



Trinity In Touch

November 2021

Pastor Mike.....1
 Upcoming Events.....2, 3
 Faith Formation.....3
 Community Ministries.....4
 Save the Date!.....5
 Church Family.....5
 Trinity in Action.....5
 November Calendar.....6

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.

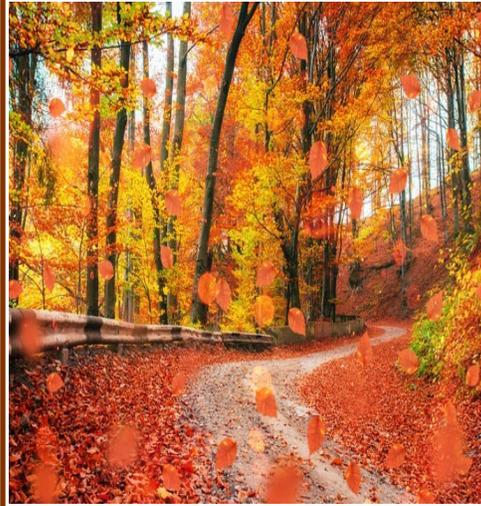
Core Values

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.

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FROM PASTOR MIKE...

Happy November, friends!

While I love every season we get to experience in our climate, I love fall most of all. It is cold enough to be able to bundle up around a bonfire and warm enough to not have to use the kind of cold weather gear one uses to climb Mt. Everest (those days are coming soon enough). The changing leaves, along with the sure and certain knowledge that before long turkey and stuffing and cranberries will be on my table, bring lots of joy to my heart.

Before we know it, though, we are going to be running face first into Advent, another favorite season of mine. When it comes to the different seasons on the Church calendar, I tend to like leading congregations through a themed series. I am excited about our theme for Advent this year.

Matt Rawle, author of "The Grace of Les Miserables" (a book you are familiar with I am told), has come out with a new Advent study for this year called "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes." This wonderful book looks at Advent through the lens of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" (one of my all-time favorites). In addition to exploring these themes during Sunday worship, our Faith Formation on Sunday mornings as well as our Fireside Bible Study will be walking through the chapters of the book each week during Advent.

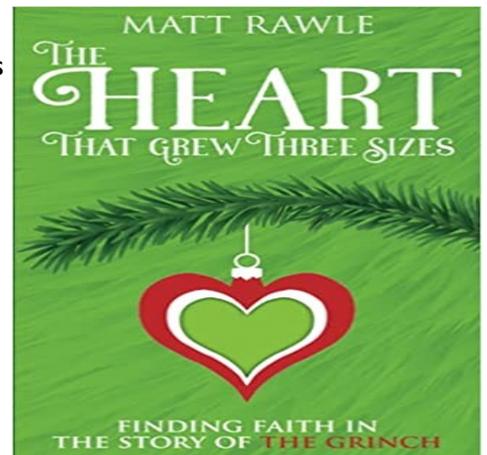
This book will be available in the church office mid-November. An announcement will be made in worship when they arrive. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per book. (Trinity subsidizes anything over the \$10 suggested donation to keep the cost down. If \$10 is still too much for you, please pick up a book anyway with our blessing.)

If you have never engaged in an all-church study like this, I'd like to encourage you to do so this year. The theme is fun and based on a story most of us know. There is also a huge community benefit to having as many people in the congregation as possible engaging in the same study, not the least of which is the practice of everyone pulling in the same direction, even for a short four-week study.

Advent is a season of anticipation and reflection, and I look forward to engaging in those practices with you all this year. I want to encourage you to rearrange your schedule if needed to join us for this wonderful study as we enter the most wonderful time of the year (as the song says anyway... but if you ask me, the most wonderful time of the year is still fall!).

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike





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 **DECEMBER** *Trinity in Touch*, submit your content to the church office at office@grtumc.org on or before **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22.**

TRINITY'S ANNUAL AUCTION "WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD" SUNDAY, NOV. 7- 9:30AM-1PM

We will offer Silent Auction tables from 9:30am-lunch followed by live auction in the Parlor. Pick up great items for gifting during the holidays, or that special something you have always wanted! Special children's auction table as well.

Donations are **NEEDED**. Gift baskets, homemade wonders, home improvement supplies, gift cards, recreation opportunities and more. New items requested. Donation for southern baked ham, redskin potato salad, rolls and dessert-\$7. **RSVP needed due to room maximum to office@grtumc.org; 456.7168.**

Contact the office at office@grtumc.org, 456.7168; or Nichea VerVeer Guy at orangeceit00@aol.com with donations.



Project of Mission Work Camp and Discipleship Pathways

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC SUNDAY, NOV. 7- 4PM



The Trinity UMC Festival of Music series returns on Sunday, Nov. 7, 4pm, with a recital featuring trombonist, Chris Van Hof, accompanied by pianist, Michael Seregow.

Come and celebrate the relaunch of this long-time favorite musical series at Trinity!

Admission is free; donations accepted.

THANKSGIVING FOOD INGATHERING SUNDAY, NOV. 14

Each year, Missions organizes a Thanksgiving Food Ingathering in November for the food pantries of South End Community Outreach Ministries (SECOM), North End Community Ministries (NECOM), and the At-Tawheed Islamic Center. Members bring their food gifts to Trinity or can give financially.

If you're not familiar with [SECOM](#) and [NECOM](#), they are neighborhood resource centers that were founded in large part by United Methodist churches before becoming independent organizations.

Your generosity is appreciated!





THANKSGIVING DINNER SUNDAY, NOV. 21- 11:30AM

Trinity welcomes back our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 21, beginning at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall and the Parlor. We will follow the covid room capacity restrictions and offer two locations if needed. Please reserve your spot to ensure we have the food and space to accommodate. RSVP to office@grtunc.org; 456.7168. Enjoy turkey, dressing, potatoes, vegetables, salad, cranberries, relishes and, of course, pie! Donation of \$10 will benefit the Mission Work Camp Fund.

We can always use help, so if you would like to join the work team, donate cranberries, relishes, or pie, contact Nichea Ver-Veer Guy at orangecelt00@aol.com, or office at office@grtunc.org. Come to the table of community and enjoy the bounty we have in one another.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING GATHERING MONDAY, NOV. 22- 7PM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Save the date for another Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering on Monday, Nov. 22. There will be an in-person setting at Trinity Lutheran Church as well as an online option. The event begins at 7pm. Take the time to celebrate with your Grand Rapids neighbors the diversity of faith and thought as we discover this time of gratitude. Stay tuned for more details!



FAITH FORMATION

TRINITYKIDS SUNDAYS- 10:45AM

Children's Faith Formation will continue into November and December at 10:45am in Fellowship Hall. We are adjusting our curriculum to provide a faith experience that allows for social distancing and space to enjoy creative movement.

November 7, 14 "The Gathering" for ages 4-5th Grade
November 21 Play60 Gym
November 28 Thanksgiving Holiday, NO session
December 5, 12, 19 "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes"
Finding Faith in the Story of the GRINCH!

The same insightful stories, music, whacky science and games!



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS SUNDAYS- 10:45AM

Courageous Conversations is an opportunity to dialogue on the issues that consume us daily. We look at the facts and discern God's direction to deal with them. We have discussed mental health, fair housing, food insecurity, racial discourse and more.

November Courageous Conversations will be offered Sunday, Nov. 7, 14, 21 at 10:45am in the Discovery Room. Take the time to share your concerns with your faith community. These sessions are offered in collaboration between Missions and Discipleship Pathways Ministries.



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



THE PEDAL HAS DEFINITELY HIT THE METAL!

On your mark, get set, GO! That's how it feels when the programming year for Community Ministries Program gets started in the fall. Our new piloted "seen" Project is picking up momentum as we have now been highlighted a few times in Michigan Area United Methodist Church Conference articles and additional school networking resources. We are receiving calls from schools and churches around the state asking about our project and how to get involved. We also

launched our Kids Club and Transitions Program for the school year and had a great opening Wednesday night turnout. Now through May its Go! Go! Go!



This is such an exciting time of year as we get back into the swing of things. It feels extra special since we have been so limited with opportunities during COVID. There is a true energy in the building as we reconnect with children we've seen before, and get to meet new ones too! We have some new volunteers who are bringing their gifts and passions to the team, and we couldn't be more excited to grow together through this ministry.

We are expanding our ministry to the community and those we serve through the "seen" Project, but also continuing to help struggling families connected to Congress School. One upcoming opportunity is to consider sponsoring a student in our program or a struggling family in need at Congress by signing up to help buy Christmas gifts as the holiday approaches. These gifts are always appreciated and set us apart as an outward reaching church. By continuing to expand and grow we are "Being The Church" in our community!



The gas pedal is down and there is no letting up as far as ministry goes, and we couldn't be more excited. This ministry couldn't happen without amazing volunteers, fantastic donors and wonderful support from Trinity. Keep an eye out for our fundraising letter in the Community Ministries envelope coming soon, and please continue to support our program as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Matt Witkowski, Community Ministries Director
m.witkowski@grtumc.org





SAVE THE DATE! CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT SUNDAY, DEC. 5- 6:30PM PUNCH, 7PM PROGRAM & DESSERT

All welcome to join us for a lovely evening as we begin the Advent season.
Stay tuned for more info to come.

CHURCH FAMILY

SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS

- Oct. 3- Jill Pierson Reider in loving memory of her father Willard "Bill" Pearson's birthday, October 6.
- Oct. 10- Larry & Suzy Gill in honor of their 31st Wedding Anniversary.
- Oct. 17- Pros & Merrita Tumonong in honor of their 43rd Wedding Anniversary.
- Oct. 24- Chase & Sandra Klinesteker in thankfulness!
- Nov. 14- Carolyn Miller in honor of Don & Evie Millers' 57th Wedding Anniversary.
- Nov. 28- The Myers, Gifford, and Mortensen families in loving memory of Allen Myers who died Nov. 26, 2020.

THANK YOU

The McKean & Gerold families would like to thank everyone for their emails, messages, cards, love, and prayers, after the loss of Mike and Sally's son, Dylan. The support of our Trinity family means so much to us during this difficult time.

I am so very grateful for the many heartfelt expressions of sympathy following the death of my husband, Jim. The phone calls, texts, emails, cards, and prayers mean the world to me as I continue to go through this tender time. Betsy Weems

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Sue Clare & Carmen Morales in the death of Sue's mom, Barbara Clare, August 13.
- The McKean & Gerold families in the death of Dylan McKean Sept. 13.
- The family of Donna Foy. Donna died Sept. 14.
- Betsy Weems & family in the death of her husband, Jim, Sept. 14.
- The family of Patty Watson. Patty died Sept. 15.
- Jackie & Mel Garvin in the death of Jackie's mother.

- Dick Carlson- Pilgrim Manor
- Dorothy French- at home at Clark
- Jackie Garvin- at home
- JoEllen Schneider- at home
- Elizabeth Walker, sister of Samantha DeVries- at home



TRINITY IN ACTION!

A huge shout to the Trinity volunteers for packing individual 7 count cherry tomatoes into snack baggies. This incredible team did a skid of tomatoes on a Monday in an hour and a half! These snacks were distributed in Tuesday's snack suppers. If you're feeling called to join in on the fun, our next scheduled time with Kids Food Basket is Monday, Nov. 15, 9:30-11 am.





Give thanks with a grateful heart!

	1 9:15a: Staff Mt. 7p: Scouts	2 9:15a: Gophers 10: Coffee & C.	3 12p: NA 12p: Bible Study 3:45p:Handbell Q 7p: Ping Pong	4 6p: Chancel Choir 6p: Child. Choir 6:15p: Girl Scouts 6:30p: Floorball 7p: Fishing Club 7:30p: Handbells	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 2p: Patty Watson Memorial Service
7 9:30a-1p: Auction 9:30a: Worship 10:45: FF- All 10:45a: Youth G. 4p: Concert	8 9:15a: Staff Mt. 7p: Scouts	9 9:15a: Gophers 10: Coffee & C. 7p: Spiritalk	10 12p: NA 12p: Bible Study 3:45p:Handbell Q 7p: Ping Pong	11 6p: Chancel Choir 6p: Child. Choir 6:15p: Girl Scouts 6:30p: Floorball 7:30p: Handbells	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13
14 <i>Food Ingathering</i> 9:30a: Worship 10:45: FF- All 10:45a: Youth G. 1p: SPRC & Church Conf.	15 9:15a: Staff Mt. 9:30a: Kids Food Basket Volunteer 7p: Scouts	16 9:15a: Gophers 10: Coffee & C. 7p: Trustees 7p: SPRC	17 12p: NA 12p: Bible Study 3:45p:Handbell Q 7p: Ping Pong	18 6p: Chancel C 6p: Child. Choir 6:15p: Girl Scouts 6:30p: Floorball 6:30p: Finance 7:30p: Handbells	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20
21 9:30a: Worship 10:45: FF- All 10:45a: Youth G. 11:30a: T Dinner 5p: DBC	22 9:15a: Staff Mt. 7p: Scouts 7p: Interfaith Service, Trinity Lutheran	23 9:15a: Gophers 10: Coffee & C.	24 12p: NA 12p: Bible Study 3:45p:Handbell Q 7p: Ping Pong	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
28 9:30a: Worship 10:45: FF- All 10:45a: Youth G. 5p: DBC	29 9:15a: Staff Mt. 7p: Scouts	30 9:15a: Gophers 10: Coffee & C.				