

*A Publication of Trinity United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
4435 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005*

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August 2020



Out On the Way

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

Thanks for joining me “out on the way.” I hope you are seeing the places where God is at work. I pray that you are focusing on your own inner work, so as to experience the Spirit’s transformative power in your own life. I hope you are finding ways to enjoy “these days” and you are strengthening your faith with devotion and prayer and conversations with Spirit-filled people.

Some recent news “out on the way” has me thinking quite a bit about what lies ahead. So today I reflect on the update from our Search Committee.

Your Search Committee has been working for the past two years – (yes, it’s almost two years since I arrived) – to secure a “settled pastor” candidate for Trinity to vote on. It’s often been a process of “waiting” to receive candidates, but now the Spirit seems to be moving to bring forward some new possibilities. This is exciting news for Trinity.

*God is at Work
While We're Waiting*



And it has “set off” in me, a new awareness, that it may be only 4-6 months that I have left with you as your pastor and teacher.

My mandate, as interim, has been to “help the congregation be ready to welcome a new pastor with open arms.” In many ways, I think you are. If not, this is the time to address whatever areas of “congregational life” that you are concerned about.

If you see some areas where we still have work to do, please contact me, or the council, or our committees. Speak up! The way forward and the way through is not my job, but yours.

I always tell churches, that this never was – and never should be – “my church.” I hear pastors speak like that and it makes me cringe. First of all, the church is Christ’s. Secondly, the church is YOURS. Not the Council’s . . . or the Committee’s . . . but yours.

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TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4435 North Calhoun Road
Brookfield, WI, 53005
262-781-9378

Email: contact@trinitybrookfield.org

Web Site: www.trinitybrookfield.org

Office Hours

(Tue & Thu at Home)

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Friday: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 am

Fellowship Hour: Follows service

Holy Communion: First Sunday of the Month (unless noted otherwise)

Sunday School

September through first week of June

Open to the Community

(When we Come Back!)

Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

Game Nights, See Schedule on Website

Boy Scout Troop 21, Sunday 6:30 pm

Quilters, Mondays, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

All Special Events

Staff & Lay Leaders

Interim Pastor: Rev. Susan Stull-Carr

Director of Music: Mike Hetzel

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Shine

Cleaning Custodian: Jodie Gerard

Maintenance Custodian: Eric Dahm

Ministers of the Church: All Members of Trinity United Church of Christ

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles and photos for the September publication by August 12th.



Mary Ellen Ruzga
Allen Burbey
Laura Dierbeck
Jack Cronin
Amanda Hanson
Ralph Zahn
Emily Dahm
Edith Heins
Natalie Lannan
Sharon Thomas

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Beverly Littmann
Geraldine Masch
Marion Wandsneider



Paula & Pat Matthews
Arlene & Jay Preston
Roberta & Robert Stanley
Kahney & Bob Rohrig
Allen Burbey & Travis Zuverink

Thank you to all the many friends who sent cards or called with well-wishes. Special thanks to my shopping angel, Lynne.

I miss you all, and please know that your prayers - they work!

Thanks again,
Edith Heinz



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Out On the Way

I can't do the work that lies ahead. I have shown and modeled some new opportunities for you to build on, but that work is yours. The trainings that you may still need are yours. The "support networks" like a Personnel and Pastor/Parish Relations Committee are yours to step up and create.

Our new Southeast Association Minister, **Lorraine Cenicerros**, has many resources to share in that journey. But it relies on each of you stepping up and taking responsibility for helping guide the direction of Trinity's ministry and mission.

A pastor's job, according to Paul, is to "equip and empower" the laity for the ministry of the church. I know that many of you would prefer a kind of "strong" leadership style, where the pastor tells you what to do, but that is not how new leadership in the church wants to lead. I've often spoken of a kind of mutual ministry and I hope that is what you will create with your new pastor!

I look forward to these next months together and I trust that we will continue to deepen our community connections; deepen our faith formation; and deepen our service to the world around us. I pray that the Spirit pours out great energy upon Trinity in these days.

Grateful for our shared ministry,

Pastor Susan



Never has our democracy been under such siege. Gerrymandering has set the stage for certain outcomes to be almost guaranteed; voter suppression is real; voter intimidation seems a real possibility in our next election. Mail-in ballots have been delayed to the point of not being counted; and polls have closed, forcing voters to stand for hours in long lines.

Living in a democracy is a precious gift, and as Christians we know we must be good stewards of this gift!

We need to participate, get involved, stand up and make some noise!

I'd encourage you to go to [UCC.org](https://www.ucc.org) – our United Church of Christ website to find some great resources! But most of all, I suggest to find a way to get involved, even if it's just something small. Offer to drive a friend to the polls, get out and talk to people in your neighborhood about voting and if they are concerned; support Common Cause in Wisconsin, or offer to work at the polls!

Do what you can to make a difference!

The Women's Center of Waukesha's School Supply List

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **NO used items can be accepted** by the Women's Center. After the harrowing experiences that The Women's Center clients endure, their goal is to restore dignity, confidence, and self-respect. To help them live this motto, please donate NEW items only.

Items needed all year round:

- Colored pencils
- Combination locks
- Erasers
- Flash-drives
- Folders (2 pockets, various colors)
- Glue sticks/ bottled glue
- Graph paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Lunchboxes
- Markers (Washable)
- Mechanical pencils
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pens (black, blue, red)
- Rulers
- Scissors (kid safe)

Additional items requested:

- Clorox or Kirkland disinfecting wipes
- Kleenex/tissues
- Paper towels
- Reusable water bottles
- Tennis shoes/Gym shoes (of varying sizes)
- White-out
- Ziplock bags
- Gift cards are also welcome (Kohl's, Meijer, Target, Walgreens, Walmart, Waukesha County Bus Tickets)



by Kathryn R. Dierbeck

The Mission Committee is collecting school supplies on behalf of The Women's Center of Waukesha through August 15. Bins are located outside the north entrance of the church (elevator door) for you to drop off your donations.

We are also hosting another drop off day to receive your donations. We can visit and thank you personally! Trinity is always a generous people and we thank you for always supporting our drives and projects!

In Person Drop Off for School Supplies
Saturday, August 15
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon

We'll be set up in the south parking lot, just like the Scouts did their food drives. **Below is a list of most needed supplies** (*must be new*). Additional items are listed to the left.

- Backpacks – different sizes and colors
- Binders – (3 ring – 1, 1½, 2 inches)
- Calculator (TI-30 series, TI 84)
- Composition notebooks (Wide ruled)
- Dry erase markers (Expo, multipacks)
- Headphones/Earbuds
- Pencil boxes/cases
- Pencils #2
- Permanent markers (Sharpie – fine and super fine; black and various colors)
- Post it notes (yellow/pink – 3x3; multipacks)
- Wide-ruled notebooks (1, 3, 5 subject)

Member Giving, June 2020

In June, there was only one count taken with money deposited on June 22nd. The total amount of the envelope giving was \$5,239 of which \$40 was a direct donation to Mission. So, the final operating deposit was actually \$5,199.

On the face of it, this is very low and might be concerning. However, there was a count done after the July 4th weekend and that totaled close to \$8,000. There will probably be one other count at the end of the month, which will boost the July numbers to over \$10,000. Thus, the two-month total average might be around \$7,500. This will be below the emergency monthly budget set at approximately \$11,600.

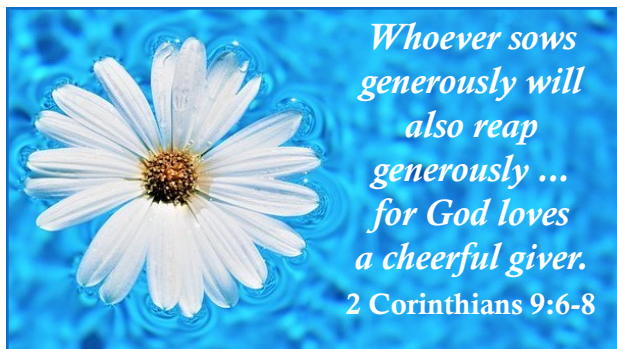
We are headed into the Summer months and historically, Trinity giving in those months has always been lower than at any other time of the year. Financially, because of this drop in giving for the month of June, we show a loss for June of \$5,521. Year-to-Date, however, we show Net Income of \$16,283 which is aided by the \$13,400 in Payroll Protection Plan funds thru the loan we received in April.

This loan is not due to start being repaid until September at 1% interest, but those of us who have been dealing with the finances of Trinity, believe that the loan will be forgiven because it was used for the purpose of retaining and paying our employees through the early stages of the Pandemic. We have also been able to pay all the normal bills: utilities, insurance, business and office expenses, plus contractor expenses for our Audio Tech and Cleaning Services.

We thank all of you who have faithfully continued to send in your weekly/monthly giving and would ask those who have forgotten or delayed sending in your envelopes to think about joining in this vital ministry to Trinity. At 6-30-19, envelope giving totaled \$75,200 year-to-date. When you compare that to \$69,600 as of 6-30-2020, envelope giving is down \$5,600 from last year. Considering that we have not been physically in Trinity for Worship since mid-March, this reduction in giving seems miniscule.

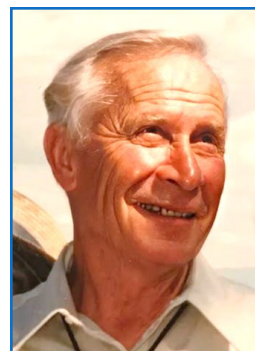
As a congregation, you have been most generous and we believe your continued giving will more than sustain us in the days ahead.

Finance Committee



Glenn Kenneth Siebert died peacefully on June 26, 2020 and has been raised to new life.

We give God thanks for Glenn's life and witness, and for



God's steadfast love for him all the days of his life.

Our prayers are with the entire Siebert family.



Saturday, September 12
Frame Park Picnic
Shelter

Registration Opens 9:30 am
Walk Begins 11:00 am

Join advocates across the country to raise funds and awareness for mental health at NAMIWalks!

NAMIWalks Waukesha's goal with this event is to gain support in order to end stigma, increase mental health awareness, and provide education and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by mental health conditions, right here in our community.

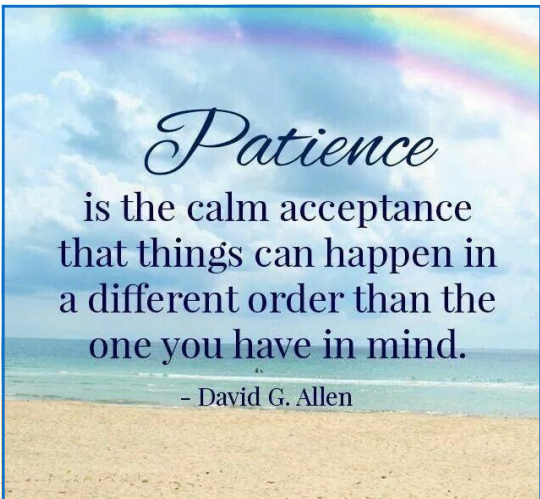
There is no fee to show your support by joining our walk. Every dollar raised supports mental health programs in Waukesha County.

Search Committee, July Report

By Ralph Zahn

As of July, your Search Committee received seven profiles from UCC's Southeast Association. Highlights about our interactions include:

1. One candidate pulled their profile from consideration due to accepting another position.
2. Two candidates were video interviewed by the Search Committee.
 - One candidate was unanimously eliminated from consideration by the Search Team
 - One candidate is still in consideration. Currently, the candidate is doing an Interim assignment and is still interested.
3. One candidate was scheduled for a video interview in July. The person was contacted and is still interested, noting they are currently interviewing with two other congregations.
4. Three candidates are out of state and are amenable to a calling from a small town church on a part time basis. They have all been involved in many interim positions and are now looking for a settled call.



Habits of Churches

A few years ago, The UCC published a brief booklet written by Anthony B. Robinson on "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective (and Ineffective) Churches." We invite you to assess Trinity's habits — what are we doing well and where do we have opportunities for improvement? Below are the first three habits.

Effective Churches	Ineffective Churches
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1. We strive for excellence in service to Christ! People enjoy what they're doing and do it well! We give God our best whether in the care of church grounds, the soup we prepare for the homeless shelter dinner, or the hymns and anthems we sing in worship.

2. We cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation. We make the "Seven Last Words of the Church" i.e. "We've never done it that way before," a distant memory. We're open to new ideas that advance our mission. We free people to develop and try new ministries. We remember, if we're not failing at something, we're not trying anything new!

3. We take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community! We refuse to be isolated. We take to the streets, coffee shops, library and parks of the community. We're curious about what's going on, and get involved in community events. We enjoy meeting people!

See the next issue of the Bells for more habits!

1. We elevate mediocrity to a spiritual discipline. We figure out where average falls and aim below there. Doing things with excellence, joy and flair may make someone feel uncomfortable, but God doesn't really expect much.

2. We take no risks. We're Successful in risk avoidance. We send any and all new ideas to a board or committee who understands it is their role to say "No" to new ideas. This process is reinforced by remarks noting how a particular idea might cost money or ruffle feathers.

3. We practice evangelism: "If they want us, they know where to find us." Everyone knows where we are and what we are. We don't waste time updating our social media; the community knows about us and what we have going on.

