

The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 6 Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI www.imtrinity.org January 2018

Council Announces: 2018—Jubilee Year!

On the seventh day, God rested from all the work of creation. (Gen.2:2 -3)

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘...in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land.’ (Lev. 25:3-4)

God goes on to instruct the people to count seven time seven years and to allow the 50th to be a year of jubilee. (Lev. 25:8-12) A time of liberty throughout the land. A time to restore land and property to families who had sold or lost what was theirs. A time to rest from commerce and to trust in the faithfulness of God to provide.

These sound like ancient customs and yet, God’s intention cannot be overlooked. God wants us, as individuals and as communities, to have times of grace and restfulness and renewal. In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a year of forgiveness of sins...It is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion, “...and consequently, a year of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters.”

Trinity UMC is a hard-working group of people. We maintain three worship experiences each week, two on Sunday and a third on Wednesday night. Five teams of people feed the community each Wednesday. The choir practices faithfully. The Sunday School teachers and Superintendent create opportunities for children to learn about Jesus. The Trustees keep the building and grounds safe and functional for us. The Finance Committee, along with the Generosity Team challenge us to grow in our faithful stewardship, even as we face financial difficulties. The list goes on and on...

And is it any wonder that we get tired? And worn out? Because the ‘work’ of church the way we do it now doesn’t allow for a time of rest. But that’s going to be different for 2018!

Instead of setting goals this year in line with the Vision Statement...

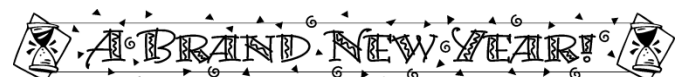
Instead of trying to stretch ourselves to accept the challenge of getting more done...

Council says: **Let’s take a Jubilee Year!** Let’s suspend the Vision Statement and give ourselves a chance to rest in the Lord. To ‘come away’ from all the busyness and be refreshed and renewed by God’s holy words. Through prayer. And by remembering how God has been present to Trinity over many, many decades.

What a radical thought! But, there is a Biblical basis in taking time for rest and renewal. Through prayer and discussion, the Church Council has agreed that 2018 is a good year in which to suspend the Vision Statement. Rather than posting a list of Goals, let’s claim our Jubilee Year and focus on three activities.

1. We will definitely be enriched by reading the Bible in a Year. (see page 2)
2. We will be inspired and refreshed by having Prayer Groups, which will focus on praying for God to show us, as a community of faith, how to grow in the courage, the desire, and the strength to move into God’s future. See the cover page for January’s Prayer of the Month for our Church.
3. We will be reminded of how God has worked through our Church for decades... as we make this a year of Discovering our History. There will be more information about this in the coming months.

The Trinity Jubilee Year starts now and gives us a chance to draw closer to God as we follow Jesus and allow ourselves to be refreshed and renewed. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for showing us the way. In His name, *Pastor Geri*



January Fellowship Fun!

Spirit Sundays! Are you feeling the Trinity fellowship spirit? Let's have a little fun with our church family during the month of January. Young and old can participate. Dress up accordingly. Spirit Sundays are as follows...



Jan. 7—Hometown School Colors. Wear the colors of your local high school.

Jan. 14—Yoooper Sunday. Wear your flannel, plaid, camouflage, and Carhartt.

Jan. 21—Dress Up Sunday. Old school/Sunday best. Dresses, suits, and ties.

Jan. 28—Sports Jersey or T-Shirt Sunday. Wear your favorite football, baseball, soccer, etc. shirt. Special snacks will be served during coffee hour.

Community Meal at First UMC—On Thursday, January 11, First United Methodist Church in Iron Mountain (turn at Hardees) will host a community meal at 5:00 p.m. It'll be "Breakfast for Supper," with eggs, pancakes, and other items.

Reading through the Bible in a year has begun!

NIV version Bibles with 365 separate readings have been distributed. The good habit of reading the Bible on a daily basis has begun for many people.

If you have not started reading with us, you can certainly pick the reading up at any time. Starting the daily habit of having the Bible open and reading the word of God will be a great benefit for your daily walk. Please consider joining other daily Bible readers.

There will be Bible studies on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Fridays at noon, and Sundays at a time to be announced.

Roundtable Discussion of Race Relations in Recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Saturday, January 13, noon to 3:00 p.m. at First UMC, 106 Fourth St., Iron Mountain.

In consideration of the words contained in the United Methodist Church Baptismal Covenant, a time is being offered to consider how we may live out the "freedom and power God gives us," to look at one another in Dr. King's words, according to the "content of character," rather than physical appearances.

The approximate schedule is lunch at noon, with chili, corn bread, and sandwich bar. Speakers and question-and-answer time from 12:30-2:00 p.m.; dessert (ice cream and cookies) and discussion time from 2:00-2:45 p.m.; and closing from 2:45-3:00 p.m.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

How do we accept that freedom and power God gives us?

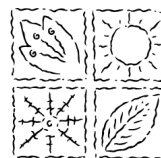
A free-will offering will be taken in support of Human Relations Day observed in the United Methodist Church, which recognizes the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relationship with one another.

Special Thank You: Christmas at church doesn't happen all by itself. So many people contributed time and talents and ideas and support and encouragement to make this Christmas Season so special for so many.

The choir sang beautifully. The decorations were inspiring. Special people engaged in dramatic readings during worship. Moms and young adults came in on Christmas Eve to dress the children in costumes for the Christmas Parade. Our faithful coffee-makers made sure there were cookies and hot drinks for both Christmas Eve services. The Worship Team helped to coordinate the hanging of the greens, the lighting of candles, and a special light show. Bulletin boards and Paper Poinsettias were created for our enjoyment and delight. Sunday School teachers helped the children learn their songs for the cantata and remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

Special gifts were given through Martha Circle and the Brother's Keeper Fund. The Lydia Circle gave us a chance to give presents to families through The Salvation Army. The TV-6 Canathon was an opportunity for us to feed hungry people. The Joy Crafters made angel gifts that were given to the children to show them the love of Jesus Christ and the love that the church has for each of them.

All this and so much more made this a great and glorious Christmas for the people at Trinity. Let's give thanks to all of these people and to God, who is the power, the energy, and the inspiration that makes such a celebration come real in our church and in our hearts! A thousand thanks to everyone....



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE
IS A SEASON, A TIME
FOR EVERY ACTIVITY
UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

Serving in Worship in January

Offering Counters:

Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28



Liturgists:

January 7	8:00 a.m.	Lea Varda
	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Ann Badini
January 14	8:00 a.m.	TBD
	10:30 a.m.	Jill Noyce
January 21	8:00 a.m.	Deb Saul
	10:30 a.m.	Scott Ritsema
January 28	8:00 a.m.	Mark Shemanski
	10:30 a.m.	Drew Champagne

Projection System Operators:

Jon Harry
Dean Laitinen
Dean Laitinen
Dean Laitinen
Jon Harry
Maddie Ryan
Kyle Shemanski
Lizzy Ryan

Junior Worship Leaders: See the sign-up sheet at the door of the Junior Worship room.

Ushers: See the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room near the elevator.

Preacher's Corner

Epiphany Worship 'Along the Way: The People We Meet' You've heard the old saying: **It's not what you know, it's who you know.** Think about this: As we journey together as disciples of Jesus: **It's not 'where you go,' so much as, 'who you meet along the way.'** Everyone is a child of God, and everyone has something to teach us about God's love. From his very birth, Jesus met lots of people. During the six weeks of the Season of Epiphany, we will revisit and reintroduce ourselves to the people along the way in the life of Jesus. While considering his experiences with them, we just might find ourselves giving thanks for the people we have met and learned from on our own journey along the way. Come and be blessed by the words of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

January 7, Epiphany Sunday. *The Wise Ones.*
Matthew 2:1-12

January 14, Baptism of our Lord. *The Wild Ones.*
Mark 1:4-11

January 21, *Friends along the Way.* Mark 1:14-20

January 28, *The Unclean Ones.* Mark 1:21-28

February 4, *The Sick Ones.* Mark 1:29-39

February 11, Transfiguration Sunday . *The Ancient Ones.* Mark 9:2-9



Wednesday Night Community Prayer

Meeting: The evenings are cold and dark, but don't forget....You have a chance to 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 your friends and family! Come and remember how much God loves you. Time spent with God, prayers, and a couple of songs can make all the difference!



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Jan. 1 Marge Hodgins, Dale Shampo
2 Todd Varda
3 Lisa Piatti
4 Blair Daugherty
5 Cameron Mulka
7 Henry & Ruth Ann Badini
8 Scott Ritsema, Linda Stanchina
Elaine Yuhasey
9 Jack Noyce
10 Carolyn Harry
11 Kristin Fortner, Sarah Powell
Robert Waldbillig
12 Sierra Fortner, Gary & Kay Carlson
15 Kiersten Ritsema-Ries
Michael & Charlene Hunt
16 Dalayna Hindes, Michael Laydon
Tim Yuhasey
19 Joe Fortner
22 Ken Saul
23 Jade Driscoll, Michelle Hunt
24 Barbara Vaughn
26 Anthony Pineda, Glenn Winters
27 Mary Ryan
28 Melissa Reddinger, Emily Ritsema
29 Ella Fortner
30 Annette Cram
31 Vanessa Frahm, Terry Lindholm
Henry Ruble

“Jan and I had hoped to be back in the area before the end of the year, but activities here in Illinois are keeping us at home. Please accept this small token of our appreciation for having a nice congregation with whom to worship when we are in camp in Merriman.” –James Byrne

The Mission of the Month for January is our Community Meal Program

January’s Mission of the Month is our community meal program, which is in its 17th year. We serve almost 150 meals each Wednesday. In 2018, we will be serving an estimated 7,800 meals.

Volunteers plan, shop, cook, serve, and clean up for each meal. Your Mission of the Month offering to our community meal program will help us so much in our mission to give a nutritious meal free of charge to anyone and everyone who comes to eat.

Please think prayerfully about this, and give generously to January’s Mission of the Month.

Correction: The article from Bruce and Beth Clark on page 6 of the December 2017 Tower needs correcting. \$1,000 was approved for the Iron Mountain Cabin at Camp Michigamme, not for Camp Michigamme scholarships. See the November Church Council minutes for the motion and vote.

College Student Ministry—As 2018 starts, we would like to let our college students know we continue to encourage them! It can be a lonely time, and knowing that their church family is thinking of them can be a blessing! Here is the current list of our students’ addresses and their birthdays, so we can let them know we are thinking of them! Thank you.

—Jen and Moira

Lucas Cavalieri, 145 Spalding Hall, NMU, Marquette, MI 49855. January 27.

Jade Driscoll, 203 W. Bellows, Larzelere 301, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858. January 23.

Paige Fortner 608, St. Norbert College, 100 Grant St., DePere, WI 54115. August 6.

Sierra Fortner, 151 Meyland Hall, NMU, Marquette, MI 49855. January 12.

Brock Grenier, 826 John St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. May 12.

Adrienne Laurila, 412 Stoddard Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823. February 25.

Audrey Laurila, 105 High St., Apt. 7, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858. June 21.

Libby Lee, 735 E. Shaw Lane, West Owen, Room 320, East Lansing, MI 48925. September 26.

Gino Mariucci, 1836 E. 7th Ave., Norway, MI 49870. May 23.

Marchella Mariucci, 1836 E. 7th Ave., Norway, MI 49870. March 9.

Cameron Mulka, 1703 Townsend Dr., 448 WWH, Houghton, MI 49931. January 5.

Logan Ryan, 478 Ivy Court, 1855 Place, Apt. 220, East Lansing, MI 48826. December 28.

Barbie Slagle, 253 Spalding Hall, Marquette, MI 49855. June 10.



2017 Paper Poinsettias

In memory of:

Bill Baciak

From Jill Baciak

Archie Betti

From Greta Betti

Daughter Susan Calcari

From Carol & Bob Calcari; & Linda & Greg

Our son, Mathew

From Bob & Moira Cowling

Gladys Dams & Harold Dams

From Sandy Mutsch

Diane Davidson

From Mike & Chris Bruns

Micki Debelak

From her family

Art Fortier

From Bonnie Fortier

Harold & Lillian Forsberg

From Jon Forsberg

Richard Grenier

From Paul & Renée Grenier

Bob & Gwen Hamlen

From Pastor Geri

Kathleen, Abby, & Lucas

From Marv & Carolyn Harry

Robert A. Hill & Robert H. Hill

From Pauline Hill

Peter Rietveld & Jeff Klenke

From the Rietveld family

Verne & Verda Shanks

From the Hugh Shanks family

Mike Spinelli

From Pastor Geri

Richard, Laurette, Dale, & Jeffery Trevillian

From Jack & Alice

Laurette & Richard Trevillian, & Clara & Herman Plonke

From Larry & Carol Trevillian

Robert & Dru Wesch

From Sue & Dave Paternoster

Neil West; & Roland, Vivian, & Joanne Tremain

From Virginia (Tremain) West

In honor of:

Our children, Andy, Steve, Danielle, Jen, & Matt

From Bob & Moira Cowling

Our grandchildren, Dustin, Cliff, Jacquie, Jessie, Cassidy,
Hannah, Gavin, & Riley

From Bob & Moira Cowling

Brian, Cole, Kate, & Brock Grenier

From Paul & Renée Grenier

My four grandsons

From Mary Ann Harding

Our grandchildren

From Marv & Carolyn Harry

My grandchildren—Heather, Nicholas, Rebekah, &
Nathan

From Pauline Hill

Amber, Michelle, & Bethany Hunt

From Greg & Diana Hunt

Jack & Alice Nord

From Janis Nord, & Paul & Renée Grenier

Our angels

From Henry & Joyce London

Dawn Riutta

From the Exercise Walkers

Trinity United Methodist Church

From Alison Alquist

In celebration of:

Our grandchildren: Alex, Ella, Luke, Maddie, & Anneli

From Bruce & Beth Clark

Tony Spinelli

From Pastor Geri

Our meal program, which is in its 19th year

From Paul & Chris Langer

My family

From Carmen Swanson

Carmen Swanson

From her children, grandchildren, & great-
grandchildren

Our grandchildren: Jacob, Isaac, Sonia, Franklin, &
Emmeline

From Frank & Betsy Trumbell

Our family

From Vance & Dorleen Uhaize

Trinity United Methodist Church

From Virginia (Tremain) West

Poinsettia Plant

In memory of:

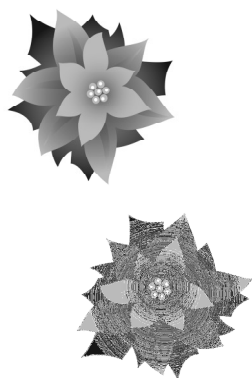
Ella Marlin

From John & Joyce Erickson

In celebration of:

The First Wednesday Community Meal team & all who
worked on it this past year!

From John & Joyce Erickson



Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, December 18, 2017

Roll Call: Blair Daugherty, Frank Trumbell, Lucy Shampo, Pastor Geri, Bruce Clark, Emily Ritsema, Jack Noyce, Gail Croci, Adam Ryan, Kristy Ryan, and Lea Varda.

Welcome & Christmas Cheer! Council members congratulated and thanked Lucy Shampo on her final Council meeting at Trinity. She has served on various committees and the Council since 1972.

Adam opened the meeting with a prayer.

Finance Committee and Budget Status Report

Jack reports the General Fund balance at the end of November was \$973.62. The Revolving Line of Credit loan balance was reduced by designated gifts. The balance as of November 30 is \$4,858.60. Apportionments are in line to be paid in full for the first time in many years.

Frank made a motion by recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Council for the balances of the Poinsettia, Sprague, Thanksgiving, and Wedding designated funds totaling \$1,248.78, along with the funds from the 13th Month Campaign and all Christmas offerings through the end of December be transferred to the General Fund. Lucy seconded. Motion passed.

Frank made a motion by recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Council for three recent gifts totaling \$400 be put in a new designated fund for Special Services. Jack seconded. Motion passed. The Budget Report for 2018 is in progress and should be ready for the January Council meeting.

Other Voting Items There were no other items requiring a vote from the Council.

Goal Setting for 2018

The recent history of the goals at Trinity UMC were reviewed and discussed. For 2018 the Council is looking at making opportunities instead of goals. A Year of Jubilee at Trinity! Our congregation will concentrate on seeking God's grace and love and will for the future of TUMC. A few recommendations were discussed. One Jubilee opportunity has already been put in motion. Members of the congregation have already embraced the opportunity to draw closer to God by reading the entire Bible in one year. There was discussion of a possible History Corner in the church to create a documentation of the past. Our values, traditions, anecdotes, and memories could be accessible to everyone. Another opportunity to start a Prayer Team to be devoted to regular prayer for this congregation and build spiritual growth and explore God's will for us.

The meeting ended with a silent prayer time and a short closing prayer by Adam.

Next meeting, Monday, January 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lea Varda.

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, December 11, 2017

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

Blair called the meeting to order.

Pastor Geri opened with a prayer.

The agenda was reviewed.

Jon moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting. John supported. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

John purchased portable handicap signs that will be used in the parking lot. They will be stored in the cloakroom.

The Trustees agreed to pay line item maintenance costs over \$20,000. The overages to date are \$1,276.30, which will come out of the Trustee account.

Pastor Geri spoke on the Budget Task Force recommendations for the Trustees. The Task Force would like answers by January 15.

1. Rent the Church to outside parties. The Trustees will look into pricing for the Church rental. So far, only charges for weddings are spelled out.
2. Budget line items 5010-5070 (maint./repair/utilities etc.) Reduce by 10% from \$20,000 to \$18,000. Ask the Trustees to increase their participation by \$2,000. This would mean that the Trustees would pay costs over \$18,000. The Trustees need to have enough in our account to pay for unexpected repairs that come up.
3. Ask the Trustees to get quotes for building and liability insurance on the Church and Parsonage. At the last Trustee meeting we agreed to look at this in the spring when our policy comes due.

The Trustees will discuss all three of these items at our next meeting.

Blair and John will get quotes on elevator inspection.

Blair will talk to Blagec about replacing the roof heat exchanger.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a leaky faucet in the dish room. Brad will take care of this.

The angel outside is not lit. Brad will look at the outlet to try to get the angel lit.

PASTOR'S TIME

The Pastor is waiting to hear from the Conference on considering going ahead with the Vital Church Initiative. No decision has been made.

John moved to adjourn. Betsy supported. Motion carried
Submitted by Betsy Trumbell, Trustee Secretary.

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Iron Mountain, MI 49801

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2018



Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704
Vol. 17, No. 6, January 2018

THE TOWER is published 11 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

Phone 774-2545.....Fax 774-3123

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Men of Prayer will meet here at Trinity on Monday, January 29 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. Come and see what it's all about. For more information, please call Scott Ritsema, (906)282-4549.

Church Prayer for January

Lord, make us, your Church, into the people you want us to be, and forgive us where we fall short. Teach us to be generous in judgment, bold in commitment, and sensitive in listening. Allow us to rest in the peace of your presence. Refresh us. Renew us. When the time is right, show us the way you would have us go. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

