

The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 9

Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI

www.imtrinity.org

April 2018

Pastor's Ponderings

Winter 2018 has, as always, been dark and cold. Ripe with germs and stumbles. Empty at times of color other than the red cheeks and chapped lips of those who come in from the bitter weather. Hallelujah, it's almost over! Even as my WeatherBug app warns me of snow showers maybe on Good Friday and even yes, (how dare they!?!) on Easter Sunday...I see temperatures this week in the 40's and even up to 52 degrees. Mostly sunny. A chance of rain...so much better than more of the white stuff!

While the mornings bring frozen ground after overnight lows, there are already puddles of water and patches of mud which show up during the daylight, sunny hours. No signs of renewed outside plant life yet, but the birds are singing. And my crazy Christmas cactus that didn't bloom in the dead of winter has started coming alive with buds...the first of which actually bloomed on Palm Sunday! Many more just waiting in the wings to bring a burst of color throughout the dark days of Holy Week.

It feels like forever but truly...New Life is just around the corner! Easter this year, on April Fools Day, is the open door into Spring. Into relief that the dark days are over. Into the fulfillment of God's intention for us to be saved from gloom and despair and darkness. **Enough!** God says. Let there be light! Let there be life! The gift is God's. The choice is ours.

The Lenten Crossroads series of dialogues during the 10:30 Sunday worship showed us that life is about choices and decisions that need to be made. Some of them simple. Some more complex. All of them, all of our crossroad options can include 'Choosing Life' when we stop and think about how Jesus found his way back to life after his horrible death on the cross.

Nature and circumstances and challenges do bring us to a stop at time. How many snow days did you have this year that brought your regular routine to a screeching halt? But Jesus shows us

over and over again that death and dismay are never the end of the story. After a pause in the action and a fallow period of enforced rest, Resurrection restores us. Life gets re-set. New beginnings and eager entrances are all a part of God's plan for each of us...over and over again...if and when we choose life in Christ. When we give ourselves to life in a community of faith. When we share our lives with those around us, the same way that Jesus shares his life and death and resurrection with us.

Welcome to spring, my friends. Welcome to Easter and the new life in Christ that is the absolute reassurance that God has goodness and mercy in store for us, all the days of our lives. I look forward to enjoying it together with all of you! In the name of Jesus, *Pastor Geri*

Jubilee Prayer for April *Composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain, for use by The United Methodist Church throughout the world.*

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide, too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others. Amen.



Easter Morning at Trinity:

8:00 a.m. Easter worship service

9:00 a.m. Potluck breakfast
Please bring a dish to share.

10:30 a.m. Easter worship service



Our All-Church Birthday Party is Sunday, April 22, following the 10:30 worship service. We'll have a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to pass. Join in the fun as we take time to celebrate *us!* It's always a great time! Volunteers will be needed to bake and decorate cakes and provide table decorations. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, or call Lea Varda at 774-9569.



Graduation Sunday will be celebrated on May 20 at the 10:30 service, and we want to include a celebration of college graduates, community college program graduates, and any other educational completion event in your life. Please call the office, 774-2545, and let us know the good news of your achievement, so we can rejoice with you and thank God for your gifts and efforts.



Graduating High School Seniors, please submit to the church office by May 6 five or six photos of yourself through the years, and also tell us of your activities in high school and your plans for the future, which we will publish in the bulletin and Tower.

Applications for the 2018 Marie Blecker Scholarships for graduating high school seniors are on the wall across from the church office. Scholarships are \$250. Completed applications are due in the church office by Sunday, May 6.



**United Methodist Women's
Potluck Luncheon,
Thursday, April 5 at noon.**

Marquette District United Methodist Women's 2018 Spiritual Growth Retreat, "Dress for Success," is Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, 2018 at the Comfort Inn in Manistique, Michigan. Dawn Ferguson will present the program.

Do we want to wear the hurts, anger, and disappointments from past wrongs we have suffered, or dress in the wardrobe that God has custom-designed for his children?

Registration forms are on the wall across from the church office and are due April 22.

Mini Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 22, after worship and before the All-Church Birthday Party, the Staff Parish Committee will host a 15-minute Town Hall meeting. This will be a chance to share information about Trinity UMC. To hear a brief testimony from one of our members. To ask and answer questions. The plan is to do all of that in 15 minutes or less! Stay and see. Then have fun at the potluck birthday lunch. We're so glad you were born!

Endowment Celebration Sunday, May 6

We'll have our annual Endowment Celebration on Sunday, May 6 during the worship services.

Whenever anyone gives us an endowment gift, we as a community of faith are truly blessed by their generosity. We are also encouraged by the giver's faith in us to be a viable and self-sustaining church. Endowment-givers trust this congregation to pay our budgeted bills through personal offerings to the church, while using their gift for specific, non-budgeted activities that bring the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible.

These gifts become a permanent part of the church's assets—the original money given to the church is not spent. Endowment gifts are invested through Ameriprise. The money that is earned through interest and dividends and distribution becomes available to the church according to the wishes of the giver.

Endowments truly are the gifts that keep on giving!

Please welcome Jon Ellis from Ameriprise, who will be here to answer questions about our investments on Sunday, May 6.



Car Care Clinic, Saturday, May 12 at First Covenant Church, on 'H' St. If you can volunteer to help, please call Rob Hibbard, (906)396-2301. Come for a couple of hours or all day. It's fun! This event is sponsored by United Men in Ministry. For more information, you can attend UMM's breakfast at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, April 14 at Maple Creek Restaurant. UMM meet in the back room. All are welcome.

Serving in April

Offering Counters

April 1	
April 8	Suzanne Harry & Sue Paternoster
April 15	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
April 22	
April 29	

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Projection System Operators</u>
April 1	8:00 Lea Varda 10:30 Nathan Ruble	Paul Langer Grenier family	Jon Harry Dean Laitinen
April 8	10:30 Drew Champagne	Brian & Celeste Bancroft	Lizzy Ryan
April 15	10:30 Jeremiah Garrigues-Cortelyou	Allen & Kathy Howard	Riley Gauthier
April 22	10:30 Jill Noyce	Patty Ronan; Wendy Mulka	Maddie Ryan
April 29	10:30 Scott Ritsema	Patty Ronan	Dean Laitinen

Junior Worship Leaders: Please see the sign-up sheet by the door of the Junior Worship room.

Preacher's Corner

It's Easter! It's April Fools Day!! It's Easter on April Fools Day!!! This doesn't happen very often...1956 was the last time. The next time will be 2029, which many of us will live to see. Then 2040, which will be the last time in this 21st century.

Easter in 2018 is a rare conjunction of the holy and the secular, so let's enjoy it! Let's celebrate Jesus, who has a sense of humor and was known to enjoy a time of good food, good wine, and good conversation, which always includes lots of laughter.

During this Easter season, we at Trinity will embrace the dignity of Easter and explore the joy with just a little bit of foolishness. The sermons will be tied together by the theme: 'He's Lifted Up So We Can Lighten Up!' Come and be blessed in the worship of our Loving God with the fellowship of believers who use the Words of God for the people of God to draw closer to God. Thanks be to God!

April 1, Easter: Mark 16:1-8. *'Choose Life!'*

April 8: Erica Thomas, Camp Michigamme Director. 1 John 1:1-22, *'Let Your Light Shine.'*

April 15: *'Lighten the Load'* 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 John 3:1-7

April 22: Luke 24:36b-48. *'Lighten Up!'*

April 29: John 15:1-8, 1 John 4:7-21. *'Laughter Is the Song of Love'*



Wednesday Night Community Prayer Meeting:

Don't forget....You have a chance to slow down and sit with God on Wednesday nights, 5:45 to 6:15, in our Sanctuary. If it's dinner time, you can always come a little bit earlier and share in the Community Meal.

All are welcome as we pray together in the Sanctuary. Invite others! Come and remember how much God loves you. Time spent with God, prayers, and a couple of songs can make all the difference!

Ushers—We need ushers for the 10:30 worship time to greet people as they come to worship. Please call the office, 774-2545, or Mark Shemanski, 396-6828, if you can help. One week at a time! It's not hard, and we have a checklist to help you. Thanks.

Membership Information Class: Pastor Geri is working with some people who want to join Trinity UMC. If you know someone who is seeking a family of faith, a deeper walk with Jesus, a church to call home, please let Pastor know and work with her to reach out to them. We're here for all of God's children...open hearts, open doors, open minds.

March 21 Financial News from our Treasurer, Jack Noyce: Last week, March 18, our Sunday offering and Direct Deposit offering totaled \$3,567. The weekly average offering to meet our 2018 budget is \$3,813. As March ends, the first quarter of the year is coming to a close. Our loan balance for our operating loan is \$2,350. Interest on this loan at 5% from the bank is \$7.83. Please consider your faithful support for the finances of TUMC people and programs.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day

- Apr. 1 Eevie Hilyard
2 Craig Recla
3 Brandon Maki, Ann Musgrove
Deidre Teikari
4 Dawson Laitinen
5 Kennedie Trevillian
6 Brittany Wiedemeier
7 Ruth Carlson, Cheryl Quick
8 Steve Smith, Lillian Wilcox
David & Sue Paternoster
10 Mary Slagle, Sierra Tatangelo
12 Bonnie Fortier, Stacy Summerfield
Macy Trulock
14 Iris Machus, Triston Trevillian
15 Alex Herman
16 Colleen Driscoll, Victoria Sorensen
17 Devon Daugherty, Sharon Ducat
19 Shannon Barnes, Jolin Honkala
Dominic Tatangelo, Vance Uhazie
John & Maria Hyrkas
20 Ossie Weinert
21 Michael Richards, Ellie Swanson
25 Anneli Ahola
26 Genean Granger, Marvin Harry
Dorothy Manko
28 Tim & Renee Swanson
29 Bud DeLano, Alena Herman

Our condolences to Karen Gaffney, whose mother Sharon Alden died March 1.

Our condolences to Lee Sandberg, whose wife Barbara died March 9.

Our condolences to Jo Ann Richer, whose father Jim Carefelle died March 17.

Our condolences to Linda Stanchina, whose husband Rick died March 22.

Our condolences to Rev. Tom Brown II and his family on the death of his wife Patricia on February 26. The book, Seasons for Growing, edited by Patricia Brown, is in the church library in the office. Rev. Tom Brown II served here at Trinity from 1968-1973.

Congratulations to Todd and Lea Varda, who have a new grandson. Brooks Michael Edlebeck was born March 9 to Mark and Courtney Edlebeck.

“Barbara Sandberg’s family would like to thank Pastor Geri, Joyce Erickson, and all the lunch crew for a wonderful celebration of life last Saturday, and also everyone for their prayers, cards, and monetary donations for her memorial. She loved her church family.”

Long-Range Planning...

If you are the kind of person who likes to know, go ahead and mark your calendars:

Sunday, May 6 is our Annual Endowment Celebration Sunday. It’s also the last day of Sunday school.

Sunday, May 13: Mother’s Day worship.

Sunday, May 20 is Graduation Sunday. Six of our youth are graduating from high school this year. Come and celebrate with them!

Sunday, May 27 is the first Sunday of our summer worship season. All of us together at 9:15 a.m.!

June 26-28, Vacation Bible School. Contact Cindi Strehlow if you are curious! (906)221-1094.

New District Celebration: In conjunction with the merger of the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences, a Special District Establishing Conference is scheduled for our district on April 21 at the Hope Connection Center in Marquette, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern time. One of the purposes of the Conference is to choose a new name for our district, and everyone is invited to share their ideas. Send your suggestion to the district office, (906)228-4644, or umc@mqtddistrict.com by March 31. Then be sure to put April 21 on your calendar. Please see Pastor Geri if you’d like to attend this meeting.

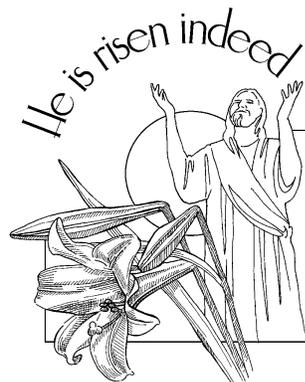


‘Bringing the Bible to Life’ Seminar First Covenant Church, Iron Mountain

Friday, April 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. to noon

During this 2018 Jubilee Year, we at Trinity are focusing on prayer, Bible-reading, and our history together as the followers of Jesus. The ‘Bringing the Bible to Life’ seminar fits right in with our Reading Through the Bible in a Year! First Covenant Church is located at 125 East ‘H’ St., Iron Mountain. You may have friends who attend there and would love to see you at the seminar. It is open to the public and free to all. Let’s go and see what more we can learn about the history, geography, and culture of the Biblical people...our fathers and mothers in the faith!



April's Mission of the Month is the North Dakota mission trip. The dates of this year's trip are June 17-22.

The North Dakota trip has been a labor of love for our team for many years now. Originally gathered and inspired by Marilyn Phillips' leadership, we continue to come together as teammates, grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren to join together with the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in helping, supporting, caring for, and learning more about the people of the Spirit Lake Nation.

We are honored to be April's Mission of the Month and grateful for the love, prayers, and support of our church family. The money given this month will go toward our travel expenses to get our team safely to North Dakota and back. Thank you so much for your support! -Kristy Ryan

Reading Through the Bible in a Year

The Old Testament reading March 18 completes the book of Numbers and begins Deuteronomy. The Israelites are approaching the end of their wanderings (40 years' worth) and are anticipating taking possession of the lands God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Leadership changes impact the people as Aaron dies on Mount Horeb and Joshua is his replacement. The history of the Jews' desert experience is reviewed and documented.

The New Testament book of Luke lets us follow Jesus in his early earthly ministry. There is some genealogy, some teaching with parables, miracles of healing, and the upsetting of the status quo with the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

The opportunity to talk about your reading through the Bible is a great chance to make the readings real for your Biblical experience. If those around you know you have undertaken this reading discipline, they may be likely to ask you about it, and you would have the opportunity to remember what you have read and share it with them. The discussion groups are also great chances to verbalize your Bible experience. I encourage you to share your readings with your family and friends. It is part of our Christian walk to share the Word of God with others.

Only good can come from having the Bible open and reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. We are nearing the one-quarter mark in our goal to read the entire Bible in 2018. Discussion groups are available Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Fridays at noon, and Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour at 9:15 a.m. We would love to have you join us in our journey through the Bible this year.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

--Jack Noyce (715)528-2084

Letters from Our Newest Members

We welcome four new members from the most recent Confirmation Class. They are Emma Bilgreen, Sam Bilgreen, Noelle Champagne, and Hunter Fortner. Here are letters they wrote in the style of the Letters of Paul and John's Revelation letters to the seven churches. Enjoy this glimpse of our young peoples' thoughts and beliefs.

'To the Church of Trinity United Methodists in Iron Mountain in God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ. What did I learn in Confirmation? I learned more about the Bible and how to use the Table of Contents. I also learned what verses and chapter it is. My decision about being confirmed is a Yes. It means you are confirming your baptism. As a member of a church you participate and help out the church. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.'

'I, a member of Trinity United Methodist Church Confirmation class has learned overall how to be a better person. This class has shown how to appreciate what you have instead of longing for what you don't have. Becoming Confirmed and being a member of this church is a big deal. It challenges me to work with strangers to discover the message of God. This is always a great chance for me to befriend my neighbors and get to better know their stories. May peace be with you all as you depart on your own journeys this church has to offer you. May peace be with you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.'

'I, a servant of God, I learned that Jesus and God are great. They protect, help, and make you understand everything about life. It would mean a lot to get confirmed because I want to be a part of the church and I want to confirm my baptism and everything that comes with it. --Grace be with you all.'

'To the Trinity Church in Iron Mountain:

I have learned about my baptism and about John Wesley and how he started the church. I have also learned about how our church works and who gets paid. Also I have learned more about God and the Bible.

I have decided to be confirmed because I believe in God and my baptism. I feel it will be good to be a member of the church. Whoever has ears, let them know that I, will be a member of the church.'



World Wide UMC News:

New United Methodist hymnal to be offered.

The United Methodist Publishing House and Discipleship Ministries (the General Board of Discipleship) announced that their respective boards have endorsed legislation that was submitted to the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church that, if approved, would begin the process of developing a new official hymnal and provide for ongoing revision of the hymnal in the future. A new hymnal collection will be offered to the 2020 General Conference for approval and be available to congregations and communities of faith upon final approval.

“The hymnal has been a vital tool in carrying the theology of The United Methodist Church for generations,” said the Rev. Tim Bias, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries. “That function remains important for a new, relevant, and widely-used version of The United Methodist Hymnal.”

As proposed, this revision of The United Methodist Hymnal would use the latest digital technology to resource faith communities and individuals who seek to worship God in ways that transform lives and change the world.

“The proposal will enable The United Methodist Church to use cloud technology to periodically curate a very large collection of music and worship resources in ways that can be customized to meet the needs of different contexts,” according to the Rev. Brian K. Milford, Book Editor of The United Methodist Church and Chief Content Officer of The United Methodist Publishing House.

Part of the collection would be uniform across all versions. Another part would contain additional hymns, songs, and worship resources that could be selected based on the preferences of the congregation or user. The official hymnal collection requires General Conference approval.

“This is a new way forward,” says Milford. “We are excited about delivering new formats in new ways that help congregations engage their people in vibrant worship.”

Discipleship Ministries will have primary responsibility for the content of the new resource through the Hymnal Revision Committee, and The United Methodist Publishing House will oversee the development, production, and distribution of the resource.



Save the Date! Healthy Congregations Workshop Coming to Town!

Where: Trinity UMC, 808 Carpenter Ave., Iron Mtn.
When: Friday, Sept. 14, 6:00-8:30
Saturday, Sept. 15, 9:00-4:00
What: Healthy Congregations Workshop.

Drawing on the Murray Bowen concept of Systems thinking, this workshop will describe the difference between an ‘Anxious Congregation’ and a ‘Responsible Congregation.’

Learning segments will include ‘Focus on Strength,’ ‘Promoting Healthy Congregations through Healthy Leadership Presence and Functioning,’ ‘Managing Conflict,’ and ‘Focus on Mission.’ There will be opportunities to practice skills for improving interpersonal communication.

Invited: Clergy, committee and lay leaders, church staff, all congregational members. Open to any and all churches of any size.

Who: The workshop will be led by Naomi Garcia, who is Associate Director for Congregational Vibrancy for the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. She is a certified *Healthy Congregations* facilitator through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and Healthy Congregations, Inc.

How much: \$25 registration fee for the workbook. Registration forms will be available soon, or call Trinity UMC, (906)774-2545, for more information.

This is a ‘next step’ following our VCI experience (Vital Church Initiative) in 2018. The Michigan Conference is funding this workshop through the apportionments that all UM churches pay.

Church Council Minutes, March 19, 2018

Roll Call: Blair Daugherty, Dean Laitinen, Kristy Ryan, Cindi Strehlow, Pastor Geri, Emily Ritsema, Jack Noyce, Frank Trumbell, Scott Ritsema, Adam Ryan, and Lea Varda.

Pastor Geri opened the meeting with a story about the life cycle of a plant. Church congregations tend to go through a life cycle of their own. God is at work here at Trinity helping us get back to the basics that will help us grow to be a healthier congregation. Pastor closed her story with a prayer.

The February minutes were reviewed and accepted with corrections. The amount borrowed from the line of credit was \$2,350, not \$2,400. The agenda was set by the Council members.

Discussions and Votes

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: The computer in Pastor Geri’s office is experiencing network and internet issues. (Continued on page 7)

Church Council (Continued from page 6)

There may be a need to consult a professional to troubleshoot and set up a plan/budget to have a technician to keep the system running. **Frank motioned to set \$500 of Bleecker funds to fix current issues on Pastor's computer. Jack seconded. Motion passed.**

Dean has made it known that there is a need for assistance with setting up and running the PowerPoint for Sunday services and keeping the website for Trinity up-to-date. As of July 1, 2018, Dean will no longer be available to fill this position. **Frank motioned to discontinue the PowerPoint as of April 8, 2018 for the 8 a.m. service to alleviate time for Dean until someone can take over. Cindi seconded. Motion passed.**

Sunday School: There will be a need for another Sunday School teacher for the elementary age class in the fall.

Finance: The February Treasurer's report was reviewed. \$2,350 was borrowed from the line of credit to pay February expenses. February ended with a balance of \$14.64. Frank received a Bleecker request from Dean for a new transmitter/receiver set for Pastor. Finance Committee approved the request. **Blair motioned the recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Council to approve the purchase of the transmitter/receiver set with \$350 of Bleecker funds. Jack seconded. Motion passed.**

Leadership/Nominating Committee: Renee Grenier has agreed to join the committee. **Frank moved to accept Renee Grenier to the Leadership/Nominating Committee. Kristy seconded. Motion passed.**

Pastor's Time: The Prayer Hearts project has been well-received and is wrapping up. Three people have expressed interest in becoming members. Four youth were confirmed on March 18. A new confirmation class will begin soon.

Additional information that was shared:

- **Camp Michigamme** – Emily shared information that the Wigwam construction will be underway soon. There are work build sessions being organized.
- **Adult Sunday School Class** – The current book study will run through April 8. April 15– May 20, the class will read Ephesians for the remainder of the year. The youth and children will finish SS classes May 6.
- **Healthy Congregation workshops** – September 14 and 15, plus September 28 and 29. Mark your calendars and watch for signup sheets and more information. The other churches in our community are going to be invited, as well.
- Frank thanked Jack and Bruce for their help with constructing the budget and gave his appreciation to the Council for the approval of the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Next meeting: Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lea Varda



Roll Call: Blair Daugherty, Dean Laitinen, Marsha Bonicatto, Joyce Erickson, Pastor Geri, Emily Ritsema, Scott Ritsema, Kristy Ryan, Adam Ryan, and Lea Varda.

Pastor Geri began the meeting with reading the scripture from Ephesians 1 beginning with verse 17, reading from the Message. There was a brief discussion about 'endless energy, boundless strength' offered to those who trust in Jesus. Everyone joined together reading the February Jubilee prayer that was written by a member from the congregation.

The January minutes were reviewed and accepted as written. The agenda was set by the Council members.

Discussions and Votes

Staff Parish: It has been decided to change the job description of the choir director by deleting any duties during the summer months. The salary has been reduced accordingly. The choir director is in agreement with this change...keeping in mind that future choir directors may be open to a different arrangement.

The Worship Team is planning an Easter egg hunt for the children during worship Easter Sunday. **Council agreed that the money for this could come from the Worship Supply line of the budget.**

Finance: Marsha, from the Finance Committee, made a motion to accept the 2018 church budget. Motion passed. The January Treasurer's report was reviewed. January ended with a balance of \$3,035.13. Adam reported that Jack Noyce called him that day and is taking out a \$2,400 loan from our line of credit at First National Bank to pay February expenses. February's giving was lower than usual and the expenses higher than expected. All of the extra money from the end of 2017 is now used up. The Finance Committee is not meeting in March, but will tackle the idea of building up a prudent reserve in April.

Pastor's Time: The Conference is offering a Healthy Congregations workshop led by Naomi Garcia on September 14 and 15. **Council agreed** that this workshop could be open to other churches in the area to join Trinity. A \$25 book fee is required. There will be a second workshop, also led by Naomi Garcia, just for Trinity members, on September 28 and 29. This is called a 'Neutralizing History' or 'Healing Conversations' Workshop and will be a chance for us to speak directly about situations at church that may be blocking our ability to perceive and follow God's will for us.

Pastor Geri also shared a handout titled Conversational Dashboard from Conversational Intelligence Workshop. This was handed out to her at the Conference level. This can be used as a great resource in conversations at committee and group discussions.

During the time of Lent, each host church in the community collects an offering during the Wednesday Lenten service. Each host church announces where the evening offering goes to. Trinity will host worship on February 28. Discussions ensued. **Joyce made a motion for the offering that is collected at the community Lenten service will go to the Brother's Keeper Fund. Kristy second. Motioned passed.**

(Continued on page 8)

Signs of growth and vitality from the Pastor's perspective:

- Finance Committee has shown an interest in learning more about the year-end Statistical Analysis report. Pastor will have conversations with Jack and Frank about how the numbers are collected. She will give Frank copies of the reports and notes/instructions for the last seven years. This is the report that is used to calculate our apportionments, and it is good for several sets of eyes to be looking it over for accuracy.
- The Budget Task Force in 2017 generated a wide range of ideas for stabilizing Trinity finances. Instead of creating unhealthy tension and disturbance, those ideas generated good discussions, interesting conversations, additional ideas, and a more realistic view of future possibilities. Not to mention some wise decisions about the 2018 budget!
- The Lydia Circle of the United Methodist Women has invited ladies from the Ruth Circle to join them for a meeting, as a generous act of hospitality.
- The congregation enjoyed the 'Spirit Month' of January when they got to wear different shirts and outfits each Sunday. It's good to have fun with each other!

Additional information that was shared:

- **Staff Parish** is working on Town Hall meetings to provide the congregation with information.
- **The Stewardship & Generosity Team** is planning the All Church Birthday Party, April 22. Potluck lunch and cake will follow the 10:30 worship service.
- **Reading through the Bible in a Year** is continuing. The Wednesday night group is not meeting for a portion of Lent, but will resume Wednesday, March 14.
- **Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for June 25 to 28, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- **United Men in Ministry** delivered 1,500 pounds of potatoes last Saturday to various food pantries, including our Community Meal.
- **United Methodist Women** are having a potluck luncheon/meeting on Thursday, April 5.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Next meeting: Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Lea Varda



Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, March 12, 2018

Present: Blair Daugherty, Jerry Hicks, Jon Harry, Marsha Bonicatto, Brad Strehlow, John Erickson, Betsy Trumbell, Pastor Geri Hamlen.

Blair called the meeting to order. We read a Jubilee prayer together. The agenda was reviewed. Minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Jon moved to accept the minutes. Jerry supported. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The freezer in the kitchen is repaired. Marsha moved that payment for the freezer repair come out of 100 + Women money. John supported. Motion carried.

Trustees will wait until after Easter to see about sandblasting and painting the register covers in the Church.

A sheet of suggestions for use and rental of the Church and Fellowship Hall was put together by Marsha, Jerry, and Betsy. The Trustees were asked to take this home and look it over. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Jon volunteered to look into insurance for the Church and Parsonage when the policy comes due this spring.

The carpet at the Parsonage needs cleaning. Jon will contact several companies for estimates and report back at the next meeting.

The light on the Carpenter Avenue sign is not working. The Trustees want to look at the overall lighting on the outside of the Church. It was agreed upon that we need a master plan for outside lighting. John Erickson and Jerry will be on the lighting committee. Jon Harry has a contact at M J Electric who he will be talking to. As this project progresses, we may be looking at using Bleecker money.

Marsha and Betsy agreed to paint the indoor railings by the single door entrance.

NEW BUSINESS

The east side of the Parsonage needs gutters to prevent water getting into the basement. Jerry will contact Superior Seamless Gutters in Norway to get an estimate.

The Parsonage lawn mower needs replacing. Blair will contact Mike Bruns about the cost of a push mower.

Pastor Geri will contact Green Lawn about grub control and fertilizer for the Parsonage. The Trustees will fertilize the Church lawn.

PASTOR'S TIME

There have been positive comments on the portable handicap signs. Thank you, John and Joyce Erickson.

The Staff Parish Committee is looking at holding Town Hall Meetings for 10 to 15 minutes after Church to inform people about efforts to maintain the Church and the money being saved in running the Church.

Pastor Geri's wish-list for improvements include the noisy heater in the Gathering Room, the floors in the bathrooms, and upper room.

Marsha moved to adjourn. Brad supported. Motion carried.

Submitted by Betsy Trumbell, Trustee Secretary.



Trinity

United

Methodist Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2018



Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704
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THE TOWER is published about 10 times a year by Trinity United Methodist Church for distribution to its members and friends.

Pastor.....Rev. Geri Hamlen
Choir Director.....Emily Ritsema
Organist.....Sue Saxon
Pianist.....Jean Larson
Custodian.....Larry Marlett
Nursery Attendants.....

Sally Verley, Ian Driscoll, & Kane Driscoll

Secretary.....Sally Verley
Sunday Worship.....8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for age 3 to high school.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for adults.....9:15 a.m.

Nursery Available Each Sunday

Office Hours.....Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m.-noon

Website.....www.imtrinity.org

Phone774-2545

Email.....imtrinityumc@gmail.com

Men of Prayer will meet at Quinnesec UMC on Monday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. Come and check it out. We'll compare notes on life and where God is working things out. Prayer time will then be followed by Holy Communion. For more information, please call Scott Ritsema, (906)282-4549.

Jubilee Prayer for April

composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain, for use by The United Methodist Church throughout the world.

When everything was dark and it seemed
that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through. Your love was too strong,
too wide, too deep for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love dance and spread
and burst forth with resurrection light.
Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others. Amen.