

Trinity Times

Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, Michigan

www.imtrinity.org

August 5, 2020

Pastor's Ponderings *What do you say when...?*

What do you say these days when someone asks, 'How are you doing?'

In the pre-pandemic era, it was a no-brainer just to say, 'I'm good. How are you?' That question was a social ritual that we used to get the conversation started. Most people just rolled right past it, assuming all was well with them and the other person. But not anymore.

After four, almost five months, of pandemic living, the question, 'How are you doing?' begs for a little more attention, because we are all doing life in a whole new, and less comfortable, way right now.

And all of us are missing activities that we've 'always done.' We're just not having as much fun as we used to.

And many of us are hug-hungry for physical contact—even something as simple as a handshake or a pat on the shoulder has become dangerous. Lots of people are missing that.

And all of us are living in dread of 'the COVID 19 data' and the possibility of more deaths and more tightening up and closing stuff down—AGAIN!

When the word of more restrictions came out of the Governor's office in Lansing this past week, 'How are you doing' became a loaded question.

If asked, the answers would vary from person to person: Anger for some.

Frustration for others.

Resentment at the government...

More sadness on top of sadness about not getting to do what we want.

Resignation maybe, but not in a good way.

Fear that maybe this virus thing is NEVER going to end.

What do you say when you don't get to do what you want? See who you want to see? Go where you want to go? How are you doing with all of that?

That's a tough question to answer, but there were some words of comfort and wisdom passed along to us at the Michigan UMC Annual Conference this week. Yes, it was a ZOOM experience. Just a pale shadow of our former gatherings that included a couple thousand people, live worship, excellent preachers, beautiful rituals, and warm fellowship.

But there were words, moments of clarity, during the abbreviated virtual Conference that can help us figure out what to say when someone asks, 'How are you doing?' Try saying some of these things:

'I'm doing better now that you asked me.'

'I'm defending hope, because God loves us.'

'I'm learning how to live with less, knowing that Jesus has already given us enough.'

'I'm not *living the dream*...I'm *hanging onto the dream* of those who came before us.'

'I remember every day that Jesus is all we need. Especially when it feels like Jesus is all we've got. And that's enough.'

May the power of the Holy Spirit be visible, be present, be a beautiful light, even in your darkest moments. God's peace to us all. *Pastor Geri*

The Church Council at Trinity has decided to continue worship in the Sanctuary during this time, with the appropriate safety measures in place. Other options for praising God:

- **10:30 Sunday Facebook Live Worship**
- **(906)214-4544 24/7 Telephone Access to Sermon and Scripture**

July Feeding America Event Was a Great Success

By Jill Noyce

God blessed us with a beautiful morning on Friday, July 17, as we held a Feeding America Mobile Pantry event! We were able to distribute 17,858 pounds of food to 536 individuals. This included 358 families, 223 children, 240 seniors, and 73 veterans. Thanks to the 38 volunteers from TUMC and Cornerstone Community Church who assisted in this effort. How good it was to share God's love with those who hunger!

We will be holding another event on September 17. The Feeding America Organization has been impacted by COVID-19, and their supplies are being depleted. *We anticipate that we will need to supplement their contribution with additional food, as we did on Friday, July 17. If you would like to donate funds to help cover this cost, your generosity will be greatly appreciated! Please indicate that your donation is intended for Feeding America.* On behalf of the Feeding America team, I thank you!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Aug. 2 Devlin Hilyard, Noland Hilyard
3 Renee Grenier
4 Jesse Richer
6 Paige Fortner, Beverly Lindberg
Steve Mulka
8 Kim Hostettler
9 Robert Constantini, Daunte Fortner
Keith Mashak
10 Janis Nord, Jenny Rietveld
Isabella Smart
12 Brad Reddinger, Adam & Kristy Ryan
13 Jill Baciak
15 Hunter Fortner, Bella Hayes, Gus Hayes
16 Alaina Reddinger, Nathan Ruble
Gaylyn Ziehm
17 Robert & Deidre Teikari
18 Brad & Melissa Reddinger
19 Derek Rose, Greg & Lori Sorensen
20 Ian Driscoll
21 Jay & Kerri Harry, Jack & Jill Noyce
22 Stephen Cavalieri
23 Virginia West
24 Mark & Courtney Edlebeck
25 Kathy Howard, Paul Langer
Dawn Riutta, Piper Strehlow
26 Judy Thompson, Joy Waldbillig
27 Chris Langer, Kim Mariucci
29 Larry Bonicatto, Stephen Davidson
Kennedy Richards, Robin Rose
Bruce & Kathryn Bilgreen
30 Brad & Wendy Koski
31 Alice Nord, Heidi Reddinger
Chris & Stacy Summerfield

Hospitalized since our last issue: Tobias Bancroft, Ruth Carlson. Michael Hunt was hospitalized the week of July 6. Joyce London is a resident of Golden Living Center in Florence.

Committee Information—

Finance Committee, Thursday, August 13, 5:00 p.m., at church with ZOOM option.

Church Council, Monday, August 17, 6:30 p.m., at church with a ZOOM option.



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A Note from the Endowment Committee

Dear Trinity Members,

Right now, your gifts are hard at work helping Trinity United Methodist Church be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Thank you for your generous financial support. As we look to the future of Trinity's ministry, we want to share some information that might be useful to your stewardship and gift planning.

For those who are 70½ or older, consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which allows you to direct some or all of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your individual retirement account to a public charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, if certain rules are met.

You can't include the QCD as an itemized charitable deduction, but the amount is excluded from your adjusted gross income. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding your individual tax impact of a QCD.

If you are interested in learning more about QCDs or any other form of giving, please contact the church office at (906)774-2545.

Thank you for all you do.



August's Mission of the Month gives us an opportunity to help a mission in Michigan. JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS – MICHIGAN is a faith-driven ministry that welcomes immigrants and refugees into churches and communities by providing free legal services for those who cannot afford a private attorney. It is also committed to providing education to the immigrant community and the community at large, and advocacy for fair and humane laws and policies.

JFON-Michigan grew out of a small ministry of hospitality in the First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is now a free-standing organization with four locations in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Metro Detroit and Traverse City.

Our gift to this mission brings opportunities to help those less fortunate than us. Please consider giving generously to this mission. You can send your donation to the church or leave it in the offering plate. Please make sure to indicate it is for the August of the Month. --Bruce & Beth Clark