

Trinity Times

Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI

www.imtrinity.org

April 15, 2020

Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!

I'm watching the plow trucks and the snow blower people working hard this sunny first morning after Easter. Instead of flowers, we had snow for Easter. Instead of cheerful gatherings, we had high winds. Instead of Easter worship, we had the internet. God does provide, one way or another!

I woke up this morning and it felt like New Year's Day in a way. Lent is over! Christ is Risen and there's a whole new beginning possible for each of us. Yes, even in the midst of staying home and weaving our way through this pandemic, I can sense that Easter promise and joy that the disciples must have felt when they found out the tomb was empty. And when they heard that Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

This is the day that the Lord has made and we can rejoice and be glad in it! I am so glad for the way that Trinity people are supporting and encouraging each other. The Community Meals continue. The office is open. We even tried to call everyone in the Church Directory during Holy Week. It was a noble effort and we don't claim 100% success, but more than 120 calls were made by a team of six people. Many people were touched by the calls, and the callers were as blessed as those who received the calls.

Some of what we are doing right now is adapting our regularly-scheduled activities to this new normal. At the same time, Easter Monday is a good time to think about how our love and care for each other might take new forms and new ways of doing and being. Intentional phone calls are just one way to strengthen our connections. Another new thing is to communicate by e-mails and to worship on Facebook. For many people, that has been a source of comfort and inspiration. ZOOM meetings are also an option we are exploring so the committees can continue to meet.

However, not everyone has access to the technology, so another 'new thing' (and an Easter thing) is for us to send out written communications every couple of weeks rather than waiting for the

monthly newsletter. Changes can obviously come quickly, and it is too hard right now to accurately predict what can and will be scheduled for the coming month. So, instead of the 'Trinity Tower,' we are going to start this week putting together a 'Trinity Times' publication.

The 'Trinity Times' will have an updated list of activities and a variety of inspirational words for such a time as this. It'll be maybe one piece of paper, maybe two. We are going for short, succinct, helpful.

Your time is precious. Paper is dear to many of us. Knowing what's going on and remembering our church is important. Our hope is that the 'Trinity Times' will be helpful to all of the congregation, whether they have access to the internet or not.

If there is something you would like to know more about...or something you would like to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ, do let us know. All the different ways for contacting the church are listed at the bottom of the last page. May this 'new thing' be a reflection of the 'new life' Jesus offers us in and through his resurrection, his love, his grace. In His Name,

Pastor Geri



April showers bring May flowers!

Many thanks to so many people who bought paper flowers for Easter, in honor, in memory, in celebration of the special people in their lives. So far, those gifts to Trinity have added \$1,330 to our available funds. It's still not too late. There's always room for more flowers on the display in the Gathering Room. It sure does look like Spring!

Committee Information—Committee minutes are available if you want to read them. Please call 774-2545, and we can send them to you.

Finance Committee, 5:00, April 16, ZOOM
Church Council, 6:30, Monday, April 20
ZOOM

Engaged Mission Team, Tuesday, April 21,
time and venue TBD.



THE ENGAGED MINISTRY TEAM

We, the members of the Engaged Ministry Team, pray that you are well, staying close to home, and following the guidelines. We want to keep you informed on what is going on with missions at Trinity. The Missions of the Month for the next few months include:

April—Conference offering that goes to Haiti and Liberia.

May—Brother's Keeper Fund (at Trinity)

June—Camp Michigamme Scholarships

When in-person worship resumes, we will again be doing the Noisy Can collections during the 10:30 service on the second Sunday of the month. If you would like to contribute to these missions, you can send your donations to the church—be sure to note what mission you are giving to.

We are also working on a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. They are building fewer new homes due to a reduced demand. Their focus has become doing repairs to homes. We are looking to gather information concerning what skills we have to offer. These are short-term projects. Many skills are needed, including non-construction jobs. Everyone can help. Look forward to more information soon.

We pray God's blessings on you all during these uncertain times.



What's Next for Preaching at Trinity? Easter is more than just a Sunday...it's also a Season. For the five weeks after Easter, Pastor will preach on the theme of What's Next? The disciples didn't know for sure what came next after Jesus was resurrected. We don't know for sure what will happen next during this pandemic and after the 'Stay Home-Stay Safe' era is over. Let's consider all that we have in common with the people of the Bible—a faithful God whose steadfast love endures forever. A mighty savior, Jesus, who knows our pain and rejoices with us. And the Holy Spirit of God which gives us strength and hope. You can read John 20:19-31 and Luke 24:13-35 and see for yourself! If you would like a paper copy of the sermon, please call the office, 774-2545, and we can send it to you.

Looking Ahead even knowing that many things could change between now and then!

Graduation Sunday is May 17.

Please hold these young people and their families in prayer as they finish one stage of life and prepare to move to the next: Kane Driscoll, Reece Fortner, Elizabeth Ryan, Mary Slagle, Victoria Sorensen, and Maggie Strehlow.



***Marie Bleecker scholarship money** is available for High School students. Call the office, 774-2545, if you want a scholarship application sent to you.

***Graduation Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 17.** We would like to continue our tradition of making a special video for that event. The graduates or their family can submit to the church office by May 3 five or six photos of the graduate through the years, along with a description of high school activities and plans for the future. Your church family will love to hear and read about your hopes and dreams.

***Summer worship will start Sunday May 24—in person or online. We will continue to worship and give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow!**

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