



# Trinity In Touch

## JANUARY 2020

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### Mission

*Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

### Vision

*Seeking to be an inclusive faith community that compels us to extend God's love in our neighborhood and world.*

### Core Values

#### Diversity & Inclusiveness:

*Seeking to affirm every person as a child of God.*

#### Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason:

*Searching for truth in our faith community.*

#### Peace & Justice:

*Striving for positive social change in our neighborhood and world.*

### Trinity United Methodist Church

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Happy New Year! Let's begin with a prayer:

God of new beginnings,  
 you wipe away our tears  
 and call us to care for one another.  
 Give us eyes to see your gifts,  
 hearts to embrace all creation,  
 and hands to serve you every day of our lives.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

As we begin a new year, I'm thinking about the two "Table Talk" sessions held in November and December ably facilitated by Naomi Garcia. They were opportunities for Trinity members to discuss and think together about where we are and where we believe God is calling us. Everyone who took time out of their busy day to show up and participate in the "Table Talk" sessions have my deepest gratitude.

Naomi asked me to be present and listen. She asked that I not speak unless invited. So, I listened. It's clear to me that you deeply love Trinity and one another. You recognize that Trinity is going through a rough patch and you are willing to work together, with the Holy Spirit, to move forward into the future.

During the December "Table Talk" many themes surfaced. The themes that were identified as the most important are:

- Caring for and improving the building
- Continue support for Community Ministries
- Valuing and building both worship services
- Need for clear vision

The Trustees are doing a good job caring for the building. Matt Witkowski and his team are doing a great job developing Community Ministries. Our music staff and worship planning team are working hard to provide faithful worship. We strive for continuous improvement and welcome your input. The most pressing and challenging theme is having a clear vision. We need to work on this in this new year. As a way to kick this off, I'll remind you of Trinity's vision and mission statements:

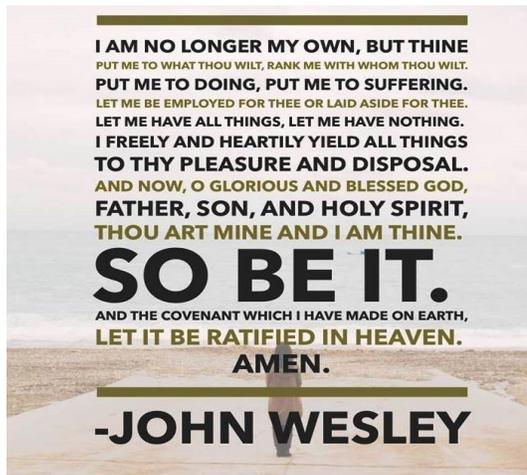
**Vision:** Striving to be an inclusive faith community that compels us to extend the love of God in our neighborhood and world.

**Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The vision tells us who we believe God is calling us to be and become. The mission statement tells us how we will live into the vision. I recommend all members memorize these statements. Read them at the beginning of all committee meetings. The vision and mission statements shape what we do and how we use the resources God provides. That's why it is important that every member be able to recite them by heart.

I want to hear from you. What are your ideas for how Trinity can grow and be faithful to the vision and mission God has given us? I'll close with the Wesley Covenant Prayer. It reminds us of who and whose we are. It also gives some guidance for living into the vision and mission God gave us.

Grace & Peace,  
 Pastor Steve



## DEC. 29 WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 29, Trinity will have ONE 10am Blended Worship Service

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY CARING COINS

Trinity will again enjoy providing and serving a warm, delicious meal to residents of Northeast Grand Rapids, sharing fellowship and building community with them with the help of North End Community Ministry. Caring Coins will cover the \$250 cost of the meal. Watch the connection card for a chance to volunteer to serve March 3!

## CONDOLENCES

Noel & Amy Gerold and family in the death of Noel's mother, Margaret Gerold Dec. 4.

Rick Nelson and family in the death of Rick's mother, Lois Nelson, Dec. 10.

## 2020 MONTHLY MEETING NIGHT

JAN. 21- *Membership/ Hospitality*

FEB. 18- *Discipleship Pathways*

MARCH 17- *Music*

APRIL 21- *Trustees*

MAY 18- *Stewardship/Finance*

June 16- *POTLUCK*

### NO JULY MEETING

August 18- *SPRC*

Sept. 15- *Memorial & Endowment*

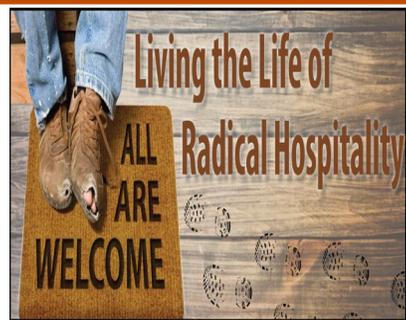
Oct. 20- *Missions/ Church & Society*

Nov. 17- *Nominations*

### NO DECEMBER MEETING

## HOSPITALITY STATEMENT

Trinity UMC celebrates the diversity of the human community and affirms the sacred worth of each person as a recipient of God's love and grace. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we declare ourselves to be an open and inclusive congregation and welcome into full participation all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status or economic condition.



## EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

To have news listed in the **February** *Trinity in Touch*, submit your content to the church office at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org) on or before **Monday, January 20**.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SOUP COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, JAN. 5, 12:15PM

You are invited to a fun, delicious opportunity following worship on Sunday, January 5. Join us for Trinity's annual United Methodist Women "Soup Cook-Off".

Come and enjoy a warm bowl of tasty soup, fresh salad bar, artisan bread and delectable dessert. Table Games will be available for you to sit back and play with your Trinity family. Suggested donation- Adults- \$7, Children 4 to 12- \$5. This fundraiser helps UMW meet their pledge to support the social justice mission work assisting women, children, and youth here and around the world. Donate your favorite soup and join the friendly competition. See who will win this year's Trinity UMW Soup Ladle!



## RELIGION & RACE

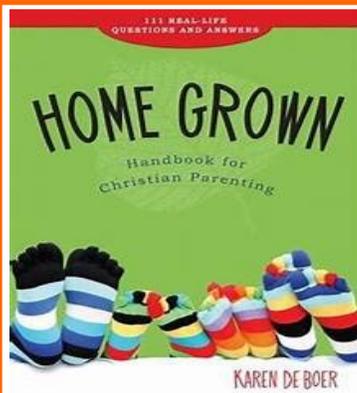
General Commission on Religion and Race

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION- UMC & RACISM

SUNDAY, JAN. 19 & 25- 10AM

How are we in the United Methodist Church talking about Racism? As an institution? As individuals? As a community? January 19 & 26 will offer us an opportunity through Adult Faith Formation to reflect and converse, as well as view film "Faith and Race." Join us for this timely discussion!



## PARENTING HELPS SUNDAY, JAN. 12- 10AM FIRESIDE

Trinity Parents! Beginning Sunday, January 12, 10am, we will begin a time of study *just for you!*

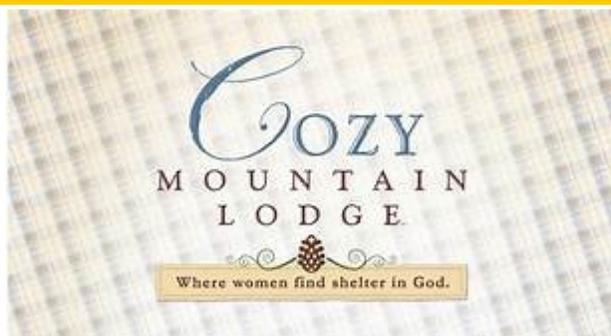
*Home Grown* is a Christian study that helps enable parents in the grounded skills needed today. Using a biblical based study this handbook will spark discussion and mutual encouragement. Join us in the Fireside Room as we begin this journey together.

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT FRIDAY, JAN. 17- 6-8:30PM



Join us Friday, January 17, 6pm-8:30pm, for a *Family Fun Night* of pizza followed by age level movies and yes, POPCORN!

The Family Life Council is offering this fun way for families to enjoy time together during the cold winter. Come and enjoy pizza, as well as a veggie and fruit bar. Move to age level movie showings that are just right for your family. Meet other families and begin to connect and enjoy one another outside of a busy Sunday routine!



## WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT SATURDAY, JAN. 18- 9AM-1:30PM, PARLOR

Need a day away to connect with others and God? Join us for *Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Retreat*.

9am Breakfast bar  
9:30am Retreat begins  
12:30pm Lite lunch  
1:30pm Depart

Bible reflection, table groups, worship, and of course, FOOD! Take the time to find God in one another and build a Community of Hope. Sign up at the clipboard in the Parlor *Count Me In* station, or by contacting the office at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org); 456.7168.

## MONTHLY SUPPER CLUB WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15- 6-7:30PM

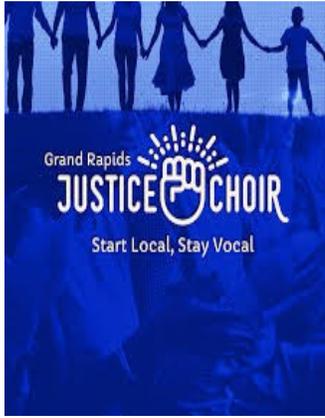


NEW DATE! Wednesday, January 15, at 6pm we will begin our Trinity Supper Club. This is an opportunity for mid-week gathering and discussion on various topics. For this session, we will have a potluck and follow with a film viewing and discussion. Bring a dish to pass to share with the group. Tableware and beverages provided.

The group will decide how each monthly meet-up will continue. Perhaps at a home? Or local restaurant? Or community activity? This is a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know other participants in the Trinity family and grow your faith with one another.

Sign up at the clipboard *Count Me In* station in the Parlor, by contacting the church office at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org), or Nichea VerVeer Guy, Discipleship Pathway Director, at [orangecelt00@aol.com](mailto:orangecelt00@aol.com).





## SINGERS NEEDED!

Justice Choir Grand Rapids will begin rehearsals for its third concert season in January 2020, ushering in the new year with new Director, Parks Payton.

A singer with Justice Choir Grand Rapids last season, Payton is the Choir Director for Lakeshore Middle School and White Pines Intermediate School in Grand Haven, as well as a member of the Choral Faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. He brings great energy to Justice Choir GR with his passion for social advocacy and his belief in the uniting power of choral music. "Group music creation, especially singing, has the power to unite, provoke discussion, and inspire," said Payton. "Justice Choir GR is the perfect place to understand the complexities of our world through music with a positive and inclusive group of musicians."

The first rehearsal for the 2020 concert season will be on Monday, January 6, 6:30-8pm, in the choir room at Trinity. Rehearsals will continue every Monday with the exception of January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There are no auditions and no fees required to join. "Regardless of your music experience, every singer is welcome," said Payton. "Whether you haven't sung since middle school, sound like Shakira in the shower, or have just always loved music, you are welcome in Justice Choir GR." All interested singers are invited to the first two open rehearsal dates, January 6 and 13, which are opportunities to check out the choir without commitment. Beginning January 27, rehearsals will continue for those who have made the commitment to sing in the concert on Sunday, March 22. The concert will focus on the importance of exercising our right to vote; further details will be announced in early 2020. We are so excited to continue this journey and we hope you will join us and bring your friends!

## PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

Thank you to all who faithfully participate in hospitality efforts on Sunday morning! We are so blessed to have members who are regularly willing to be greeters, ushers, or coffee hosts for both services. Won't you join us? Let [gina.manskar@gmail.com](mailto:gina.manskar@gmail.com) know when you are available and she will sign you up! The current pressing need are coffee servers and ushers for the 9am Worship Service.



We all share in the call to extend and support a spirit of hospitality- *warmth, welcome and compassion*- to those we encounter. When we are purposeful and intentional about doing so, no one falls through the cracks. There is no greater feeling of loneliness than to feel alone in a crowd. We invite you to take notice of those around you. Who might need someone to show a little interest in them? Who might need a greeting and a smile? When your day is a little dark, bring light to another and you will find light returning to you.

## MAKING DISCIPLES

How easy it is on any given Sunday to get fired up when Pastor Steve strongly encourages us to go out and make disciples for the transformation of the world! To make a difference! To be a light! Let's go!

**See testimony below from Carol Ashcroft after serving dinner at Family Promise...**

*Giving my time to minister and serve others. When I do, I am ALWAYS blessed, ALWAYS! Helping serve dinner at Fulton Manor is a perfect example. It is good for me to get out of my "bubble" and be with people who are different than me in so many ways. How they speak and interact with each other, their family structures, even where they live. It reminds me that we are ALL created by God and loved by God. EVERYONE belongs, no matter their lifestyle, religion, economic status, etc. It is easy to say when you are around "people like you," but can we say it when we are right in the mix of it? Such a humbling experience. Loved it! Thanks, Matt, for all you do in providing these opportunities!*



## POLICY GOVERNANCE BOARD

Happy New Year! Indeed, we have much to be thankful for as we enter into this new year of 2020! Your PGB, as we fondly call it, has been actively engaged throughout the past year monitoring the important work of the various committees in the church. The ministries of Trinity continue to be alive and well. The parking lots are repaved and masonry repairs on the building done with the scaffolding down in time for Christmas.



Community ministries are recognized in the community judging from the validation and generous support of a prestigious foundation. Mission and worship warm our hearts! Our staff team remains dedicated and fruitful. The church building is a pretty busy place where ministry happens, beyond our times of worship as a congregation. I invite you to read the church calendar that Betsy has painstakingly put together in this newsletter.

All this is possible because of your generous offerings of prayers, service and financial support, and the dedication of many volunteers in the church. And yet, there are bumps in the road that will test the resilience of Trinity. Worship attendance has fallen in the later part of last year due to the unjust decision of the 2019 special General Conference on the gender issue. But God is always faithful! We have been surprised by God's grace. The Foundation Committee has achieved a milestone upon recording a total asset of \$1 million plus last year. The Stewardship Campaign partial results show optimism to match or hopefully surpass last year's estimated giving. The Finance Committee will have a year end 2019 report that will cut the previous years' accumulated deficit in the General Fund. We are being intentional to restore the General Fund to a healthy position by the end of 2020! It can be done by being judicious in giving top priority to the financial health of the local church. Then, moving forward we can participate more fully in supporting our ministry shares.

While it is true that we have to keep a sharp eye on the financial aspect of the church, it is much truer to be watchful over our spiritual health. God is faithful, and so shall we! Should we resolve as a congregation to become a "tithing congregation" with a spirit of generosity? I quote Pastor Steve, "Generosity expands the heart. Giving opens your heart to grace and helps you discover the person God created you to be. Giving sets us free to receive God's amazing grace and make a real difference in the world."

Tithing is indeed a challenge. It's not easy in this culture. It takes careful planning. It takes discipline. (Two skills needed to be successful.) It takes much prayer. Nobody became poor because of tithing, but it holds wonderful promises. (See Malachi 3:10) Tithing is faith in action. It is faith in God's grace and provision. It is keeping the main thing, which is our relationship with God and our neighbors, and away from the allure of money and earthly possession.

I would like to share with you this old centering prayer on stewardship:

"Loving God, giver of every gift, offering you the first fruits of what I make or earn is a good spiritual discipline that helps my heart to be free from the grip of my earthly possessions and to rest content. Keep me in that freedom, to lead a generous life that joyfully advances the good of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus, amen." (*Seeking God's Face*, Reindeers)

We pray that all that we do in mission and ministry will bring positive change to all the places and peoples who are touched so that the name of Christ will be made known and glorified. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

Pros Tumonong  
Chair, Finance Committee

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



The Endowment Committee of Trinity United Methodist Church hopes you will consider giving to the Trinity Endowment Fund this holiday season and beyond. The main purpose of the endowment is to supply funding for the upkeep and maintenance for our beautiful church building, using only the income from investments. We are on our way to attaining that goal, but the age of the building and it's needs are increasing. Trinity has gone through many changes recently, but our unique and lovely building remains intact. We hope to keep it that way. Your generous hearts are appreciated!

**Room Codes:**  
 A- Awakenings  
 C- Center (Main Office)  
 CM- Community Ministries Office  
 CR- Choir Room  
 D- Discovery  
 F- Fellowship Hall  
 FK- Fellowship Hall Kitchen  
 FS- Fireside  
 G- Gym



L- Library  
 LL- Lower Level Youth Rm.  
 N- Nursery  
 P- Parlor  
 PK- Parlor Kitchen  
 PE- Pellowe  
 P & A- Pit & Alley  
 PL- Parking Lot  
 S- Sanctuary



			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed	2 4-6p- Organ Practice 5p- Bell Quartet, CR 6p- Bell Choir 7p- Fishing Club, D 7:15p- Chancel Choir	3 Office Closed	4
5 See next page	6 Staff Retreat- Hillman Cabin  6:30p- Justice Choir 7p- Scouts BSA, G	7 Staff Retreat- Hillman Cabin  9:15a- Gophers, D 10a- LaLeche, A 2:30p- Gym Use 6:30p- Men's B-Ball 7p- Choral Society	8 7:30a- Coffee, Wolfgangs 12p- Noon Bible Study 12p- NA, L 5-7p- Community Min. 7p- Ping Pong, G	9 4-6p- Organ Practice 5p- Bell Quartet, CR 6p- Bell Choir 6:15p-Cub/Girl Scouts 7:15p- Chancel Choir	10 Office Closed	11 9a- PGB
12 See next page	13 9:15a- Staff Mt, C 6:30p- Justice Choir 7p- Scouts BSA, G	14 9:15a- Gophers, D 10a- LaLeche, A 11:30a- True Colors 2:30p- Gym Use 6:30p- Men's B-Ball 6:30p- Resolve, FS 7p- Choral Society 7p- Spiritalk, L	15 7:30a- Coffee, Wolfgangs 12p- Noon Bible Study 12p- NA, L 5-7p- Community Min. 6p- Supper Club 7p- Ping Pong, G	16 4-6p- Organ Practice 5p- Bell Quartet, CR 6p- Bell Choir 7:15p- Chancel Choir	17 Office Closed 6-8:30pm Family Fun Night	18 9a-1:30pm- Women's Retreat
19 See next page	20 Office Closed  7p- Scouts BSA, G	21 9:15a- Gophers, D 10a- LaLeche, A 2:30p- Gym Use 5:30p- Monthly Meeting Night 6:30p- Men's B-Ball 7p- Choral Society	22 7:30a- Coffee, Wolfgangs 12p- Noon Bible Study 12p- NA, L 5-7p- Community Min. 7p- Ping Pong, G	23 4-6p- Organ Practice 5p- Bell Quartet, CR 6p- Bell Choir 6:15p-Cub/Girl Scouts 7:15p- Chancel Choir	24 Office Closed	25 11a- Lois Nelson Memorial Service
26 See next page	27 6:30p- Justice Choir 6:30p- General Conference Update 7p- Scouts BSA, G	28 9:15a- Gophers, D 10a- LaLeche, A 2:30p- Gym Use 4p- All Staff Meeting 6:30p- Men's B-Ball 7p- Choral Society	29 7:30a- Coffee, Wolfgangs 12p- Noon Bible Study 12p- NA, L 5-7p- Community Min. 7p- Ping Pong, G	30 4-6p- Organ Practice 5p- Bell Quartet, CR 6p- Bell Choir 7:15p- Chancel Choir	31 Office Closed	

# JANUARY SUNDAYS AT TRINITY

SUNDAY, JAN. 5	SUNDAY, JAN. 12	SUNDAY, JAN. 19	SUNDAY, JAN. 26
9a- Contemporary Worship 11:15a- Traditional Worship 12:15pm- Soup Cook-Off 12:30p- Floorball, Gym	9a- Contemporary Worship 9a- Wesley Singers 9:30a- Celebration Singers 10a- Adult FF, Discovery 10a- Children's FF 10a- Parenting Class, FS 10a- Youth Group 11:15a- Traditional Worship 12:30p- Floorball, Gym	9a- Contemporary Worship 9a- Wesley Singers 9:30a- Celebration Singers 10a- Adult FF, Discovery 10a- Children's FF 10a- Parenting Class, FS 10a- Youth Group 11:15a- Traditional Worship 12:30p- Floorball, Gym	9a- Contemporary Worship 9a- Wesley Singers 9:30a- Celebration Singers 10a- Adult FF, Discovery 10a- Children's FF 10a- Parenting Class, FS 10aa- Youth Group 11:15a- Traditional Worship 12:30p- Floorball, Gym

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES- TIS THE SEASON!

With a **BIG** hug we say "Thank You" for your support this year!

As I reflect on this past year I can't help but be proud of the work we have done and experiences we've offered. We have not only had a great start to the new program year with an increased number of children, including our first children from William C. Abney School, but added new volunteers that have added much to our program. We will be volunteering at Congress Elementary School in the Pre-school classroom, bringing the John Ball Zoo back to the classroom later this year, and so much more.



We have helped people have an experience teaching tennis with the *Buddy Up Tennis Program* with the *Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan* from both Trinity and other United Methodist Churches in the area. We have hosted groups like *Stir It Up* and *Stage GR*, and just recently the Christmas Show by *Arts in Motion Studios* in Fellowship Hall. It's a treat to see the community support for such a great organization that works with our special needs community! It literally brings tears to my eyes every year and is such a special event Trinity and the Community Ministries Program hosts. We have also worked in partnership with the local community associations, business associations, and the *Grand Rapids Pride Center* to help ensure our neighbors have access to quality resources.

There are countless examples we've done this past year and are excitedly planning more opportunities for 2020. Join us for new experiences that will help you grow this new year. You might be surprised at the joy you find as you discover a new gift you never knew you had. That's what Community Ministries is all about, and it wouldn't be possible without YOU! So, if you are a volunteer, donor, advocate, supporter or have told someone else about the great work happening in Community Ministries, we say THANK YOU! You are AMAZING!

Matt Witkowski,  
Community Ministries Director