

TRINITY TIMES

5151 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507
www.trinityunitedpc.org
810-720-5152 Sundays @ 10am
MAY 2020, VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

I have been encouraged these last few weeks. It has been so good to talk to you on the phone, receive texts and emails from you, see you via Zoom video during committee meetings and Bible studies. I love hearing your stories of how you're reaching out to church members, neighbors, friends, and family while practicing physical distancing.

Michigan's stay-at-home continues until May 28, though some restrictions are being relaxed. Based on the recommendations of the CDC, PC(USA), and Presbytery Council, Trinity's Session has decided to continue meeting online for worship through Pentecost at the end of May. Session will begin reviewing recommendations of how to gradually reopen the church, possibly in stages.

We want to exercise our freedom to gather in worship, while our Christian faith also giving up our freedom to care for others by balancing the need to protect the most vulnerable. We will communicate these plans as they develop.

Those with computers can use Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube to participate in our Sunday worship services. Those with phones can call in and listen to the audio of our worship services live Sundays at 10am. If you want assistance setting this up or have questions, please set up a time with Alysha or Pastor Lindsey.

The good news is we can still connect

and encourage one another even if we can't always see each other face-to-face. It looks like the sheltering order is going to last for some time, so please take advantage of the many ways we are staying connected. Our goal as church leadership is no one stands alone in this crisis. *Blessings, Pastor Lindsey*

JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

Our church secretary Alysha and Pastor Lindsey are currently working from home and happy to assist you. If you need to reach the church office, Alysha will be checking the church voicemail and you can always reach her via email at office@trinityunitedpc.org . If you have a more urgent need, please call Pastor Lindsey 810-445-6780 or email pastorLcarnes@gmail.com .

INTERIM PLANS –CHURCH SURVEY

While none of us would have wished for the current health pandemic, it has certainly helped us as a church to imagine doing things differently. Our church leadership has been working hard to maintain our current ministries while also keeping an eye on the future.

The next step of our Mission Study is to create and distribute a church wide survey. The survey is almost complete. It will be sent out via email online and paper copies will also be mailed. We ask that each person in your household fill out a copy of the survey.

The survey will evaluate our current ministries, the values of the church, give the PNC insight into what qualities the congregation desires in its next pastor.

WHAT IS ZOOM?

Zoom is a computer program that we have been using so people can watch

worship via video or listen to the audio of the worship service by phone. Zoom can also be used for Bible study meetings, committee meetings, and prayer groups. People who have computers with a camera, speakers and a microphone can see the video of everyone live and talk to each other. People who only have a land line or cell phone can hear everyone. If you need help learning how to use Zoom, please call or email Pastor Lindsey or email the church for Alysha and we will set up a time to talk you and practice with you.

WORSHIP SERIES

- May 3 "Why Worry?"
Isaiah 41:8-10,17-20, Matt 6:25-34
- May 10 "How to Live When You Aren't a Super Hero" Psalm 62 & 91
- May 17 "Faith in the Storm"
Mark 4:35-41, 2 Cor 4:1,7-12,16-18
- May 24 "In Any and Every Circumstance"
Phil 4:4-13, 1 Thess 5:1-11,16-18
- May 31 Pentecost Sunday--"Kingdom Perspective" Rom 8:38-39, Matt 25

PICK A HYMN

What are your favorite hymns? We'd like to include them in the services online. Email or call Pastor Lindsey or Worship Chair Gayle Kettler gaylekettler1952@icloud.com.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please send submissions for the June newsletter to Alysha by May 22.

MASKS

If you would like to have a handmade cloth face mask, there is a plastic bin by the covered entrance to the sanctuary.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you for your faithful giving during the last few weeks. Because we have not been meeting together in worship at church,

giving is down significantly.

We have done our best to reduce expenses, including renegotiating service contracts and lowering the heat in the building. We applied for and were granted a grant from the Presbytery of Lake Huron, and we are thankful for their support. We have also applied for the CARES Act PPP Loan and we will be receiving some funds soon which will enable us to cover our payroll and allocate more donations and offerings into mission and outreach.

Please continue to send your offerings to the church via the mail, your bank, or online giving through the church website. We want to continue to be strong financially in and through this trying time and we need everyone's help. -Waldo Bronson

COMMUNION

Many Presbyterian churches, including Trinity United, traditionally celebrate the Lord's Supper together on the first Sunday of the month. With physical gatherings postponed, some churches would find it difficult to fulfill the *Book of Order's Directory for Worship* instruction that Communion should occur at least quarterly.

We are in an unusual time of not being able to physically worship together in the same place. But we are worshiping together in meaningful ways by phone, YouTube, Facebook Live, and Zoom. We can feel each other's presence and the presence of the Lord when we are gathered together. And I would argue, that when we can't gather and commune together physically, we need the metaphysical presence of Jesus even more.

The sacrament that Christ instituted for the remembrance of him until he returns again took the form of a simple meal: the sharing of bread and wine. The *Directory for Worship* suggests that, "The elements are distributed in the manner most suitable to the particular occasion." So we gather what we have at home: our bread, hot dog bun or cracker and

juice or wine. These symbolize the basic elements needed to sustain life with food and drink and with them Christ spiritually nourishes us. They also take on the symbols of Christ's broken body and the shed blood of Jesus who died for our forgiveness and transformation.

How can you prepare for Communion?

***Participate with your household.** John Knox, one of our Presbyterian fore-bearers, encouraged families to participate together in worship.

***Prepare the elements.** Prepare ahead of time by having grape juice or wine and portions of bread or crackers.

***Examine your heart and relationships.** Before coming to the Lord's Table, examine your heart and relationships and take steps towards forgiveness and reconciliation.

***Participate Online.** During the online service, as the Pastor directs, partake of the bread and cup, knowing that your brothers and sisters in their places are communing with you.

FAREWELL TO GEORGE GRANBERRY, JR.

George Granberry, Jr. was an active charter member of Christ the Liberator and Trinity United Presbyterian Churches. George passed away on April 8, 2020. A graveside service was held on Monday, April 20, 2020 with Pastor Lindsey Carnes officiating.

George was known by his friends and family as a very good friend and Masonic and Shrine brother. He was a proud Marine who served in two wars and received a Medal of Honor. We could always look forward to seeing him represent the Marines during Memorial Day weekend Sunday Service. He was one of the first African American Marine to serve in World War II and received a Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama. He also served in the Korean War.

He and his late wife, Katie were Detroit

Lion season ticket holders with the same seat for forty years. They were loyal fans and went to every games when health allowed.

George's Christian service went beyond the walls of Christ the Liberator and Trinity United. He was involved at the Presbytery, Synod and church wide levels. He and Katie attended several General Assemblies. George was also very active and devoted to the Black Presbyterian Caucus both locally and nationally. He encouraged many of us to get involved. His latest service at Trinity United was serving on the Nominating Team. We could always count on George's commitment to whatever he said he would do. He was a gentleman with a warm smile and kind word.

Our thoughts and prayers go to George's family his sons, Frederick and Granville, his sister Juanita Snell and his entire family. We the members of Trinity United will miss him. The family will plan a memorial service at a later date.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Jerry Needham
7	Desiree & Dominique Fischer
12	Sharron Alexander
13	Jan Kamrath
14	Funmi Adigun
23	Margaret Bausack
27	Michael Anthony Fischer

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3	Sharon & Jerry Auger
21	Lisa & Tim Graham
23	Jill & Greg Bolduc
29	Gwen & Eddie Barney

HELPING DURING QUARANTINE

A huge thank you for all the members who have been helping the church and members during these trying times. We appreciate all you have been doing for us.

To the deacons who have been checking in on members whether making calls or leaving notes.

To the skeleton crew who has been helping

film service like Pastor Lindsey, Helen Sanders, Barbara Wesley, Waldo Bronson, Delphine Moore, Allison Bradley, Monica Wier and Ryan Wier.

To those delivering food, groceries and packages like Janet Hartzell and Jill and Greg Bolduc.

To those making and distributing masks like Mary Krist and Kathy Henderson. To all of you who are helping making a difference or lending a hand. Thank you.

HELPING THE HELPERS

Jeremiah 29:7 "...seek the peace and prosperity of the city...Pray to the Lord for it, because if prospers, you too will prosper."

Flint has been hit hard by yet another crisis. This time, a health pandemic is straining our medical capacity, affecting the economy, and touching individual families and neighbors we know and care about dearly. The crisis continues to bring light to the economic and systemic inequalities, structural racism and health disparities that already exist in our community. Due to poverty, lack of health care coverage and pre-existing conditions, more prevalent among African-American citizens, confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the fatalities disproportionately affect the community.

Food pantries are experiencing 3x the number requests. Older adults and those with pre-existing conditions are fighting for their lives against the virus. Individuals have lost their jobs and have been furloughed. Churches, non-profits, business and the health care providers are joining together to meet the needs of this crisis together.

Trinity United continues to support the ministries we support all year round and

we have increased our mission giving to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, the North End Soup Kitchen, Carriage town Ministries and many other groups.

Trinity United members have been sewing masks for the congregation and for the hospitals. And now we have a chance to take this mission further with help from donations and a possible grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospitals, first responders, essential workers and low-wage earners who cannot shelter at home. We will also work to connect Flint and Genessee County non-profits with the PPE resources so they can continue to serve those hit the hardest during this crisis.

We are stronger together. And Trinity United will find our own small part to do all we can to "help the helpers" who are on the front lines every day keeping us safer and serving others. In the next week you'll hear more about this project and how you can help: make calls to non-profits and get the word out, send thank you notes for donations, and package items at home that will be donated.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE

Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedPC.USA/>

Zoom (video and audio)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/488551049>

Meeting ID: 488 551 049

Zoom (call in by phone listen to audio)

1-312-626-6799 Mtg ID: 488 551 049

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Trinity United PC USA AV Booth

"Just Stay at Home," A poem by Phyllis

Scales

*There's a virus out there.
We don't know for what, when or from where.
We need to be aware.
Just stay home.*

*The days may seem long and hazy.
The kids are driving you crazy.
Find a quiet place, be lazy.
Just stay home.*

*You may have cooked and explored every
recipe you know and cleaned all the cabinets
top and below.
Now read a new book. Watch a mindless TV
show.
While you stay at home.*

*Everyone is dealing with pain and strife.
Keep some joy in your life.
You may be by yourself,
but you are not alone.
Only God knows when this virus is gone.
So, stay at home.*

*People and businesses are paying a high price.
Our medics, governors, and mayors all want
us to heed their advice.
Staying safe means staying in.
Do something creative that makes you grin.
Stay at home.*

*Stop hoarding paper towels and tissues.
You're causing numerous issues.
We're all in this together.
Sure, it's a tough storm to weather.
Let's stay at home.*

*This doesn't mean you can't go outside.
Know the rules and please abide.
Get out and play. Take a long walk.
Keep social distance if you talk.
Use some sidewalk chalk.
Just stay at home.*

*Yes, we miss the human touch.
Had no idea we'd miss it so much.
We can't fill our days with sorrow.
We know there is always tomorrow.
Just stay at home.*

*A few more weeks of staying in is my prayer.
Let's stay strong. Keep the faith.
We'll get there.
Just shelter in place.
Hunker down.
Don't touch your face.
When you get the urge to roam, don't!
Just stay home.*