:15pm YoTrinity</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Ecumenical Sunday</p> <p>YoTrinity Great Bake-In Sale</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>*Nursery, 0-2 Years</p> <p>*Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings</p> <p>*K-2nd Grade, Horizons</p> <p>*3rd Grade Bible Class, Explorers</p> <p>*4th-5th Grade, The PIT</p> <p>*6th-12th Grade, The Alley</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education</p> <p><i>*Joy to the World</i>, led by Nichea Guy, Discovery Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>3:15pm Kindermusik Village, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>3:30pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room</p> <p>4:30pm Kindermusik Our Time, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>4:30pm Carol Choir, Discovery Room</p> <p>4:45pm Kindermusik Imagine That!, Horizons Room</p> <p>4:50pm Wesley Singers, Sanctuary</p> <p>5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>*Nursery, 0-2 Years</p> <p>*Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings</p> <p>*K-2nd Grade, Horizons</p> <p>*3rd Grade Bible Class, Explorers</p> <p>*4th-5th Grade, The PIT</p> <p>*6th-12th Grade, The Alley</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education</p> <p><i>*Joy to the World</i>, led by Nichea Guy, Discovery Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>3:15pm Kindermusik Village, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>3:30pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary</p> <p>4:10pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room</p> <p>4:30pm Kindermusik Our Time, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>4:30pm Carol Choir, Discovery Room</p> <p>4:45pm Kindermusik Imagine That!, Horizons Room</p> <p>4:50pm Wesley Singers, Sanctuary</p> <p>5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:15pm YoTrinity</p>

Community Ministries

A People That is Called into Risk-Taking Mission

Here we are beginning a new year, a new decade. Can you believe it already? The weeks fly by and we engage in so many activities that sometimes we forget to just stop and breathe, I know that is the case for me. We need time to reflect, to reconnect to the God that keeps us going, that provides for us, that guides our lives and in our case our ministries, if we just stop and listen. Community Ministries is starting regular weekly programs a week later this January. We are going to stop and listen and plan our strategies for implementing some new and revisiting old plans.

We are a people of faith, a people that can never give up, a people that is called into risk-taking mission. I have to say at this point I am so proud to be a member of Trinity, a church that listened to the needs of the community and that responded to the call to be in ministry with our community and its children and youth. I am honored and humbled to be in a position of leadership with this mission. So I thank you. But I digress.

Many years ago Trinity decided to take a risk and bring children in from the neighborhood. Trinity wanted to provide

a safe place for children physically, emotionally and spiritually. We didn't know what was in front of us, nor how everything would work out. Would kids want to come? Would the neighborhood want us to be involved? Would the congregation be accepting? Well, sure enough the kids came and you know the rest of the answers. Then as you know the kids wouldn't leave when they became teens. Another question had to be dealt with. Many of the children were very difficult to deal with, were often suspended from school, were part of gangs, came from very unstable backgrounds and were kind of misfits and sometimes pretty out of control. Some parents chose not to send their kids in the early days because of this. Again, Trinity made the decision to take a risk and go forward and allow the most troubled kids to attend. If we lost some of the others, we knew they would be ok, their parents were looking out for them.

We are here today because of the forward thinking of the church leadership to take a risk, to be in mission with our community. However, we can't remain stagnant, we have to keep

striving for more for our kids. The draw and impact of drugs and gangs still lurk on the street. Kids still need to read to be successful. They need the skills and understanding that we hope to provide to become not only successful with jobs and families but with a deep commitment to the God that has provided for them. That has 'allowed them to live another day,' that has given them hope and a faith to hang on to.

In the months and years ahead we are hoping to march forward. Our kids hunger for change. Change is an action. Many of them are saying "enough." It may be risk-taking (maybe not in the way it was before), it may be challenging, it may cost money, it may involve those beyond Trinity, but for sure it should equip our kids. We will listen to God and be the instruments we are intended to be. The kids need to hear the message about life, love, freedom and the positive futures they have in store. Stay tuned...we will keep you posted!



Donna

Thank You, From All of Us to All of You!

As we begin the new year we want to reflect on your generosity. We have been supported by so many through your time, your prayers and your financial commitment and we thank you. You have supported our magazine sale, our special events (like our very special concert in Dec.), the boutique, summer reading buddies, special appeals for family assistance and our many volunteers throughout the year.

The Jiminy Fund supported our Kids Club shopping expedition along with a special book club of one of Trinity's members. That was such a wonderful experience for our children. We appreciate so much the connection you all have in the community that give us financial backing and volunteers for our programs, i.e. the Grand Rapids Musicians League, the Golden K Kiwanis, local colleges and many others. We love that you think of our kids as you go about your lives.

The Trinity staff, too is great a great team to work with. All of you are appreciated for all that you do and what you offer to the kids of our community. Thank you and we pray that you all have a very happy new year.





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www.grtumc.org

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Trinity In Touch January 2011

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Communication @ Trinity

Do you know all the different ways Trinity UMC is communicating??

- Weekly Sunday bulletins
- Our email list (weekly email updates, prayers requests, special announcements, things you need to know before Sunday, etc.)
- The Website www.grtumc.org
- Facebook (Trinity United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, MI)
- Twitter (@Trinity_Live)
- Monthly 'Trinity in Touch' newsletter
- Phone calls
- Verbal announcements during worship
- And good 'ole fashion snail mail

If you have questions about our lines of communication - communicate!
Feel free to contact the office 456.7168, office@grtumc.org).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!