

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

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February 2020



Out On the Way

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

Before meeting Jim, I was married to Ellis Carr II. He died of unknown health issues January 1, 2015. Ellis was an African-American, who had grown up in Tallahassee, Florida, during the dying days of segregation in the south. At least we thought they were dying. The stories he told, and probably many he dared not, reverberate in my heart and head and spirit. It is an ugly history of 'man's inhumanity to man.' And women's, too, sad to say.

I admit that in the few short years we were together, I never really did get to 'know Ellis' – and that our cultural growing up caused divides even for us who loved one another deeply. Building bridges across cultural, racial, religious divides is not for the weak of spirit. And it takes a great deal of humility to admit that even at our best these days, we are only beginning to scratch the surface towards deeper understanding and connection.

February is Black History Month. Ellis, as best he could, tried to introduce me to black thinkers, writers, musicians, leaders. His classmates from Tallahassee spanned the spectrum from opera singers, aeronautic CEO's, professors, musicians, athletes, executives. It was a far cry from the few black people I'd met in St. Paul or Minneapolis, which were few indeed. I was beginning to gain a life-changing perspective.



We thought we'd come a long way, electing a black president and all. We were, we thought, a fairly open-minded nation. But the sad truth, is that rather than open more doors, many people, fearful and anxious, started opening doors to the ugly truth that still makes up at least 50% of our nation. Despite years of talking about living in a post-racial America, the violence we see against people of color, different religions, and sexual identity, is a deadly reminder that we have not come far.

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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

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 a.m.
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

Worship, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Game Nights, See Schedule on Website
Boy Scout Troop 21, Sunday 6:30 p.m.
Quilters, Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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 March publication by Wednesday, February 12th.

Worship Attendance

320 worshippers December 29 thru January 26. *Thanks for joining us!*



Jean Schuster

Lisa Corley

Meredith Lang

Keep Our Homebound Members in Prayer

Donna Brill
Beverly Littmann
Geraldine Masch
Glenn Siebert
Marion Wandsneider



Lynne & Dave Mielke

Trinity Recycles!

As 2020 begins it might be a good idea to remind everyone that Trinity recycles aluminum and tin (metal) cans.

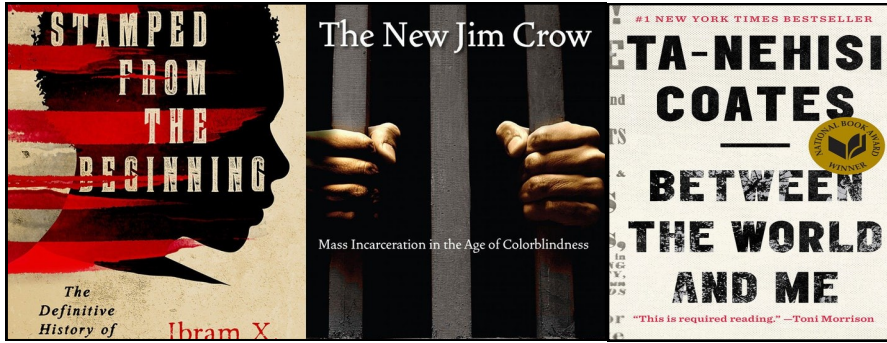
There are separate large bins for aluminum (soda) and tin cans in the Dining Hall and in the recycling area in the back of the Education Wing.

Please remember to make sure that the **cans of soda are empty** and that the **tin cans have been rinsed of any debris**. Each large bin is labeled and it is greatly appreciated when everyone places the cans in the appropriate bin.

All money received from the recycling plant as payment for the cans is given to the counters and placed in the operating fund. Thank you to everyone who participates!

YES, WE





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Out On the Way

In an article called ["17 Books on Race Every White Person Needs to Read"](#), Sadie Trombetta challenges us, "Unless we do something to stop it, the hate and violence emboldened by our current leadership will only get worse."

In the next month, I'll be talking more about a concept that runs through Scripture: the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. For now, let me leave you with what I believe is at the heart of this new realm. God is calling us to a new Kingdom – not based on race, or creed, or color, or sexual orientation or differently abled, or mentally 'all together', male nor female, slave nor free, rich or poor, even creatures and creation! God is building a kingdom where people transformed by Christ, are opening doors, expanding the table, inviting others to join this joyous celebration of God's deep love. God is calling us to care for one another, and to plant seeds for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. God is calling us to build a Kingdom of God's Love for this world.

I hope you'll enjoy some winter reading! I know I'll be picking up a few to read as well.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Susan



A Reading List

While educating ourselves is not enough, it is, I believe, a step towards helping us have empathy and perspective on the stories of those who are different than ourselves. And while, I could put together many lists on that front, I'll stick fairly close to Sadie Trombetta's list for now.

1. **"White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide"** by Carol Anderson
2. **"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"** by Michelle Alexander
3. **"Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America"** by Ibram X. Kendi
4. **"Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the 21st Century"** by Monique W. Morris
5. **"The Invention of the White Race"** by Theodore W. Allen
6. **"Between the World and Me"** by Ta-Nehisi Coates
7. **"Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II"** by Douglas A. Blackmon
8. **"Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White"** by Frank H. Wu
9. **"Neither Wolf nor Dog"** (Native American) by Kent Nerburn
10. **"Citizen: An American Lyric"** by Claudia Rankine
11. **"How Does it Feel to Be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America"** by Moustafa Bayoumi
12. **"Tears We Cannot Stop"** A Sermon to White America by Michael Eric Dyson
13. **"The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America"** by Richard Rothstein
14. And an old classic – **"The Invisible Man"** by Ralph Ellison

Save the Date

Trinity Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2020
Following Worship

Confirmation Classes

6:30 p.m. in the Ed Wing
February 12, February 19

Baptism

Sunday, February 16, 2020
Madison Marie Ransom

Jazz Worship & Mardi Gras Luncheon

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 26
7:00 p.m. Worship



Mitten Tree

Missions Committee is collecting mittens, scarves, and caps through February, 2020. Thank you for all your donations to date! Items are delivered to The Hope Center in Waukesha.

Worship & Arts Sponsored Events

Worship and Arts is sponsoring many events in the upcoming months. Mark your calendars and be sure to invite family, friends and neighbors to these annual outstanding worship opportunities at Trinity.

February 9, 10:00 a.m. – We celebrate Scouting as this is the date the Boy Scouts of America was formed. This annual event celebrates Scouting as the Boy and Girl Scouts have become one organization. Troop #21 has been part of Trinity for many, many years.

Jazz Worship, February 23, 10:00 a.m. – Trinity's annual Jazz event has been going on for many, many years. This year we welcome back Curt Hanrahan and Larry Tresp, who join Mike and Mikey in this outstanding musical service. **Be sure and stay for the Mardi Gras luncheon** after this service. Check out the luncheon details in the Mission section of this Bells.

February 26, 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday service. Please be sure to attend as we begin the Lenten journey at Trinity

March 29, 10:00 a.m. – Mike and Mikey will present a contemporary music format at this worship service. It is a tradition at Trinity that we offer contemporary music platforms on the 5th Sunday in a month.

Palm Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. – All worshippers will gather in the Gathering Place to march into the sanctuary waving our palms so we begin Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. – We will again enjoy a Symbolic Seder Supper as we have done in the past. Join us at the tables in this moving event. Everyone is welcome to this wonderful event. Questions about the Seder Supper, (?) do not hesitate to ask any of us.

Good Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. – A dramatic presentation will be the focus of this worship service. Trinity has many fine actors/actresses who participate in these dramas.

EASTER, April 12, early service at 7:30 a.m. – still in the planning stages as to what will be presented. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

EASTER BREAKFAST, April 12 – after worship – everyone is welcome.

EASTER, April 12, Celebration service, 10:00 a.m. – a worship service celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Again, be sure to mark your calendars and invite family, friends and neighbors to these unique, awesome and meaningful opportunities to share in worship.

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez

Let the good times keep rolling after the Jazz Worship Service on February 23rd and come on down to the Dining Hall for lunch.

The Mission Committee will be serving Shrimp Creole w/ Rice, Cornbread, Salad, and Dessert. Chicken Creole or Vegetarian Jambalaya is available if requested at time of ticket purchase.

See Dave Mielke or Joe Halvorson for tickets. Adults are \$15.00 and children are \$7.00. All proceeds will go to Back Bay Mission in Back Bay, Mississippi.



Be Aware: Scammers Impersonating Pastors and Targeting Churches

One Wisconsin Conference church was recently the target of a scam attempt via text messaging, wherein the scammer was impersonating the pastor. Church council members received text messages, apparently from their pastor, asking for help. The text included the name of their pastor, so it seemed real. This type of scam can happen via email or texting, and may fly under your fraud radar because it's so personalized.

Please know that Trinity UCC will never be texting or emailing to request monetary help! Here is one resource which includes how to file a fraud complaint: [Fraud.org website](http://Fraud.org)



Back Bay Mission is a Community Ministry of the United Church of Christ located in Back Bay, Mississippi. Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives.

Back Bay Mission takes a three-tiered approach to addressing poverty: they provide emergency assistance, intensive case management, and peer support networks. They offer six key ministries to serve the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the people of the United Church of Christ.

1. Education and Empowerment
2. Emergency Assistance
3. Housing Rehabilitation
4. The Micah Day Center and Homelessness Outreach
5. Mission Trips and Internships
6. Supportive Housing

Through their ministries, they provide a variety of services to people to:

- Find enough to eat or obtain prescription medication
- Gain assistance with utility bills
- Obtain donated clothing and personal care items
- Do laundry or take a shower (provided to the homeless)
- Apply for home repairs or renovations

Back Bay Mission **strengthens neighborhoods** through ministries like their education and empowerment programs and housing rehabilitation program. These vital ministries help the people served be a part of, and build, their communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As volunteers take what they learn at Back Bay Mission home with them, they have the opportunity to strengthen their own neighborhoods.

They **seek justice** by helping the people served become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in their community.

Reminders of God's Love



1 JOHN 4:7-8

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

The Good News: God's very essence is love; when we love one another, we are fulfilling God's most fundamental wish for our lives.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Good News: Even death has no dominion over those who love and are loved by the Lord.

Psalms 36:7

"How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings."

The Good News: There is room for all of us beneath the protective wings of the Lord.

John 15:9

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love."

The Good News: Jesus loves us, just as God the Father loved him; in this truth we can rest secure and at peace.

Romans 5:5

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

The Good News: God's love justifies our lives and fills us with hope for the future.

2 Chronicles 6:14

"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way."

The Good News: As it was for the Israelites of old, the love of our God is never failing.

John 16:27

"For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

The Good News: Faith and love go hand in hand, as does our love for God and His love for us.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

The Good News: Though we be sinners, Christ sacrificed his life and suffered on the cross for us. There is no greater love than this.

