



# 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.

## April Worship & Events

**Sunday, April 3**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, April 10**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, April 16**  
8-10 a.m. Applebee's Mission Trip  
Breakfast, East Beltline Location

**Sunday, April 17**  
**Passion/Palm Sunday**  
**New Members Join**  
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 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 21**  
Holy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 22**  
Good Friday Service at 12:15 p.m.

**Saturday, April 23**  
Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

**Sunday, April 24**  
**Easter Sunday**  
Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at Clark on  
Keller Lake

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

9-10:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast,  
Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, April 26**  
Earth Day Video - *Gasland* at Noon  
in the Discovery Room

## Holy Week: April 17-April 24

### **Passion/Palm Sunday - April 17: Tree (New Members Join)**

The Trinity Orchestra will participate, offering three pieces: *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck, *Rhosymedre* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and *Sinfonia in F from Cantata 79* ("Now Thank We All Our God") by J.S. Bach. The Chancel Choir will sing Gilbert Martin's *When I Survey* as the anthem, and the children will participate in a Palm Sunday processional. The Wesley Singers and Ringers will also participate.

### **Holy Thursday - April 21, Service at 7:30 p.m. (Prelude at 7:05 p.m.)**

A powerful Tenebrae service (service of shadows) will be led by Pastor David and Pastor Julie. The Choral Scholars, one of Michigan's premier choral ensembles, will offer several anthems, in addition to a 25-minute choral prelude. Also participating will be violinists Gregory Maytan and Veronique Mathieu.

### **Prayer Vigil - Thursday, April 21**

Beginning at 9 p.m. following the Holy Thursday Service until Noon before the Good Friday Service. Be sure to sign up in the lobby area to pray and for security.

### **Good Friday - April 22, Service at 12:15 p.m.**

A service entitled "Stations of the Road to Freedom," based on the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be led by Pastor David and Pastor Julie.

### **Saturday, April 23, Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. in the Parlor**

The Trinity Children's Council would like to invite all children to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities include colorful eggs and surprises hidden throughout the building, a wonderful story time, take home activity and delicious cupcakes and punch for all (cupcakes will be gluten-dairy free!). There will be something for all ages. Friends and family are welcome!

### **Easter Morning, Sunday, April 24**

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at Clark on Keller Lake led by Clark Chaplain, Tim Tuthill and Trinity's, Matt Parrott.

### **Easter Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. at Trinity.**

The 11 a.m. service Easter Brass Prelude will begin at 10:35 a.m. and this festive service of the Resurrection will be led by Pastor David and Pastor Julie. A professional brass octet, timpani and organ will lead in the singing of several Easter hymns, and the Chancel Choir will offer several pieces including *Fanfare for Easter* by Lloyd Pfautsch and *This Joyful Eastertide* by Robert Shaw. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation will be invited to sing *Hallelujah* from Handel's *Messiah* with the Chancel Choir.

**Easter Breakfast from 9-10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** (Adults \$5, Children \$3), egg dishes, gluten free French toast, mixed fruit, bagels, muffins, Fair Trade Coffee/Tea, etc. Proceeds benefit Red Bird Mission Work Camp.

## Caring Coins

During April, your Caring Coins will go to the *Trinity Garden*. Our loose change will pay for seeds, plants, and gasoline for the tractors. Let's support our gardeners generously so that the bounty of fresh vegetables which they have produced for many years for local mission kitchens can again be possible.

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## Church Council

The next Church Council will be on Sunday, April 17, following the 11 a.m. worship.

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## Hospitality Tidbit

The Trinity Hospitality Team invites everyone to join us in praying, planning, preparing and working toward the purpose of helping others receive what we have received in Christ.

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## Sunday Table Tennis

We've had a great time at our Sunday Novice Table Tennis afternoons. The last session had about 12 people and all seemed to enjoy the play. Several youth and families participated. Watch out for the Frost boys down the line! They couldn't seem to get enough. Our talented Music Director revealed a new talent, and was encouraged to join the group on Wednesday nights if possible! Our hours are listed as 3:30 to 5 p.m., but if some want to stay till 5:30, that's ok! There is no organized play, so come and go as you wish. In April, the 4th Sunday is Easter, so we will not meet that day, but a week earlier. Put Sunday, April 17, on your calendar and come join us for some fun ping-pong!!

-Chase Klinesteker

# Within the Trinity Family Circle

## Our Sympathy is Extended to...

... Tom Stellard and Ruth Stevens and their families. Tom's father, Peter Stellard, passed away on March 10, after a very brief illness.

... Judy Conner and her family, on the passing of Judy's stepdaughter, Janet, on March 22, in Florida.

## Congratulations...

... to James and Chelsea Nellist on the birth of their son, Alexander James, on March 10 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Pastor Dave and Glenys Nellist are the very proud first time grandparents.

## Dear Trinity UMC,

... Thank you to everyone at Trinity that kept me in their thoughts and prayers. God has truly blessed me and I am so grateful. I want to wish everyone a big thank you.  
-Tim White

... It is with a grateful heart that we offer our thanks for your recent gift of \$1,640 to *International Child Care* in support of *Grace Children's Hospital*. Rebuilding Grace Children's Hospital and strengthening our other health care programs in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic are top priorities for us. Thank you again for your gift. - Keith Mumma, US National Director

... Thank you very much for your charitable gift of \$200 made on March 15, in support of our efforts at *Feeding America* to provide food aid to all who need it across West Michigan. We remain committed to achieving the goal of a hunger-free West Michigan and your support is a critical component of our success. Thank you so much! -Teresa Pawl-Knapp, Interim Executive Director

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# God's Renewed Creation, Call to Hope and Action

## Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Central UMC, Lansing, MI

Cost: \$25 family, \$15 individual, students are free and childcare is available for infants to 9 years.

All interested are invited to the 9th Annual Keep Making Peace event. Bishop Don Ott, who served the Michigan Area, will present "God's Renewed Creation, A Call of the Council of Bishops to Hope and Action for God's Creation." The Bishops' Pastoral Letter ([hopeandaction.org](http://hopeandaction.org)) lists the nine pledges the bishops have made to respond to God's gracious call to join in renewing creation. Can we match their actions? Other speakers are: Lana Pollack, Chair of the US Section, International Joint Commission of the US and Canada, former Michigan State Senator and president of the Michigan Environmental Council; and Pat Callbeck Harper, Project Manager, Council of Bishops' "God's Renewed Creation," former officer for social action for the UMW and the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. This event is jointly sponsored by the Boards of Church and Society and the United Methodist Women of the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences and the Shalom Center of Lansing. Registration forms are in the Church Office or online at [www.shalomlansing.org](http://www.shalomlansing.org).

# Events and Opportunities for April 2011

To have an event listed in the May *Trinity in Touch*, submit your content to Laura at office@grtunc.org on or before Monday, April 25.

## Applebee's Pancake Fundraising Breakfast

**Saturday, April 16, from 8-10 a.m.**

You can help to support the Family Mission Work Camp by enjoying an *All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast* at Applebee's on the East Beltline across from Knapp's Corner. Come in anytime from 8-10 a.m.

and for **only \$5** you can have a delicious start to your busy Saturday! Our Mission Work Camp Team will receive \$3 from every \$5 that walks in the door!

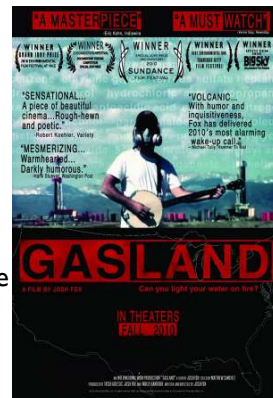
Thanks for your continued support!



## Earth Day Film Showing: *Gasland*

**Tuesday, April 26, at Noon**

The United Methodist Women of Trinity would like to have you join us Tuesday, April 26, at Noon as we offer a viewing of the 2010 Sundance Film Festival winner, *Gasland*.



Bring your sack lunch and join us in the Discovery Room as we look at the issue of "fracking" and its' effect on our water supply. The United Methodist Women, have had a long history of environmental justice activity, especially pertaining to water issues. Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, or co-workers to this educational opportunity.

## Easter Offering

The Easter offering this year will be divided, as usual, between three agencies.

**Kid's Food Basket** Volunteers in this Grand Rapids agency pack healthy lunch bags for school children to take home. These children are those who are considered at risk of not having adequate meals in the home. The program continues through the summer at area parks.

**Habitat for Humanity** This agency has been successful for many years in helping people become home owners. Our donation will be directed to the Michigan chapter.

**Church World Service: Blankets** Sturdy, tightly woven blankets are donated in distressed areas of the world. They are used for warmth, shelter and, often, as luggage when people have to bundle their few possessions for resettlement.

Please give as you are able to one or divide your gift between all three. And, as always, please remember to pray for those in distress and for those who give assistance. Thank you, Trinity's Missions Committee

## Commitment to Africa University

On April 17, the Church Council will meet and consider a proposal to support a building on the campus of Africa University in Zimbabwe. Trinity is being asked by the Grand Rapids District to pledge \$20,000 (to be raised over two years) to furnish one dorm room in a visitor's center that will be built. Those who saw the presentation at the last council meeting were very impressed with the beautiful campus and buildings. We were even more impressed with the knowledge that over 3,500 students from all over the African continent have graduated in fields that will prepare them for work in: Sustainable Agriculture, Peace, Leadership and Governance, Education, Church Growth and Development, Business Management and Ethical Leadership. Graduates become leaders in their communities and countries.

All Trinity members are invited to attend and vote on this proposal and consider working on a committee to plan the pledge drive if the proposal to support AU is approved. Rev. Bob Smith is the honorary chair of the committee. Thanks, Sue Emmons



# They welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem waving palms and shouting alleluia...

Children of Trinity, join the celebration on Palm Sunday, April 17, by being a part of the Children's Procession of Palms.

During the introit in the 11 a.m. service, Trinity children will process waving palms of joy. Parents and children wanting to take part in the worship service opportunity, please meet in the Parlor at 10:50 a.m. as we prepare for the triumphant entry. Families will be able to sit down and enjoy the service following the processional. Thank you for your willing participation.


## Gimme Shelter: Human Shelter and Sustainability

**Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE, 49503)**

**Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m.**

**Friday, April 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**GIMME SHELTER**  Grand Rapids will play host to a three day symposium unlike any other in West Michigan. GIMME SHELTER will bring together national and local scholars, professionals and philosophers, to discuss the American image of shelter. NYT Bestselling author of *The Not So Big Life*, Sarah Susanka, will deliver the keynote address on April 7 at 7p.m. Susanka will talk us through a more fulfilling and provocative way of evaluating what we really need and want, not just in housing, but in our lives. Key themes of day two will include sustainable, affordable and accessible environments for all segments of the population. Most importantly, however, we will ask each of our presenters and discussion groups to focus on the integration of meaning for both the intended user and the surrounding community in the final product. A final gathering at Fountain Street Church will unveil a call to action for the Grand Rapids community. Admission to this symposium is free. [www.sheltergr.com](http://www.sheltergr.com)

## High Tea

**Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m.**



You are cordially invited to attend Trinity United Methodist Women's High Tea. We

will gather for an afternoon of marvelous teas, delicious tea sandwiches and sweets and an update from Valerie Mossman-Celestin, who just recently returned from a trip to Haiti with her work with HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International). You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear of the outstanding work being done in Haiti by HAPI and how you play a role in that success. RSVP on the *Take Time for Trinity* card in Sunday's bulletin, contact the office (456.7168, [office@grtunc.org](mailto:office@grtunc.org)) or at the display in the Parlor. An offering of Prayer and Self Denial will be taken.

## Lace Up Your Walking Shoes!

**Access/GRACE Hunger Walk, Saturday, May 7, at 8 a.m.**

**Access/GRACE**  
**hunger walk**  
**2011**

GRACE and ACCESS are combining efforts to hold Hunger Walk 2011. Check-in is at 8 a.m. at Grand Rapids First United Methodist Church and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. We will journey through the Southeast end of Grand Rapids and Trinity has been chosen as the checkpoint on the route this year. The money earned through this walk provides funding for many programs throughout the city that provide for people living in poverty. Trinity has been a strong supporter of this event, earning thousands of dollars through walk sponsors over the many years of participating. This year Trinity's Community Ministries is eligible to receive funding for our many programs.

Come join us as a walker or a sponsor! We are also recruiting volunteers to work at the checkpoint the morning of the walk. Check out the opportunities to help on the *Take Time for Trinity* insert in the bulletin or if you have questions, please contact Donna ([d.shirey@grtunc.org](mailto:d.shirey@grtunc.org)) at the church, Sue Emmons ([sre.peace@yahoo.com](mailto:sre.peace@yahoo.com), 245.9866) or Kathy Hosten ([kathyhosten@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyhosten@yahoo.com), 734.604.9655).

**Please sign up to walk or be a sponsor in the parlor beginning April 10!**



# April At Trinity UMC

For Sunday Schedule See Next Page

					1	2
3	4 7pm Stephen Ministry, Discovery 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	5 8:30am Hospitality Committee, Fireside 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	6 9am Staff Meeting Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 6pm Trustees, Library 7pm Table Tennis, Gym	7 Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room	8	9 8am Easter Brass Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10	11 3:30pm CM Basketball 5pm Vision Team, Discovery Room 6:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee, Fireside Room 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	12 10am Trinity Clergy and Spouses at Clark on Keller Lake 11:30am CM Leadership Team 3:30pm CM Teen Club 5pm Memorials and Endowment, Fireside 6:30pm Finance, Fireside 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	13 9am Staff Meeting Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5pm CM Kids Club 7pm CM Tutoring 7pm Table Tennis, Gym	14 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside 5pm CM TMO 6:30pm Trinity Ringers	15	16 8am Applebee's Mission Trip Breakfast, East Beltline Location 8am Embellish Recording Session, Sanctuary 6pm Trinity Seniors, Parlor
17	18 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	19 3:30pm CM Teen Club Outing	20 9am Staff Meeting Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5pm CM Kids Club Outing 7pm Prayer Shawls, Fireside Room	21 Holy Thursday 10am CityFit, F. Hall 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside 5pm CM TMO 7:30pm Holy Thursday Service, Sanctuary	22 Good Friday Earth Day 12:15pm Good Friday Service, Sanctuary	23 10am Easter Egg Hunt
24 Easter	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! 6:30pm Stewardship Committee, Fireside RM 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym	26 Noon Earth Day Video - Gasland, Discovery Room 3:30pm CM Teen Club 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym	27 9am Staff Meeting Noon W.O.W., Fireside Noon NA, Library 5pm CM Celebration Dinner, Fellowship Hall 7pm Table Tennis, Gym	28 10am CityFit, F. Hall 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Room 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside 1pm Newsletter Crew, Parlor 6:30pm Trinity Ringers	29	30

## April Sundays At Trinity UMC

Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
<p>3</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>One Great Hour of Sharing</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education *The Case for God, led by Maurice Fetty, Discovery</p> <p>9:45am "Signs of Lent" Discussion, led by Julie Dix, Fireside Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>Noon Orchestra Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>3pm Disciple Bible Study, Fireside</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education *The Case for God, led by Maurice Fetty, Discovery Room</p> <p>9:45am "Signs of Lent" Discussion, led by Julie Dix, Fireside Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>Noon Orchestra Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p>3pm Disciple Bible Study, Fireside</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Passion/Palm Sunday</p> <p>New Members Join</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 *Nursery, 0-2 Years *Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings *K-3rd Grade, Horizons *4th-5th Grade, The PIT *6th-12th Grade, The Alley</p> <p>9:30am Adult Education *The Case for God, led by Maurice Fetty, Discovery Room</p> <p>9:45am "Signs of Lent" Discussion, led by Julie Dix, Fireside Room</p> <p>11am Worship</p> <p>12:15pm Church Council</p> <p>3pm Disciple Bible Study, Fireside</p> <p>3:15pm Kindermusik Village, SoundBeat Room</p> <p>3:30pm Table Tennis, Gym</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 Spiritalk, Fireside Room</p> <p>7pm Small Group (Pohly)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>7am Sunrise Service at Clark on Keller Lake</p> <p>8:15am Nursery Opens</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:15am Chancel Choir, Choir Room</p> <p>9am Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>11am Worship</p>

## Stewardship is...

Members of Trinity trained as Stephen Ministers give of their time to provide support to fellow congregation members in a compassionate, confidential environment. In the past year Stephen Ministers have provided 218 hours of support to members of the church who may be hurting due to the loss of a loved one, suffering financial difficulty, health concerns or simply need a listening ear to provide support for life's challenges. A Stephen Ministry relationship may last a month or a year depending on the needs of the care receiver. This silent ministry provides support beyond what pastors can accomplish on their own.

Because Stephen Ministry relationships are held in the strictest confidence, you may not be aware that a Stephen Minister is providing weekly visits to a Trinity member in a health care facility, or phone calls to provide encouragement to a single parent working full-time while obtaining his college degree, or bringing the church bulletin to a member who is home-bound, or providing a year long series of grief booklets to those who have lost a family member or friend. These examples are just a sample of the many levels of support a Stephen Minister brings to the congregation.

-Phyllis Kladder

# Sunday Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

**April 3-April 17**

## ***The Case for God***

Led by Rev. Maurice Fetty in the Discovery Room. Rev. Maurice A. Fetty explores the experience of the sacred from ancient times through philosophical and theological schools of thought to present day atheism and religious resurgence, based in part on Karen Armstrong's book, *The Case for God*.

**May 1**

## ***The Coalition to End Homelessness***

Led by Betty Zylstra in the Discovery Room. Find out how our community is reframing the response to homelessness, by focusing on the prevention of homelessness and the promotion of affordable housing.

**May 8**

## ***Housing Justice***

Led by Michael Holton in the Discovery Room. Do you wish to end homelessness in Grand Rapids? Learn how you can join the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) Congregational Partnership Program and become more engaged with the issue of housing justice.

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# at 9:45 a.m.

**April 3-April 17**

## ***"Signs of Lent" Discussion***

Led by Rev. Julie Dix in the Fireside Room. Please bring the bulletin insert.

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# Book Discussions

## **Spiritalk**

Meets April 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

*People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks

## **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 same books as *Spiritalk*. New members are always welcome!

# The Journey of Hope!

Dear friends,

I want to tell you about a journey of Hope, a long journey. My wife, Glenys, and I arose from our warm bed at 5 a.m., sleepily had our breakfast and got ready for the journey. We finally packed, put our bags in the car, programmed the GPS and off we went at 6:30 a.m., into the darkness and cold of an early morning in Michigan in March. Although I checked my map, the GPS took us on a route I would never have planned, toward Lansing, it was an unfamiliar route, over toward Ann Arbor and southeast into Ohio.

We stopped at 10:30 a.m. in Ohio, somewhere between Toledo and Cleveland. After a 20 minute break to grab a snack, some coffee and refuel the car we were off again. From the beginning of the journey the rain was torrential and near Cleveland there was a mist on the road. I tried to be hopeful about it and reasoned that if it wasn't raining it would be snowing heavily, and we wouldn't be able to make the journey. We seemed to travel for ages through the flat land of Ohio and almost without warning climbed into the mountains of West Virginia. Beautiful Mountains shrouded in mist, rain and fog went on for miles until we made our next stop at 4 p.m. I don't quite know where we were, but after another 20 minute break we were back on the road.

Coming down from the mountains in Virginia was surreal, you couldn't see more than a few yards because of the fog, and when we hit the plains of North Carolina we were caught up in the rain again, and of course it went dark. Through all of this we just listened to the voice on the GPS (American Susan, said the manual). The voice told us where to turn, if there was a quicker alternate route that would help us avoid the road construction it would recalculate, it guided us to our destination. We arrived at 8:30 p.m. after travelling 850 miles on a difficult rain soaked day.

The long journey was worth it, we arrived in time to go to the hospital with James, our son, and his wife, Chelsea, the next day for the birth of their first child, Alexander James Nellist. Praise God! He was beautiful. The long journey was worth it. We saw him just after his birth!



The period of Lent which we are in is a long journey, it takes us from the cold and snow of winter to the hope and promise and warmth of spring! Yet more importantly it takes us to the cross and beyond to the resurrection of Jesus! There is new birth after the trial of a long journey. Perhaps you're going through a difficult time right now and there seems no end to it. Put your trust in God, your hope in Jesus, and lean on your friends, and after the long journey there will be life anew! Because he Lives we can face tomorrow!

Peace, Pastor David

# The Connection Card

## How do you connect with God's people?

Last month we replaced the infamous red pads in our pews with a new communication tool- the *Connection Card* found in the bulletin each week. Change isn't always easy, so we wanted to share with you what we have learned these first few weeks. We did our homework and researched using a tool that would allow for feedback and input from our congregation, but also increase our ability to connect with and care for congregation. This has been a real eye opening experience and we are just beginning to realize the potential this tool has to offer our church!

First, we want to congratulate everyone on adopting this new system- you've done a great job! The participation level is very high and so far averages at



least one card per family or individual in attendance. We are very grateful for your participation.

Second, we are now gathering more accurate and useful information from first time and returning guests. This is very important because in the past only about 10% of new guests would give us enough contact information that we could reach out to them after they left worship. Now we can follow up with these potential new members of our church family. The other benefit of the card is that unlike the red pads it shows guests the many activities, programs and worship opportunities we offer at Trinity.

The most valuable lesson we have learned is that people do have prayers and concerns they want to share using this form of communication. Whether it's the sorrow of remembering a loved one we miss or concern for a family member or friend who is hurting, we can now let our pastors know about this personal request or issue in our life. The Connection Card is a way to open our hearts and minds to those who are here to help us and comfort us.

So whether it's sadness or joy, a suggestion or a compliment, please continue to share your thoughts with our pastors and our staff. Connecting with each other is what makes our church family meaningful and vibrant. We look forward to growing together in faith and fellowship as we connect with one another!

# Call to Prayer, Fasting and Action

*Question:* What might it take for us to make a difference in the lives of persons living in poverty? *Answer:* Four Mondays in April; prayer; a minimal fast; a few handwritten letters.

On Monday, March 28, a large coalition of Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other advocacy organizations announced the launch of a broad-based fasting, prayer and advocacy movement, provoked by proposed congressional budget cuts that would disproportionately and disastrously hurt those living in poverty.

Leaders of organizations including Bread for the World, Heifer Project, Islamic Relief USA, American Jewish World Service, Sojourners, World Vision and a fast-growing list of many others will be joining together in acts of personal sacrifice during the month of April.



I, along with several members of the United Methodist Metro Ministry Executive Committee, Pastor David, and many Grand Rapids

area clergy and laity will be personally joining the campaign.

We invite the whole the Trinity faith community to join us, beginning April 4.

**We'll be following the Sojourners suggestion to "Pray, Fast and Take Action for a Moral Budget" by fasting from lunch each Monday in the month of April, and committing ourselves to:**

**Prayer** Reflect on scripture, pray for Congress, search one's heart for areas of repentance.

**Fasting** In a way meaningful to one's own heart, fast during the month-long campaign.

**Take Action** Each week, commit to one action to communicate concern about the moral priorities being reflected in the federal budget proposals.

The Trinity sanctuary will be open from Noon-1 p.m. on April 4, 11, 18 and 25 for prayer (no liturgy is planned). All are welcome, including friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone else you can think of.

In addition, watch for more information very soon regarding a letter writing campaign to members of Congress. Visit [blog.sojo.net/2011/03/28/faith-leaders-announce-fasting-prayer-and-action/](http://blog.sojo.net/2011/03/28/faith-leaders-announce-fasting-prayer-and-action/); [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org); [www.hungerfast.org](http://www.hungerfast.org) for more details. May God's love surround you; and may God's grace and justice prevail in this and all things.

Shalom, Julie Dix

# Community Ministries

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## Truth Remains

As I was pondering what to share, I went back over some old *Celebrate Community* articles and found one written 12 years ago. It resonated with me still so I have decided to share it once again. Truth remains.

Let me share with you about a television show that had a profound impact on me. The show did not feature children; it featured elephants. This documentary told of the terrorizing of tourist buses as well as the mauling of animals in one of the Safari sites in Africa. When the park rangers began to investigate, they found that the perpetrators were elephants, **teenage elephants**. They began to follow these elephants and found that there was a **gang** of them. The males were the ones actually performing the violent acts while the females gave 'silent support'. There was, of course, one leader who was a teenage male. Journals were kept so as to follow the behavior of each of the elephants. Human intervention was attempted but the violence simply escalated. The officials finally (with obvious sadness) had to kill the leader

*because the violence had reached such a horrific level.*

*In the documentary, we see the teenage sister mourn her teenage brother, and we see the officials do the same. Because the experience was so profound and because of the fear of further violence from the gang, it was imperative to find out the cause of this **deadly** behavior. Investigation found that these elephants had been transported to this site at a very young age. Most significant, however, is that for the sake of a better population balance their parents were left behind. In other words, **they had grown-up without any adult role models and they became juvenile delinquents**. Do you know what the park rangers did? They imported adult male elephants into the site. Within months the teens were better behaved; the violence diminished. In other words, **elephant mentors worked!***

There you are. There is my elephant story. Young elephants cannot grow into healthy teenage elephants without positive adult role models. Neither can

young people.

**THAT is the truth that remains.** THAT is what Trinity Community Ministries knows to be the truth. Health comes when we provide the balance that God intended in the first place. God intended for the adults to take care of the young. What God most likely did not bank on was that the elephants would do a better job of it than the humans!

Trinity Community Ministries, however, continues to learn from the elephants... and does a great job of it! Donna with her fine leadership, staff and volunteers continue to try to keep that balance and I continue to be grateful for all of them... and for you, Trinity!

Please be reminded that your prayers, your presence, your offerings are vital to the support of this ministry and this ministry is NOT about elephants; it is about humans, human children, our children, God's children.

**THAT IS THE TRUTH THAT REMAINS.**  
-Cheryl Bistayi

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## Cold Hands and Heads Say Thank You!

Many cold hands and heads say thank you, Trinity, for the wonderful collection of mittens, hats and scarves. Many of our kids do not have mittens or proper clothing for getting through the very cold snowy Michigan winters. The children and teens went through them regularly replacing lost or stolen winter wear. What a wonderful outpouring of love the kids receive from you. Thank you, Thank you!

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

Can you believe it? We are at the end of another school year for Community Ministries. Come join us as we enjoy a meal together donated by Yesterdog Catering. You'll have the opportunity to meet the kids and their families and say hello to the many volunteers that give of their time. The dinner has an Open House format from 5 to 7 p.m. Items, resource materials and activities will be on display as well as the new 2010-2011 DVD. Join us for a fun evening!



## Trinity In Touch

April 2011

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## Family Camp is Coming!

Trinity Memorial Weekend Family Camp is celebrating 30 years of amazing FUN! We hope you can join us Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, May 27-30, 2011, at Albright Campground in Reed City. A weekend of Christian Fellowship *Stepping Stones of Faith*, will include: hiking, biking, canoeing and kayaking, The 2nd Annual Hersey River Bank Run, soccer, softball, haunting stories by the campfire with endless S'mores and even a Euchre Tournament!

You can bring a tent or camper, or stay in cabins provided at the camp. If you cannot stay the weekend, join us on Sunday, May 29 for outdoor worship at 11 a.m., Family Potluck Picnic at the Pavilion (dogs/brats provided) at 1:30 p.m. and an afternoon filled with field games, water fun and vespers by the fire.

All families of every size and shape welcome!

Need more information? Contact the office ([office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org)) and sign-up in the Parlor on Sundays.

