



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

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"after the comma"

Groundhog Day

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I have a dear cousin who a few years back let me know that Groundhog Day was her favorite holiday. We send each other cards for the holiday and even prepare a special dinner to celebrate. Out of all the holidays such as the 4th of July, Christmas, Thanksgiving- she saw this as the best of them all. I think she loved the pomp and circumstance of the preparation, the prognostication that was to be revealed by a large furry rodent and the hope of an answer of the coming of Spring. All of these happen on Groundhog Day Feb 2nd, as we dive deep into the typically coldest month of the year as told to us in the Old Farmers Almanac.

As of the writing of this note, the temperatures have plummeted into single and subzero temps and the promise of the warmth of Spring- it seems so far off. This prediction of Spring coming by a Groundhog seems foolish if not downright cruel!

Groundhog Day actually has its beginnings in Ancient Christianity with its roots in Candlemas. Candlemas represented the 40 days after Jesus was born and then presented to the Temple. Dale Fenwick writes in an article for the Apopka Voice; "When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Luke 2:22. This would be February 2nd, according to our current calendar. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." It was not hard for people who lived by candlelight to make the connection. At some point in history people began bringing candles to the priests to be blessed 40 days after the celebration of the birth of Christ. The ceremony was called, "Candle Mass."

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March 2021



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

Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Virtual Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 am

Fellowship Hour: Follows service

(During in-person worship)

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

Sunday School Via Zoom

Jill Gretenhart and Robin Komassa teach students from Pre-K through 7th Grade. If you are interested in having your children participate or if you have questions, contact Kathy Haass at KatydidHaass@gmail.com or Jill Gretenhart at [yippeeefun@aol.com](mailto:yippeefun@aol.com). Lessons for the upcoming week are sent via email in addition to the Zoom link. Class begins at 9:15 am for 30 to 45 minutes.

Open to the Community

Virtual Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

On Hold: Boy Scout Troop 21

On Hold: Game Nights

On Hold: Quilters

Staff & Lay Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Krueger

Council President: Terri Allen

Director of Music: Mike Hetzel

Administrative Assistant: Marie Furrer

Cleaning Custodian: Jodie Gerard

Maintenance Custodian: Eric Dahm

Ministers of the Church:

All Members of Trinity United Church of Christ

Newsletter Deadline

The 15th of each month.



Arlene Preston

Dan Dierbeck

Jan Frank

Jan Schuster

Robert Fredrick

Kathy Haass

Kahney Rohrig

Mary* Goldbach

Eric Dahm

Bob Rohrig



Natalie & Bob Lannan



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Beverly Littmann

Geraldine Masch

Marion Wandsneider



Continued from Page

On **history.com** it states this; "Clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather (and how long the winter candles would be needed). Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State."

According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring. Punxsutawney Phil became the most famous of these weather-forecasting mammals and has been on-going since 1887. (Talk about resurrection! ☐)

This year, we received notice that six more weeks of winter were on the horizon and the Groundhog, went back to its burrow and is probably resting- counting the days. This is all to say we know that a spring will be coming. But why will it take so long? (At least that is what I said when that furry little creature gave me more cold and snow... ☐)

We are in our season of Lent and given notice that we have 40 days, roughly six weeks also to anticipate the warming of our own season. The coming of Holy Week and Easter lead us from our burrowing and self-reflection of lent to emerge with Christ's Easter resurrection of Hope and New Life where we had lingered in despair. Lent calls us to not only self-reflect, but self-correct. Our God waits for us to peak our heads out of mid-winter dens and find ways to bring warmth and love to those around us. Just like adding extra blankets on during the cold we have felt God's love embrace us when we were shivering with the world's challenges. How can we offer the same comfort to others?

May this our season of Lent allow us to be in relationship with the One who knows when Spring will come again, and we will be reminded that the Light of Christ has been there all along. That way when we come up out of our personal burrows, we will celebrate and know that love and the Risen Christ is here!

Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Live boldly in the light of the one True Light!

Pastor Dan



Worship and Lenten Services - March 2021

Wednesday, March 3rd - 10:00 a.m.

Prayer - Petition

Psalm 85

1 John 5:14-15

Sunday, March 7th - 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Lent

God So Loves Us - God Guides Us in Love

Communion

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

John 2:13-22

Wednesday, March 10th - 7:00 p.m.

Prayer - Intersession

Sunday, March 14th - 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

God So Loves Us - God Provides For Us

Jazz Worship

6th Sunday after Epiphany

John 3:14-21

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

Numbers 21:4-9

Wednesday, March 17th—7:00 p.m.

Prayer - Blessing & Adoration

Sunday, March 21st - 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

God So Loves Us -

God Knows Us From Our Birth

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

John 12:20-33

Wednesday, March 24th - 7:00 p.m.

Prayer - Thanksgiving

Worship & Praise

Sunday, March 28th - 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Love Comes To Town!

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (NIV)

Mark 11:1-11



Did you ever wonder what some of the quiet works members within our church are undertaking to reach out and spread God's love and message?

Diane Siebold faithfully sends cards to our members who are homebound, hospitalized, facing a unique life challenge, and other events. Marie Wood a member of Trinity, Diane's mother, originated this project of reaching out to members who are temporarily or permanently unable to physically attend Trinity. Diane has been and continues to be passionate about her "gift" to our members for many years. Her cards brighten a person's day, provides love and hope, and keeps the connection between the member and Trinity alive in a tangible way. The Mission Committee, which Diane is a member of, provides some funds for her to perpetuate this undertaking. If you'd like to donate any of your extra Thinking of You cards or cards with a picture on the front but blank on the inside, please put them in Diane's mailbox inside the North Parking lot door. Also, if you'd like to thank her for her dedication to our members, drop her an email or thank her when we are able to be once again united in fellowship at church.

How are you spreading God's love?



Message From Stewardship

For forty days before Easter, Christians all over the earth observe Lent. It is a season of reflection, prayer, compassion, and preparation for the celebration of Easter. Lent is the season to remember the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is an opportune time to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ.

It is important that we ask God regularly for direction in our lives. Especially during Lent, such prayer requires us to make time to be quiet, open our minds, and humble our hearts so that we can hear God.

It's a time to prayerfully self-reflect and consider ways to be more generous and more faith-filled in our giving. Lent calls us to re-evaluate and then redirect how we give within the church and our daily lives.

In 1 Peter 4:10, we are called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. God wants us to use our spiritual gifts, skills, joys and resources for the benefit of others.

When was the last time you set aside time to be quiet, still, and alone from your hectic schedule?

During this time of Lent, let's examine our lives for the good fruit of generosity and unselfishness. Let's turn away from some of our old ways, and seek to live the way that God desires. Let us walk in love and, through grateful giving and intentional actions, show that we are followers of Jesus Christ— bringing praise to God through the way we live.

Challenge yourself during this time of the Lenten season to take some time to prayerfully open your heart and mind to what God has to say to you. Prayerfully consider in what ways you could be more giving. It's never too late to do so. God loves you and welcomes you at any time!



Worship and Arts would like to provide you with information regarding

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wednesday virtual worship service was held on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. If you didn't have an opportunity to watch the video it is listed on Trinity's web site www.trinitybrookfield.org

Pastor Dan will be leading virtual worship services during Lent scheduled for 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday until Palm Sunday. Some of those you may have already watched, but please note they will be on-going with the last one on March 24. Mail Chimp notification will be sent out each Wednesday showing the link. Again, please feel free to look for them on the website as shown above if you missed them.

Plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are in the process of being made. When Pastor Dan, Mike, Mikey and the Worship and Arts team have created the special plans for the Holy Season, information will be sent out to all via mail chimp. Unfortunately, the pandemic is challenging us to seek other venues for this special season of the Church, but we will find our way.

We would add our special thanks to the Mission Committee as they offered their usual Mardi Gras luncheon in a unique venue this year. The food was delicious and it was great to see Joe and Dave. No, they didn't suffer any frostbite handling out the luncheons.

Blessings and thanks to all as we find ways to move forward and work together to worship in a different way.



Worship & Arts Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements Schedule

- 3-7 Terri Allen
- 3-14 Anna Godiali
- 3-21 Jan Glasenapp
- 3-28 Lisa Corley

Could all Committee Chairs please get your announcements for the following Sunday to the appropriate Council member by Wednesday morning of that week. The announcements are being videoed by Wednesday evening.
Thank You all.



Cup of Life will be meeting on Thursday, March 4, at 10:00 am at the Brookfield Library. All women of the church are invited to join us. There is no need to bring anything, but your mask, as you are required to wear one inside the library.



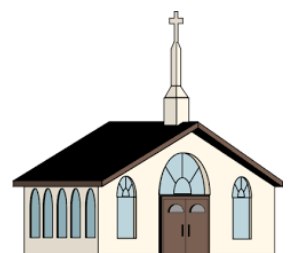
The Property Committee is looking for some additional volunteers to join us. This committee has the responsibility of keeping up the interior and exterior of the building itself. The committee also sees that the outside grounds are being cared for. That includes the two cemeteries and the parking lots.

Trinity is blessed with so many of you that are willing to share your talents in many ways. The three of us have three of us have been together for many years on this team. We need to pass on some of our knowledge of the building and the church grounds to others in the congregation. It is not required that you have building or maintenance experience to be on the Property Committee. While learning about the committee responsibilities, it would be helpful to have someone do meeting minutes or announcements such as this one. The new person can also help schedule and get volunteers when we have our four annual cleanups, inside and outside of the church.

Please consider this opportunity to help keep the Trinity building and grounds in good shape so we can fulfill the missions of the church for many years to come. Feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or would like to join the Trinity Property Committee.

Trinity UCC Property Committee,

Mark Burbey, Pat Matthews,
Eric Dahm




Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ

contact@trinitybrookfield.org www.trinitybrookfield.org 262-781-9378

Revised 2/22/2021

March 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------|---|---|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Mission Committee 2pm Church Dining Hall Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual) | 4 Cup of Life 10:00 am - Brookfield Library | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Worship -Communion 10:00 a.m. (Virtual) Meetings with Members (limit 25) 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | 8 Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Church Dining Hall | 9 | 10 Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual) | 11 Worship & Arts Committee 1 pm Church Dining Hall | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship 10:00 a.m. (Virtual) Meetings with Members (limit 25) 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17  Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual) | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Worship (Virtual) 10:00 a.m. Meetings with Members (limit 25) 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | 22 | 23 | 24 Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual) | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Palm Sunday Worship (Virtual) 10:00 a.m. | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



“Big Bass Drum” shout out to the Mission Committee and musicians Mike and Mikey for a wonderful “virtual” Mardi Gras and Jazz Worship Sunday! The music was inspired and fun, just like a celebration should be! Chef Joe and the Mission Team did what they do best... they created a jubilant meal of Cajun Chicken Salad Po’ Boys, a new variant of Onion soup that I need to get the recipe for and whoever made those Praline Brownies my only critique..they were too small!! I could have eaten the whole sheet of them!

Thank you all for the time, effort and the community love put into this event. Cannot wait for next year! What a blessing to be a part of! Pastor Dan