

# The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 10 Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI www.imtrinity.org May & June 2018

## Pastor's Ponderings

I have three weddings to prepare for this summer. That gives me lots of opportunities to think about what it means when 'the two become as one.' Marriage is so much more than the merger of two households and assets. It is a partnership of two separate people who join together for the adventures and challenges of life—but it's more than just a collaboration. Marriage is the creation of something new...a family that didn't exist before the ceremony. It's the covenant commitment to building a foundation of trust, hope, love. A foundation that is strong enough to sustain a lifetime relationship that includes a lot of history and even more future...as it extends to the next generation. The two become as one and the world is a richer and better place for it.

There are times when Church organizations do something similar. The United Methodist Church in Michigan has been divided into two separate groups for a long time: the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference. That division is soon going to end as the new Michigan Conference comes into being. Like a marriage—this is more than a merger. More than a partnership. It is actually the start of something new and wonderful.

A conscious decision was made to use this opportunity to cast off the practices from all sides of the State which have failed to serve God in this time and place. New ways of thinking about being Jesus for the world and new ways of streamlining and building a web of cooperative groups within the church are being implemented, even as we speak. Nobody wants the Michigan Conference to just be 'business as usual.' Nobody wants to take all the ineffective and non-productive parts of the current two groups and make a new declining, ineffective organization.

No, the vision is to create a new Conference that is receptive to the needs of the Districts, who in turn are open and available to the needs of the local churches. The new Michigan Conference is building a foundation of trust, hope, and love so that all the United Methodists in the State of Michigan can participate in God's bigger plan to make disciples of Jesus Christ, with open hearts, minds, and doors.

On Saturday, April 21, the Marquette District moved quietly into the sunset of its organizational life. A new name was voted on to be effective January 1, 2019. Trinity UMC at that point will be known as a

member of the Northern Skies District of the soon-to-be Michigan Conference. A new name. A new family. A new foundation. It's a marriage of sorts! The history won't change. The future, however, will be informed by a spirit of cooperation and energy for God's work in the UP to be done through each and all of the churches who are connected together in this beautiful area with Northern Skies. God is so good as to include us in that process. Thanks be to God,

*Pastor Geri*



## Financial News from our Treasurer, Jack Noyce:

The balance of the bank loan required to pay our 2018 operating expenses is \$6,050. The first quarter of the year follows a familiar pattern from years past of small weekly offerings early in the calendar year. The joy this year is we had a surplus from 2017 and a substantial gift to the General Fund in January. There were some generous gifts for Easter flowers in March, as well.

The challenge is that we still have to borrow money to pay our bills! The operating expenses for these months have been consistent with the 2018 budgeted amounts. Please prayerfully consider your role in meeting Trinity's financial responsibilities.

## May's Jubilee Prayer

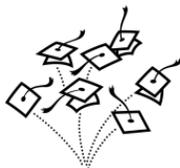
Dear Heavenly Father,

It's May, the grass has turned green, leaves are unfurling, soon flowers will bloom, and the earth will be renewed for another spring and summer. Thank you for all of that. Please be with each of us that we may also be renewed. Spring and summer are busy times for most of us. Help us not to get so caught up in our own little worlds that we forget that we are your Church. Revive us from winter's cold grip and renew us to be your people for those who don't yet know of your love. Open our hearts to be your Church for this time and this place. We ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser, May 20**

The North Dakota mission team's lasagna dinner fundraiser will be Sunday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8 per person.

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



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

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

### **Endowment Celebration Sunday, May 6**

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

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

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

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

**Feeding America trucks** will be here in our parking lot 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.

### **North Dakota Mission Team Hosting Fundraisers**

It's almost time to return to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota! This year's trip will be from June 17-22. Our team is 23 strong, with 11 adults and 12 youth. Five of our team members are joining us for the first time!

We thank you all so much for your love, support, and prayers as we prepare for our departure. We have our last two fundraisers coming up: April 29 will be our last cinnamon roll sale until the fall, and on May 20, we will be hosting a lasagna dinner. Come and enjoy a great dinner and fellowship with us.



### **Camp Michigamme:**

#### **A Message From the Director**

2018 is here, and with that comes the joy of knowing that another season of Camp Michigamme will be underway soon! We are excited to announce that this year there is a common theme that runs through each camp session. Regardless of the week you attend, you will have the chance to learn all about how your identity is in Christ and you are **WORTHY!** We have camps for children and adults! Get ready for the best week of your summer and the delightful opportunity to grow in your faith! Won't you join us this summer? And thanks to their Camp Scholarship Fund, Trinity UMC pays **half** your camp fees.

—Erica Thomas, Director

### **Camp Michigamme Work-Bee:**

Are you wondering what you should do the weekend of May 19-21? Well, wonder no more! Come out to Camp Michigamme to lend a hand in getting Camp ready for the summer season! There's a project for all skill levels. You are welcome to stay overnight and enjoy meals on us. We will have a nightly campfire (weather permitting) and a few other Camp traditions thrown in! Please let us know you are coming by calling (906)323-6521 or emailing Erica at [director@campmichigamme.org](mailto:director@campmichigamme.org). Can't make it that weekend, but still want to help out? Reach out, and we can work something out.

**Camp Michigamme Day is June 16 from 10:00 to 2:00 Eastern Time.** There will be a worship service led by District Superintendent Rev. Scott Harmon at 11:00, with lunch to follow. Camp activities and games will be held in the center of Camp. Mission Experience campers will be recognized for their role in getting camp ready for the summer. We will also have a brief ceremony for the sponsorship of the Iron Mountain Cabin with the hanging of the sign. A free-will offering will be collected for all who desire to support the district campership fund.

## Serving in Worship in May & June

### Offering Counters:

May 6	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
May 13	
May 20	Suzanne Harry & Sue Paternoster
May 27	
June 3	
June 10	
June 17	Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
June 24	

		<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Projection System Operators</u>
May 6	10:30	Drew Champagne	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>
May 13	10:30	Scott Ritsema	Bruce & Beth Clark	<i>TBD</i>
May 20	10:30	Jill Noyce	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>
May 27	9:15	Deb Saul	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>
June 3	9:15	Scott Ritsema	Dean Laitinen	<i>TBD</i>
June 10	9:15	Jill Noyce	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>
June 17	9:15	Drew Champagne	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>
June 24	9:15	Deb Saul	<i>Can you help?</i>	<i>TBD</i>

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

**Preacher's Corner:** Easter is not just a day of celebration. It is also a season in the church where we consider what it means to say the Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! During this Easter season, the sermons will be tied together by the theme: 'He's Lifted Up So We Can Lighten Up!' Already in April, we have considered what it means to 'Be the Moon,' reflecting God's love the way the moon reflects the light of the sun. We have thought about 'Lightening the Load,' and we are trying to 'Lighten Up!' So come and be lifted up as we continue in that vein through May 20, the Pentecost Celebration.

One-service worship will begin on Sunday, May 27, as we switch gears and take a look at what it means to be the Church...the Body of Christ for the world. God calls us, as the Church, to come together as individuals in a particular place and time to do God's work in the world. It's hard sometimes to know exactly what God wants of us as a community of faith, but we can always look in our Bibles for ideas and lessons. The Book of Revelation has seven letters to seven different churches...advising them of strengths, weaknesses, direction forward, and what it means to be faithful to God. Let's take time this summer to look for God's hopes for Trinity UMC, as we study the seven churches of Revelation.

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!

**May 6,** Endowment Celebration. Acts 10:44-48, John 15:1-13. *Lifting the Cup*

**May 13,** Mother's Day. Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47. *Lifting the Mother Load*

**May 20,** Pentecost Sunday. Acts 2:1-4, 12-21, Romans 8:26-27. *Lifted Up on Eagle's Wings*

**May 27,** Revelation 2:1-7, Ephesians 1:3, 13-14. *First Things First*

**June 3,** Revelation 2:8-11, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12. *Down, but Not Out*

**June 10,** Revelation 2:12-17, 1 Peter 5:6-11. *Resistance Over Relevance*

**June 17,** Revelation 2:18-29, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. *Resist Erosion*

**June 24,** Revelation 3:1-6, John 3:1-12. *Accurate Self-Assessment*



**Notes from an optimist...**

We can't always choose the music life plays for us, but we can choose how we dance to it.

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Please pray for them on their special day.*

- May 1 Keagen Aman, Robert Paupore  
Lea Varda  
2 Julia Ritsema, Larry Trevillian  
3 Kay Carlson, Lori Sorensen  
5 Eugene DuCharme  
7 Jill Volmering  
8 Kirk Fortner, Lois Langsford  
9 Gail Croci, Luke Ruble  
William Uren  
10 Sara Phillips  
11 Roxanne Hudson, Gino Santoni  
Rick & Ann Musgrove  
12 Brock Grenier  
13 Mary Ann Harding, Marcus Harry  
Wendy Mulka  
14 Adam Smart  
15 Adam Hayes, Dennis & Carolyn Pineda  
16 Lindsey Sorensen  
17 Debby Cavalieri, Jeff Simon  
Ed & Dawn Riutta  
18 Greg Hunt  
20 Carol Trevillian  
21 Kevin Freeman  
22 Cherie Winters  
23 Heather Hayes, Gino Mariucci  
Lucas Reddinger, Scott & Emily Ritsema  
24 Robert Cowling  
25 Betsy Trumbell  
26 Sophie Bancroft, Ashley Phillips  
Jo Ann Richer  
27 Stephen Blagec  
28 Karen Fortner, Sandy Mutsch  
Jayce Paupore, Sue Youngberg  
Jon & Suzanne Harry  
30 Neil Annear, Terry Barnes  
31 Steve & Debby Cavalieri  
Bryan & Jennifer Rietveld

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Please pray for them on their special day.*

- June 1 Beth Clark, Pauline Hill  
2 Koni Lindholm  
4 Christopher Cavalieri  
5 Kathryn Bilgreen, Michelle Yuhasey  
Mario & Brynn Santoni  
6 Kane Driscoll, Brynlee Summerfield  
7 Karen Gaffney, Matt Gauthier  
Diana Hunt, Matthew Rota  
Matt & Brittany Wiedemeier  
8 Tim & Michelle Yuhasey  
9 Keith & Kim Mashak  
10 Barbara Clemo, Rick Musgrove  
Barbie Slagle  
11 Clara Ryan  
12 Larry DuFord, Jean Larson, Tami Slagle  
Terry & Joanne Barnes  
13 John Hyrkas, Paul & Renèe Grenier  
14 Greg & Diana Hunt  
16 Bruce Clark  
17 Ellsworth & Rosemary Carlson  
18 Eleanor Edlebeck  
20 Bruce Aaron Bilgreen, Cole Grenier  
Charlene Hunt, Dick & Shirley Allen  
Larry & Carol Trevillian  
21 Tony & Elise Cavalieri  
Adam & Heather Hayes  
22 Moriah Hostettler  
23 Matthew Mulka, Mika Yuhasey  
Dale & Sarah Powell, Tom & Mary Turner  
24 Jon Forsberg, Kyle Shemanski  
Tim & Colleen Driscoll  
Dan & Devon Rushford  
25 Gabriella Summerfield  
Larry & Marsha Bonicatto  
Scott & Cindie Trevillian  
27 Carol Annear, Bruce W. Bilgreen  
Vera Santoni, Joe & Karen Fortner  
Stephen & Dayna Hodgins  
28 Stephen & Hope Ann Blagec  
29 Paul Mulka, Don Richards  
30 Weston Trevillian, Noah Wilcox  
Guy Yuhasey

### Camp Michigamme's Baked Pancake Recipe

From Blair Daugherty

Beat 3 or 4 eggs with 1 cup of milk until fluffy.

Add 2 to 3 cups of milk and beat.

Add: ½ cup of sugar

1 ½ cups of flour

1 teaspoon of salt, and mix.

Melt ¼ to ½ cup of oleo. Pour half onto a cookie sheet with sides (jelly roll pan), and half into the batter. Mix.

Pour batter into pan. Bake at 425° for 20 minutes.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake about 5 minutes longer, or until brown on the edges.

**Our condolences** to Pastor Geri, whose Aunt Marcella MacLauchlan in Baton Rouge, Louisiana died March 29.

**A new leaf** is on the tree in the Gathering Room, in loving memory of Barbara Sandberg.



**Car Care Clinic**, Saturday, May 12 at First Covenant Church, on 'H' St. If you can volunteer to help, please call Rob Hibbard, (906)396-2301. Come for a couple of hours or all day. It's fun! This event is sponsored by United Men in Ministry.

### **May's Mission of the Month is the Covenant Offering for Annual Conference 2018**

We don't always feel this, but in truth, we as United Methodists are connected to other United Methodists who gather together and call themselves a Conference. Each year, the Conference meets and reaffirms the connection and the ties that bind us together. Part of that includes a special Covenant offering that will be our Mission of the Month for May.

All the churches in the Conference bring their Covenant offerings, which will again be shared between our worldwide covenant partners, the Haiti Annual Conference and the Liberia Annual Conference. This offering is traditionally split between the Haiti Hot Lunch Program and the food program at Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia. The generosity of our churches and members of Annual Conference traditionally yield around \$33,000 each year to help us sustain these food programs.

Trinity UMC has been very generous in giving to the Mission of the Month, and we can be happy knowing that May's money will serve other Methodists around the world.

### **Michigan Annual Conference Book Collection for Childhood Literacy**

The Michigan Deacons, along with Julie Bard (Bishop Bard's wife), are excited to promote awareness about and action for childhood literacy. Deacons around Michigan are working with organizations that need books and/or can distribute books for free to the children in their communities. We are teaming up with Scholastic Literacy Partnerships and Cokesbury so churches can purchase age-appropriate books at a lower cost.

Our goal is to collect 1,000 books, which will be distributed all around the state of Michigan. Please mark your offering: Book Collection, and bring it to the church by May 20.

Thanks for making literacy a priority for the children of Michigan!



### **June's Mission of the Month is Our Camp Michigamme Scholarship Fund**

For many years, our church has used the fund to pay half of the camp fees for members of our congregation.

We want to make sure that Trinity people who want to attend camp can. Please keep Camp Michigamme and its campers in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity.



**Hero Central Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 25 through Thursday, June 28, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** It's for ages 3 to 12. There will be crafts and music, and a light meal will be served. Please RSVP by calling Cindi Strehlow at (906)221-1094.

Volunteers are needed, too. Please contact Cindi if you can help.

### **Light at the Inn: Season 2**

Eight local churches hosted the **Light at the Inn Rotating Shelter**: Our Saviour's Lutheran; Trinity United Methodist; First Covenant; Norway Covenant; Crossroads Alliance (Grace Methodist, Bethany Lutheran); St. Barbara's/St Mary's; First Methodist/Quinnesec Methodist; and Redemption Hill. Many other churches were supporting churches, either financially or supplying volunteers, including, but not limited to: Zion Lutheran of Felch; Riverside Methodist of Niagara; Holy Trinity Episcopal of Iron Mountain; Cornerstone Community; Bible Chapel; Mt. Olive Lutheran; First Lutheran; and Balsam Street Christian.\*

- Shelter was open from November 5, 2017 through March 31, 2018, for a total of 21 (18) weeks or 147 (127) nights.
- Occupied all but 19 (15) nights of the season. The majority of unoccupied nights occurred during Christmas to New Year's week and the last two weeks of March. There were no guests registered the last 13 days of the scheduled season.
- Total bed-nights (guests per night) for the season was 233 (212). 179 male bed-nights, 54 female bed-nights.
- Provided overnight shelter and meals to 18 (16) individual guests; three (two) guests stayed for the majority of the season
- Assisted two of those guests into permanent housing in our area; assisted four guests into housing arrangements in other areas

\*Numbers in parenthesis indicate counts from the 2016-2017 season.

## **2018 Paper Easter Flowers**



### **In memory of:**

LaVerne & James Barnes  
From Terry & Joanne, Shane, & Shannon Barnes  
family

Lorraine Bowman  
From Bob, Linda, Judy, & Bill

Susan Calcari  
From Mom, Dad, Linda, & Greg

Harold & Gladys Dams  
From Sandy Mutsch

Micki Debelak  
From her family

Harold & Lillian Forsberg  
From Jon Forsberg

Art Fortier  
From Bonnie Fortier

Bob & Gwen Hamlen  
From Pastor Geri

Duaine "Red" Harding  
From Mary Ann Harding

Kathleen, Abby, & Lucas Harry  
From Marv & Carolyn Harry

My husband Cecil Hostettler  
From June Hostettler

Louise Morelli  
From Mom

Mom, Barbara Sandberg  
From Mark Sandberg

Barb Sandberg  
From Marsha & Larry Bonicatto

Richard, Laurette, Dale, & Jeffrey Trevillian  
From Jack & Alice

Laurette & Richard Trevillian, &  
Clara & Herman Plonke  
From Larry & Carol Trevillian

Neil West  
From Virginia West

### **In honor of:**

Our grandchildren  
From Marv & Carolyn Harry

My grandchildren  
From Pauline Hill

Dayna Hodgins  
From Mom

All my children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren  
From June Hostettler

Jack & Alice Nord  
From Janis, Paul, & Renèe

My family  
From Carmen Swanson

The Trinity Church Choir  
From Scott & Emily Ritsema

Trinity United Methodist Church  
From Richard & Shirley Allen

### **In celebration of:**

The Barnes family, Hope & Steve Blagec family, Lori  
& John Rodda family, Shawn & Nicole Barnes family,  
Tammy Barnes, Kevin Barnes, & Robin Barnes  
From Terry & Joanne, Shane, & Shannon Barnes  
family

Our Trinity family, who we miss and love greatly  
From Greg and Diana Hunt

Tony Spinelli  
From Pastor Geri

Carmen Swanson  
From her family

Our grandchildren: Jacob, Isaac, Sonia, Franklin, &  
Emmeline  
From Frank & Betsy Trumbell

All new moms  
From Mom

**Graduation Sunday is May 20.** Please hold these young people and their families in prayer as they finish one stage of life and prepare to move to the next: Bruce A. Bilgreen, Ian Driscoll, Casey Hansley, Joseph Rietveld, Madeline Ryan, and Piper Strehlow.

### **Save the Dates!**

Healthy Congregations Workshop, Sept. 14-15  
Healing Conversations Workshop, Sept. 28-29  
These workshops are sponsored by the Michigan Conference of The UMC and paid for by our apportionments. \$25 workbook fee only. All are welcome. Registration forms are coming soon. Call for more information: (906)774-2545.

**Next Town Hall Meeting, Sunday, May 27, 10:30 a.m. Information, conversation, inspiration!**



*\*About the Commission on a Way Forward*

The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church.

For more information on the Commission on a Way Forward, visit [umc.org/wayforward](http://umc.org/wayforward)

DALLAS - What is Christ’s way forward for doing mission and ministry in the worldwide United Methodist Church? That is the question bishops pondered during their February meeting in Dallas as they received an updated report from the Commission on a Way Forward.

In the report given to the Council, the Commission shared with the bishops two sketches that carry forward many of the values and principles of the three sketches that were presented to the bishops at their meeting in November .

“The sketches of these two models represent the values, concerns, and feedback we have received since we reported to the Council in November. The two sketches provide avenues for unity, contextualization, and mission,” said Bishop Ken Carter, one of the moderators of the Commission.

The bishops offered feedback, but did not vote on the two revised sketches, instead asking the Commission to continue working to prepare a final report to be presented to the bishops at their April/May meeting.

**Summary of the sketches of the models**

Here is a summary of the two sketches in process. Details may change based on the work of the Commission at its next meeting.

**ONE CHURCH MODEL**

- The One Church Model gives churches the room they need to maximize the presence of United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible. The One Church Model provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.

**MULTI-BRANCH: ONE CHURCH MODEL**

- This model is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly-defined values such as accountability, contextualization, and justice. The five U.S. jurisdictions would be replaced by three

connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology and perspective on LGBTQ ministry (i.e. progressive, contextual, traditional branches). Annual conferences would decide which connectional conference to affiliate with; only local churches who choose a branch other than the one chosen by their annual conference would vote to join another conference.

During the meeting in Dallas, the bishops also heard reports on the impact of both models on pension benefits, the connection, central conferences, and fiscal responsibilities.

Council President Bishop Bruce Ough noted that the process of seeking a way forward was grounded in three major values:

1. A renewed attention to our public mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, especially with those who are not yet a part of our churches.
2. A focus on contextuality in a global church, and our continuing call to learn from each other, listen to each other.
3. Continuing to work with traditional, contextual, and progressive values that are present in two models, one that is more aligned with a contextual church with the removed language about human sexuality, a second which differentiates between these values as different branches of one church.

At the close of the meeting, the Council of Bishops offered condolences to the family of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, the noted evangelist, who passed away recently.

The Commission on a Way Forward will meet in Los Angeles in a few weeks and then give its final report to the Council of Bishops at the April/May meeting in Chicago.

<p><b>Wanted by Erica Thomas, Camp Michigamme</b>  <b>Director: Camp Staff</b>—Can't get enough of camp in the summer? Want to spend your summer working the best job of your life? Come and join our staff at Camp Michigamme this summer and fall in love with your summer job over and over again! We are looking for a bookkeeper (we train), lifeguards (we train), support staff, registrar, arts and crafts person, and facilities help! All position are paid; however we welcome volunteers who want to lend a hand for a day, week, or all summer! Apply today online OR download the application, fill it out, and put it in the mail! Make a difference this summer in the life of a camper. Be here at Camp Michigamme! (Sally in the church office can download it for you or show you the website.)</p> <p>Also, we have the need for volunteers during the summer season in the form of counselors, nurses, and kitchen help! Please connect with Erica if you are interested!</p>
--

**The Michigan Annual Conference starts on Thursday, May 31 this year.** During the four days of meetings and worship and fellowship, the following Resolutions will be discussed and voted on. Please notice the variety of topics that are part of the conversation among Michigan Methodists. If you have any questions or thoughts on any of these topics, Bruce and Beth Clark are our delegates. You can contact them at (715)696-3773. Pastor is also a voting member and would be glad to hear your ideas.

### **Michigan Conference 2018 Legislation/Resolutions**

- R#1 Plan of Organization
- R#2 Authorize
- R#3 Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired or Clergy on Medical Leave
- R#4 2019 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan
- R#5 2019 Past Service Rate
- R#6 Amend Rules of Order ¶5.1.2
- R#7 Michigan Conference Human Resources Policy (#1)
- R#8 Michigan Conference Human Resources Policy (#2)
- R#9 Policy on Use of Proceeds of Sale & Accumulated Assets of 16 Local Church Properties
- R#10 Add Statement Concerning Clergy Families to the Covenant of Clergy 18 Sexual Ethics Policy
- R#11 Older Adult Ministries Council
- R#12 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival
- R#13 Acknowledgement of Sin
- R#14 Call for Unity in Diversity
- R#15 Prevent Gun Violence
- R#16 Raise the Age in Michigan
- R#17 Breastfeeding Facility at Michigan Annual Conference
- R#18 Childcare for Conferences
- R#19 Questions for Candidates for Federal and State Offices
- R#20 End U.S. Military Support of the Saudi Coalition for the War on Yemen
- R#21 Stop a War on North Korea
- R#22 You Shall Not Bear False Witness
- R#23 Child Incarceration, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights & UMW Priorities
- R#24 Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Occupation
- R#25 Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice Through Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions
- R#26 Guidelines for Equitable Compensation Support
- R#27 Minimum Base Compensation Support for 2019
- R#28 CFA Financial Policies and 2019 Budget

**Bruce and Beth** will be available for questions and discussion after worship on Sunday, May 20.

**Hello, Trinity!** I've been looking for someone to take over on heading the charge for building PowerPoint files for our Sunday service screen projection. I will not be able to build all of them on my own in addition to other commitments, so I would like to hand off much of that to a new person. I will not be building them anymore as of our summer services.

However, if we have just one additional person who is willing to build them, this is a critical part of our worship that we can easily continue to sustain. Even being willing to build half of them for the month allows for two "PowerPointers" and a reduced work time for each one. These are easily done from your home laptop with PowerPoint, and can be uploaded directly to the church or Pastor from there. The time involved is anywhere from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours, depending on the material for a given Sunday.

It's a very rewarding and creative form of service to the church, I can tell you! Please prayerfully consider this, and let me know of your interest so we can talk more about it. Thank you!—Dean Laitinen



***Happy Mother's Day!***



### **Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, April 16, 2018**

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

Pastor Geri shared some of the highlights of her vacation in New Orleans. She attended a church with a traditional first service and had a conversation with the Pastor who shared some information on their second service. It is an exciting and vibrant worship service filled with many children and families. Pastor passed around a basket with little samples of Tabasco sauce and gave a little history of something we use to give food a little bit of pizzazz. What can Trinity do to spark some pizzazz to intrigue people to see Trinity as a cool place to worship?

The March minutes were reviewed and accepted as written. The Agenda was set by the Council members.

### **Discussion and Votes**

**Jubilee Year:** Pastor has been checking with people in the congregation to see if they understand what the Jubilee Year is about. (Suspending official Goals and Vision Statement, while seeking God's direction for moving forward as a church through the use of prayer, reading the Bible, reviewing our history.) The idea doesn't seem to be getting across, so Bruce suggested an ad hoc Committee to assist with getting the concept out and understood. This could be some of the VCI people. Bruce and Pastor will work together to see what can be done.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee:** Dean gave an update on the first Town Hall Meeting Sunday, April 22 following the 10:30 service. The meeting will be led by Beth Clark and Brian Bancroft. Four more Town Hall meetings will be set up to connect as a congregation.

Dean shared information on the progress of the issues with the outdated computers in the church office. He suggests looking into replacing them. **Scott made a motion to designate up to \$2,000 of Bleecker Funds for new updated computers for the Pastor and Sally in the church office. Bruce seconded. Motion passed.**

**Finance Committee:** The council reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report. March giving was not enough to cover March expenses. A total of \$3,700 was borrowed from the Revolving Line of Credit. Our loan balance is at \$6,050. There was much discussion on ways Trinity can become more financially stable.

Frank shared the 2017 tax reports from the UMW and the Mission Team. A taxable total of \$5597.35 has a tax due of \$335.84. **Bruce motioned the recommendation of the Finance Committee that \$335.84 be covered by the Bleecker Fund to pay the sales tax for the two outreach programs of the United Methodist Women and the North Dakota Mission Team. Blair seconded. Motion passed.**

The Finance Committee had a second request for Bleecker Funds from the ND Mission Team. **Frank made a motion to approve the Bleecker request by Kristy Ryan for up to \$2,000, if needed, for travel expenses for the mission trip to North Dakota. Scott seconded. Motion passed.**

**Pastor's Time:** The 2018 Michigan Area Annual Conference will be coming up May 31 to June 3. There is an opportunity to support a book collection for childhood literacy. The Conference is teaming up with Scholastic Literacy Partnerships and Cokesbury so churches can purchase age-appropriate books at a lower cost. The goal is to collect 1,000 books, which will be distributed all around the state of Michigan. Information will be in the Tower and bulletins.

#### **Information**

Kristy explained the concept behind the Marilyn Phillips Scholarship money. She and Jen Gauthier will work with Jack to create a document and procedure.

Frank thanked Dean for taking the initiative on all the I.T. issues here at Trinity, trying to keep all the computers, phones, and internet service updated. Dean is searching out updates in service with little to no cost.

There was discussion about the September Workshops on Healthy Congregations and their purpose...to help inspire us to sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in our church.

The meeting closed with a group prayer for our congregation. Next meeting: Monday, May 21, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lea Varda.



#### **Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, April 9, 2018**

Present: Blair Daugherty, Jon Harry, Brad Strehlow, John Erickson, Marsha Bonicatto, Betsy Trumbell.

Blair called the meeting to order. John opened with a prayer.

The agenda was reviewed.

Jon moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting. Marsha supported. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Trustees are continuing to work on pricing for church rental.

Jon will meet with Church Mutual when they come to inspect the church in the next two weeks. John will be the backup person if Jon can't make it.

Jon received a quote from Classic Carpet Care for 39¢ per square foot for cleaning of the parsonage carpeting. He should have the rest of the quotes by the next meeting.

Gary Gardiepy from MJ Electric will come to make suggestions for outdoor lighting for the church when the snow is gone. Blair will replace the broken fixture on the sign.

Marsha and Betsy will paint the inside back railing.

We are waiting for a quote from Green Lawn for the parsonage lawn.

We are waiting on a quote for refinishing the register covers.

John and Blair will replace the noisy blower fan in the Gathering Room.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A natural gas contract has been signed and locked in for 3 years under the Chamber Gas Program at a reduced price.

The big coffee pot in the kitchen is working, but not filling completely. No action taken.

Marsha scrubbed the slate tiles in the altar area, and this was added to the yearly maintenance list.

Suzanne Harry and Ann Musgrove have offered to paint the women's bathroom by the choir room when Ann gets back.

After the boiler inspection, it was noted that Boiler #2 has corrosion. Blair talked to D&L about replacing the burning unit.

The State inspector found two problems with the elevator that need to be addressed. The State will contact Otis Elevator.

Blair got a quote from Mike Bruns at Ace Hardware for a Toro self-propelled lawn mower for the parsonage for \$275. Marsha moved to purchase the lawn mower. John supported. Motion carried.

Blair and Larry Marlett replaced 2 toilet seats in the downstairs bathrooms.

#### **PASTOR'S TIME**

The Pastor has suggested creating a history corner in the overflow area. This is up for more discussion.

Blair moved to adjourn. Brad supported. Motion carried.

Minutes take by Betsy Trumbell, Trustee Secretary.

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
Permit No. 81

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

## May & June 2018



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**808 Carpenter Ave.**

**Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704**

**Vol. 17, No. 10, May & June 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 (through May 20)...8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship (starting May 27).....9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for kids (through May 6).....9:00 a.m.

Sunday School for adults (through May 20)....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

Email.....imtrinityumc@gmail.com

---

**Men of Prayer** will meet at Grace UMC in Norway on Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. They'll meet on Monday June 4 at Abundant Life Church, also at 7:00 p.m. Come and check it out. They'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.



Our summer schedule starts Sunday, May 27, with one worship service at 9:15 a.m. Please join us!

***'Hero Central'***  
**Vacation Bible School for ages 3-12**

Monday to Thursday,

June 25 to 28

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

See page 2 for more information!