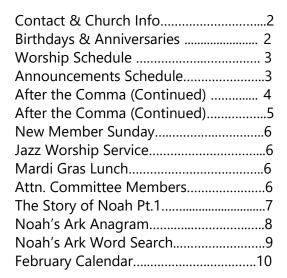




A Publication of Trinity United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation 4435 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005





# February 2022





# "after the comma"

# **Report Card**

I attended Kindergarten and Grade School at an Illinois suburban school district. Queen Bee Schools, District 16, and the school was Americana Elementary School in Glendale Heights, II. To say I was an excellent student would be a stretch, and I was known as a "quiet" student in the classroom. Amazing how things change...

As we have been preparing for Trinity UCC's Annual Meeting, I couldn't help but think of the parallels of those quarterly or for some, semester reports that many of us received during our childhood years. You remember those report cards...

For some, this was a time of affirmation of time used well, assignments brought in timely, good study habits, team work and yes.... doing homework. Many a school year's grades were determined by these things being accomplished with intention, and not just be being present! Oh, I know there were later years beyond Americana Elementary where becoming a teen and learning about more freedoms created some conflicting and troublesome grades, but at the end of the day, it was always up to me.

I dug through my attic and found some of the boxes my mother Jeannie had taken time to put some of these mementos and milestones. Thank you, mom. I found within these boxes, my very first report card from Kindergarten, and it got me to thinking, is this useful to our task of how we look at Church Annual Meetings? I believe this is relatable, and course changing in how we view these Church meetings. Let me wander a bit and bring this all back together.



# 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**

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

# **Sunday Worship**

Worship: 10:00 am

Fellowship Hour: Follows service

**Holy Communion:** First Sunday of the Month

(unless noted otherwise)

# **Sunday School**

February 6th

February 20th

Contact Kathy Haass (<u>KatydidHaass@gmail.com</u>) with questions or for more information.

# Open to the Community

Worship, Sunday 10:00 am

On Hold: Game Nights

Quilters: 2/7, 2/21 - 8:30 am- 4:00 pm

# Staff & Lay Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Krueger

Council Interim Convener: Kathy Immekus

**Director of Music:** Mike Hetzel

Administrative Assistant: Mikey Hetzel 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.

# **Happy Birthday!!**



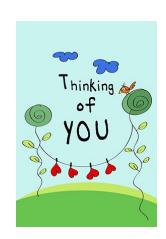
Lisa Corley	2/6
Zachary Hanson	2/11
Fred Theilacker	2/23
Lourie Martinez	2/24
Jean Gichert	2/12
Jan Glasenapp	2/12
Pat Basting	2/17
Dan Rieves	2/19
Sarah Komassa	2/23



Lynne & Dave Mielke - 2/9/1964

#### **HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

Beverly Littmann Marion Wandsneider Fred Theilacker Joann Shue Lola & Jerry Krainer



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# Worship Services - February 2022

Sunday, February 6th Worship Service - 10:00 A.M. - Communion

Sunday, February 9th Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, February 13th Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, February 20th Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, February 27th Worship Service - 10:00 A.M. - JAZZ WORSHIP & Mardi Gras Luncheon



#### **Announcements Schedule**

2/6	Robin Komassa
2/13	Mark Burbey
2/20	Emily Dahm
2/27	Mike Hetzel
3/6	Kathy Immekus

Could all Committee Chairs please get your announcements for the following Sunday to the appropriate Council member by Wednesday morning of that week.

If you are not able to do the announcements on this date, contact Kathy Immekus So a replacement can be found. Thank You all.



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Traditionally as I have served and been a member within different churches throughout my life, have found the Annual meeting is not one of the most favorite days within the church calendar. Let's be frank here, this is what happens for many. Council or Consistory members have sleepless nights preparing for the defense of budgets and initiatives which are parts of the communities' reflections on the previous year, and then trying to figure out where the next year will take the church. Some of the meetings go quickly with little to discuss as in unity. Other meetings have within them new thoughts and ideas of where God's call is taking us and dreaming occurs with loving discussions. Then there are those meetings which become divisive, tenuous and in some cases downright nasty. Why is this so? Is it because the work of the church is this important? Oh yes, it is! Is it because of the loving members concerned with the direction and future of the church? You bet! Is it because we need to hold on to what we have been, and need to keep this going? This is part of it too.

Again, all of these functions of the Annual meeting are important and needed. My fear is that for many a church, the Annual Meeting becomes a reinstatement of the business end of the church itself. Yes, the church has business to do and by our recognition as a Church within our governmental bodies, we have obligations to function as a corporate structure within the law. This we must be aware of. When this becomes the main message of the Annual Meeting, in my opinion is when we lose a bit of remembering who and whose we are. We are God's children, following and serving in the way of Jesus Christ, answering to the world our common call to love our God and one another, ...oh and by the way we have a staff and a church building requiring our attention to support and increase our abilities.

Let's ask a very tough and scary question, if this faith community did not exist, how would that impact us, and or the larger community? My hope and prayer is that we would be missed, not necessarily for who we are, but for what we were able to do together for love. We are important and are the future.

With this in mind, I believe the annual meeting is a time to Celebrate! Let's **Celebrate** and thank God for all God has equipped us with. God has chosen us to be stewards of creation! We carry on the exclamation of peace and justice through how we come together as disciples and followers of the risen Christ. We are the givers of Hope, Joy and Love! Best of all, with God's grace we are still doing so!

I also believe that the Annual meeting is where we can bring home our report card. I have to say this report card looks very much like that old yellowed kindergarten one I found the other day. In my report card we had (3) grading symbols, and I think these are applicable to our growth in love as a church. They are as follows; **E= Excellent, S= Satisfactory, and I= Improving but not yet satisfactory.** How do we rate? Here are some of the things on our "Annual Report Card" which we should be celebrating and working towards as we learn together how to be "students" of the Way (most of these are from my Kindergarten Report card form way back when- you may have more!);

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```
I play and work well with others=?
I take part in various activities=?
I respect the right and properties of others=?
I listen while others speak=?
I claim only my share of attention=?
I take good care with my environment=?
I accept (EMBRACE) and respect others=?
```

There are many more, but I believe we can add a few "New Student Growth Skills" to our report card;

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I love God and I love ALL (even when it is the hardest thing I could ever do) = ? I am willing to forgive= ? I am willing to give= ?
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So how did we do this past year? Are we excited to bring home our report cards for Jesus's signature to bring back to God? I believe we score relatively well in most categories. We must faithfully believe we are improving...always. Our annual meeting should become the celebration that we have done so much good. Now we can move onto the next year to love, serve and learn even more of how we can be of Love's mission to a world that is in need of us to not skip class, but to be present, attentive and excited for what we can become in God's love and call for us.

Let us pray- You, O God are the superintendent of our world, giving us the most patient and wonderful teacher, your Son Jesus Christ. You asked us to listen to him, and we are doing our best to learn from him. Please grade us with kindness and compassion, that we may continue our love education in your hallways of creation. Amen

Pastor Dan



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# **New Member Sunday**

We are so excited and blessed to be welcoming new members to Trinity this month! Pastor Dan and a representative from our Council will be having an orientation meeting following our Sunday Worship Service on February 13th. We welcome all those who have expressed interest in journeying with our Faith community, and if you have not contacted Pastor Dan or the office, please do so and let us know you will be at the meeting.

If you are an online worshipper wanting to join Trinity, please reach out to Pastor Dan and we will make accommodations to remotely meet with you and welcome you!

The following Sunday, February 20th, we will receive our new members into the congregation during our Worship service!

Willkommen! Pastor Dan

# JAZZ WORSHIP 2/27/22

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND TRINITY'S MARDI GRAS JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE – Sunday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.

#### Will you join us?

Trinity is excited to announce that our annual Jazz Worship Service is returning to our sanctuary. Local guest jazz musicians, Curt Hanrahan, on the clarinet/sax; Kaye Berrigan, on the trumpet; Larry Tresp, on the bass; Warren Wiegratz, on the sax/flute, will join our own Mike Hetzel on piano and Mike Hetzel on the drums for this awesome annual worship service.

So, mark your calendars and join us at 10:00 on Feb. 27. This service will also be live streamed on YouTube. ALL ARE WELCOME AT TRINTY!!!

#### www.trinitybrookfield.org

www.facebook.com/trinitybrookfield



# Laissez Les Bon

# **Temps Roulez**

Let the good times keep rolling after the Jazz Worship Service on February 27th and come on down to the Dining Hall for lunch. The Mission Committee will be serving Shrimp and Andouille Gumbo, Cornbread, Salad, and Pecan Pie Cake.

See Dave Mielke or Joe Halvorson for tickets. Or call Dave Mielke at 262-547-0109 for tickets.

Adults are \$15.00 and children are \$7.00.

# **Attn. Committee Members**

Annual Meeting - February 6th

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#### Hi Kids,

This month we are going back to the Old Testament of the Bible. You are going to read about Noah, which I think most of you know some of this story. Here is Part 1 of our lesson on Noah.

#### The Story of Noah – Part 1

The story of Noah is amazing! It includes a family, all the animals of the earth, a huge boat, a flood and why we have rainbows.

It all starts with Noah. Did you know that **after** Noah was 500 years old he had 3 sons? I don't know about you but I've only met one or two people that were 100 years old and they were old! After Noah was 500 years old things started getting very interesting for him.

One day as God was thinking about the people on earth His heart became very sad. He could see that all the people had become very bad, so bad that they stopped thinking of anything good. God was so sad and hurt that he wanted to get rid of every person and all the creatures that He had made. He wanted all the evil to stop.

The thing about God is that He gets very angry at our sin and all the bad stuff in the world but we also know that God is love. God IS love, so that means that He can be disappointed when we do bad things but He still loves us, and that's why He remembered Noah.

Noah was the only one that was righteous (which means that he did things right). He was a good guy and he walked with God.

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all the people because the earth is full of fighting because of them. I am going to destroy them and the earth."

God then gave Noah instructions on how to make the boat. He told him what kind of wood and how big to make it. He also told him to put a door in the side of the ark and t o make it with three floors. The ark was humongous! We'll get to that more later in the story. The Bible says that next God told Noah that He would make a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement with a promise. He would save Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. They would be safe in the ark because God was going to flood the whole earth and everything else would die.

I'm missing one other BIG thing that's going in the ark with Noah and his family... and that is... The animals! Two of all living creatures male and female (or the boy and girl of each). Plus two of every kind of bird and every creature that moves along the ground.

Then food for each of them for as long as they were on the boat. Yikes! That's a lot of animals and a lot of food. I think it would've been a very full, noisy, stinky place to be, but they would all be safe.

It's hard to describe how big the ark actually was but if you think of some of the biggest animals you know (elephant, moose, buffalo, giraffe, rhino, gorilla) and make sure you have 2 of each of those plus all the other little animals that couldn't be stepped on...they needed a lot of room! Some people think it took over 100 years to build the ark and the Bible says that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters came.

Keep in mind that Noah was building a big ark because God told him to. I have a feeling Noah and his family were teased a lot from the other people. What if your neighbor started building a huge boat on your street? It would sound a little strange...

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When the ark was done God gave Noah 7 days warning before the flood to get all the animals and food on board, and told him that He would send rain for 40 days and 40 nights.

When everyone was in the ark God shut the door.

Then the rain started. The Bible makes it sound like the rain came from the clouds and that there was also water coming up from the ground. So everything probably was covered pretty quickly. The floods kept coming for 40 whole days! The ark floated on the water and all the high mountains were completely covered with water.

Every living thing died on the earth that wasn't in the ark.

So the rain came for 40 days and nights but when it stopped Noah and the animals couldn't just leave the ark. There was too much water and no land for them to walk on, everything was covered.

The waters flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days, which is about five months. God remembered Noah and all that was in the ark so he sent a wind to help dry the earth. Finally in the seventh month after the floods had stopped the ark rested on the top of a mountain.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Noah's	: Ark And	agram	
	evil, flood, months, omise, rainbow, raven,		
bcdeeeino			
dfloo			
aailmns			
eilppssu			
eilv			
hmnost			
abinorw			
eimoprs			
aenrv			
aalrt			

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# **Noah's Ark Word Search**

Y Т R N Н Ζ Ε U Α G N 0 I Р 0 P 0 W C M C P Т M C Α R В K V N В F 1 Ε K S D X Y K W Z S X N Е U 0 R N N S R C D 0 0 G W S W N X W 0 В N R Q 0 E Т Т C Z В D 1 Ε N H G

ANIMALS
BUILD
COVENANT
CRITICIZE
DOVE
EVIL
FLOOD
GOOD

LAND
OBEDIENT
PROMISE
RAINBOW
RAVEN
SAVED
SUPPLIES
TWO



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