



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

IN THIS ISSUE

Contact Info & Office Hours	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Member Giving.....	2
Ascension Day	3
Committee Messages	4
Happenings at the Church	5
Out on the Way (Continued)	6
Chancel Update.....	6
Feedback on Virtual Worship	7
Council President Message	7
Your Gifts to Trinity	8
Pentecost	8
Confirmation	9
For Our Graduates	9

May 2020



Out On the Way

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, “go and tell my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.”

John 20.18

As May begins, we will still be in the season of the Church Year called Eastertide. Eastertide is the 40 days after Jesus’ resurrection and before his Ascension. During these 40 days, in the early church, there were many sightings of Jesus, arriving in the midst of the twelve, but also among other early followers. It was during these days that the ‘seeds’ that would become the church were planted. “The Lord is risen.” These words would become the touchpoint of a movement that would change the face of the earth. The appearances of Jesus to his followers after his death, would rock their very foundations.



As Jim and I are “out on the way,” breaking out of confinement now and then to take a walk or a drive, we see signs of new life. We take delight in watching the buds come out on the trees, and listening to the red-winged blackbirds in our back reserve. When Jim and I go out walking, we notice God’s ‘critters’ mating and giving birth. The earth comes alive from its dormancy.

So, too, this is the time that the early church started coming alive. They were waking to a new way of living and a new worldview formed by Love. We can imagine that there were many questions and many experiments as people sought to ‘live into’ all that Jesus had taught them and all that they had seen and heard of God’s Kingdom.

Continued on Page 6

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Email: contact@trinitybrookfield.org

Web Site: www.trinitybrookfield.org

REMOTE Office Hours

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

VIRTUAL Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour: Postponed
Holy Communion: First Sunday of the Month (unless noted otherwise)

Sunday School

September through first week of June

Suspended Temporarily

Game Nights, Scheduled Saturdays
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 June publication by Tuesday, May 12th.

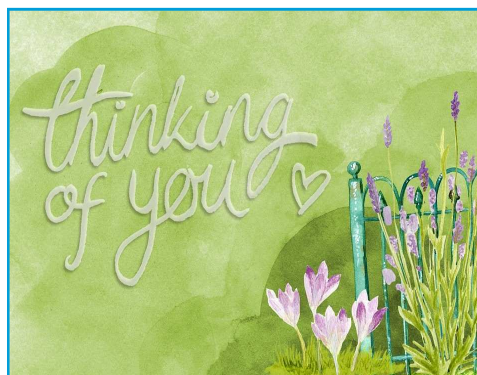
Worship Attendance

Due to COVID-19, virtual worships are conducted until we worship in person.



Kathy Dahm
Lynne Mielke
Kathy Immekus
Ellison Dennis
Julia Dierbeck

Kathy & Eric Dahm
Jan & William Glasenapp



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Brill
Beverly Littmann
Geraldine Masch
Glenn Siebert*
Marion Wandsneider

**See pg 5 for New Address!*

Member Giving March 2020

Ash Wednesday,
February 26
\$390

March 1 & March 8
\$4,764

TOTAL \$5,154*

*Submitted by
Finance Committee*

**See more info on Page 8*

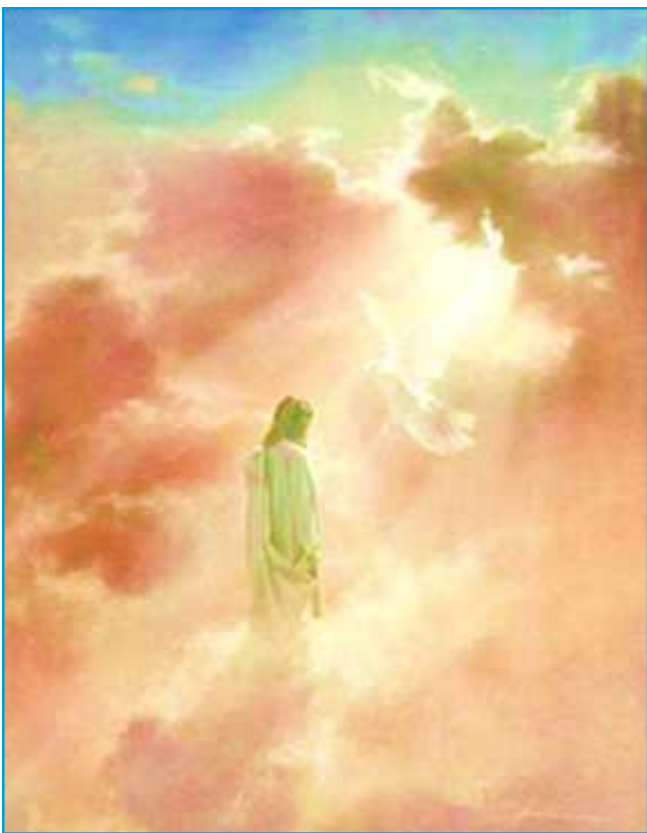


Ascension Day

Because Eastertide is always 40 days, that means that Ascension Day always is on a Thursday and because it's on a Thursday, not much attention gets paid to it in our churches. This year, it will be on May 21st. Only the gospel of Luke records this Ascension event. And it's different than I pictured it. Jesus doesn't rise up right from their midst, but rather he withdraws from them and is carried up into heaven. The narrative is in Luke 24:50-53. It's not quite as dramatic as the pictures they showed me in Sunday School – something more organic, a part of the whole.

I tried to hold an Ascension Day service once, but nobody came! I can't blame them. As a child growing up in the church, we never spoke about Ascension Day. It's fitting that this day is 40 days after Jesus' resurrection. He doesn't ascend to 'heaven' right away. He makes several appearances to his followers, strengthening them for the journey that lies ahead of them. It's as if he lingers, to make sure they are all right, that they fully understand all that has happened. For that, I'm thankful. If we didn't have those resurrection narratives in scripture our faith would be different, less confident. We would simply have an empty tomb and Mary's word that "The Lord is risen."

Ascension Day is the culmination of Jesus' earthly ministry. Now, he must return to his Father and our Father, and his God and our God, as he says to Mary in John's gospel.



Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24:50-53

John gives us a very different take on Jesus' departure. Chapter 13:1, "Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father." Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus answered, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow me afterward.'" Jesus continues his teaching with the disciples – it seems probably late into the night. Chapters 14-16 are his final words to his disciples about what is to come. Deep in the middle of the discourse, Jesus says in Chapter 16, "Nevertheless, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send the Advocate to you." (16:7)

Jesus leaves so that the Spirit can come!

Jesus leaves so that the disciples can be filled with the same power that inspired Jesus, the Advocate, the Spirit, the Breath of God!



A most sincere "Thank You" to Mikey Hetzel, Mike Hetzel, Pastor Susan, and Kathy Shine for creating virtual worship services for Trinity. They have been wonderful and inspiring as we worship at home each Sunday. The blessings of being able to be at Trinity when Mike and Mikey present the hymns each Sunday moves many of us to tears. We are truly in our faith home as we sing along.

It is our understanding that we will be experiencing these virtual worship services through the end of April. So, on behalf of all of those who are able to enjoy Sunday morning worship via Youtube, we extend our gratitude to the above people for providing this "Labor of Love" as Mike refers to this huge amount of work necessary to provide a most meaningful worship each Sunday morning.

Worship and Arts Committee



Mission Committee Fulfills Emergency Request



The Mission Committee received an emergency request from The Guest House of Milwaukee for much needed new men's underwear.

Because of the ease of modern technology, we were able to contact one another and decided to send \$300.00 worth of new items to Guest House. This was ordered through Amazon because Guest House has a wish list registered with them.

Because of the hardship that the current pandemic is putting on homeless shelters, the Trinity Mission Committee felt that this was a need that we could help with.

Your Mission Committee



Food Sort for Hunger Task Force

The Mission Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Hunger Task Force Food Sort on **Saturday, June 20, 2020** from 9:00 am until 12 noon at the Hawley Road location. A sign-up sheet will be available in May and June. We usually carpool from church. We hope that you can help with this project!

Volunteers must be 16 years or older, or may be age 12-15 with a chaperone. All volunteers must also be able to lift 30+ pounds; plan for lifting, twisting and bending; and stand for long periods of time.



Is Anything Happening At The Church?

"Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other. And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4.9

As soon as we suspended the ministry and worship at Trinity on March 15th due to coronavirus, the Spirit was already at work laying out a clear path for what was necessary and essential for us. It became clear fairly soon, that we needed to see where the church was financially and how long our resources might last, so that we could continue to pay the staff of Trinity. Thanks be to God, there were resources to carry us through initially and a belief that as we stayed out – as long as was necessary, there would be resources to continue our ministry.

The second thing that became evident was that we needed to find ways to stay in communication with each other. A combination of Mailchimp and snail mail letter helped us communicate with you what lay ahead and who was working to keep things moving ahead. Our communication network is a vital part of our ongoing ministry and my thanks to Kathy Shine, Kathy Immekus and Chris Faulk for their skills and commitment.

The third thing that became evident was that we wanted to create a way to worship together. Lo and behold, the Spirit had planted Mikey Hetzel in our midst. He and his dad (Mike Hetzel, who has a studio), suggested

the creation of an on-line worship presence. These virtual worship services have been being held since March 29th. We know that people are responding to them, and even people outside of Trinity are checking in to see what's happening! Our thanks to Mike and Mikey for this amazing gift which they share with us. If you can send a note to them, telling them what you appreciate, that would be an amazing gift to them!

The fourth thing we understood was that it was imperative to keep connections between our members while we are apart. These were in no particular order of importance – simply as they unfolded almost simultaneously.

- Your Council leadership has been doing an incredible job of piecing together a plan and a process for keeping Trinity together, afloat and moving ahead!
- Terri Allen, who did a yeowoman's job on our finances, also put together a Buddy Tree for our Council members. Each Council member has between 8-10 members who they are connecting with during this time.
- Our hope is not only to check in with each other, but to

actually cultivate relationships with each other, so that by the time we return, we hopefully will know more about each other in new ways! Already I see that happening and it energizes me!

Relationships are the key to every good organization, not just surface relationships, but deep and bonding friendships. Thanks for your part in building this bond among us.

I told the Council that they are the 'connective tissue' holding us together, but you can play your part as well.

- Check in on old friends.
- Reach out to someone who you have seen in church, but never really known. Call them or send a card!
- Send cards to our elders and homebound.
- Glenn Siebert has a new mailing address. Cards may be sent to him in care of Southpointe Health Care Center, 4500 W. Loomis Road, Greenfield, WI 53220.

There are many ways to stay connected! And remember: pray for one another!

Until we meet again,
Pastor Susan

Continued from Page 1

Out On the Way

I sense something like that happening here at Trinity as well. These days of being apart are changing us in some untold way. It is difficult to know how our new life, when we come out of 'safer at home' will look, but I'm hopeful that it will be a time when Trinity begins to 'live into' what it means to be followers of the "Risen Christ."

How does this shift our loyalties? How does this empower us? How does this shape us? How do we live out a deeper faith that has grown within us during these days?

I think in many respects, the church has been dormant. Many prophesied the demise and death of the Church and surely the mainline/liberal/progressive church has grieved so much loss. Sometimes, we feel entombed on the sidelines as the world marches by. But maybe, something has been happening in the time the church has been sidelined, or even gone underground. **Remember, that all growth of a seed happens when the seed is underground, in the darkness.**



What if the church has been dormant and not dying? What if God's Spirit has been leading men and women, people of color, people of different religious identities to undergo a time of transformation? That possibility gives me hope. I'm not sure yet, but I've had a number of glimpses that this might just be true.

What if we knew with certainty, what if we'd experienced this resurrection spirit in our own bones and bodies? What if we were a people coming out of the tombs that have held us too long? What if we knew that Christ was right here, right now, in our midst? I wonder. Don't you?



Grateful for sharing the journey with you,

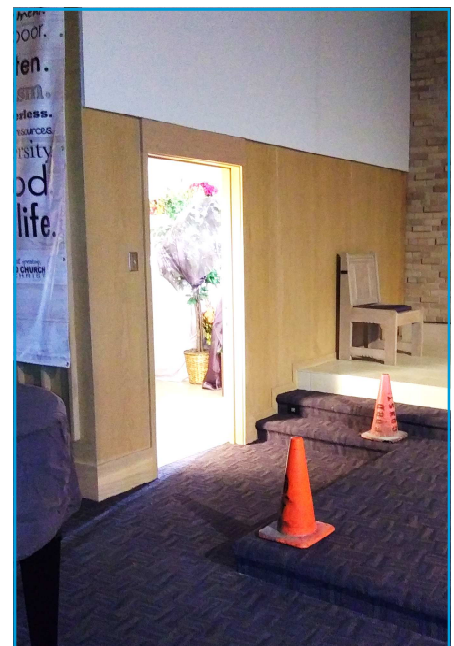
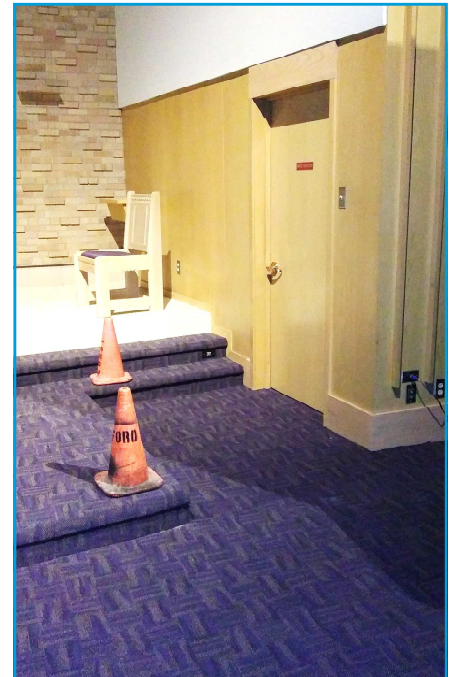
Pastor Susan

Chancel Update

The Chancel is almost finished. We're waiting for the handrails.

Good job, **Judy Marchant**, for overseeing this remodel project for Trinity.

Thanks to Ford Construction for doing such a great job.



Feedback on Trinity's Virtual Worship

Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to bring Palm Sunday service and Trinity into our homes. Amazing. Seeing other members from the congregation and the children was heartwarming.

Blessings, Dave and Lynne

Great job everyone. Love the music and the messages. Nice to see some of the faces we are all missing. *Lou*

Mike & Mikey are so very talented!! Marilyn is smiling down on you! *Ellen*

That service was fabulous!! Thank you to all for your efforts. Split screen - sweet!! *Peg*

Despite the feelings of separation that social distancing is bound to develop, I thank God that Trinity has such a faithful and gracious Faith Leadership Team. I want to thank everyone involved with this effort. The music, faith message, text screens and video were all spot on. In times of fear and uncertainty, you have shown how Hope and Faith can keep us looking forward to a better day. Thank you all. *Ralph*

Didn't know what to expect but found myself signing along and saying the prayers and listening intently to the readings and the message. Thanks so much. I almost felt like I was in Trinity but also knew I was in a holy place nonetheless. *Teresa*

What joy to be able to worship with my favorite pastor again!

Arlene

Very Nice!! Amen! *Tim*



Greetings Trinity Community,

I hope everyone is doing well and that all of you had a Happy Easter.

I wanted to just give a quick update on the council. Before this pandemic hit and the decision to temporarily close Trinity was made, Jean Gichert had joined the council. By Jean joining the council, this now brings us back up to the minimum of nine members, which the constitution and by-laws of Trinity mandate. Because of the fact Trinity had to close, I was not able to make the in-person announcement in March like I had hoped.



We welcome Jean onto the council; she will be serving on the Stewardship Committee. Since Jean has been on the council before, we will have a reinstallation when we return to church sometime soon.

Below is the list of the 2020 council members, our positions and the committees we represent. During this time of being apart, please reach out to any of us if you need anything.

Blessings for safety and continued good health.

Chris Faulk, Council President

2020 Council Members

President Chris Faulk
 Vice President Kathy Immekus
 Secretary Kathryn Dierbeck
 Treasurer Terri Allen

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Pastor of Trinity Rev. Susan Stull-Carr
 Business & Office Kathy Immekus
 Christian Nurture & Fellowship Robin Komassa
 Endowment & Memorial Roberta Stanley
 Finance Terri Allen
 Growth & Outreach Lisa Corley
 Missions Kathryn Dierbeck
 Property Chris Faulk
 Spiritual Life Chris Faulk
 Stewardship Kathryn Dierbeck & Jean Gichert
 Worship & Arts Anna Marie Godiali

Your Gifts to Trinity

For March, the envelope giving during the two weeks that Trinity members worshiped together, (March 1 and 8) and also including Ash Wednesday on 2-26, totaled \$5,154. For the three weeks following, March 15, 22, and 29, the mail-in giving topped \$8,000.

We are so thankful for the faithfulness of our members who continue to support Trinity! God bless you!

HOW MAIL-IN OFFERINGS WORK

- Each offering envelope is self addressed with the Church's address. They just need to be stamped and placed in the mail.
- Remember to only send checks through the mail—no cash, please.
- Mail gets picked up twice a week by Chris Faulk and counted approximately two times a month by Dan Rieves and Dan Dierbeck.
- Bank statements will not reflect your weekly giving as in the past. You should expect a time frame of up to 14 to 28 days.

Your mail-in offerings allow us to continue paying staff so we can send Mailchimp notices and conduct our virtual Sunday Worship Services for our members and friends. Your support helps us stay connected with each other in new and traditional ways! In this difficult time of social distancing and worries about the pandemic, its effect upon our loved ones and the economic health of the nation, our Faith Family's ability to reach out to one another, to pray together and to sing together, is truly a blessing!

Thank you again for being faithful servants to our God and to Trinity! Stay safe.

Terri Allen, Council Treasurer



Pentecost, of course means 50. 50 days after Jesus is raised from the dead by God, we know what happens. The arrival of that same Spirit, that same Power, that same Fire, that same Breath that Jesus testified would come, came! And in a blaze of glory ignited the Church for its ministry, its mission centered in the stories and experiences they had witnessed with Jesus.

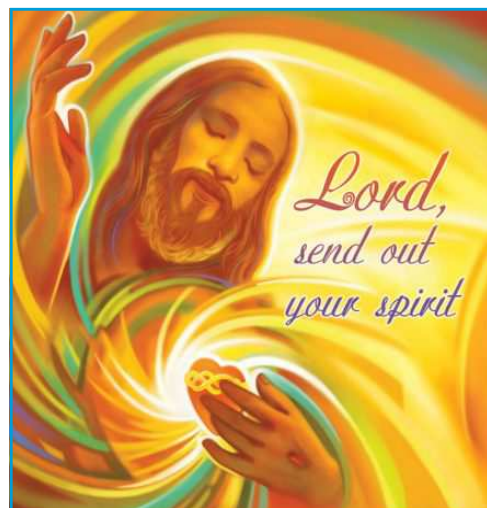
This year, Pentecost will fall on May 31st. The narrative is in Acts 2 – coincidentally, the follow-up of Luke's gospel.

We know that from the seeds planted by Jesus' appearance, and his preparation of the disciples by Jesus, that his ministry would now flow from them. Pentecost is the culmination that bursts open the doors of division and fear; that widens out the hearing of God's word to people from all places.

Pentecost ignites and inspirits the Church with the very power that filled Jesus, the power of God, placed into 'clay vessels.' How amazing that God would choose us to carry on Jesus' ministry!

The 'seeds' of the Church are planted on that day of Pentecost, but the Church would take a long time, with a lot of changes, before we would settle in to what we call church today. The form and the faith has

undergone many changes over the generations. And we will continue to do so today. The Church is ever 're-forming and being re-formed.' Perhaps as we return, on whatever day we return, we will experience something of this awakening and excitement and energy and breath among us!





Confirmation


We have been so excited to celebrate Ellia Godiali's confirmation! She has done an incredible job of preparation to enter into her own faith commitment to Jesus Christ. She has studied, and served, she has led worship, and used her gift of singing. She has been active in worship and is excited about this new life in Christ that lies before her! Until we receive further guidance about re-opening Trinity, we are uncertain about when confirmation will happen. As soon as possible, we'll celebrate this special day together!

For Our Graduates

By Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

This May, both Alex and Lilly, (my children and Jim's), were to graduate, to walk across the stage and hear their names read. Alex is a bit more nonchalant about it, but it has been devastating to Lilly. As she told her dad, "I wanted you to see me, and know that all the hard work I've done to get here has paid off."

These are difficult days for our young people and we hold them in our prayers. Let us also work for a world that is a better offering to them, a world in which people learn to care about more than money or success or fame. Let's help them learn to live more simple, faithful lives. Let us build lives of character and pass on a legacy to them that brings forth new life! Let us return to honoring the sacred and the holy.



Lord, listen to the tears and the fears of those who won't get to graduate this year, who won't be able to cross a stage and have loved ones near.

Lord, listen to the sadness of those who didn't get to put on their play or finish their lab, or run their race, or score their basket, or sing their song.

Lord, we grieve this 'unfinished' moment in their lives.

**For dreams shattered, or momentarily denied,
we offer our embrace of love.**

For having to face a world that is frightening and uncertain, with the prospect of finding jobs and building a life, we stand beside them with hope.

It is difficult to watch our children and our young people hurting and confused.

**They are in need not of our pity,
but of our strength, of our courage, of our heart,
to demand something better for them,
and for the whole world.**

**They are in need not of our false hopes,
but of our willingness to work beside them
to create a 'better union.'**

**Lord, bind us up. Lord strengthen the weary and support the weak. Lord, grant healing to broken-hearts.
In the name of Jesus, our Risen Savior, amen.**