



Trinity In Touch

APRIL 2024

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MISSION

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

VISION

Striving to be an inclusive faith community that extends 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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"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

Hello Friends,

A long time ago in a town far, far away I got hired as a youth pastor. It was my first staffed position in this denomination. It was my first time even attending a United Methodist Church where the pastor was not my partner or my father-in-law. About six months into my time there when it was time for our Church Conference, I noticed something odd.

One of the things we do at our annual Church Conference is elect leaders onto various committees and teams within the church. Nominees had been approached and accepted those nominations in advance. So at the conference all we had to do was vote on a slate of leaders for the church. The odd thing was, when I got to the conference and read the leadership roster that was up for vote, I saw my name on several committees that didn't relate to my area of ministry. No one had asked me, and I had no idea how my name got there.

I thought I'd lost my mind. I don't usually forget conversations, especially conversations like that. I didn't think that was the case, so before the conference started I asked the pastor how my name ended up in those slots, hoping the pastor would be as shocked as I was. They weren't. The pastor told me that they had put me on those committees so that the District Superintendent would see how well things are going because all the committee positions were filled.

There was no real expectation of me serving on those committees. It was a lie that pastor was telling to make himself look good. It left a very sour taste in my mouth. The only way I was able to get rid of that sour taste was to actually show up and serve on those committees. I did it to turn that pastor's lie into truth.

The part that bothered me most was, if asked, I would have said "yes", at least for a couple of the committees. Because I know the work committees do is important. It's not simply about having spots on the roster filled. The work our committees do is about embodying the heart and soul of our congregation. It's about ensuring that every voice is heard, and that every direction we take is guided by the collective wisdom and aspirations of our community. Our community thrives when its leadership reflects the diversity, creativity, and passion of its people.

In the next couple of weeks I am going to provide you with the opportunity to sign up for whichever leadership team at Trinity peaks your interest. The goal is to allow you to express which areas of leadership interest you, so that the ministry you do in that context will be ministry that fulfills you. Those areas include the *Vision and Leadership Board, Staff Parish Relations, Finance, Congregational Care, Missions/Outreach, Worship, Trustees, Discipleship, Hospitality, Church & Society, Historian, and Music*. When the sign-up goes live there will be brief descriptions of each team.

A couple of things to note about the sign-up and serving. First, putting your name on that sign-up sheet doesn't immediately put you on that team. It just lets us know you would be interested in serving there if asked. Second, if you are asked to join a certain leadership team and it turns out to be a burden for you instead of a joy, all you have to do is let me know and we can find you another place to serve or give you some time to rest before joining another team. No judgement. Third, towards the end of every year the teams will take some time to prayerfully discern whether or not to continue in that capacity or to serve in another area. (continued)

PASTOR MIKE- CONTINUED

This is vitally important for the future of Trinity. Without people on these teams helping to plan and care for the ministry of the church, Trinity will have great difficulty living into it's full potential. We all have gifts we have been given to use. When we use those gifts in service to others, we make God's love visible in the world, and find the peace and joy that comes with seeing our gifts and labor make a difference.

So as April begins, I ask you to take some time and prayerfully consider where it is in Trinity's leadership you are called to serve. If you come up with it before the sign-up sheets come out, just let me know. Write it on the back of a connection card and together we can find the ministry you are called to at Trinity.

Grace and Peace,



HOSPITALITY STATEMENT



Trinity UMC celebrates the beautiful diversity of the human community. We affirm the sacred worth of each person as a recipient of God's love and grace. As followers of Christ, we are an open and inclusive congregation. We live this out by welcoming 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 7- MAY 19 11:30AM-12:30PM

Join us Sundays, April 7 to May 19, as we dive into a series inspired by the practical wisdom of beloved neighbor Mister Rogers. Imagine a world where we listen, validate feelings, show gratitude, practice empathy, and more!

We'll explore these concepts in Sunday morning worship and during our Adult Faith Formation time from 11:30am-12:30pm.

The series is based on *The Mister Rogers Effect* by Dr. Anita Knight Kuhnley. Copies of the book are available in the office with a suggested donation of \$10 per copy. Subsidized copies are available as well, and you do not have to read to participate. Questions? Contact Laura Johns at L.johns@grtunc.org.



Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Sundays, April 7-May 19

Morning Worship at 10:00am
Adult Faith Formation at 11:30am



POPCORN PARTY TIME FRIDAY, APRIL 12- 6:30PM-8:30PM

Popcorn Party Time is back in April with a Game Night! Join us Friday, April 12, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Bring your favorite game from home or play one from Trinity's collection.

Not sure what Popcorn Party Time is? It's our monthly movie or game nights! We're calling these special all-ages evenings Popcorn Party Time because that's what they'll be. A monthly party with lots and lots of popcorn! Not just for kids, not just for grown-ups, Popcorn Party Time is a chance for the whole Trinity family to get together for fellowship and fun. Questions? Contact Laura Johns at L.johns@grtunc.org.

Other upcoming nights include:
May 10- Movie Night featuring Mary Poppins (G | 1964)

MORE... OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE



United Women in Faith Used Book Sale

DONATE BOOKS:

Now thru Wednesday, April 17.
Drop off in the Church Office on
Mondays-Wednesdays from 9am-4pm.

SHOP THE SALE:

Thursday, April 18 from 9am-4pm
Friday, April 19 from 9am-4pm
Saturday, April 20 from 9am-12pm
Sunday, April 21 from 9:30am-11:30am

QUESTIONS?

Contact Judi Ryan at 616-295-2619.

*Fundraiser for the United Women in Faith and
their pledge to Missions here and around the world.*

GOD'S NATUREHOOD

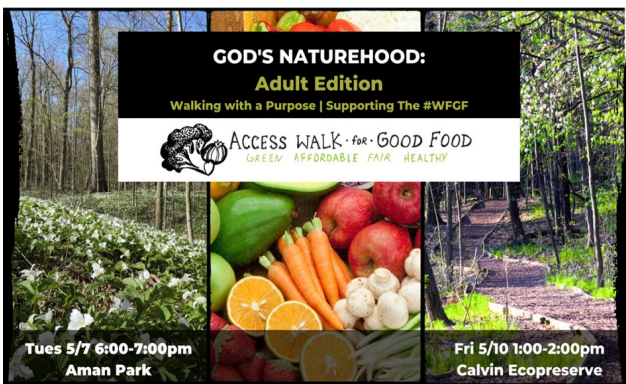
FRIDAY, APRIL 26-1:00PM-2:00PM

Designed for Trinity families and friends ages 18 & up, God's Naturehood: Adult Edition is a great opportunity to visit a new park, get to know members of your Trinity family better, and get your daily steps in. The details on our April meet-up are below.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 FROM 1:00PM-2:00PM

Huff Park at 1500 Aberdeen St. NE GR, 49505

Meet at the southeast corner of the parking lot off
of Aberdeen Street NE near the playground.



In May, God's Naturehood is walking with a purpose! We've scheduled two Adult Edition walks during the Access Walk for Good Food. Join us for one (or both) walks and you can count yourself as one of the 25 Walkers Trinity commits to providing each year. No fundraising required; just come and stroll with your friends.

What is the Walk for Good Food? It's a chance to join Access of West Michigan in working to transform our food system. Plus, Trinity's Community Ministries Program is one of the organizations that Access supports. More info on the walk [HERE](#).

TUESDAY, MAY 7 FROM 6:00PM-7:00PM

Aman Park at 0-1859 Lake Michigan Dr. GR, 49534

Park in the main area and meet by the trailhead.

For any interested hikers, we'll add a stop at the Double Dip Depot after our stroll.

FRIDAY, MAY 10 FROM 1:00PM-2:00PM

Calvin Ecosystem Preserve at 1750 E Beltline Ave SE, GR, 49546

Park in the lot for the Bunker Center and gather near the path.

RSVPs are requested but not required. Contact Laura Johns at ljohns@grtunc.org.

MORE... OPPORTUNITES TO ENGAGE

Spiritalk Book Club

Join us as we discuss & dissect a new book each month!
Meeting are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Trinity.
Contact Joy Murphy for more info at joymurphy@grtumc.org.

January 9 <u>Daughters of Nantucket</u> Julie Gerstenblatt	February 20 <u>Remarkably Bright Creatures</u> Shelby Van Pelt	March 12 <u>The Undertaker's Assistant</u> A. Skenandore	April 9 <u>This Is How It Always Is</u> Laurie Frankel	May 14 <u>Tom Lake</u> Ann Patchett
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New Book & New Date

Spring 2024

Please note that we have a new book for May and we've changed the date a second time. We are back to our original May 14 date!



Pints with the Pastor Select Fridays at 7:00pm at Brewery Vivant

February 23

March 22

April 19

May 17

You're invited to join us this spring for Pints with the Pastor. These gatherings are an opportunity for all of us to get a drink, get some frites or poutine, and get to know each other better. Meet up at Brewery Vivant anytime between 7:00pm-8:30pm. No RSVP required. Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org with questions.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

CARING FRIENDS will meet Friday, April 19, at 11:00am. **MEMBERSHIP CARE** will meet Monday, April 22, at 5:00pm. Both meetings are in Discovery.

Questions? Contact Linda Burpee, Chair, at smoburp@icloud.com.

Congregational
care

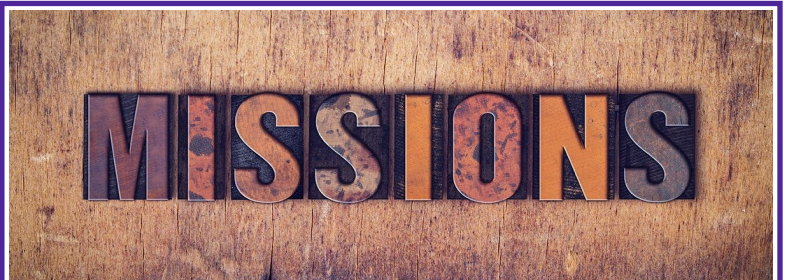


APRIL CALENDAR

[Click here](#) for your full April calendar.



MISSION NEWS



Trinity, thank you for so thoughtfully bringing security, comfort, hope, and possibility through your sharing!

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY OFFERING:
\$930 for UM Community House

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFERING:
\$1,035 for UMCOR and Heifer International

MARIO DAMIS support during his graduate study at Ferris: \$155

APRIL INTENTION WORD

Grow



April Intention Word

MAY & JUNE

SPRING CLEAN-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 11 - 9:00AM-12:00PM

It's Time Again! "Spring Clean-Up" at Trinity has arrived!

Date: Saturday, May 11

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm (Coffee and doughnuts will be available)

There will be inside jobs and outside jobs to do sprucing up our beloved church. If you can help out, please notify Suzy or Larry Gill at Lsogill@comcast.net. We hope to see you!



Interested in a mission trip? Join us in God's Country this Summer!



Wednesday, June 26-Sunday, June 30, 2024

All Ages | All Abilities | Flexible Dates & Lodging Options

Located in Newberry, Michigan & Surrounding Areas

It's confirmed! We have the dates for our intergenerational God's Country Cooperative Parish Mission Trip this coming summer. We'll be going Wednesday, June 26- Sunday, June 30.

Join us as we live out the mission of Trinity- extending the love of God in our neighborhood and our world. As Trinity eases back into hands-on mission work, we're starting with an inter-generational (all ages & all abilities) trip. It will include three partial work days and time for fellowship, worship, and fun. The dates and lodging options are flexible.

Contact Laura Johns at Ljohns@grtunc.org for more information about the trip or to RSVP. Paperwork and another planning meeting coming soon!



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

WARMER TEMPERATURES, WARMER HEARTS?

How does your faith and ministry flourish or change in the summer months? Summer is a slower time in the church world as major programming happens in the spring, winter and fall. Summer also has wonderful opportunities to view ministry differently. Outdoor ministries can flourish, such as Worship on the Lawn, God's Naturehood, Congress Classroom Clean Up, Faith on the Fly, Walk for Good Food, Grand Rapids Pride Festival, God's Country Mission Trip, and so much more. As the temperature heats up, we hope you find your hearts strangely warmed to continue connecting, giving back and engaging in helping our community with each other. In these connections by giving and growing together, that's where the church comes to life and makes a significant impact in both people and our community. Be that spark, find that community, and be that change you want to see in the world!

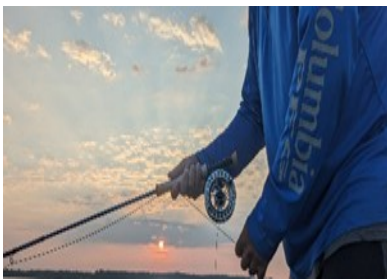


ACCESS OF WEST MICHIGAN WALK FOR GOOD FOOD SUNDAY, MAY 5- KICKOFF AT RICHMOND PARK WALK CONTINUES MAY 5-15

The weather is warming up and it's a great time to walk for a great purpose that helps the Community Ministries Program at Trinity. Join our walking team and walk from home or at the kickoff event at Richmond Park with a group of friends! We are walking to make sure all people have access to good quality food in our community. Won't you join us in helping to make that happen? Go to [Access of West Michigan](#) and sign up, or visit the Trinity website and click on the [broccoli image](#) to take you to the giving and team page. Get those shoes laced up and invite a friend to go walking May 5 at Richmond Park or in your community May 5-15. The Community Ministries Program appreciates your support!

CONGRESS CLASSROOM CLEAN UP JUNE 4, 5, 6- 1-3PM

Join us as we help the teachers and staff clean up the school and classrooms to help get everyone who works so hard to start enjoying their summer vacations! We are looking for 2-3 people to help cover shifts on each day. Interested? Contact Matt Witkowski, Community Ministries Program Director, at m.witkowski@grtunc.org, or call 616.550.2418 with preferred dates/times. This is a huge help to Congress and we love getting our hands dirty to help our teachers finish the year in style!



FLY KIDS... FROM FAITH ON THE FLY! MAY 1, 8, 15 5:30-7:00PM \$10

Is your 4th grader or middle schooler interested in learning what this fly fishing thing is all about? We are doing a 3 week introduction to fly fishing class where parents are able to come and learn with their child. We will cover a lot of information so children with an interest in fishing are encouraged to register. This is the first time we have done a program like this and are excited to introduce a new generation to the joys of fly fishing. There are limited spots available. Contact Matt at m.witkowski@grtunc.org; 616.550.2418.

CHURCH FAMILY



Pastor Mike & Crew



Del Crowe



Suzeanne Benet & mom, Marcelline Barry

We love our Clark residents and are thankful for our time with them in the Chatterbox!



Bill Biergans & Betty Smith

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, April 7- The Desotell family in loving memory of their son, Carl Desotell

Sunday, April 14- The Bosker Family

Sunday, April 21- Bonnie Czuhajewski in appreciation for the wonderful staff at Trinity

Sunday, April 28- Beth Ainsworth in loving memory of her son, Murphy Ainsworth, and dad, Gordon Grant

CONDOLENCES

Eleanor (Harper) Edinger died Friday, March 22, at the age of 92. Eleanor is the older sister of Clarice McKenzie and the aunt of Suzanne Hewitt. A Memorial Service will be held this summer.

PRAYER & CARE

Nancy Barnhart- hospice care.

babarnhart@varnumlaw.com (Bruce Barnhart)

3825 Cook Valley Blvd.

Apt. 124

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Margaret Terlip, recovering at home following surgery.

m.terlip@comcast.net

2156 Jamestown Dr. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Diane Huhn- in treatment for cancer.

carolynjmiller43@gmail.com (Carolyn Miller-Diane's spouse)

810 Lenore Ave.

Lansing, MI 48910



THANK YOU

Sincere thank you to members of my Trinity family for your many prayers and acts of kindness during my recent bout with the health care system. ~ Linda Bond & Family

Thank you, United Women in Faith, for the beautiful pin on March 3 for my involvement in the church. It means a lot to be honored in this way. ~ Judy Conner