

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

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September 2020



Out On the Way

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

Still, our lives are disrupted by Covid-19. Still, our plans have to be set aside. We are not in control of many things we used to have some control over; we could make decisions and act upon them. I am especially mindful of our families with children and our teachers and staff in schools. This time of year, plans are typically being made and supplies purchased. Children and parents alike are ready to return to a routine and find the old rhythm. But . . . life has other plans and we struggle to decide what is right and we spend inordinate energy on developing new ways for learning to happen.

I approach life with the belief that every change, every challenge, is an opportunity to learn something new. Some of the learnings are not ones I'd choose for anything in the world, but some have opened me to new possibilities I'd never imagined! It is my prayer that for each of you, these days of change can become not something to fear, but rather to engage in listening, waiting and discerning the best way forward with faith and hope.



Before Covid-19, we knew that change was happening all around us, at an unprecedented rate. We were encountering situations and people and ideas that seemed strange to us, and perhaps, truth be told, a little scary and overwhelming. Now, change seems to be accelerating. It is quite possible that by the time we have arrived at a "safer" place, many things will be strange and new. Throughout the world's history, these times have arrived and many things have been "made new". One of Ellis' phrases that I love is "God won't let things settle down wrong." Letting go of the old, the known, the certain, the routine, and making room for the new is a key learning for God's people in such times as this.

Continued on Page 3

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

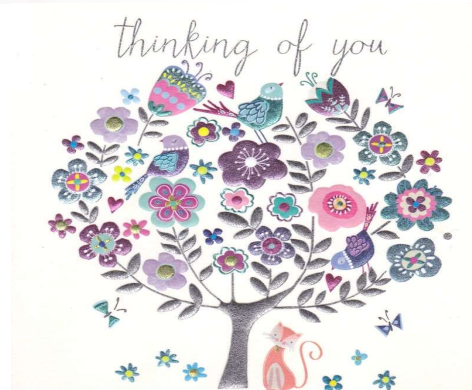
Please submit articles and photos for the October publication by September 12th.



Marlene Helinski
Hillary Levesley
Michaela Faulk
Joe Halvorson
Sherry Nuszbaum
Cooper Brown
Paula Matthews
Robin Komassa

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Beverly Littmann
Geraldine Masch
Marion Wandsneider



We need your help to update Trinity's directory; the last edition was issued in September 2018. New members and friends need to be added, contact information needs to be updated and verified, as well as birthdays and anniversaries. We invite our friends from Calvary to provide their information too! To assist us in an emergency, we also request at least one emergency contact for each family. Contact the office if you need a form.

Deadline to submit information: September 10, 2020
Thank you for your cooperation!



Jesus never gave us a map that says “Turn Left Here” or “Right Turn Only” or “No Outlet”.

Jesus gave us signs and signposts, but not maps.

*Leonard Sweet,
Author of AquaChurch*



Parade of Farewell

Long time members of Trinity UCC, Arlene and Jay Preston, left for California on August 6, to make California their permanent residence. The Preston’s neighbor and their daughter set up a Parade of Farewell for them on Sunday, August 2, 2020. Several Trinity members joined in the parade. We wish all the best to Jay and Arlene on this new adventure in their lives. Trinity will miss you and we wish you safe travels.



Continued from Page 1

Out On the Way

In a book called AquaChurch, Leonard Sweet talks about maps. Most of us would give anything for a map right now. We’d like someone to have already done the exploring and shown us where to go, what to do, how to choose between this way or that. We’d like for there to be a certain way, a safe way, without any risks. But the maps that defined us are now obsolete. They no longer describe the territory we live in. Sweet says that each of us must now learn some leadership arts that have to do with navigating and learning to journey by the stars, especially the North Star which is Jesus! During the next few months, we’ll be talking about such things in worship.

This summer, Jim and I visited the place of my ancestors – at least 5 generations of them that traveled from England, Wales, Ireland and Switzerland. Their “old worlds” were collapsing and they had to leave the safe behind and journey to unknown places. There were plenty of what seemed like wrong choices, bad choices, but the generations have survived, and even thrived in this new place. When I was there, I realized that I come from both pilgrim stock (one of my ancestors was Roger Williams, founder of Providence, Rhode Island and a free-thinker) and pioneer stock (my family were farmers and tinkers.) And perhaps that’s made me, me, the way I am, out here on the way!

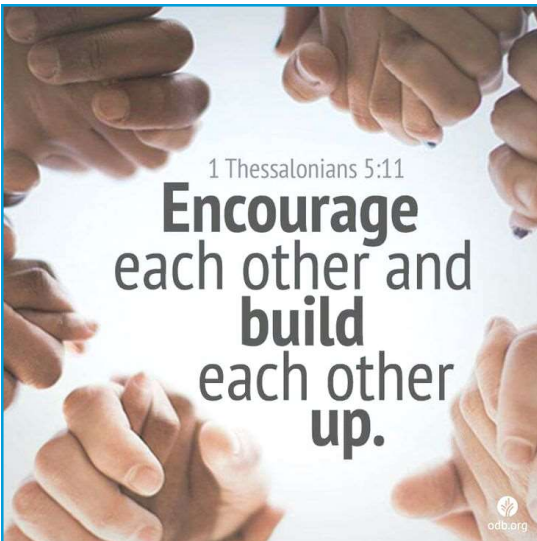
In Faith and Hope,

Pastor Susan

Council & Committees

Most of our committees have continued to work and plan throughout the summer. Our life and ministry continues here at Trinity! Please take time to thank those who serve on your behalf; get engaged with what's happening, read minutes, ask questions, offer a hand, and mostly give encouragement! Leading in these times is challenging work, with many who want to criticize, but few interested in encouraging!

I found it interesting that the word 'en – cour – age' – is better translated 'give heart to'. It's easy to lose heart but your words of encouragement strengthen us, and your actions of support give us heart to carry on!



Clothing Collection

During the months of September and October, Missions & Social Concerns Committee will conduct a "gently used" clothing drive.

Donations may be dropped off in the storage bins outside the northeast doors, similar to how Trinity conducted the Undy 500 and School Supply Drive.

More details are forthcoming in a Mailchimp announcement.

NAMI Walk: Captain Change

The NAMI Walk date has moved to Saturday, October 10; see page 5 for more details.

Walk Captain Jan Schuster is passing the captain baton to Roberta Stanley! We are grateful for your leadership Roberta in this important ministry.

Committing ourselves as a congregation as advocates for better mental health resources, laws, research and support groups is an essential ministry here at Trinity. Many of us have struggled with issues of mental health and some still do today.

We offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Jan for her years of service as our captain for this event and raising our awareness! What a marvelous ministry you've shaped for us Jan, we love you so! If you want to give Jan a call to thank her personally, please do!



Worship Changes

At this time, it remains unsafe for us to re-open the church for worship **inside** at Trinity. We know that many of you are missing the community, and in that awareness, we have been working out plans to bring the congregation together.

For now, this is how we will proceed:

- We will continue with pre-recorded Sunday worship and distribution of the link via Mailchimp through September 6.
- **Plans are still emerging for September 13 and beyond.**
- Everything will remain the same for you – a Mailchimp notice will be sent with a YouTube link.
- Beginning September 13, we will add a "Part Two" to worship. We invite you to come to Trinity outside for special activities. (See page 7 for details!)

In hope, Pastor Susan (and Jim!)



Giving Envelopes & Baskets

Trinity is incredibly thankful for your ongoing financial support. Even though we struggled during the summer months (as we typically do), we trust that as fall returns and we get back into a new routine, we will continue to have the support we need to continue our ministry.

Many of you are mailing your envelopes in and that's great. They get picked up and counted twice a month (usually). If you want to drop your envelope off at the church, please put it in Chris Faulk's folder. He is generally there each week. If you drop it in Terri Allen's folder, she is not there every week and it may be a few weeks before it is seen. Also, if you see Terri and Chris, please don't hand them your envelope. Drop it off yourself. As one who often has had people hand me things during worship, I know that it's challenging to make sure it gets to the right, safe space. We would hate to have any one's offering/tithe lost in the shuffle!

BASKETS: During our 'events' on the lawn, we will have baskets available for you to drop off your offering!

Many thanks, Pastor Susan.

Trinity's Garden



NEW DATE & PLANS!
Saturday, October 10

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

Things will look a little different than it did last year, as we continue to move forward through the public health crisis we're facing. To ensure the health and safety of all, NAMIWalks Waukesha will not be hosting a large in-person walk. Instead, on Walk Day, October 10th, attendees will pick up their t-shirt and optional walk routes, take photos, and pick up signs to display while they walk. Donations will also be accepted at this time. Then walkers will disband and proceed on their individual routes. You can participate virtually, too!

B I B L E

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

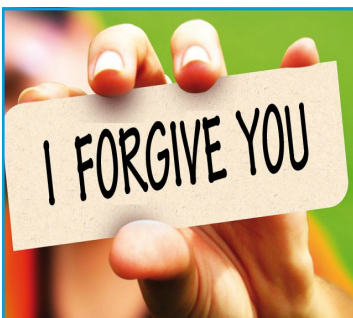
| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Upset | John 14 |
| Weak | Psalm 18:1-29 |
| Lonely | Psalm 23 |
| Sinned | Psalm 51 |
| Worried | Matthew 8:19-31 |
| Anxious | Philippians 4:4-9 |
| Unhappy | Colossians 3:12-17 |
| In danger | Psalm 91 |
| Depressed | Psalm 27 |
| Lack of Faith | Exodus 14 |
| Need Courage | Joshua 1 |
| Need Direction | Psalm 73:21-26 |
| Seeking peace | Matthew 11:25-30 |
| Leaving on a trip | Psalm 121 |
| Struggling with loss | Luke 15 |
| Struggling Financially | Psalm 37 |
| Discouraged with work | Psalm 126 |

AVAILABLE 24/7 | PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED
DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD

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? Last month we shared the first three habits. Below are the additional four habits.

| Effective Churches | Ineffective Churches |
|--------------------|----------------------|
|--------------------|----------------------|



4. We accept responsibility for mistakes and learn from them. In all things, God’s grace abounds! We know we’re not perfect, and we forgive often. We cut each other slack. We cut ourselves slack, too!

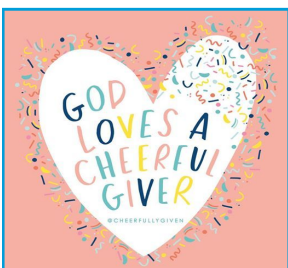
5. We’re prepared to give an account of the hope within us. We look for where the love, energy and life are flowing and focus on that. We recognize excuses as a sign of insufficient commitment. We’re people of hope, trusting in God to find a way even when we can’t.



6. We stay focused on our core mission. (And we know what it is!) When folks are unhappy, we connect, talk and pray. If things remain stuck, we can let them go with our blessing, giving priority to our mission. We understand some people may be better off in another congregation.



7. We “Splash it on!” A hospice nurse told the story of bringing an elderly woman home for the final days of her life. Noticing a large bottle of perfume on the woman’s dresser, the nurse asked, “Would you like me to dab a bit of that behind your ears?” “Honey,” said the woman to the nurse, “Why don’t you just splash it on!” God loves cheerful givers. We spend money wisely, well, and freely in God’s cause.



4. We blame early and often.

Maintaining dysfunction in a congregation is made easier if scapegoats are regularly identified. Ministers, staff, or “people who don’t understand how we do things in this church” make wonderful scapegoats. If all else fails, we blame the Conference, the denomination, or Satan.



5. We’re prepared to make an account of the excuses within us.

We have an all-purpose excuse like, “I’ve just been so busy.” We can elaborate at great length about how busy we are!



6. We make it clear that the job of the Pastor and staff is to keep our church members happy.

If someone is unhappy, it’s a sure sign staff is not doing their job. We think of our church as “The Love Boat.” The Pastor is our cruise director and activity planner. It’s their job to keep everyone on board happy.

7. We spend as little money as possible.

Even though we may enjoy spending money on personal things, we demonstrate our commitment to modesty and a simple lifestyle at church. The very best programs cost little to nothing.





You're Invited To Church . . . Outdoors!

We invite you to join us at church, OUTDOORS for "Part Two" of Trinity's Sunday Morning Worship service.

These new gatherings begin Sunday, September 13, following our worship service — we hope you can attend!

We envision the gatherings at Trinity with these concepts in mind.

1. Following the worship service (probably at 10:45 am or so), you are invited to drive, walk, or cycle to Trinity to arrive at 11:15 am.
2. We will meet on the lawn for "Part Two" of the morning's service, physically distancing in large circles.
3. You will need to bring a lawn chair (or blanket to sit on) and a mask, though we'll have some masks available as well!
4. After we've arrived, Pastor Susan will open with a short prayer and a few words about what's happening that day.
5. The gatherings outside will be short and sweet. They will NOT be another worship service, but rather an 'add-on' to what has happened in worship that morning.
6. On September 13 we will gather to receive communion. Individual packets of the bread and cup will be available.
7. As soon as we are finished distributing communion, we will say the Lord's Prayer together (with our masks on).

We are going to experiment with a 'physically distanced' greeting time afterward in the parking lot where people can visit with one another. But – and this is a big "BUT" for us at Trinity – we will not be able to share hugs or shake hands – it's simply to have moments of conversation. If that doesn't happen, we will not be able to continue the parking lot conversations at future "Part Two" of services!

The following three weeks will have some of these special outdoor opportunities. On Sunday, September 20, we will confirm Ellia Godiali – some of the confirmation will happen during the worship, but we will also come outside to complete the service – the part where she makes her promises and you make yours! If you'd like to write something to her – we'll have a basket available for you to write your prayers and blessings to her.

On Sunday, September 27, we will welcome New Members into Trinity UCC. Most of that service will be done outside – we will have them stand up at their individual chairs to be introduced. The rite of new membership will happen and they will answer their vows from where they are standing – (with masks of course).



On October 4, we are tentatively planning for Pet Blessing Sunday. This may change, but at this moment, we would have a drive through Pet Blessing and Pastor Susan will bless your pet in your car. You would also receive an individual packet for communion as well. We are thinking that a "Pet Parade" might be fun! You would have to physically distance you and your pet, as we take a short walk around the cemetery! This is also St. Francis of Assisi Sunday, so we'll be hearing more about his ministry and faith in our earlier worship!

I hope you're as excited about all this as I am – I think we're ready to be back together and these events will allow us a brief opportunity to be together. Staying inside your car for those with immune issues or who are of our more vulnerable population will be a great idea and of course, if you aren't feeling well, please do stay home!

Pastor Susan



More Details Coming
We'll start on September 20, 2020



Save ^{the} Date

Welcome Back to Trinity!

September 13
Communion Outdoors
(See page 7 for details)

Sunday School Starts

Sunday, September 20, Via Zoom!

Ellia's Confirmation

Sunday, September 20

Rite of New Membership

Sunday, September 27

Pet Blessing

Communion Sunday, October 4

Outdoor Property Cleanup

Saturday, October 17
9:00 am to 12:00 Noon



We're Enjoying Life!



Financial Report

The numbers below represent giving envelopes plus loose donations, minus 5% to mission for operating income from members over the last three years: January 1st through July 31st. It was thought that this chart would clarify our giving and the reduction in giving from 2018 to 2019 of \$905 and from 2019 to 2020 of \$12,208.

Because of the Pandemic we have been worshipping virtually since mid-March, The Finance team believes that you have all been faithful to Trinity in your continued monetary support and we thank you very much for that. However, there has been a decrease in giving overall. Here is a snapshot covering 7 months of giving for the last 3 years.

| Month | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| January | \$ 8,788 | \$10,526 | \$11,597 |
| February | \$15,192 | \$ 9,947 | \$12,630 |
| March | \$ 4,896 | \$15,250 | \$13,193 |
| April | \$22,266 | \$14,821 | \$16,536 |
| May | \$11,114 | \$10,291 | \$ 9,775 |
| June | \$ 4,939 | \$16,324 | \$11,588 |
| July | \$ 7,401 | \$ 9,644 | \$12,391 |
| TOTAL | \$74,596 | \$86,804 | \$87,709 |

Finance Committee

Missions Committee Thanks You!

Thank you all for your donations of school supplies and cash to benefit The Women's Center of Waukesha. We choose The Center every year to donate the supplies because this organization has clients on site, in transition apartments, and some out on their own (but still being served). We will use your cash donations to purchase high tech calculators needed by middle and high schoolers. The Center also runs a tutoring center. Any leftover supplies are stored for emergencies (when a mom comes in with her children with just the clothes on their backs, or the children may need supplies mid-term). Other social service agencies in the downtown Waukesha area coordinate with The Women's Center, and they each share their abundance. Your donation finds its way to someone who needs it.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Top Left: Missions Committee hard at work! Thanks **Kathryn Dierbeck** and **Dave Mielke**!

Top Right: **Kathy Immekus** (left) hands off a bag of supplies to **Diane Siebold**.

Lower Left: **Kathryn Dierbeck** (left) receives a bag of supplies from **Jeanne Zimmerman** during the August 15th Drive-in/Drop-off School Supply Collection.