

Trinity Times

Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, Michigan

www.imtrinity.org

July 15, 2020



SERMON BY PHONE! 906/214-4544

Trinity UMC has just signed up for a phone service where YOU CAN CALL IN and hear the Pastor's sermon from Sunday morning...in case your Facebook is on the fritz or you're just tired of looking at a screen or maybe you don't have time for the whole worship service! Please tell your friends from church (or elsewhere) who don't have Facebook. Let's give thanks for technology that gives us one more way to 'stay connected' during these mixed up, jumbled up, messed up times. Thank you, Jesus!

You can call today! 906/214-4544



PLEASE WEAR A MASK!

Yes, my friends, the COVID-19 virus is still with us. (It's not a hoax...) And it's still contagious through droplets that we all unintentionally spread from our noses and mouths. A mask breaks up the droplets (as I understand it) and helps us to protect other people. When other people wear a mask, it helps to protect us. It's not 'Us' versus 'Them.' It's 'Us' AND 'Them.' All of us doing what we can to love our neighbors as ourselves. When you come into the church building:

PLEASE WEAR A MASK!



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

Children's Time today was a great example of how confusing the English language can be. Three words that sound exactly alike can be spelled in three different ways: *So, sew, sow*. (This was a lead-up to the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1-9.) And you have to be careful of the word 'sow,' because all by itself, it could mean a 'person who plants' or it could mean...wait for it... 'a grown female swine.' Then there's the person who sews...they are called a 'sewer,' and that does not refer to the underground pipes that carry toilet water away from our houses!

Yes, language can be amusing, but it can also be confusing. I am hearing all kinds of things these last few months that make my head spin. For example, I hear people say, "Here in America, we all come from immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants." Really? Are you sure? Maybe all white people have immigrants in their families, but native people are here in America, too. And they were here long before Europeans came. Native people aren't immigrants.

And black people...don't a lot of them come from families of freed slaves who were brought here against their will in horrible circumstances? They certainly don't claim to 'come from immigrants.' They are here as the descendants of an immoral economic system—slavery. Way different from being an immigrant.

A wise man said once, "Words create worlds." The words: 'Here in America, we all come from immigrants' creates a world-view that ignores at least two large groups of God-created/blessed people. Maybe not intentionally. But that's what happens, and that 'ignoring the other' can and does create serious conflicts, distrust, and misunderstandings.

Maybe a more accurate thing to say is: "Here in America, we are all created equal in the sight of God, and I am asking God to help me to faithfully love my neighbors the way God loves me." Just like Jesus taught us to. Try saying that, and see what kind of world gets created! God's peace to all.

Pastor Geri

Hospitalized since our last issue: Helen Bennett, Ruth Carlson, Michael Hunt, Joyce London

“Dear TUMC Family: Thank you very much for the gift card. I’ve already used it over the summer. It was very nice of you to think of me. Thank you.”

–Reece Fortner

A Feeding America Food Truck is coming here to Trinity United Methodist Church on **Friday, July 17.**



Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Distribution starts at 10:00 a.m. Due to COVID restrictions:

- Distribution will be by drive-through only.
- Limit of two families per car.
- Attendants will register each family and place pre-packaged boxes in cars.

This food distribution is sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, Cornerstone Community Church, and Friends of Jesus, with support from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Volunteers are needed for the Feeding America food distribution event coming to Trinity Church on Friday, July 17. We will be placing pre-packaged food in cars as they drive through. All volunteers will be asked to wear masks and gloves and to arrive at church by 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. Please contact Jill Noyce at (715)528-2084 if you are able to assist. Thank you!

Website Renewed!

Our website, www.imtrinity.org, has been updated with a fresh, new look, due to a new hosting and creation service, and a more simple and user-friendly design. It will now be updated regularly with The Trinity Times, announcements, the calendar, the Pastor’s sermons and messages in PDF file form, and a link to our Facebook page, which features our Sunday service videos. This is your resource if you’re looking for these things online!

Also, it’s a great place to refer people who are interested in Trinity and what we are doing. It will be updated and added to, of course, as ideas flow. Take a moment to check it out! – Dean Laitinen



Committee Information---Church Council minutes are available if you want to read them. Please call (906)774-2545, and we will send them to you.

Trustees are meeting, as needed, by phone.

Church Council, Monday, July 20, 6:30 p.m., ZOOM

Endowment Committee, Tuesday, July 21, 4:00 p.m., with a ZOOM option.

Staff-Parish, Monday, August 3, 5:00 p.m., with a ZOOM option.

July’s Mission of the Month is First United Methodist Church in Menominee, which is also the Northern Skies District’s Mission of the Year.

Their main entrance and balcony are currently unusable due to falling plaster and debris. They’d like to dry and prevent further moisture in the tower/balcony stairwell, and repair roofing and valleys to prevent further damage to the area.

Other work that needs to be done includes replacing old wiring, tuckpointing interior walls, adding weep holes at the bottom of the reworked walls and then flashing, and adding an interior stud wall with vapor barrier and gypsum board.

First UMC in Menominee’s congregation cannot fund the \$40,000 proposed cost of this project alone. The congregation supports a local food pantry, Camp Michigamme, and past Mission-of-the-Year churches. They would appreciate whatever you can give.

Money can be sent to or dropped off at Trinity UMC, labeled for the July Mission of the Month, and we will forward it. Thank you.



WELCOME TO THE BUILDING!

Sanctuary Worship will continue at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Facebook Live also offered.

Sermon by Phone: 906/214-4544

Sanctuary Hours: All are Welcome!

Come and be blessed by some quiet time in God’s house.

Mondays 10:00 to Noon

Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Joy Crafters: Fellowship Hall, Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

A.A. Meetings: Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m., & Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

SPRC Would Welcome More Members

By Dean Laitinen, SPRC Chair

Hello, Trinity! It's been a pleasure and a great experience to be the chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. At the end of 2020, I will have been the Chair for almost four years and will have been on the committee for five years. The SPRC group is small, but a great and dedicated group. 2021 will be my last year on the Staff Parish Relations Committee, as one may serve a max of two three-year terms on any one committee. I plan to finish 2020 as Chair and assist with the transition of the next Chairperson over the 2021 year.

I wanted to take a moment to mention what a pleasure it has been to be a part of SPRC and what a fantastic group of people the current group is, and past committee groups have been. It's been a blessing to get to work with these folks, and to have worked with Pastor Geri on both new developments and worthwhile challenges that we have experienced.

When I was first approached by the Nominating Committee about committee service, I was skeptical, but I realized the need for "taking a turn" at it, if I wanted to see the church continue to run. It has turned out to be very rewarding, and I learned so much more about our Trinity family and have truly felt the presence of God in our gatherings, decisions, and actions.

We have so many wonderful folks on our committees and our Church Council. Please join me in praying for continued growth in Christ for our church and its steadfast committees, and please prayerfully consider becoming involved, or perhaps re-involved, as a committee member.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, in particular, has only the minimum number of members required by the Book of Discipline at this time, with five members. Although we are robust in spirit, we would love to be more robust in numbers, and especially in those with an interest in serving as Chair of this very key committee at some point in the future, as we progress down the path.

Please contact the church office, Pastor Geri, or any member of the Nominating Committee to find out more on committee nomination and helping the church move forward by serving in this way. God bless!



Racism in America, United Methodist Response

You have probably been hearing a lot about Racism, Black Lives Matter, White Supremacy in the news. I am so glad that we at least had some introduction to the United Methodist position on these subjects last fall and earlier this year. An Adult Sunday School class was well-attended, and several of the Wednesday Night Wisdom Hours were devoted to various facets of these subjects—from the perspective of our Denomination.

In order to continue our growth in understanding, I offer the following information that has been taken from UM websites. Please give yourself a chance to read and reflect and pray and open your hearts and minds to the injustice present in our country and...ask God to guide you to whatever you can do to make a difference. I am ready to talk to anyone who would like to chat, reflect, brainstorm on these very difficult subjects.

Pastor Geri

United Methodists Stand Against Racism

We recognize racism as a sin.

We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.

We will work for equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion, education and training; in voting, access to public accommodations, and housing; to credit, loans, venture capital, and insurance; to positions of leadership and power in all elements of our life together; and to full participation in the Church and society.

<https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice>



Why does your Pastor keep bringing up the subject of Racial inequality? The United Methodist Church passed a Resolution in 2016 asking that all UM Conferences, Districts, Pastors, and Churches spend some time and energy on the subject of how to make God's dream for justice and peace come true on earth as it is in heaven. Here is an excerpt from that Resolution:

Whereas, racial injustice and inequality still constitute the cornerstone of US economic and social policy and practice; and

Whereas, intense and ongoing systemic and institutional racism is still the greatest barrier in the US to building beloved community;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church advocates, encourages, and will support a new multiracial, mass movement for racial and economic justice in the US; and

Be it further resolved, that every annual conference in the US support anti-racism training for every active clergy member and for all members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees on ordained ministry, and that this training be offered as well to other key leaders among laity in each conference. We note that anti-racism training must address white privilege and focus on intentional struggle and advocacy against racism in our churches and in society at large. So-called "diversity training" or "sensitivity training" is insufficient; and

Be it further resolved, that every annual conference, district, and local church should be engaged, intentionally, in being an anti-racist church, not merely on paper, but in action. Church bodies at every level should seek to educate themselves on the extent of racism in business, education, government, housing, and health care and find ways to advocate for the elimination of specific instances locally and nationally.



Resources on Racism and Economic Justice for People of Color:

Tim Wise, **Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity**

Robin DiAngelo, **White Fragility**

Joseph Barndt, *Becoming the Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness*

Alan Gurganus, **White People**

Charles Marsh, **The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to Today**

Ibram X. Kendi, **Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racism in America*

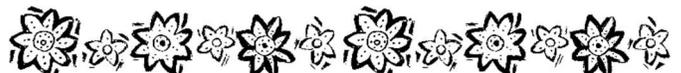
Douglas A. Blackmon, **Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War through World War II**

Website: ColorOfChange.org — "we keep our members informed and give them ways to act on pressing issues facing Black people in America."

Resolution was **ADOPTED 2016**

<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/racism-and-economic-injustice-against-people-of-color-in-the-us-3378>

(Books in **BOLD** were added later.)



Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave., Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906)774-2545 www.imtrinity.org

imtrinityumc@gmail.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/imtrinityumc](https://www.facebook.com/imtrinityumc)

Pastor Geri Hamlen

Secretary: Sally Verley