

We are a growing multicultural congregation where everybody is somebody.

We worship at 10am on Sundays followed by Sunday school.

- Pastor *Rev. Desiree Lawson*
- Music Director *Dr. Eleanor Goodman*
- Clerk of Session *Elder Georgia McCall*
- Treasurer *Janet Hartzell*
- Secretary *Idella Roland*
- Editor *Rev. Desiree Lawson*

VISION STATEMENT

*We are a diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ **GROWING** together. With the always present power of the Holy Spirit, we share our lives, care for one another, worship, pray, study God's word, and serve both inside and outside the walls of the church.*

*We invite you to come and **GROW** with us.*

TRINITY TIMES – A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FLINT

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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810-720-5152 Sundays @ 10am

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EXPERIENCE LENT



Lent is a time for us to focus on Jesus and our Christian discipleship. What does it mean to follow the One who lived, died and rose from the dead for our salvation?

Lent is a chance for us to practice, every year, focusing on God in Christ. We remember God as immersed in earthly life with our earthly practices.

One of the most common Lenten practices is fasting. This can mean giving up certain foods or habits like expensive coffee or cigarettes and donating the money to helping others. One of the questions we must ask is: Are we practicing the fast God calls for? Is it a fast that reminds us to love God and love neighbors as ourselves? Are we focused on God's work and Jesus' ministry to the poor, vulnerable, oppressed, sick and lonely? Are we practicing love, kindness, justice and mercy?

By fasting, we practice denying the self not just for the heck of it or to drop 10 pounds, but for the purpose of shifting our attention to Jesus. It's a question of vision, of focus.

But Lent is not just about fasting, or giving up something. It can be about taking or adding something. For some, Lent can be a time of adopting a new practice. This can mean engaging in walking prayer, Bible study or some other active habit that trains us in a certain direction and focuses us on Christ. Have you given any thought to Lent this year? Do you have a plan? Lent is a special time for meditation and prayer, increased understanding of Christ's sacrifice and Resurrection. Lent helps us to realize that a commitment to God is more than just going to church – it involves carrying out God's will daily.



NEWS FROM THE SESSION

2019 Officer/Leadership Training:

In addition to Deacons and Elders Shirley Hale, Barbara Wesley, Anthony Lawson, Matt Burton, Sharon Burton, Mary Krist, Kathy Henderson, Denise Dixon, Jane Harger, Gregoire Bolduc, Delphine Moore, Waldo Bronson, Alice Shirley, Sharon Auger,

Funmi Adigun, we were joined by Pamela Pascal and Rev. Lindsey Carnes, pastor at Fenton Presbyterian Church and two of the elders, Clerk Janet Stork and Elder Julie Grams.

The day began with a continental breakfast at 9:00am followed by devotion and prayer at 9:30am. Participants were challenged to define "Priesthood of All Believers." "Are all Christians priest?" "Do teaching elders (ministers) have a deeper connection with God than other believers?" All Christians, not just clergy, have divine connections. As Christians and church leaders we are all just as spiritual and just as capable of speaking with God. We should not leave it up to the clergy (pastors). We are all called to deliver God's word to the world. There is no need to expect the pastor to act as a mediator between us and God.

The morning topics for the day included the following: Polity (Constitution of the PCUSA); The four sections of the Constitution (Foundation, Form of Government, Directory for Worship, Rules for Discipline); Councils of the PCUSA (Session, Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly); Church Leadership (What does it mean to be ordained?) Ruling Elders and Deacons;

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by Todd Alexander with the assistance of Margaret Bausack. Thanks to Todd and Margaret!!! We worked through lunch taking a test. Here are three questions from the test. See if you can answer them. Ask any of the participants if you need help. (1) What are the two books that make up the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)? (2) What are the four Councils (governing bodies) of PCUSA? (3) What are the two Sacraments in PCUSA? The afternoon session included a review of the Presbyterian Government. New officers were given the pastor's expectations.

- Attend all meetings (team and congregational)
- Engage in both individual and corporate prayer and bible study (if the church is offering a study or a prayer meeting) officers are expected to be in attendance
- Attend and support the events of the church
- Support the church with your time, talent, and financial resources
- Maintain confidentiality and discretion
- Be ready
- Always be a leader
- Commitment to Vision and Values

The day's Officers/Leadership Training ended at 2:00pm and was followed by a Special Session Meeting. The current officers and new officers remained for the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to examine and approve the installation of the elders and deacons. Each new officer was asked to respond to two questions.

- What does it mean for you to be a spiritual leader at this time in your life?
- What hopes do you have for Trinity United and what role will you play in seeing these hopes manifested?

A motion passed to install Elders Gregoire M. Bolduc (2021), Waldo Bronson (2021), Denise Dixon (2021), Delphine Moore (2020), Deacons Matt Burton (2021), and Kathryn Henderson (2021). The motion carried. The installation will be held on January 20, 2019.

Thanks to Rev. Desiree Lawson for her leadership and expert teaching.

By Elder Georgia McCall, Clerk of Session

Per Capita: If you have not done so already, please make your 2019 per capita payment. The amount is \$28.99 per member. Thank you to all of you who have already made your payment.

By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community.



2019 Rummage Sale: Attention Trinity Members – The Semi Annual Church Used Treasure Sale will be on April 26-27. This year we are asking anyone donating items to have them priced before you bring them. There will be a meeting in March for anyone interested in helping with set up, working at the sale and taking down. Also, please, please, do not bring items that have been in bags in the basement or garage without going through them and either washing them or at least putting them in the dryer with freshener. Tables will be available to rent at \$15 each.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

“The Grace of God Has No Boundaries”

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Guest Speaker: Tracy Madison

In 2019, on Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, we honor women who exhibit the grace that knows no boundaries.

The Gifts of Women Sunday will be March 3, 2019. We would like to see a large choir on that Sunday to Sing God’s Word. Why not come to practice on Thursday afternoon at 3pm and help fill the choir loft. Start inviting others to join us on that Sunday for worship and dinner afterwards. There will be paper invitations available in February.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Come out on Wednesday, **March 6, 2019** at 6pm and begin your journey with Jesus to the cross.

DO YOU ENJOY A GOOD MOVIE?



Presenting Trinity United Lenten Film Series



Wednesdays in Lent –facilitated by Rev. Dr. Daniel Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Lake Huron. Beginning Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6pm through Wednesday, April 17, 2019. We will gather for a soup supper, followed by an introduction to the movie and a debriefing session following the movie. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

40-Day Practice for Lent

Adapted From William Arthur Ward

1. I fast from judging others.
2. I feast on beholding the Christ in them.
3. I fast from emphasis on differences.
4. I feast on the oneness of all life.
5. I fast from apparent darkness.
6. I feast on the reality of light.
7. I fast from thoughts of illness.
8. I feast on the healing power of God.
9. I fast from words that pollute.
10. I feast on phrases that purify.
11. I fast from discontent.
12. I feast on gratitude.
13. I fast from anger.
14. I feast on patience.
15. I fast from pessimism.
16. I feast on optimism.
17. I fast from worry.
18. I feast on divine order.
19. I fast from complaining.
20. I feast on appreciation.
21. I fast from negatives.
22. I feast on affirmatives.
23. I fast from hostility.
24. I feast on nonresistance.
25. I fast from bitterness.
26. I feast on forgiveness.
27. I fast from self-concern.
28. I feast on compassion for others.
29. I fast from anxiety.
30. I feast on eternal Truth.
31. I fast from discouragement.

32. I feast on hope.
 33. I fast from facts that depress.
 34. I feast on thoughts that uplift.
 35. I fast from suspicion.
 36. I feast on Truth.
 37. I fast from shadows of sorrow.
 38. I feast on the serenity of silence.
 39. I fast from problems that overwhelm.
 40. I feast on the power of prayer.
- And now in the silence of prayer, I rest.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 Grief Support at 11:30am
- Feb 2 Worship Team at Noon
- Feb 3 Membership at 4pm
- Feb 11 Finance Team at 9:30am
- Feb 11 Personnel Team at 11am
- Feb 13 Sarah Circle at 6pm
- Feb 15 Soup Kitchen from 2-5pm
- Feb 17 Deacons Meeting
- Feb 20 Grandparents at 10am
- Feb 26 Game Day at 1pm
- Feb 27 Naomi Circle at 10:30am

MARCH

- Mar 1 Grief Support at 11:30am
- Mar 3 Women's Sunday
- Mar 4 Membership Team at 4pm
- Mar 6 Ash Wednesday at 6pm
- Mar 10 1st Sunday in Lent
- Mar 11 Finance Team at 9:30am
- Mar 11 Personnel Team at 11am
- Mar 13 Sarah Circle at 6pm
- Mar 21 Lenten Meal/Movie @ 6pm
- Mar 12 Girl Scouts at 6pm
- Mar 15 Soup Kitchen 2-5pm
- Mar 17 2nd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 18 Session Meeting at 3pm
- Mar 20 Grandparents Group @ 10am
- Mar 20 Lenten Meal/Movie @ 6pm
- Mar 24 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 26 Game Day at 1pm

- Mar 27 Naomi Circle at 10:30am
- Mar 27 Lenten Meal/Movie @ 6pm
- Mar 31 4th Sunday in Lent

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

- 1 Pat Rice
- 5 Fred Tumer
- 8 Helen Sanders
- 8 Amiliyah McSwain
- 8 Sesamiliyah McSwain
- 12 Eddie Barney
- 12 Oluseyi Adigun
- 12 Willie Lomax
- 15 Annie Lomax

February Anniversaries

- 10 Barb & Don Wesley

March Birthdays

- 3 Mark Bolduc
- 7 Waldo Bronson, Jr.
- 7 Karen Fischer
- 22 Chris Lyttle
- 25 Cyndi Lyttle
- 27 Margaret Tilley

March Anniversaries

- 24 Matt & Sharon Burton
- 24 Russ & Julie Auger

If you have a submission for the April/May *Trinity Times*, please send your article or information to Pastor Lawson at revlawsond@yahoo.com by no later than March 27, 2019. Thank you.