

# The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 8

Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI

www.imtrinity.org

March 2018

## Pastor's Ponderings

'Prayer is the glue that binds the people of God together.' I read something like that recently, and it has stuck with me—pardon the pun! When we talk to God, we are growing in our relationship with God. When we talk with God *about our church and the people at our church*, we are growing our church community and making it stronger and more beautiful.

Church growth is so often spoken about in terms of bringing new people into the building. Adding more members to the lists. Talking to people about Jesus so they can be saved. Those are all human activities—hopefully fueled by the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, and they are valuable in their own right. But there is this other way to 'grow the church.' It's quieter and more solitary...**Prayer?**

Talking and listening to God somehow softens our hearts towards other people. Prayer strengthens our desire to know and be close to others. Prayer binds us together, as the old hymn says, and creates connections between people who might not otherwise even know each other.

During the Lenten season, we are praying 'heart prayers' for each other, for the members of Trinity UMC. In the Gathering Room and at the Carpenter Avenue entrance, there are paper hearts with people's names on them. On one side of the heart is the name of someone who is in their earliest years of life. On the other side is the name of someone in the later years of their lives. Each week you are welcome to take a different heart and pray for the people named on them.

Those prayers, your prayers, our prayers create both a conversation with God and a connection with other people. Those prayers, your prayers, our prayers open our hearts to knowing and loving the people in our church. Those prayers, your prayers, our prayers help us to grow closer and kinder and more loving towards each other.

If you are uncertain about what to say in your prayers, be assured...God loves hearing from you no matter what you say! All you have to do is talk to God like you would to a dear, old friend. Prayer is a conversation of trust and honesty...the very glue that binds us together. Thanks be to God and those who share their love through prayer.

In the name of Jesus.

*Pastor Geri*

## God in heaven, hear the prayers of Your children.

We confess that, like all children, we sometimes forget to say 'thank you.'

We forget to share.

We forget to do our homework. We scuff our shoes, and rip our pants, and forget to wash our hands.

We forget our obligations, and go off and play.

We forget that others don't have as much as we do.

We are not always peacemakers.

We don't learn from our mistakes.

We remember the Easter bunny, but forget the cross.

And yet, You, in all Your goodness, still love us.

Please be patient with us, forgive our childish ways, and wash us clean.

In the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

## Jubilee Prayer

Abba, we have so much conflict today. The world is pulling in so many directions and mostly toward selfish desires and dead ends. Father, we pray that you will raise men up to serve in your army. Raise men with the courage to answer your call, the courage to put on your armor, and the determination to complete the journey you have laid out for us. Father, give these men the wisdom to listen to your commands to forgive and to love. Challenge us, Father, to step out in faith in whatever direction you see fit to fulfill our parts in your design.

Father, soften our hearts towards others, as we are drawn closer to you, our God and King, as time brings us further into the Lenten season. Help us to find it within ourselves to reflect your Son to those around us. Father, be our guide so that we can guide others. Protect us, Lord, so that we can stand for those who have no one to protect them. Father, although nothing we do can make us deserving of your grace, help us to accept it fully; help us to show it to your people as fully as we can. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Looking Ahead to Easter!



**Holy Tuesday Worship**, March 27, 7:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 1432 River St., Niagara. Community Chorus and Ecumenical Service.

**Maundy Thursday Worship**, March 28, 6:00 p.m., evening worship here at Trinity with music from our choir and Communion.

**Good Friday Ecumenical Worship**, March 30, 12:15 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, corner of Kimberly and "H" St., Iron Mountain.

**Easter Sunday Worship**, April 1 (yes, April Fools Day!), with services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. There will be a church-wide potluck brunch between the worship services. Please bring a dish to pass, and share the joy with your church family.

**Keep the Date Open**—Church-Wide Birthday Celebration is returning on Sunday, April 22. It will be a potluck right after the 10:30 worship service. Everyone is invited to come and sing *Happy Birthday* to each other! Please bring a dish to share.

**Easter Potluck!** The choir is singing at both the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services on Easter Sunday, April 1. No fooling! Stay late after the 8:00 service, or come early for the 10:30 service with a dish to pass, and share Easter fellowship and greetings with your family of faith. There will be no Sunday School that day. Let's just rejoice and share the fun of Easter on April Fool's Day!

**Community Lenten Services. Theme: The "I Am" statements of Jesus.** Soup and sandwich supper at 6:00 p.m. Service at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7, at Riverside UMC, Niagara. Rev. Irene White will preach.

Wednesday, March 14, at Hermansville UMC. Rev. Henry Yoap will preach.

Wednesday, March 21, at Quinnesec UMC. Rev. Geri Hamlen will preach.

**Easter is a good time** to remember, honor, and give thanks for our church and for the people we know and love. Please use the enclosed Paper Easter Flower slip to make an extra contribution to Trinity UMC. Return it to the office by Palm Sunday, March 25, and we will display our paper flowers for Easter.



**Special District Conference**—A special District Establishing Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time at Marquette Hope Connection Center. See page 3 for more information.

### 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 one time!

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

**Reflections on Billy Graham:** I saw that today our nation lost a man that stood up for God. Billy Graham passed away after preaching to millions, authoring multiple books, and giving counsel to several presidents. Billy once stated that courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened. I know his faith helped him show this courage. —by Scott Ritsema



### March Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Please pray for them on their special day.*

- Mar. 1 Morgan Hilyard, Joe Rietveld  
Abby Ruble  
2 Marsha Olson  
6 Robert Hostettler, Halle Maki  
Brian & Celeste Bancroft  
7 Joyce Yuhasey, Keith & Genean Granger  
8 Michael Uren  
9 Marchella Mariucci, Lizzy Ryan  
11 Ken & Deb Saul  
12 Trinity Blagec  
13 Brent Hostettler, Jonathan Ryan  
15 Miles Mulka, Kevin Waldbillig  
Bill & Wilma Verrette  
16 Randy Champagne  
17 Chuck Kuder  
18 Jennifer Ahola, Maria Hyrkas  
Cindie Trevillian  
21 Steve & Roxanne Hudson  
Dean & Robin Rose  
22 Ruth Ann Badini, Tobias Bancroft  
Tracy Blagec, Bradyn Wiedemeier  
27 Henry Badini, Paul & Chris Langer  
28 Clairice Strehlow  
29 Carol Moore, Dennis Smart  
Parker Summerfield  
31 Mark Shemanski

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**Hospitalized since our last issue:** James Carefelle,  
Wes Hanson, Phyllis Laurila, Carmen Swanson

**Our condolences** to Don Rowell, whose brother  
George Rowell died February 1.

### A Baptism

Russell Paul Hodgins was baptized February 11.  
Russell was born September 23, 2017 to Stephen and  
Dayna Hodgins. Grandparents are David and Tammy  
Hodgins. Great-grandmother is Marge Hodgins.

**Thank you** to Buckmasters, who recently donated  
\$1,000 in gift cards to our community meal program.

**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@mqtdistrict.com](mailto:umc@mqtdistrict.com)  
by March 31, and be sure to put April 21 on your  
calendar. Please see Pastor Geri if you'd like to attend  
this meeting.

**United Methodist Women** will have a potluck  
luncheon at noon on Thursday, April 5. All women of  
the church are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

**United Methodist Women's Spiritual Growth  
Retreat** will be April 27-28 in Manistique. Registration  
forms are on the wall across from the church office.

**Feeding America trucks** will distribute food here on  
Saturday, June 2 and Saturday, August 4. Volunteers  
will be needed. Please tell Chris Langer, (906)239-  
6096, if you can help with either truck or both.

**Thank you** for continuing to turn in cash register tapes  
from Econo Foods & Super One Foods. In 2017, we  
received \$2,141.79 from Econo Foods & Super One  
tapes that you turned in to us. We also collect UPCs  
from Our Family brand products. Money that we  
receive for the tapes & UPCs goes to our General Fund.  
Collection boxes are in the narthex at the Carpenter  
Ave. entrance & on the bulletin board by the west door  
to the Sanctuary.

**A new leaf**, in memory of Mary Conte Swander, has  
been added to the Endowment Tree in the Gathering  
Room.

**The Trinity Church kitchen** is open to any group &/or  
individual that chooses to use it, whether it's for an  
event, meeting, party, etc. When you use the kitchen &  
its facilities, please keep these simple things in mind:  
✓ Everything that is stored in a refrigerator or freezer  
needs to be labeled with whose it is, the date, & what it  
is. This will ensure no one throws it away. It's easy to  
forget things in the refrigerator, but we don't want any  
"surprises" that the health inspector would certainly  
frown upon. We'll try to keep labels & pens readily  
available. PLEASE watch the dates on any dairy  
products that you store in the refrigerator.

✓ All dishes used should be washed, dried, & put away  
if possible. Counter tops should be wiped down, &  
please make sure the ovens, stove, & outside of the  
refrigerator aren't left a mess.

✓ After the Wednesday night meal, the silverware  
needs to be covered with a dish towel if it's left in the  
tray to dry.

Thank you for taking care of the kitchen!



## Serving in March

### Offering Counters:

March 4	Robin Rose & Daniele Ruble
March 11	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
March 18	Suzanne Harry & Sue Paternoster
March 25	Marsha Bonicatto & Gail Croci

### Liturgists:

### Ushers:

### Projection System Operators

		<u>Liturgists:</u>	<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>Projection System Operators</u>
March 4	8:00	OK	OK	Kyle Shemanski
	10:30	Ruth Ann Badini	TBD	Dean Laitinen
March 11	8:00	OK	OK	Jon Harry
	10:30	Scott Ritsema	TBD	Riley Gauthier
March 18	8:00	OK	OK	Jon Harry
	10:30	Jill Noyce	TBD	Dean Laitinen
March 25	8:00	OK	OK	Kyle Shemanski
	10:30	Drew Champagne	TBD	Maddie Ryan

**Ushers:** Please see the sign-up sheet by the elevator in the Gathering Room.

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

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### Preacher's Corner

**The Season of Lent has begun...** Starting with Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day, we entered into a time of more serious reflection on the meaning of sacrifice. The sermons for Lent will be built around what happens: 'At the Crossroads.' We'll explore the intersection of choices available to us at different times in our lives. We will hear dialogue sermons as we hear from people who knew Jesus in those last days of his life. Some chose well, and some did not. There is much we can learn about the Crossroad choices in our own lives. Come and be blessed by the words of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

March 4, *At the Crossroads: John the Beloved.*  
'Obedience' Matthew 26:36-46. Communion Sunday

March 11, *At the Crossroads: Pontius Pilate.*  
'Judgment' Matthew 27:11-26

March 18, *At the Crossroads: Peter.* 'Declaration'  
Mark 14:66-72. Confirmation Sunday

March 25, *At the Crossroads: Malchus.* 'Compassion'  
Luke 22:47-51. Palm Sunday



## Holy Week

### 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!

During Lent, there are other Wednesday night worship opportunities. Please see page 2 for a list of other United Methodist worship services, including soup and sandwich dinners!

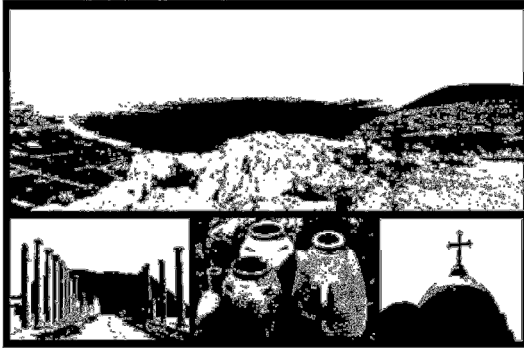
**Ushers**—We need ushers for the 10:30 worship time to greet people as they come to worship. Please call the office, 774-2545, or Mark Shemanski, 396-6828, if you can help. One week at a time! It's not hard, and we have a checklist to help you. Thanks.

**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.





## BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE: PHYSICAL SETTINGS OF THE BIBLE SEMINAR



Presented by Rev. Dr. John DeLancey  
Director of Biblical Israel Ministries & Tours

*Experience & Understand the Bible in Context through  
Historical Geography ~ Biblical Archaeology  
Manners and Customs ~ Hebraic Background of Jesus*

**'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!

### Summary of the Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, February 12, 2018

Staff Parish Relations Committee and Trustees are working together to come up with a church maintenance plan. Trustees are also in the process of putting together guidelines for donations when using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and other areas of the church. Currently, we have guidelines only for use with weddings.

Problems with the boilers that heat the church have been addressed and corrected.

Some maintenance work has been postponed until spring for obvious reasons, but the pews have recently been cleaned and oiled by two members of the Trustees. --Minutes summarized by Marsha Bonicatto. (Complete minutes of the Trustees meeting are available in the church office.)

# FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

### What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!

## ‘A Joyful Journey’

### Bishop David Bard shares a Lenten love story

Let me begin by thanking so many of you who have written me about my invitation to pray this week for our United Methodist Church and the work of the Commission on the Way Forward. Thank you for your encouraging words and for your commitment to be in prayer.

A funny thing is happening this year. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent in the Church, falls this year on February 14, Valentine’s Day, our cultural celebration of love. Will there be romantic candle light dinners, followed by worship where we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return? If you are giving up chocolate for Lent, what do you do with the heart-shaped box that arrives February 14? Do you imagine two people, ashen crosses on their foreheads, exchanging brightly colored cards?

Digging a bit more deeply, though, the coinciding celebration of Lent and of love could be seen as a wonderful serendipity. Lent, after all, is not simply a reminder of our mortality or of our penchant for messing life up, or of our tendency to sin. Lent is meant to be a time to re-focus on what is most important. It is meant to be a time of reflection and renewal, a time to re-energize our lives through a deeper connection with the God we know in Jesus Christ. It is to seek to have our lives more fully transformed by the grace of God in Jesus.

What does that look like? John Wesley thought it looked like love. Wesley defined the heart of Christian faith as love of God and neighbor. Wesley’s notion of Christian perfection was being made perfect in love. Let me share a love story that has a lot to do with Lent.

A few weeks ago, my wife Julie and I drove to Mount Pleasant for their first morning worship service. As a bishop, one of my joys is sharing worship with you in many different places. It was a sunny, but cold morning. As we came into the entry way of the church, I could not help but notice a woman and her two young children, a boy and a girl, sitting there. I also could not help but notice that she had a wire cart filled with a number of possessions. I wondered briefly if she had shown up waiting to talk to someone about getting help. I wondered briefly if I might be asked for money. My brief wondering was quickly interrupted when the little girl, bundled in her warm hat and coat, came up to me and gave me a big hug. I was deeply touched and I thanked her for her kind greeting. Others arrived in the entry way, and we moved forward into the church.

During the morning worship I heard that the church had been home that weekend for some homeless persons and families. A number of congregations in the community take turns providing shelter for people without places. These guests had stayed the night at the church, and were being transported that morning to

another location where they could spend the day. I am sure the little girl who hugged me had spent the night at the church and she and her mother and brother were waiting in that entry way for their ride to a day shelter.

Perhaps the little girl was able to share love in a hug because love had been shared with her through the church. Loving others in the name of Jesus, loving because we know we are loved wildly and deeply by God – Lent is a time to know that love of God more profoundly and to grow in sharing that love more widely and wildly. I invite you to a holy, and wholly loving, Lent. *Bishop David Bard*

### The Mission of the Month for March

(Taken from <http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing>)

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Don’t be fooled by the word ‘committee.’ Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than 80 countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something ‘they’ do. It’s something ‘we’ do. That’s because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

Will you continue to give to UMCOR during the month of March (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)? Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families, and communities who’ve experienced devastation in the wake of disaster? God bless you for caring and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ, in and through those who are suffering.

Trinity United Methodist Church  
808 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
Permit No. 81

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

# March 2018



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**808 Carpenter Ave.**  
**Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704**  
**Vol. 17, No. 8, March 2018**

**THE TOWER** is published 10 or 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 ages 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.....(906)774-2545  
Email.....imtrinityumc@gmail.com

**Men of Prayer** will meet at First UMC in Iron Mountain on Monday, March 5 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.



**Set your clocks  
ahead one hour  
when you go to bed  
Saturday, March 10.**

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