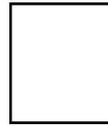


Trinity United Methodist Church
400 East Seminary Street
Richland Center, WI 53581



Office Closed Dec. 24th and 25th



Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rey Díaz

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-633-7513

Pastor's email: zoolaar@live.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 9-12 PM

and by appointment M - F

Saturday: Pastor's day off

Trinity Church Office

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 - noon

Trinity UMC Office: (608) 647-3203

Trinity's email: trinityumc@mwt.net

Websites: www.umchurchrc.org & www.trinity.umchurchrc.org

Administrative Assistant: Pat Leonard

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Kathy Richardson

Custodian: Bill Twining

Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2019



The Chimes

Christmas brings close to us the love of the Father, in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is the celebration of the Advent and the expected second coming of the Lord Jesus. The Savior of the world, who makes us feel a sense of hope and peace in a world that needs to discover the reason why he is coming again.

This season, like any previous one, invites us to change our attitudes toward God and the rest of humanity. This is a great time to celebrate the gift that came from heaven 2,000 years ago. Now we are expecting Him to return back to earth to take us out of this earth because He is the one who has paid for our sins with the price of His own blood.

There are many prophecies that have been fulfilled already about the Messiah, but there are others that are going to be fulfilled very soon. We are living at the end of times, but we are living these days full of the hope and the joy the gospel brings to all of us. During this time while we are waiting for the prophecy to be fulfill about his second coming, Christ is calling us to be involved in the different ministries of the church.

Some of you are called to be evangelists; others to the ministry of teaching. Services in the New Testament period were done by people called deacons and some are called to that. Some are called to the office of administration or the proclamation of the word of the Lord. Some were called to be prophets; others to be involved in the ministry of healing and others to the ministry of liturgy. Some are called to the ministries of intercession, visitation, and prayer; others to comfort the afflicted. All of these ministries must be done with a humble spirit and love.

If we belong to the Christian church, then we are called to be active members of the body of Christ. The United Methodist Church was not formed by conformists. They encountered the God of Abraham, Isaiah and Jacob, who called them and us from our comfort zones to encounter the life of the Spirit, which is full of surprises and new adventures.

God called Abraham from Ur to the unknown city, which was later on called the Promise Land. He traveled from one place to the next and when he reached the land, he kept going because he was looking for a permanent city. God called Moses when he was 80 years old and appointed him as the great liberator who, after delivering his nation from bondage into freedom, lived in the desert for 40 years without running water, agricultural productions or any of the commodities we have today.

God also called Paul and appointed him as an apostle to the Gentiles. He went and preached the gospel in Asia Manor, Europe and in the Middle East. Most of the traveling he did was on foot. He supported himself as he ministered to others by fabricating tents where people could live like in a house. Due to the ministry of the 12 apostles and Paul, the world during the first century heard the

Continued >

proclamation of the gospel. They formed disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ, who followed the example of the first disciples and from one generation to the next more people have heard the message of Salvation.

However, even though the gospel has been proclaimed for the last 20 centuries, at the beginning of the 21st Century there are so many young people who have never heard the gospel. There are many people who need to hear the gospel in Richland Center.

God is counting on the members of each local congregation to spread the gospel among those who have never heard the proclamation of the Good News. I want to invite you to be seriously thinking about spending some time sharing the gospel with someone who needs to hear the Good News. God is calling us not only to preach the Good News, but to make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey all that he has commanded us to obey and he will be with us until the end of time!

I invite you to talk to me, if God is leading you to share the gospel with someone who needs to hear the message of Salvation. Thank you for your prayers, and for taking the time to share with others something that has been the reason why we exist as the church. Somehow we have neglected our job, but it is never too late to obey the Lord.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year 2020!

Pastor Rey Diaz

Sunday School News!



Mark the date of **December 8th** on your calendar. Trinity children and youth will be presenting a **"Christmas Program"** during the worship service.

The children have been practicing for the upcoming Christmas Program, Sunday December 8th during the worship service. Allison Ewing and Stephanie Worthington have planned the program this year. I encourage everyone to attend and show their support to the Sunday School Children. Coffee Hour will be provided by the Sunday School and served by the older youth. Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season.



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522

Have you noticed the bulletin boards in the library hall? Thanks to the memorial committee and Paul and Louise Murphey, for hanging the new boards, the Sunday School has a place to showcase their talents and knowledge. Check the board often to see what is happening our Sunday School Classrooms.

A big thank you to all who helped make Hanging of the Greens a success. The sanctuary and narthex look beautiful. The kids had a great time making and decorating their tree in the back of the church.

The children have been working hard on the upcoming Christmas Program Sunday, December 8th during the worship service. Stephanie Worthington and Allison Ewing are spearheading the program again this year. I encourage everyone to attend and show their support to the Sunday School Children. Coffee hour will be provided after the service and served by the Middle School Youth. See you there.



DECEMBER MINISTRY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION Sunday 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	2	3 Tues. Morning Group 9:30 AM Missions Committee 4:30 PM	4 Dance 4-5 pm	5 MOPS 9 – 11 AM	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Children's Christmas Program	9	10 Tues. Morning Group 9:30 AM	11 Dance 4-5 pm	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	16	17 Tues. Morning Group 9:30 AM	18 Dance 4-5 pm CHIMES DEADLINE DEADLINE!	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)
22 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	23	24 Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 Christmas BLESSINGS	26	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	30	31 	Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 8 th Worship Service		Church Office Hours 9am – Noon Monday thru Friday	
			Trinity Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 PM - Monday, December 24th		OFFICE CLOSED December 24th and 25th January 1st	

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind, you gave us the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to shine brightly in the darkness of minds and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home, every heart, everywhere.

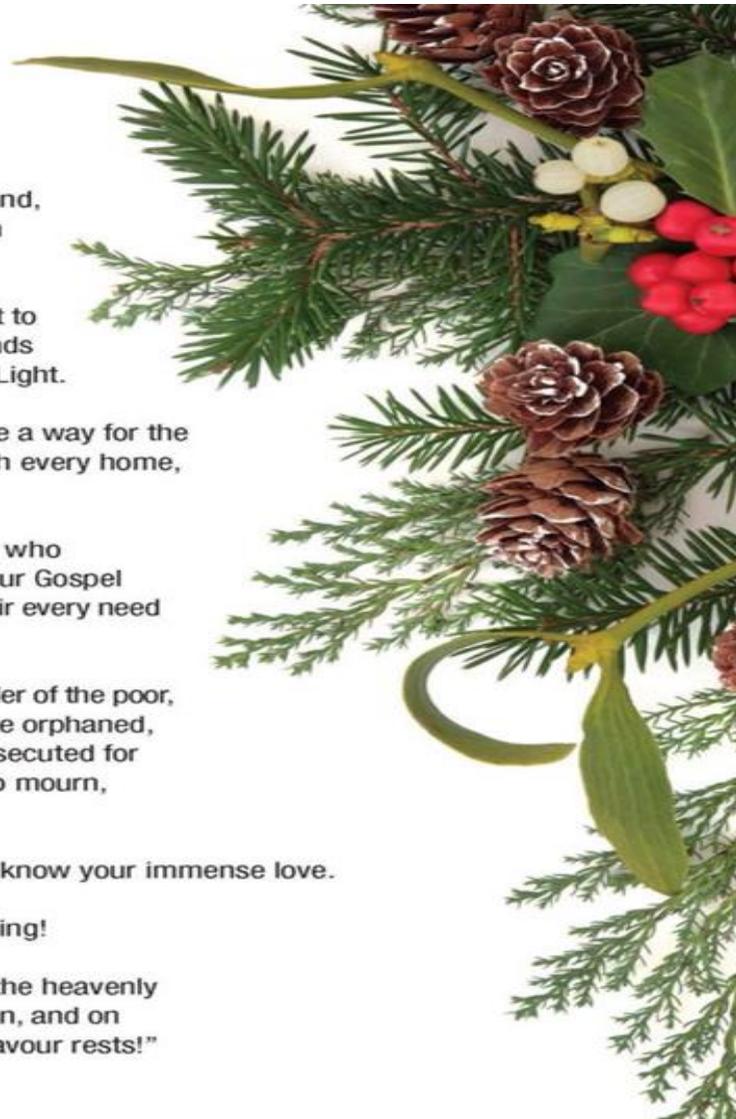
Protect and preserve the labourers who courageously declare the glory of your Gospel throughout the world. Provide for their every need and be their strength and joy.

Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned, the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn, the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming!

Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly host and say: "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests!" Amen.



DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS: THE SALVATION ARMY

“With Heart to God and Hand to Man”

The **December 29th** last Sunday offering for missions will support the local Salvation Army. With the purpose of making God's love known to all people, the Salvation Army helps the whole person by meeting physical, social, and spiritual needs. The Salvation Army is a nonprofit volunteer organization that provides emergency care in the areas of disaster relief, shelter, rent and utility assistance, food, clothing, transportation, school supplies, medical care, and spiritual guidance.

The local Salvation Army is composed of local citizens who know their community well, and are able to meet emergency care needs quickly and appropriately. Networking is done with other agencies to avoid duplication, and the volunteers who provide assistance use the funds entrusted to them wisely. Your prayerful support is greatly needed and appreciated. Please see the Missions' bulletin board in the narthex for more detailed information, and for information about red kettle bell ringing.

By asking you to support Trinity Missions' Projects, we also ask that you first consider your support of the general fund, which is what keeps our church doors open. Then please prayerfully consider your support of this month's Mission Focus. Thank you.



ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS.....

PEACE UMC will be celebrating the season with a Christmas Cantata which will be held on Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for a gathering of "Peace and Love".



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Special Dates

- First Sunday of Advent, December 1st
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 8th
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 15th
- First Day of Winter, December 21st
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd
- Christmas Eve, December 24th
- Christmas Day, December 25th
- New Year's Eve, December 31st

Christmas Eve
Peace Candlelight Service
5:30 PM - Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve
Trinity Candlelight Service
7 PM - Monday, December 24th



LOVE FUND ALERT: As we enter the end-of-the-year holiday season, the Finance Committee notes that the Pastor's Love Fund needs contributions, in anticipation of increased requests for help. The Pastor uses the Love Fund to help individuals who have an emergency need for assistance. The Love Fund is one of the ways that Trinity carries out its mission to care for all of God's people. Please write "Love Fund" on your contribution envelope.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Shirley Steiner	12/4
Teige Perkins	12/4
Gary Mott	12/5
Amelia Shannon	12/18
Benjamin Otto	12/19
Oakley Schneider	12/20
Jerod McCollum	12/22
Sally (Hodge) McCollum	12/24
Nicholas Bastian	12/24
Tammy (Goodyear) Fritz	12/25
Paul Turgasen	12/26
Tom Richardson	12/29
Carrie Richardson	12/29
Dennis Tracy	12/31
Destiny Shannon	12/31
Ayden Ewing	12/31



DECEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES – we have openings available for candle lighters and readers for Advent, which starts December 1st. This is such a wonderful experience for families to participate in with their children. The Sunday's we have open are the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd; in addition to a Christmas Eve service on the 24th too. If you are interested, please call the church office at 647-3203 to pick a Sunday.



POINSETTIAS for Christmas – Poinsettias have been ordered for our Sunday services on December 15, 22 and our Christmas Eve candlelight service. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please call the church office or use the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Please indicate if you would like to donate the plant in someone's honor or memory. The plants this season are \$15.00 each.

Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service or left for the remainder of the season.



TRUSTEE COMMITTEE: Pastor Rey opened our meeting with a prayer. *The Minutes of 9 September 2019 were unanimously approved.*

Financial Reports: All of our investments have grown during the year. The excess funds from Church Mutual, for the steeple, were partially used to pay for the parking lot repairs. About \$6,000.00 remains in that account.

Parsonage Report: No problems reported.

Church:

Parking lot repairs are completed. Some work will need to be done in the Spring on the east sidewalk.

Basement Leak: We haven't been able to find the source. In the Spring, we will have the eaves inspected and cleaned to see if that helps. Only the west side is involved.

Sign: Jim Weber reported that he had caulked and painted the sign. Jim thinks it will be good for a few years.

Sanctuary Lighting: Strang's replaced the bulbs in the pendant light over the piano with LED bulbs. These are noticeably brighter. We voted to have Strang's replace all of the other bulbs in the pendant lights with LED bulbs. The cost is estimated at \$1,100.00.

Heat Issue: Pat reported that her office was getting no heat and that the space heater was inadequate. John Storer called Strang's, who came and bled the lines to restore the heat in the offices.

Painting: Jim Weber has agreed to repaint Pat's office. Pat will select the paint & Jim will apply it. It will take two coats, as the present color is dark. Jim & Rey will inspect all the paint in the church to see what else needs to be painted. Thanks, Jim, for all you do!!

Other Business: Shannon asked about the bulletin boards for the east hallway. Paul Murphey has installed them and they are in use. Pastor Rey asked about the placement of our investments. Russ explained that the accounts with Edward Jones were decided by the Trustees, in consultation with Edward Jones. The accounts in the United Methodist Foundation are there at the request of the donors. Jerry announced that, beginning in 2020, all administrative committees would meet every other month, unless an issue needed immediate attention. The Council will meet in the odd numbered months and the Trustees and Finance will meet in the even numbered months.

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2020, 6:00 PM, IN THE LIBRARY.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer of thanks and for guidance.

The Minutes of 4 September 2019 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review spreadsheets. Kathy provided us with spreadsheets that displayed all of our financial transactions through October. All of our bills are current. We have maintained our record of paying apportionments. At the end of October, the checkbook balance was 8,691.88.

Finance Meeting dates: Beginning in January 2020, Finance will be meeting the first Wednesday of the even numbered months, at 6:30, in the Library.

Heritage Publishing book contract. We are investigating whether we ever approved this contract. The contract is for a remembrance book for departed family members. After reviewing a sample, we agreed that the book is very generic and duplicates remembrance books provided by funeral homes. In addition, Trinity has a series of coping with grief books that are provided to families. Eventually, we will seek to terminate this contract.

NEXT FINANCE MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 2020, 6:30 PM., IN THE LIBRARY.

A BIG Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Have you ever stopped to wonder how we as a church, would exist if we didn't have volunteers? Please take a minute to think about it. All set? Here is what volunteers do for us all year long.....let's show our appreciation and gratitude by telling them thanks!

A Volunteer Appreciation Poem
 The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, "Yes I can, and you can, too!"

- Pianist
- Ushers
- Office help
- Prayer Chain
- Youth Leader
- Nursery worker
- Website Master
- Scripture Readers
- Church custodian
- Hospitality Ministry
- Altar arrangements
- Communion helpers
- Committee members
- Loving Care members
- Lawn care maintenance
- Sunday School teachers
- Sound system operators
- Worship Team members
- Visitation Ministry Team
- Small group coordinators
- Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts
- Special services participants
- Richland County communities
- Committee chairpersons and coordinators



We so appreciate everything you do for us here at Trinity UMC. We couldn't do it without you!

Pastor Rey Díaz

Bill Twining

Kathy Richardson

Pat Leonard

Points of Interest



Date	Event	Description
December 8 th Sunday	Children's Christmas Program	The Trinity Sunday school youth will be joining the worship service to present a very special Christmas program. The kids will help lead us in worship through song and scripture. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!
December 15 th Sunday	Peace UMC Christmas Cantata	7:00 PM – Christmas presents "The Everlasting Light, A Promise of Christmas". Be sure to mark your calendars for this wonderful holiday spirit-filled evening.
December 24 th Monday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services	Peace UMC will hold their service at 5:30 pm Trinity UMC will hold their service at 7:00 pm
Ongoing	Kwik-Trip Gift Cards for Sale on Sundays!	Most Sunday worship services when Nancy McCauley is present....she will be selling \$25 Kwik-Trip gift cards. These make great gifts for any occasion, for anyone, for any time or any reason ☺ You also will be helping the Missions group with their ongoing ministry too!
Ongoing	Visitation Ministry Team	If you feel called to assist with making contact and personal visits to those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in a convalescent center, please contact the office at 647-3203.





December Memorial Ministry Corner



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
-- Isaiah 9:6

Thank you! While it may appear that our annual All Saints’ Day service is a “one man show,” nothing could be further from the truth! Thanks to all the following who helped make the service a success: Pastor Rey Díaz; Administrative Assistant Pat Leonard; Custodian Bill Twining; Pianist/Organist Jennifer Hall; Communion Steward Nancy McCauley; Communion Servers Jerry Bower & Russ Shannon; Ushers Jim Weber & Rick Orsburn; Photographer Anya Drone; Singer Gretchen Kanable; Acolyte Tate Perkins; Juan Hansen, St. John’s Lutheran (bell use); Stephanie Perkins; Melissa, Talena, & Annabeth Sprecher; Rhonda Sutton; Claudia Berres; Becky Wise; Memorial Ministry team members; and all members & friends for attending. Mark your calendars now for next year’s service – Sunday, November 01, 2020! -- **Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair**

2020 Trinity Scholarship Now Available. Memorial Ministry is pleased to announce its application period for the 2020 Trinity scholarship. Applications will be sought from Sunday, December 1, 2019, through Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Scholarship recipients are notified after May 12, 2020. Through generous memorial and honor gifts, our scholarship fund has a current balance of **\$8,546.44**. Scholarships are available to all Trinity professing and baptized members and regular attendees (as determined by Memorial Ministry). Scholarship categories include higher and continuing education. Electronic or traditional paper scholarship applications can be obtained in three ways: (1) church office at 647.3203 or trinityumc@mwt.net, (2) Memorial Ministry Chair Paul Murphey at 647.6439 or pmurphey@mwt.net, or (3) paper copies available on the narthex literature table. Our Trinity scholarship is partially funded in memory of **Marilyn Joan Anderson, Wayne Braithwaite, Jerry Cooper, Alberta Chellevoid-Couey, Nancy Edwards, Hilda Heidenreich, Eloise Herbeck, Dean & Roger Jewell, James & Lucille Johnston, Ralph & Helen Monteith, Ruth Moser, & Eleanor Strang**. ALL questions should be directed to Paul Murphey.

Trinity has been building its scholarship account for years in anticipation of the time when our large population of young people age to the point of scholarship time. And, 2020, just may be the time when we see the “fruits of our labor” come to pass.

NEW Priority Item. Memorial Ministry has moved the purchase of one **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** up on our “Wish List.” As a public building, we are long overdue for this piece of onsite medical equipment. The estimated cost for one AED will be **\$1,283**, Memorial Ministry decided at its Tuesday, November 12, 2019, meeting to add to this order one set of **“Infant/Child Smart Pads”** for an additional \$108. Medical equipment is expensive!

If interested in making a special “wish list” contribution for this purchase, please notate your check and envelope with **“AED.”** Memorial Ministry will designate your honor gift for this AED purchase. Currently, we have a memorial gift of **\$500** recently given and designated for this cause.



Memorial Ministry offers you a sincere thank you for all the active prayer & financial support you have shown us during 2019. We wish you all a wonderful & peaceful holiday season. Merry Christmas from Trinity’s Memorial Ministry team.



Church Membership Notes



Trinity Paper Directory Request. Trinity’s membership team is in the process of updating our electronic & paper records in anticipation of the printing of our **2020 Trinity Member & Friend** paper directory on January 01, 2020. We really strive to have as complete and as accurate a directory as we can considering it is only updated and printed once per year.

For all address or contact information changes or simply to check what we may have on file for you, please contact **Administrative Assistant Pat Leonard** in the church office. Church membership does matter, and your Trinity membership team is your resource for those membership questions. In addition, if you are **not** available to attend church to pick up your personal directory upon its publication, please contact the Church Office. We will mail one to you after its 2020 publication. -- **Membership Secretary Paul Murphey**

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”
-- 1 Corinthians 12:27