



Trinity In Touch

June 2022

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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 UMC

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“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!” II Corinthians 5:17

As I have been watching my kids grow it has become apparent that change is sometimes painful. Painful as they realize truths about the world that seem to shatter their innocence. Painful as bones and muscles grow and stretch. Painful to the wallet as you put gas in the car after chauffeuring your kids to all of their after school activities.

Change in the church is the same. A standard rule in the UMC for pastors starting new appointments is to try and change as little as possible the first year because getting a new pastor is almost too much change to bear on its own.

The reality of the lockdown and pandemic have made us even more uneasy about change. Because these days, when it comes, change seldom seems like a good thing.

As much as watching my kids change can be painful, it is also inspiring, getting to see them become whoever they are going to be. And sometimes getting that new pastor and the change that comes with them is just what we need. And sometimes world altering events, though tremendously scary, can make us look at what we do and try to find ways to do it better.

One of the changes that has come for many churches is the discontinuing of printed bulletins to hand out before a service. To be honest with you, even before the pandemic I didn't like them. Not because they weren't helpful or useful in some way. But because of how many of them I had to throw away each week. Because you cannot print exactly the right amount. You have to print enough for visitors too. And even if everyone gets one, chances are most of them are going to wind up in the trash. I have heard from some of you who are interested in printed bulletins with the church schedule on them. And I understand that desire, I do. But it is an awful lot of paper that we end up throwing away.

The other thing that happens when we rely on a printed bulletin is all of the different groups in the church want to make sure that they get an announcement or paragraph in to inform people about what is happening. And that is wonderful - except when bulletins become small books that get thrown away every week. I do believe the days of the fully printed order of worship in the bulletin are behind us. I know we all have feelings about this. But with the old being gone, the new can come.

We have been printing off a small number of half sheet orders of worship (just the order) with the weekly schedule on the back for those who really want or need them. For Sunday morning that will be the extent of the printing we will be doing. Announcements will be made from the pulpit, projected on the screen, and sent out in the weekly emails. We hope that that will be helpful and sufficient.

If not, there are other digital avenues we can explore with more complete orders of worship that you can pull up on your smartphone or tablet. But these, too, would only be the order of worship (with prayers and responses). Email, worship screen, verbal, newsletter, and social media are going to be the most reliable places to go to get up to date information about what is happening at Trinity. Thank you for your understanding and for your ability to live into the change of our times.

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.

DISCIPLESHIP UPDATE- WELCOME LAURA!

Greetings Trinity!

I started in my full-time (34 hour a week) capacity as your Director of Discipleship on Sunday, May 15, after several weeks of part-time transition work with Nichea. I'm excited to have additional hours each week to devote to getting to know all of you better and to planning for the future of our program.

One of my first goals is to create a few events for this summer. That said, the schedule is not finalized yet, so please watch your email for a *Summer Discipleship Update* sometime in the next few weeks. Offerings will include things like Music on the Lawn, gatherings at local parks, church scavenger hunts, and more!

Once summer is underway, I will begin preparations for the roll-out of a robust fall programming schedule with opportunities for children, families, youth, and adults. If you want to be involved, please reach out to me! We **need** more discipleship volunteers to serve in all capacities- on councils, in classrooms, at events, etc. I would love to chat with you about your passions, your history at Trinity, and what you're looking for from your church home. My office hours this summer are Monday through Wednesday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. You can also reach me at the contact information below.

I will be in touch soon with updates on summer and fall programming. In the meantime, make sure to check out all the other great opportunities included in this newsletter. I know I for one cannot wait to head out to the ballpark on July 17!

Blessings,
Laura

Laura R. Johns, Director of Discipleship
[She | Her | Hers](#)
616.456.7168
L.Johns@grtumc.org



THANK YOU, NICHEA!



I believe I speak for all Trinity staff in expressing how much we will miss Nichea after serving as Discipleship Pathways Director for almost 15 years. Nichea has consistently provided A-plus programming during her tenure, as well as over the top commitment to ensure Trinity families feel well cared for emotionally, spiritually and physically. I've often said everything she planned "turned to gold" due to her stamp on it.

Wishing Nichea all the best as she ventures into this new world of retirement. Hopefully this picture reflects a much deserved change of pace in the future for her. We are thankful she plans to stay with Trinity and continue to serve in a more "volunteer" capacity. Well done, Nichea! You are loved beyond measure. Betsy Weems

MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Michigan Annual Conference will be held in Traverse City June 2-4. This year's theme is *Mourning to Dancing*, based on Psalm 30. The focus will be on resiliency as our church journeys through pandemics, denominational, and social change. To watch via livestream, [click here](#). To view Conference Leadership reports, [click here](#). For Legislative/Voting items, [click here](#).

[Haitian Assets for Peace International \(HAPI\)](#) and [Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia](#) are the Michigan Annual Conference offering recipients. Support online via our website at [Trinity Give](#).

Your lay leaders to Annual Conference are Bonnie Czuhajewski and Kip Smalligan. Also attending are Betsy Weems, Nichea Ver Veer Guy, and Pastor Mike. Let them know if you have questions or thoughts! Pray for a constructive and fruitful time together as we work out the future paths of the Michigan Conference and how we will continue to transform lives through a gracious and loving God.



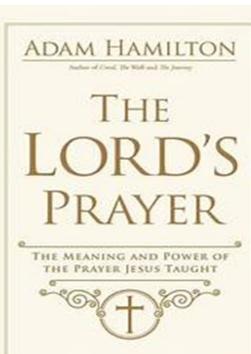
During this year's conference we are again promoting the **5K WALK/RUN FOR CHILD HUNGER RELIEF**. Last year we raised over \$59,000 for Michigan agencies working to end childhood food insecurity, such as Kids' Food Basket.

Participants can walk ahead of the conference or participate on-site. Nichea Ver Veer Guy will be doing both! If you would like to make a donation to her efforts and help end food insecurity for our children, please connect at orangecelt@aol.com; 450.6445. She will have a pledge sheet at church in May and will gladly accept your donations. You may also give directly to Trinity; memo "AC 5K for Child Hunger Relief."

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5- 10:45-11:45AM
DISCOVERY ROOM**

You are invited to take a journey into Adam Hamilton's book
"The Lord's Prayer"



We will hear Adam in his video overview and discuss how his insights impact our understanding of this profound prayer that Jesus taught his followers. Join us for this last class!

LEMONADE STAND

JUNE 5- AUGUST 28

A Trinity favorite is back! Each Sunday after worship, head out the Calkins door and gather on the lawn for cold beverages and great conversation. The Lemonade Stand is part of the Turquoise Table Project which invites our congregation to step out into the community and get to know our neighbors.

We are still finalizing our volunteer crew for the summer, so if you would like to take a Sunday to help serve, let us know and we will get you on the team. Contact Betsy at office@grtunc.org.

Discipleship Ministries



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



CONGRESS CLASSROOM CLEAN UP- JUNE 7-9, 1-3PM

Interested in giving back to help Congress Elementary School. We are looking for a few people each day to be available to help teachers clean out their classrooms and get on vacation. There are a variety of tasks including wiping down tables, packing books in boxes, moving furniture and whatever else they might need. Note Congress does not have air conditioning and it can get quite warm this time of year. If interested, contact Matt at m.witkowski@grtumc.org; 456.7260.

GR PRIDE PARADE BOOTH- SATURDAY, JUNE 18 DOWNTOWN

The Grand Rapids Pride Parade is coming up soon and we need your help! We will be having a booth again this year and we will need people to help cover shifts at the booth as well as help set up and take down. If interested, contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org. This is a great way to reach out to our LGBTQIA+ community and show our support.



ANTI-TRANSGENDER LEGISLATURE WORKSHOP- SUNDAY, JUNE 26- 11AM

Join us Sunday, June 26, at 11am to hear from our friends at the GR Pride Center to learn more about anti-transgender legislature being passed around the country, how it effects Michigan and what you can do to advocate against it. Our presenter, Racheal, is the parent of a transgender child and will share her perspective and experiences that drive her passion for making change in our world! Questions? Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org.

PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY CLASS- THURSDAY, JULY 14, 11AM- FIRESIDE

This one-hour presentation will discuss how to protect yourself from identity theft and what to do if someone has stolen your identity including:

- The importance of obtaining annual credit reports and disputing errors
- The importance of shredding personal material before disposal
- The importance of reviewing all monthly bank and credit statements
- Being aware of scams

There is no charge for this class and it's open to the community, so feel free to invite family and friends. Please register by contacting Matt Witkowski at m.witkowski@grtumc.org; 456.7260.



The Trinity building is buzzing with activity!

[Click here](#) for a full calendar view.

WORSHIP CONTINUES EACH SUNDAY AT 9:30AM IN-PERSON, VIA ZOOM, AND YOU-TUBE.

For questions or clarification on programming, or if you'd like a printed hard copy, contact Betsy at office@grtumc.org.

COMING IN JULY- WHITECAPS

SUNDAY- JULY 17
12:45PM

“Take me out to the ball game; take me out with the crowd!”

Join your Trinity family at LMCU Ballpark on Sunday, July 17, as the West Michigan Whitecaps take on the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. An all-you-can-eat BBQ buffet will be available on the Third Base Patio Deck starting at 12:45pm. Hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, and black bean burgers plus cookies, chips, and soda. Gluten-free and vegetarian options available by request. After the BBQ, we'll head down to our reserved box seats to enjoy the 2pm game.



Purchase your tickets for the game and BBQ package today!

Adults - \$25
Children Ages 3-10 - \$20
Children 2 & Under - Free

Trinity is helping to offset the costs of this event, so get your reservation in ASAP to lock in these great rates. Contact the office at 616.456.7168 or office@grtumc.org by **JUNE 15**.



KIDS' FOOD BASKET

THANK YOU to the Trinity volunteers for working at Kids' Food Basket this school year. We volunteered over 140 hours!



Trinity volunteers include:

- Steve & Penny Murray
- Steven & Cynthia Swedish
- Suzy & Larry Gill
- Kate Orent
- Elle Bergman
- Kay Snyder
- Linda Bond
- Judy Ryan
- Sue Emmons
- Bob Kleinhans

We will start up again this coming September, third Monday of the month from 9:30-11am. Blessings to our volunteers reaching out to help our community needs. Well done!

Rick Nelson,
Kids Food Basket Coordinator

TRINITY MISSIONS



Be a force for affordable housing by **VOLUNTEERING WITH INNER CITY CHRISTIAN FEDERATION COMMUNITY HOUSING (ICCF)**, a non-profit agency advocating for and creating affordable and sustainable home ownership **SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 9AM-12PM**, doing yardwork, painting, and light demolition at one of their properties. [Sign up here](#). ICCF does background checks for all volunteers; under 18 must be supervised by a parent. For questions, contact Kip Smalligan at kipsmalligan@gmail.com.

Thank you, Trinity, for your caring response to **UMCOR SUNDAY!**
UMCOR Sunday: \$5,335
UMCOR Global Refugee/Migration: \$1,617



Trinity member, Paula Visser, is serving **REFUGEE FAMILIES** through **BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICE**. She is collecting food and household items in the red bin near the Discovery Room. Questions? Contact Paula at paulavisser3@yahoo.com.

- Foods- canned meats, peanut butter, rice, beans, cooking oil, tomato sauce, salt
- Large sized diapers, sizes 4-7
- Cleaning supplies, towels, toilet paper, stock pots, frying pans, small dustpan/broom
- Portable wheelchair for adult
- Large stroller with straps

Missions sent the **WOMEN UNITED IN FAITH ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROON** \$1,000 last year. The funds were used to assist 20 women displaced by political conflict and gender violence. [Click here](#) for full report. Thank you, Trinity, for making new hope possible!



CHURCH FAMILY

APPRECIATION...

Retired Pastor, Jerry Pohly, sends greetings and thanks for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits during his long absence from church services. Beginning with Eileen's illness, then continuing with the Covid pandemic and some personal health issues has resulted in a longer absence than I could ever have imagined. I keep "active" through Zoom Worship, the monthly newsletter and in other ways. I appreciate Pastor Desotel, his excellent sermons and leadership. Looking forward to when I may be present in person again. Grace and Peace to all. ~ Jerry Pohly

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the Sunday celebration and the many cards, gifts and memory book you sent my way. They are so very dear to me. Your generous Love Gift was unexpected. Thank you so much. I look forward to a bit of a summer break to adjust to retirement and plan to be back in the fall. Laura is a precious gift to us- God has truly blessed Trinity! Thank you, again. ~ Nichea Ver Veer Guy

CONDOLENCES

~ To the family of Jeanne Hecksel who died May 7.

PRAYER & CARE

- ~ Dick Barber- Hospice Care
- ~ Dick Carlson- Pilgrim Manor
- ~ Dorothy French- at home at Clark
- ~ Marge Sytsma- Hospice Care

