

Engaged Ministry Team News: Happy New Year!! Due to the continued generosity of our members and the “noisy can” offerings, we were able to raise \$2,697.19 for our Mission of the Month recipients in 2020. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

In addition, due to our designated funds from the Marie Bleecker Fund, we distributed \$1,000 to Light at the Inn, \$400 to The Salvation Army, and \$551.88 to Habitat for Humanity at year-end.

We received these thank-you notes:

“On behalf of The Light at the Inn Homeless Shelter and Board of Directors, thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000. Your donation will go toward supporting our most vulnerable in our community. With gratitude, Crystal Smiltneek, Secretary”

“Thank you for your support of \$400. Sadly, there is no guarantee from hunger or the many struggles this pandemic has brought. Your support will allow us to continue our mission. We will continue to walk alongside those who need us the most during this most extraordinary time. Thank you for caring.

—The Salvation Army, Tara Blagec, Director”

“The Menominee River Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity thanks you for your donation of \$551.38. In 2020, we completed one home and have done 14 repairs, with two repairs in progress and seven on the waiting list. This is possible because volunteers and supporters of all ages come together to help people in need. Thank you for your generous donation.

—Kathy Kulas”

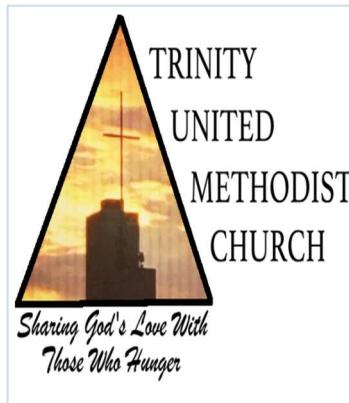
The Engaged Ministry Team looks forward to another year of:

“SHARING GOD’S LOVE WITH THOSE WHO HUNGER.”

We are looking for a few more people to join our energized team. Please contact Bruce Clark (715)696-3773, or any of our committee members: Beth Clark, Ruth Carlson, Heidi Harwell, or Pastor Geri.

A new church logo: We are continuing to collect ideas for a Church logo that will highlight our Trinity Mission: Sharing God’s Love with Those Who Hunger. Our January 13 Trinity Times showed five ideas. Here is another one for you to consider.

The Church Council will be asked to choose a logo at their February 15 meeting. What do you like? Thanks for caring about God’s work through this special and Trinity Unique group of people.



Call 1-906-214-4544
to hear our latest sermon

**Facebook Live Worship on Sundays
at 10:30. Go to**

<https://www.facebook.com/imtrinityumc>

Trinity Times

Sharing God's love with those who hunger.

imtrinityumc@gmail.com

January 27, 2021

www.imtrinity.org



*And he went throughout
Galilee, proclaiming
the message...*

MARK 1:39, NRSV

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Pastor Geri Hamlen

Secretary: Sally Verley

Order of Worship for January 31 & February 7, 2021
Fourth & Fifth Sundays after Epiphany
10:30 Facebook Live

Opening Prayer

*Forgiving and Grace-filled God, the light of the Epiphany star grows dim.
The horizon of Christmas falls further behind us.
The dark days of winter surround us even in this Season of Light.
We ask, in this season, that you would touch our eyes,
so that we can see you in all that is visible and invisible.
Open our ears, so that we can hear you in the noise and the silence.
Renew our hearts, so that we can love as you love and
rejoice as you rejoice...new each day and all day long. Amen.*

Children's Time 1/31 'F' is for 'Forgive' and 'G' is for 'Grace'
2/7 'H' is for 'Helping'

Generosity Gem What kind of Generosity have YOU seen this week?

Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Scripture 1/31 Mark 1: 29 - 39, Psalm 147
2/7 Mark 2: 13 - 17, Psalm 103

Message 1/31 'Community Service'
2/7 'Beloved Community'

Benediction *Take the power of God with you.
Share the love of God with everyone you meet.
Speak the peace of God everywhere you go.
Go in peace.*



God will endure as long as the SUN, as long as the MOON, through all generations. **Psalm 72:5**

As I write this, I am also preparing for the Children's Time during worship on Sunday, January 24. We are going through the alphabet using a book called Big Thoughts for Little People and this week's letter is 'E' for 'Eternal.' Eternity...now that's a big thought, isn't it? How can our meager human minds grasp the concept of forever and ever and ever?

I am struggling with how to explain to children that even when we say...Nothing lasts forever...that's not strictly true. Of course, winter doesn't last for eternity. This pandemic won't last forever. Mountains are worn down by wind and rain. Empires rise and fall. Eternity is out of reach for our bodily life, within our sensory limitations.

But there is One who has eternal existence no matter what happens to any and all of us. God will endure...beyond the lifetime of the sun. Past the doomsday of the moon. Through all the generations and even then some.

God doesn't need us humans to measure and mark the days of existence. We are the ones who need God in order to endure the blinding and bitter truths of this world. We are the ones who need God in order to live through shadows of grief and sickness. We are the ones who turn to God, as our Creator, even to celebrate the birth of new generations and new ideas and new possibilities.

Our grieving and rejoicing are not eternal and yet, I have to believe that in the vast eternity that is God—every cry for help, every prayer of thanksgiving, every whoop of delight from any and all of us is recorded in the heart of God who receives our brief attention with the joy and gentle care of an explorer who has just found the most delightful of all lovely beings—in each of us.

God's covenant love for us is eternal, and there isn't anything we can do that will turn aside that holy and vital stream of life-giving refreshment, nurture, and enjoyment. May the eternal power and steadfast love of God be everything you need, this day and always. Thanks be to God. *Pastor Geri*

Church Council is possibly going to open the building for Worship on Sunday, February 7. A decision will be made on Monday, February 1. We will let you know ASAP!