

The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 12 Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI www.imtrinity.org July & August 2018

Pastor's Ponderings (written June 15)

I'm having trouble deciding what to write about this time. There is so much running through my head after four days at Annual Conference. The North Dakota Mission Trip is leaving in a few days. My prayers are with the team. My first June wedding is coming up, with the second one the next weekend. I'm also preparing for VBS fun the last week of June. Not to mention Elementary Camp at Camp Michigamme next month. Who said summer is a time to slow down!?!

How about you? Are the longer days and shorter nights giving you an extra energy boost?

I hope that you have as many fun and interesting and yes, even challenging things going on as I do. We are most fully alive when we are engaged, intrigued, challenged, and just plain amused by the great variety that life offers us. God made us and the world that way.

Conference challenged all 1,795 of us—clergy and people in the pews, just like you—to ask ourselves: Who is my neighbor? And what does it mean to love our neighbors? Some of my favorite quotes from Conference are showing up in my sermons since then:

'God has a mission for the world and love is at the heart of that mission.'

'Love means being deeply committed to the well-being of other people.'

'Always be ready for God to show up.'

'No matter what happens, even the worst possible tragedy...God will still be calling us to love each other and our neighbors.'

Lots to think about. And then I look at the VBS 'Hero Central' curriculum and see how the simple lessons for children carry so much wisdom for all of us grown-ups. Don't you need to hear:

God's heroes have Heart!
God's heroes have Courage!
God's heroes have Wisdom!
God's heroes have Hope!

And doesn't it make sense that we need all of the above to live life fully and to love our neighbors?

Heart, Courage, Wisdom, and Hope.

All of these are qualities that God offers to us, all the time. When we look at the life and teachings of Jesus and when we open our hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit...We can share God's love in the world! That's what heroes do!

Even heroes, though, get tired and need a day off. A day to rest and relax and enjoy the goodness of this great big world. I hope you are giving yourself time to kick back and take it easy. Love for our neighbors can be as simple as looking with love...smiling with joy...resting quietly in the warmth of God's love...and being re-energized for action, when the time is right. In God's time. Happy summer and God's peace to all...

Pastor Geri

Fourth of July Invitation

You are invited to join me, Pastor Geri, and a whole bunch of friendly people at the parsonage, 421 Woodward Ave., Wednesday morning, July 4. The Fourth of July parade goes right past the parsonage on the corner of Woodward and Kimberly. Bring your lawn chairs...there's lots of lawn there! I do a bathroom ministry that day for anyone who needs the facilities. If you've never seen the inside of the parsonage, I'll be glad to give you a tour. If you come early enough, there is parking in the alley and over in the Bellin Health Clinic. Come on over and we can celebrate our freedoms together!

Jubilee Prayer for July

Dear Lord,
Summer is here, plants are growing, and flowers are blooming. Just as nature is renewing itself, please help our church renew our commitment to serve You in all that we do. Bless this congregation. Help us to strengthen our faith, grow in our stewardship, and help our neighbors know the peace and happiness that comes through worshiping You. May we forgive our enemies and continue to pray for world peace with mutual respect for one another. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

Marshmallow Roast, July 18

You're invited to stop by on Wednesday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. for a marshmallow roast in the church parking lot. Lemonade, marshmallows, and s'more ingredients will be provided. You can bring a lawn chair if you'd like to. Otherwise, we'll provide chairs, too. This event is sponsored by the Stewardship/Generosity Team.



United Methodist Women's News

By Joyce Erickson, UMW President

UMW had a small but active group of women to meet for our June meeting. We viewed a DVD about the Mission conferences of the United Methodist Church. I think we all left more knowledgeable than we were before.

We set the date for the Mini Fair, which is October 20, 2018. We are stressing food this year, so our Country Store will be busy. All items will be accepted.

The Trash and Treasure room will be run by Lucy Shampo and Suzanne Harry. I know they will do great.

Our next meeting is September 6, 2018 at noon. It will be a potluck salad luncheon. Hope to see you there!

The Retirement Celebration honoring Scott Ritsema

will be Saturday, July 21 at the American Legion Hall, 621 Main St., Norway. Cost is \$20 for adults and ages 14 and up. 4:00 p.m. social hour, 5:00 p.m. buffet dinner, and a presentation will follow. Beer and wine will be provided, but no hard alcohol, please. RSVP by July 14 to Emily Ritsema, eritsema@kingsford.org, or Scott Ritsema, (906)282-4549.



Our Church Picnic is Sunday, August 12 here at Trinity. Watch your Sunday bulletins for more details.

You Cannot Pray...

You cannot pray The Lord's Prayer and even once say "I."

You cannot pray The Lord's Prayer and even once say "my."

You cannot pray The Lord's Prayer and not include another.

You cannot pray for daily bread and not include your brother.

For others are included in each and every plea, and from the beginning to the end, it never once says "me."

Prayer is the key to Heaven, but faith opens the door.

Looking ahead: September Workshops

It's summer-time and the living is easy...which makes it hard to think too far ahead, but here is something to tuck away for September:

Not one but **two workshops** are being offered here at Trinity UMC through the Michigan Conference Office on Congregational Vitality. Yes, these are Conference people who care deeply about local congregations finding their 'groove' and living their mission for God, right where they are.

Healthy Congregations Workshop

Trinity UMC has been identified as a great location to have a workshop on **Healthy Congregations**, based on the Family Systems work of Murray Bowen. Other churches in Dickinson County and United Methodist Churches throughout the Upper Peninsula have all been invited to come and participate. You can come too:

Friday, September 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m. CST

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CST

Facilitator: Naomi Garcia, Associate Director of Discipleship, Michigan Conference.

The cost is only \$25 for a workbook, and two people can share a book. Don't let the money hold you back...let Pastor know and we can find the \$25 for you. The other costs for the workshop are being covered by the Conference...through the apportionment money that all UM churches pay.

Healing Conversations Workshop

Two weeks after the Healthy Congregations Workshop, all the members of Trinity UMC are invited to an in-house, down-home workshop, just for us. In all organizations, there are difficult situations that can sometime create blockage to creative thinking. There can be hurt feelings and a bad taste in the mouth which prevent people from moving ahead with God's good work in the world. There can be resistance to change and a hardening of the attitudes that would allow for growth in kindness, love, and mercy.

This second workshop will give us a chance to remember. To talk in a safe space with good facilitation. To learn additional communication skills so that we can grow closer together. Come and be blessed as God's children are always blessed as we grow in truth-telling and forgiveness.

Friday, September 28, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 29, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Naomi Garcia

No charge...Again, Conference apportionment money supports this affirming work in the local church. **Watch your mailbox for more information.**

Serving in July and August

Offering Counters:

July 1	
July 8	
July 15	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
July 22	Maria Hyrkas & Janis Nord
July 29	
August 5	
August 12	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
August 19	
August 26	

		<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Projection System Operators</u>
July 1	9:15	Drew Champagne	Jack & Jill Noyce	Charlotte Ryan
July 8	9:15	Jill Noyce	Patty Ronan	Riley Gauthier
July 15	9:15	Deb Saul	The Grenier family	
July 22	9:15	Bruce Clark		
July 29	9:15	Dean Laitinen		
August 5	9:15	Scott Ritsema		
August 12	9:15	Jill Noyce		
August 19	9:15	Bruce Clark		
August 26	9:15	Deb Saul		

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

Preacher's Corner

We will continue in July with the Seven Letters to the Churches in John's book of Revelation. It's hard to know what God wants of us as a specific community of faith, but we can always look in our Bible for ideas and lessons. The seven churches in Revelation have much to teach us about strengths, weaknesses, direction forward, and what it means to be faithful to God.

Once we are done with the Seven Letters, we will spend some time looking at the many different ways in which God reveals 'Mission' and 'Vision' to various people and groups in the Bible. We are all familiar with Jesus being the Revelation of God, but there are lesser-known stories that may be helpful to us at Trinity as we continue to seek God's desire for us as a community of faith.

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!

July 1, <i>Philadelphia</i>	Rev. 3:7-13, Mark 6:6-13 'Persistence'
July 8, <i>Laodicea</i>	Rev. 3:7-13, Matthew 7:7-8 'Knocked Out'
July 15,	Revelation Wrap Up—'Odds and Ends, and Even New Beginnings'
July 22,	'When God Spoke Face to Face' Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, Saul/Paul
July 29,	'Visitors from Afar' Abraham, Jacob The Wise Ones from the East
Aug. 5,	'Prayer' Jean Larson in Pastor's absence Psalm 118, Luke 11:1-13
Aug. 12,	'Dreams and Signs' Two Josephs—Son of Jacob, Husband of Mary
Aug. 19,	'Prophets and the Law' Moses and Paul
Aug. 26,	'Prophets and Visions' Elijah, Isaiah and the Gang



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- July 1 Tony Cavalieri, Bill Verrette
Wilma Verrette
2 Megan Flaminio, Kristy Ryan
3 Frank & Betsy Trumbell
8 Allen Howard
10 Jeff & Jessica Simon
11 Doug & Iris Machus
13 Aimee Tatangelo
14 Kayle Ahola
15 Tom Turner
16 Robert Teikari, Debi Tirschel
17 Chris Bruns, Nathan & Daniele Ruble
18 Shane Barnes, Beulah DuCharme
19 Keith Granger, Mariann Waldbillig
Terry & Koni Lindholm
20 Jerry Reddinger, Carly Smith
22 Dolly Richards, Jerry & Joy Hicks
23 Ward Trevillian, Todd & Lea Varda
24 Cindi Strehlow, Neil & Carol Annear
25 Vance & Dorleen Uhazie
26 Marsha Bonicatto, Jill Noyce
Dennis & Pam Smart
27 Elijah Champagne, Paul Grenier
Chris James
29 Daniele Ruble
30 Mike & Chris Bruns
Robert & Kim Hostettler
31 Scott & Kim Thiry

Hospitalized since our last issue: Erika Bruns, Gail Croci, Joyce Erickson, Ed Riutta, and Kyle Shemanski.

Congratulations to Erika Bruns and Matthew Mattson on the birth of a son, Pryor James, on June 1. Grandparents are Mike and Chris Bruns. Great-grandfather is Gary Davidson.

Congratulations to Marge Hodgins, who has a new great-grandson. Matteo Patrick was born June 5 to Patrick and Ashley Hodgins.

Congratulations to Scott and Emily Ritsema, who have a new grandson. Benjamin James was born June 19 to Coady and Kiersten Ritsema-Ries.

Our best wishes to Cole and Katelynn (Johnson) Grenier, who were married here June 23.

A new leaf is on the tree in the Gathering Room in memory of James R. Carefelle, Sr.



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Aug. 2 Devlin Hilyard, Noland Hilyard
3 Renèe Grenier, Henry London
5 Tony Tatangelo
6 Paige Fortner, Beverly Lindberg
Steve Mulka
7 Tony & Aimee Tatangelo
8 Kim Hostettler, Amanda Melotte
9 Robert Constantini, Daunte Fortner
Keith Mashak
10 Janis Nord, Jennifer Rietveld
Isabella Smart
12 Brad Reddinger, Adam & Kristy Ryan
13 Jill Baciak
15 Beverly Carollo, Chris Champagne
Hunter Fortner, Bella Hayes, Gus Hayes
16 Nathan Ruble, Alaina Reddinger
Gaylyn Ziehm
17 Robert & Deidre Teikari
18 Brad & Melissa Reddinger
19 Derek Rose, Greg & Lori Sorensen
20 Ian Driscoll
21 Jay & Kerri Harry, Jack & Jill Noyce
22 Steve Cavalieri
23 Timothy Recla, Virginia West
24 Mark & Courtney Edlebeck
25 Kathleen Howard, Paul Langer
Dawn Riutta, Piper Strehlow
26 Judy Thompson, Joy Waldbillig
27 Chris Langer, Kim Mariucci
29 Larry Bonicatto, Steve Davidson
Kennedy Richards, Robin Rose
Bruce & Kathryn Bilgreen
31 Alice Nord, Heidi Reddinger
Chris & Stacy Summerfield



Congratulations to the recipients of the 2018 Marie Bleecker Memorial Scholarships, Ian Driscoll and Piper Strehlow.

“Pastor Geri and members of Trinity, thank you for the generous scholarship. I will be putting it towards furthering my education at CMU in the fall.”—Ian Driscoll

“We thank you for your donation while we were the 2017 Marquette District Mission of the Year. With your help, we were able to make our church building a safer place for worship, allowing us to continue our activities and ministries. We are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a needy community. Thank you for your support!”—First UMC, Hermansville (*This was our August 2017 Mission of the Month*)

July's Mission of the Month is Wesley United Methodist Church in Ironwood, Michigan

(Excerpts taken from the 2018 Marquette District Mission of the Year brochure)

Wesley United Methodist Church in Ironwood was built in 1910. In 2017, one of the ceiling truss supports broke, and the Wesley church community now faces a difficult and expensive repair process. Structural engineers have designed a way to replace this broken truss from inside the building. The costs, however, are substantial, and Wesley UMC's parish community is smaller now than in previous generations.

Scaffolding, stretching from the basement to the church attic, presents a stark visual scene that displays the monumental challenge Wesley faces. This scaffolding provides the shoring necessary to support the ceiling and the roof above. Thankfully, First Presbyterian Church in Ironwood has invited Wesley to hold its services in their building until the ceiling truss repair can be completed.

The total final repair cost will be approximately \$220,000, of which Wesley UMC has already paid \$45,000. The congregation of Wesley UMC must now raise the remaining amount. To help them raise this money, Wesley UMC has been selected to be the 2018 Marquette District Mission of the Year.

Please be generous and give to our July Mission of the Month.

August's Mission of the Month is our Brother's Keeper Fund

Over the years, Trinity has provided confidential assistance to people in our community...rent, utilities, emergency situations have all created needs for people, and the Brother's Keeper Fund has been there to help.

Fewer funds have been available this past year, so at this point, the Fund is used mostly for food and gas emergencies. It's good to know that if someone needs gas to get to work or to an out of town doctor appointment, or if a family needs food to get through to the next check, Trinity UMC is here to help.

Those in need are also held in prayer and invited to grow in their faith in God through the acts of giving and receiving. Thanks be to God for your generous contributions to this source of assistance.

History of Methodists Around the World

May and June have been history months for us as we continue through our Jubilee Year. Knowing and honoring our past helps us to move more bravely into the future. Here are some tidbits of information about Methodists around the world, in America, in the UP, and in Iron Mountain!

●**1861-65** Even Abraham Lincoln, who frequently spoke of Christian principles, but had no specific church ties, was touched by Methodism. His parents were

married by a Methodist minister in Washington County, Kentucky. Later, at Lincoln's White House, a frequent visitor was Methodist Bishop Matthew Simpson. After Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Simpson traveled with the president's body back to Springfield, Illinois & delivered the eulogy.

The presence of a Methodist bishop for Lincoln's funeral was no surprise, given his respect for the Methodist Church. In 1864, shortly before his death, Lincoln offered this praise for the young denomination: "It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals, & more prayers to Heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church. Bless all the churches & blessed be God, who in this our trial, giveth us the churches."

●**Acts 2** Like all Christian churches, our beginning is described in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit of God, as promised by Jesus, came from heaven like the wind, with tongues of fire.

●**Upper Peninsula—1832:** Methodism came to the UP in 1832 through the New York Conference, as a mission to the Native peoples.

●**1887:** The Central (English) Methodist Episcopal Church began. A year later, the Church building on B St. was built in Iron Mountain.

●**1890:** The Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church was started in the schoolhouse at 108 Fifth St.

●**1907:** Construction for Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church began at the corner of Brown St. & Carpenter Ave.

●**1908:** The Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed: Wesley Methodist Church

●**1944:** Central (English) Methodist Church burned down. Wesley Church invited Central to worship with them at their Church building on Brown St.

Rising from the Ashes

●**September 1944:** A new church was born, Trinity Methodist Church, through the merging of Wesley and Central Churches.

●**1952:** Construction of a new church was discussed, debated, & voted on: 47 in favor, 7 opposed. Cornerstone was laid in 1953.

●**February 7, 1954:** The opening worship service was held on the corner Carpenter Ave. & E St.

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 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!



Bruce A. Bilgreen is a graduate of Kingsford High School. He is the son of Bruce W. and Kathryn Bilgreen. He has a brother, Sam, and a sister, Emma.

Bruce has participated in various activities throughout his four years of high school. He has been a member of the high school band in the percussion section. He has also been on the High School Bowl team, and he plays tennis. Bruce has consistently worked on improving his grade point average, and has done so. He will attend Michigan Technological University in the fall, majoring in geology.

Ian Driscoll is a graduate of Kingsford High School. He is the son of Tim and Colleen Driscoll and grandson of Ward and Joyce Trevillian. He has a sister, Jade, and a brother, Kane.

He has been awarded the 2018 Marie Bleecker Memorial Scholarship.

Ian was very active in high school and played varsity soccer (team captain), varsity bowling (team captain, state ranked, UP Dream Team—2 years), Quiz Bowl (television team member), HOSA (regional winner), and Spanish Club (studying abroad summer 2018). He also attended several leadership conferences and was active in traveling soccer.

Ian was also active outside of school, accumulating over 200 volunteer hours, while working several part-time jobs (Recreation Lanes, soccer referee, and church nursery).

In addition to being a nursery attendant, Ian has been active in the church by helping with junior worship and the Feeding America truck, and attending Camp Michigamme. Ian is an honor roll student looking forward to continuing his education. He will attend Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant to study Exercise Science.

Casey Hansley is a graduate of Kingsford High School. She is the daughter of Marie Harris, and she has a sister, Carly.

Casey has been on the Academic Honor Roll throughout high school and is in the top 10% of her

senior class. She is vice president of the National Honor Society, and a member of SADD, Jazz Band, and Drama Club. She has been named AP Student of the Month in AP Calculus, AP Computer Science, and AP Literature and Composition. She has also received the Michigan Aspirations in Computing Award. Casey has acquired almost 400 hours volunteering. She has been a counselor at Camp Michigamme, is a member of the Moving Mountains Adaptive Program, and has participated in the North Dakota Mission Trip for the past five years. Casey will continue her education at Michigan State University, pursuing a degree in computer science, and hopes to work in video game production.

Joseph Rietveld is a graduate of Kingsford High School. He is the son of Bryan and Jennifer Rietveld, and he has a sister, Monica.

Joe has enjoyed band and sports in high school. Football has been his favorite, and he has received the Lineman of the Year award for the UP. He has made great friends and has many cherished memories growing up at 221 E. Sagola Ave. His plans are to attend UWGB in Green Bay with a science focus.

Madeline Ryan is a graduate of Kingsford High School. She is the daughter of Adam and Kristy Ryan, granddaughter of Brian and Debi Tirschel, and great-granddaughter of Dolly Richards. Maddie has three sisters, Lizzy, Charlotte, and Clara; and two brothers, Logan and Jonathan.

Maddie has been in the top 10% of her class since junior year and has been on the academic honor roll all four years. She's involved in varsity sports, band, National Honor Society, and volunteer work. She received first team, all conference for varsity soccer and has been nominated for honors band all four years. She's been involved at Camp Michigamme as a camper and counselor. Maddie is also the recipient of the Klungness scholarship and plans to attend Albion College to study pre-medicine.

Piper Strehlow is a graduate of Kingsford High School. She is the daughter of Brad and Cindi Strehlow, and the granddaughter of Carmen Swanson. She has two sisters, Maggie and Clairice.

She has been awarded the 2018 Marie Bleecker Memorial Scholarship.

Piper has been on the Honor Roll every semester and is a member of the National Honor Society. She's the treasurer of the Key Club at KHS and has over 200 hours of volunteer service, including the North Dakota mission trip at Trinity UMC. She plans to attend Northern Michigan University in the fall and major in elementary education.

Keryx Prison Adventures from Scott Ritsema

Hi, Trinity,

This is a note about the last Keryx ministry weekend in the Marquette Max Prison. Keryx, like all ministries, has a need for leadership. In Keryx this is a temporary spot and rotates through the team. You join up and you are made a Chacho, which is a runner /fill-in position. You may be given a short meditation to read to the pilgrims. Your next position is a table leader.

TLs work directly with six pilgrim /inmates for the weekend and you may be assigned a 20-minute talk. There are six pilgrims and three TLs at each of four tables. We have two or three prayer warriors working steady in a separate room. These men pray for everyone on the weekend and for every issue that brought to them as a request, just like the yellow sheets we use on Sunday mornings here. The remaining two spots are the timekeeper and the rector. The time keeper does exactly that, watches the clock and the schedule and keeps them and the team on track. We are not allowed to stay late to get caught up, and the prison system does not play along well with a schedule. The rector is the leader and runs the show. The rector and the time keeper have a 20-minute talk to give and just a bit more stress over the weekend, as you can imagine.

Like any church group, sometimes it is not a smooth transition when the leader steps down and a new one is needed. For Keryx this is the timekeeper position. As I said, there is a bit more stress, you are the low keyed enforcer of the time, and you automatically rotate into the next rector's position on the next Keryx. For the last Keryx, nobody wanted to be timekeeper, which is understandable, but someone has to step up or the ministry may not continue.

Most of you know, Emily and I are transitioning into a next step in life. I will be retired as of the end of May. We have our first grandbaby arriving in June. Emily will be teaching her last school year before retirement. And we will be moving back to the Kalamazoo area so that we can be closer to family and the caregivers to the family members that need us. So, I did not want to take on any more stress with Keryx either, but that is not how things worked out.

So, as timekeeper, I spent the weekend sitting at a table in the back. I am responsible to keep us on track, to not misplace a team member's talk, manage supplies, support the rector, give advice on decisions, run the stop watch on the 20-minute talks. That is the job on paper, but that is the unimportant part of the job.

The important part of the job is more fun. This was not my first time being a timekeeper. I have done this once before for Keryx and several times with the Walk to Emmaus weekends. The important part of the job is to notice and watch God show up and start doing His thing over the weekend. I see 24 hard men walk in on Thursday and see a transformation over the weekend in each of them. I also watch little miracles of God bending time to fit His purpose. On paper I have been as much as an hour and 20 minutes behind schedule, and when I look at the clock after the next step on the schedule 30 minutes later, we are now 20 minutes ahead of schedule. You do do the math, but God has His own way, just relax and have fun, because you will not put a worldly explanation on the weekend.

As timekeeper, I also have to give the last talk of the weekend. My job is to tie up all the talks as one and hopefully convince these men that they are not forgotten, help them accept God's love and redemption. Just a small thing, right? There is an outline to follow, but you make the talk your own. This was the last time I would be going into the prison as an active member of the Michigan State Police, so we did things a little different this time. On every weekend in the past I told these children of God what I do for a paycheck. This time we did a bit more.

The prison chaplain, Tom Prisk, escorted me out of the prison about 45 minutes before my talk. I retrieved my full dress uniform from my car. I changed in the administrators' offices. With the help of my team and the four inmates helping from the last Keryx weekend, I was able to return to the chapel without being seen by our pilgrims. I have to admit to having some doubt when I entered the prison yard in full uniform. I did not go unnoticed with the inmates there. I had my gun belt on, but all the Batman compartments on it were empty, no gun, no bullet, no baton..., but then as with all times, God lets me know that I am not alone. I entered the chapel behind a wall of prison blue uniforms and went to the prayer warriors' room.

In this room, I get to pray and step out of the way for God. In this room, men like Bryan Laurila, Brian Clark, Dennis Maki, and Randy Glibertson pray over me and lay hands on me. This I believe is my favorite part of the weekend for me, the little me part of the weekend. If you EVER are given the opportunity to go forward in church to have a person or persons pray over you and lay hands on you as they pray, GO, step in faith, trust God because God is good.

(Continued in the September Tower)

2018 Michigan Conference Information

History just waiting to happen: January 1, 2019, New structure is in place:

- The Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Conference will dissolve while the New Michigan Conference begins.
- The Marquette District will dissolve, while the new Northern Skies District begins.

Numbers at the 2018 Conference

- 1,795 clergy and laity attended
- \$14,825,633 Budget for 2019 (\$222,242 less than 2018)
- \$22,240 Haiti Hot Lunch offerings received
- \$21,530 Bishop Craig Children's Village offerings received
- \$4,706 for Puerto Rico Disaster Relief received
- 1,774 books, Literacy Program. The goal was 1,000 books to be distributed throughout all the Districts in Michigan.

Church Growth Goals in Michigan

In recent years, there has been an emphasis in Michigan for starting new churches to spread the Good News of Jesus. Goals have been set in the Michigan Conference to further this work that Jesus calls us to.

From 2016 to 2020—

- establish 13 new churches with average weekly worship greater than 100
- establish 130 new faith communities with 50 to 100 average weekly worship
- establish 1,300 small groups specifically designed for people who do not currently go to church. Five to 20 people

Seems super ambitious, doesn't it? But with God...all things are possible. The Office of Congregational Vibrancy has a plan. The whole Vital Church Initiative project emerged out of that office. See page two of this Tower to learn more about Healthy Congregations workshops that are being offered here in Iron Mountain in September. We/Trinity are already included in the Conference project to grow disciples for Jesus Christ and to share God's love in our own neighborhoods. You are part of that bigger picture!

5K Run/Walk at 2018 Conference UP Victory! Rev. Ryan Edwardson of Escanaba First UMC and Menominee UMC won first place. Go, Ryan!

Finance Information from Annual Conference

- Apportionments are now going to be called Ministry Shares
- Trinity is part of the 63% of DAC churches who paid 100% of apportionments in 2017
- For the entire state of Michigan—71 churches paid \$0 (9% of all churches)
- Starting January 1, 2019, Districts are going to be separately incorporated.
- New software for Church Treasurers is being developed so they can pay Ministry shares electronically
- New formula for Ministry Shares will have a greater impact on the western side of the state. Ministry Shares will be monitored so as to avoid excessive swings one way or another.
- Health insurance premiums will be tentative by July 1...increases for single people will be mitigated over four or five years so as to avoid the sticker shock. (Bridge Grant)
- Pension apportionments/ministry shares are not expected to vary more than 5% up or down

Key Themes in Worship/Sermons/Prayers. As we considered: 'Who is my neighbor?'

- Love creates neighbors.
- God has a mission in the world, and love is at the heart of that mission.
- God will never run out of love...
- We are the recipients and the bearers of God's great love
- Trust that God will do something special...because you are here.
- Be ready for God to show up.
- Love means being deeply committed to the well-being of others.
- Even when the worst possible tragedy happens...God will still be calling us to love each other and our neighbors
- No matter where you are from or what you do or how you practice your religion...we all love alike and we all care alike.
- Your comfort zone just might be a problem for God's mission in the world.

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, June 11, 2018

Roll Call: Adam Ryan, Kristy Ryan, Frank Trumbell, Pastor Geri Hamlen, Dean Laitinen, Joyce Erickson, Ruth Carlson, Blair Daugherty, and Lea Varda.

Pastor Geri opened devotions with some thoughts from the Annual Conference. The conference was catered around the theme of the Good Samaritan and who is our neighbor. Who are the neighbors of our Church congregation and Church building? The council plans to take a walk around our neighborhood surrounding the church during July's Council meeting. Pastor read the June Jubilee prayer written by a member of our congregation.

The May minutes were reviewed, and the June Agenda was set by the Council members.

Discussions and Votes

The Sunday brunch the Council and Committee members organized was a great success. Food and conversations were wonderful. Reading the Special Memories the congregation have written about their experiences at Trinity were beautiful. We are blessed to have these memories of our church history.

Nurture

Joyce shared information from the United Methodist Women. The UMW Mini-Fair will be Saturday, October 20. The UMW will reimburse the Marie Bleeker Fund their portion of the sales tax.

Dean shared concerns from the Pastor Parish Relations committee for filling the need for a pianist on the second and third Sundays. The committee has received a resignation from Jean Larson. Jeremiah Garrigues-Cortelyou will begin as choir co-director in the fall.

Finance Committee

The Council reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report. The offerings for the month of May covered all May expenses, and no additional money was borrowed from Revolving Line of Credit. The loan balance remains at \$9,900. Apportionments are paid up-to-date.

Frank motioned to move the \$2,500 set aside for the ND Mission Team back into the Marie Bleeker Fund, as it is no longer needed. Seconded and approved.

Joyce motioned, by Finance Committee recommendation, to approve up to \$1,000 for VBS expenses from the Marie Bleeker Fund. Kristy seconded. Motion approved.

The Council is in agreement with the Trustees and Finance committees to start up a fundraiser, with a goal of \$5,000, for repair costs of the church boilers. **Frank motioned to start a fundraiser to repair boilers at an**

estimated cost of \$5,000. Dean seconded. Motion approved.

The Finance Committee has been in discussions about the need of borrowing money from the bank to pay bills. They are looking into options to help the financial well-being of Trinity and discussing possible changes to the Endowment documents.

Pastor's Time and Information

Pastor Geri thanks the Trustees for all their hard work in taking care of the parsonage. It is good to have a new lawn mower, a clean carpet, and an air conditioner that works!

At the District Breakfast during the Detroit Annual Conference, Pastor handed out 100 brochures for the September Healthy Congregations workshops. The word is out and we are hopeful for a great turnout. These workshop opportunities are part of the Conference's way of reaching out to help congregations of local churches to be the best place for ministry and giving congregations the tools to do God's work. Registrations are available for the workshops.

Pastor reports that the Leadership/Nominations Committee is looking for additional Sunday school teachers for the 2018-2019 Sunday school schedule.

There is also a Lay Leader position to be filled for 2019.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 16, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.
Minutes taken by Lea Varda

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, June 11, 2018

Present: Lucy Shampo, Jerry Hicks, Betsy Trumbell, Blair Daugherty, Marsha Bonicatto, Pastor Geri Hamlen.

Blair called the meeting to order.

The Jubilee prayer was read together.

Marsha moved to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2018 meeting. Betsy supported. Motion carried.

Dean Laitinen gave information to switch the Church Internet from Charter to AT&T. Blair will meet with the AT&T representative and sign the contract. There will be a \$99 installation fee, and we'll get a \$100 reward card.

Jon got a quote for Brotherhood Insurance and needs a copy of our current policy so he can make comparisons. Betsy will get a copy of the Church Mutual policy for Jon.

The parsonage carpet was cleaned, and the furnace and air conditioning repaired.

Jerry got a \$600 quote from Dan Waite for seamless gutters for the parsonage. Jerry will get another quote for the next meeting.

Six register covers were sand blasted and painted by Zams. Marsha and Betsy will get three more refinished next week.

The large coffee pot needs to be repaired. John checked into this with Hiawatha in Escanaba, and the cost will be \$200. Marsha moved to have the repairs done at Hiawatha for \$200. Jerry supported. Motion carried. The repair costs will be paid for with 100+ Women money.

Ball and Christy buffed the scratches on the glass tabletop donated in memory of Barb Sandberg.

We are waiting on Green Lawn to treat the parsonage lawn for grubs.

Betsy will put Weed & Feed on the Church lawn.

Lucy will be the Trustee representative to the Finance Committee when Marsha is gone.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Geri reported on the successful Town Hall Meeting on the history of Trinity and the great brunch that followed.

Lucy moved to adjourn. Jerry supported. Motion carried.

Submitted by Betsy Trumbell, Trustee Secretary

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, May 21, 2018

Roll Call: Emily Ritsema, Dean Laitinen, Frank Trumbell, Bruce Clark, Pastor Geri, Blair Daugherty, Scott Ritsema, Ruth Carlson, and Lea Varda.

Pastor Geri opened devotions with some thoughts and comments about spiritual growth in terms of figuring out what God wants us to do as a community of Faith. Maybe talking about God's will isn't so useful as looking at the words of Jesus who, in all four Gospels tells his disciples to go and preach, baptize, teach, proclaim forgiveness, and witness to how God is at work in all the world. Reading the Bible tells us what Jesus wants us to do. So then we just have to figure out how to do it here and now!

The April Minutes were reviewed and corrected. The amount of Marie Bleecker funds requested by the North Dakota Mission Team was \$2,500—not \$2,000 as written in the April minutes. The May agenda was set by the Council members.

Discussion and Votes

A Sunday brunch organized by the Stewardship and the TUMC committee members is set for June 10 following

the worship service and Town Hall meeting. The meal is being prepared by the Council and committee members, and a free-will offering will be taken and will be designated to the General Fund.

Finance Committee

The Council reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report. April offerings were not enough to cover April expenses. A total of \$3,850 was borrowed from the Revolving Line of Credit. Our loan balance is at \$9,900. The General Fund did receive additional funds after loan transaction of \$508.67. Apportionments are paid up to date.

Two new entries have been added to line items in the Designated Funds. College Outreach and the North Dakota Mission Team (NDMT) have been separated from the Missions line.

Bruce motioned to move Sprague Funds and the Easter offering funds totaling \$1,603.74 into the General Fund. Dean seconded. Motion passed.

The Memorial Fund balance after the purchase of the Gathering Room table in memory of Barb Sandberg is \$1,386. As designated by the Sandberg family, the balance will be moved to the General Fund.

Frank Trumbell shared information on an offering comparison for the first four months of 2017 and the first four months of 2018. This information will be sent out with the first-quarter giving statements. A letter giving the financial status of TUMC will go with the statements based on members who have given in 2018 and those members who have yet to do so.

Frank motioned that the Church Council recognize any gifts \$500 or more by sending a written thank you card to include exact dollar amount and any designation details. Ruth seconded. Motion passed.

Vacation Bible School dates are June 25-28. VBS coordinators will be given a Marie Bleecker request form to request funds to pay for VBS materials.

The Council discussed switching Internet and phone carrier. It was decided to go with less expensive and added functions for the church. **Scott motioned by recommendation of the Finance Committee to switch from Charter/Spectrum to AT & T as the Internet and phone provider. This 2-year contract will result in a reduced cost to the church. Dean seconded. Motion passed.**

Trustees

The Trustees have received replacement bids for burner units to update the heating system. A request for funds was made and the Board of Trustees was referred to the Finance Committee. The Trustees have a written document for Suggestions for the Use of Trinity United Methodist Facilities. The list was reviewed and discussed.

Pastor's Time and Information

Pastor recommended that the Iron Mountain Cabin Funds be sent to Camp Michigamme as the camp prepares for the upcoming camp season. This was agreed to by the Council. Pastor will coordinate with the Treasurer and the First UMC to see if they have any funds as well.

The Michigan Annual Conference 2018 Legislation/Resolutions were passed around. Some discussion took place. Pastor Geri, and Bruce and Beth Clark will be available for any further discussions. Annual Conference begins May 31. Pastor thanks Bruce and Beth for being our delegates.

Additional information

Scott reports the Car Care Clinic serviced approximately 48 vehicles. All went well.

Town Hall Meetings continue. May 27, Where Does the Money Come From? June 10, TUMC history.

Adam Ryan requested that the June Council meeting be held on June 11, 2018 due to the NDMT leaving the following week. Finance meeting is moved up one week also to June 7.

Pastor Geri thanked the Trustees for the new lawn mower and furnace repair at the parsonage.

There are registration forms for the Healthy Congregations workshops coming in September. Other area churches have shown interest in attending them also.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 11, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.
Minutes taken by Lea Varda.

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, May 14, 2018

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

Blair called the meeting to order.

Pastor Geri led us in the reading of the May Jubilee Prayer.

Marsha moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting with the following correction: Change "Suzanne Harry and Ann Musgrove have offered to paint the women's bathroom by the choir room when Ann gets back" to "Suzanne Harry has offered to paint the women's bathroom by the choir room if Ann Musgrove agrees to help." Jerry supported. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The final revisions for the church rental were discussed. Marsha moved to approve the suggestions for the rental and use of Trinity United Methodist Church. Jon supported. Motion carried. Blair will bring this use of facilities document to the next Council meeting.

The insurance meeting with Church Mutual was canceled by the rep and has not yet been rescheduled. Jon is looking into Brotherhood Insurance and is filling out paperwork to get a quote from them.

Jon has researched carpet cleaning at the parsonage. Pastor Geri will contact Kristy at Classic Carpet Care to measure and get a quote.

John was to contact Gary Gardiepy from MJ Electric on outdoor lighting at the church. John will report back at the next meeting.

Marsha and Betsy painted the metal indoor railings and scrubbed the wooden railings at the church.

Jon made a motion to have Zam's blast and paint all 11 register covers at the church. Marsha supported. Motion carried. Marsha and Betsy will handle this.

Marsha moved to accept a sandwich board sign donated by Frank and Betsy Trumbell. Jerry supported. Motion carried.

Jerry is working on getting a quote from Dan Waite for gutters at the parsonage.

The table that Lee Sandberg donated in memory of Barb has been delivered. When delivered, there was a small scratch in the right hand glass. We will ask Brad for advice on this.

Jerry approved hiring Green Lawn to treat the parsonage lawn for grubs and fertilizer not to exceed \$500. Jon supported. Motion carried. Pastor Geri will contact Green Lawn.

Dean Laitinen has investigated better, cheaper Internet service. AT&T quoted better service for less money and the Finance Committee decided to go with them.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Geri passed out information on a workshop called Healthy Congregations, which will be held on September 14, 2018 from 6:30 to 9 here at Trinity and encouraged us to attend.

Pastor Geri gave us information on a Michigan program called Literacy Partnerships to donate children's books and is supported by the United Methodist Church in Michigan.

The furnace at the parsonage stopped working. Sikora fixed the furnace.

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



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July & August 2018



Independence Day

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THE TOWER is published 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
Custodian.....Larry Marlett
Nursery Attendants.....
Sally Verley, Ian Driscoll, & Kane Driscoll
Secretary.....Sally Verley
Sunday Worship.....9:15 a.m.
Nursery Available Each Sunday
Office Hours.....Mon.-Thurs., 8-4; Fri., 8-noon
Website.....www.imtrinity.org
Phone 774-2545 Email imtrinityumc@gmail.com

Men of Prayer will meet at First UMC in Iron Mountain on Monday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m. We'll also meet on Monday, August 6 at Quinnesec UMC 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.

We'll go back to worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 9.



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