



The Chimes

Ephesians - A Letter For All the Saints

Rev. Rey Díaz

Ephesians is a circular letter (a written document addressed to a group of people that is usually formal and official) that appears among the 27 documents of The New Testament and was addressed to the Church in Ephesus. It was written by the Apostle Paul and is part of Paul's body of writings that was supposed to be read by all the churches in Asia Minor. Scholars agree that the first manuscripts of this letter had no name attached to them, which makes this letter a very valuable tool for all church history throughout the world. Therefore, this letter is very important from the beginning to the end.

In this brief exegesis or analytical narrative, we will be looking at chapter 3: 18-19 knowing that this document is addressed to "all the saints". Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called saints in the New Testament. The word "saint" means "holy one" and when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we have been set apart to serve the Lord. Therefore, we are called to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. In all of his thirteen letters, Paul addresses his readers as "saints" because all of them, as well as you, have been set apart for "holy living".

It is clear that in Paul's ministry, he set time aside to pray for all the saints. He says, "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints..." Part of the learning process is understanding the information presented to us. When Paul prayed for all the saints he was speaking of the need for these followers of our Lord Jesus Christ to comprehend and know the reason why God called them to be part of his body, the Church. We find the answers in these two verses that it is crucial to highlight.

First, we need to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ. In order for us to acquire this type of knowledge, we need to spend a great deal of time studying Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is not a set of doctrinal teaching that we learn in Sunday school or in a public institution. You must be self-motivated in studying Christ in depth on your own time to really know and understand Him. What we are going to briefly study here is the love of Christ. Paul says that "knowing the love of Christ surpasses knowledge" and not only knowledge, but also you may then be "filled with all the fullness of God".

Second, we need to know that the way for the saints to be filled with all the fullness of God is by the comprehension of the four dimensions of Christ's love for humanity. It is a love that covers the whole universe because it reaches the breadth, length, height, and depth of it. This special love of Christ includes every human being on planet earth. It is an all-encompassing love!

Perhaps, this is the main reason why we can be blind in the matter of comprehending this great love Christ has for all humanity. We are all created equal and in the image of our Creator, so we all need to be trained in the love of Christ for every human being. In God's teaching to us about the love of His son, there is no room for hate or crime. Love is superior to hate. Only love is essential and it needs to be transmitted to new generations in order for us to have a society with less violence and more love.

The way Christ proved his love for us appeared in his incarnation. He became one of us in flesh and blood. He became a human being like all of us so he could understand our struggles in life and our need to be connected with the source of the most powerful energy ever in existence, God.

Third, Christ taught about His love by healing the sick and having compassion for those who were suffering from all types of human diseases. He brought the dead back to life, gave sight to the blind, and he forgave the sins of those brought to him instead of condemning them. Christ also went to the cross and died for the sins of every individual. He paid the penalty for all our sins and transgressions of past, present, and future. On the third day he rose from the dead and sat at the right hand of God Almighty--interceding for all the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.

In Christ's actions and teaching is manifested His love for the entire human race. However, learning and practicing what we have learned are two different things. We know that plenty of people finish a degree in college, but never work in the field they graduated in. The same is true with many of those who call themselves Christians and claim they are practicing Christ's teaching when in reality they are neither talking to anyone about Christ, nor living in faith according to the New Testament. Many people are saying that religion is a "private practice". In other words...keep your religion to yourself in private...or don't talk to me about your religion so we can live in peace. When we follow secular men in their own form of religion, that type of religion is death. Christ is not about a dead religion! Christ is alive and ready to manifest himself in you when you are willing to open your heart and search to know the love Christ has for you and the rest of humanity.

According to Paul, God wants to fill your life with all the fullness of God. Our Creator is available, but we need to comprehend the magnitude of His love. Paul doesn't want only a few selected Christians to know this love; rather, he wants all the saints to know His love and be filled with all the fullness of God. We need to start wrestling with the Word of the Lord like Jacob did when he was wrestling with the angel of the Lord for God's blessings on him. (Genesis 32: 24-28). We need to start wrestling with the Word of the Lord until we comprehend Christ's love for us and for the rest of humanity. By knowing and practicing His love...then, and only then...everyone who professes Christ can be filled with all the fullness of God. Paul is right on that because the power and love of God is manifested in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. God wants to release to His children the power that only he can invest in them with power from above.

Amazing Love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is the subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

--Charles Spurgeon

Mission Focus and Special Sundays 2023

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2023 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
February	MEMORIAL MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
March	UMCOR Sunday <i>March 19th #1015</i>
April	CONFERENCE INGATHERING PROJECT <i>Native American Ministries Sunday April 23rd #1025</i>
MAY	Golden Cross Sunday <i>May 14th #1070</i>
June	ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Church Camp Fund <i>Peace With Justice Sunday June 4th #1035</i>




MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2023 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
July	FOOD PANTRY
August	MEMORIAL MINISTRY WISH LIST
September	PASSAGES
October	HARVEST AUCTION to fulfill our covenant with Missionary David Makobo <i>WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY October 1st #1045</i>
November	A VETERAN'S PROJECT <i>UM STUDENT DAY November 26th #1055</i>
December	SALVATION ARMY

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.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

Special Dates

African-American History Month
Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023
Transfiguration Sunday,
February 19, 2023
Presidents Day, February 20, 2023
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Celebrations and More.....



FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS

Connie Tracy	2/2
Samantha McNamer	2/3
Brooklyn Worthington	2/8
Angelica Black	2/9
Allison (Spangler) Ewing	2/10
Shannon Trebus	2/11
Kathy Richardson	2/11
Bryce Hodge	2/11
Nolan Hodge	2/11
Marie Rakow	2/13
Shirley Goplin	2/14
Steve Bethke	2/15
Ruby Hodge	2/16
Rebecca Turgasen	2/16
Helen Nelson	2/17
Paul Murphey	2/18



Thank you Very Much!

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Thank you so much for the cookies, fruit, etc. for the holiday.

It's so nice to be remembered on the holiday and always.

We had a very nice holiday.

Thanks again,

Rosemary Jewell

Greetings!

I wanted to send a thank you note for all your prayers and financial support this past year.

Without your support we could not continue with our mission.

Sincerely,

Lydia's House

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the gift of \$424.00 that we received from you. It will help us fight food insecurity in our county. Thanks for being a part of our team and joining with us in this effort. Your generosity makes a difference!

Thank you,

Jerry Bower, President

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Stacey, Dan and Ryder Johnson for helping take down the tree and Christmas decorations. We were done in no time, boxes put back and tree in the truck.

March Mission Focus: UMCOR Special Sunday / March 19th

WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering understates UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.

A vertical promotional graphic for UMCOR Sunday. The top half features a grayscale photograph of a person in a helmet and gear, possibly a firefighter or disaster responder, with a stack of boxes labeled 'CALIFORNIA' in the foreground. The text 'UMCOR SUNDAY' is at the top in red. Below the photo, the word 'TOGETHER' is written in large, bold, white letters, followed by 'OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE' in smaller white letters. The bottom half has a solid red background with white text. It includes a QR code and the text 'YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME', 'GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:', 'Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive', and 'TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA'. At the bottom is the UMCOR logo and the text 'Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors. The people of The United Methodist Church®'.

UMCOR SUNDAY

TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



Memorial Ministry Corner



February Memorial Ministry Corner



Preview: February Internal Missions' Project – Scholarship Fund

Way back in February 2014, the Missions' Committee and Memorial Ministry combined forces to establish an internal missions' project to benefit our scholarship fund. Searching those archival records, mention was made of the need to build our scholarship fund because a “bubble” was starting to grow of eligible candidates for years to come. We didn't have some crystal ball to make this prediction, we simply observed our Trinity youth and watched them age to the point of high school graduation.

Over the years, you have all been very generous with your memorial & honor gifts to the point that our scholarship fund now has an invested balance of **\$12,518.31**, which is fantastic – thank you! However, we are not yet able to award our scholarship from interest alone, as we are still drawing on the principal balance.

However, that infamous “bubble” is now here and ready to break! For example, in 2022 we awarded two **\$500.00** scholarships; 2023 may have three eligible candidates; and 2024 may have as many as SIX! Memorial Ministry strives to maintain that each eligible candidate still receives \$500 without having to decrease that amount. You can do the math to see quite plainly that our current impressive balance will start to decline very sharply in the very near future.

Therefore, we ask you to consider a gift to this year's scholarship fund so that we can continue this very important Trinity ministry.

Our scholarship is partially funded in memory of Marilyn Joan Anderson; Wayne Braithwaite; Jerry Cooper; Alberta Chellevoid-Couey; Marilyn Rose Creasey; Nancy Edwards; Hilda Heidenreich; Eloise Herbeck; Dean, Kirk, & Roger Jewell; James & Lucille Johnston; Ralph & Helen Monteith; Ruth Moser; Ileen Shannon; Eleanor Strang; and Julia “Jane” Taylor.

Memorial Ministry 2023 Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, February 14, 2023, @ 1:30 p.m. (Church Library)
 - Tuesday, May 09, 2023, @ 1:30 p.m. (Church Library)
 - Tuesday, August 08, 2023, @ 1:30 p.m. (Church Library)
 - Tuesday, November 14, 2023, @ 1:30 p.m. (Church Library)
-

February Internal Missions' Project – Trinity UMC Scholarship Fund

Please consider an honor gift, of any amount, during February to support our scholarship fund.

- ◆ Checks should be written to Trinity United Methodist Church with a memo note "Scholarship Fund" to help our counters credit your church account.
- ◆ Special offering envelopes will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, February 05 & 26; however, gifts will be accepted the entire month.

As always, please remember your overall financial commitment to the church before making this special gift.

Kathy Bastian, Missions' Chair & Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair



"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out." --
Proverbs 18:15

Church Membership Notes



Church Membership Notes



Trinity Member Address Updates

Please update your personal records for the following address changes:

Bruce Creasey

E18776 State Highway 33

Lot No. 602

Hillsboro, WI 54634

Leonard McNamer

19986 County Highway BR

Richland Center, WI 53581

Church Conference Minutes December 14th

Trinity United Methodist Church
2022 Church Conference
December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Members attending: Russ and Barb Shannon, Joan Wheeler-Administrative Assistant, Joan Bethke, Rosie Steinmetz, Paul Murphy, Pastor Jan Starr per request of Pastor Rey Diaz who was unable to attend.

Rev Marianne Cotter , Facilitator and Husband Jim Cotter
She is a retired minister and Elder from Baraboo UMC Church

Welcome and Prayer by Pastor Marianne

Devotional: Faith, Hope and Love and the greater of these is Love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Read Mission Statement in Unity. page 3 Conference booklet

Reviewed Council Chairs Summary of Local Church's life and ministry by Russ Shannon:
page 4 & 5. Some of the items mentioned are:

- Support David Makobo's ministry in Africa
- Support Lydia's House Ministries
- Mission focus on local Passages ministry
- Made 31 Ingathering kits for Annual Conference

Reviewed 2023 goals for Trinity: page 6

Membership Statistical Data Page 7-10

A detailed list of 10 categories to determine its membership.

The question was asked: How many voting members are there? Paul Murphy replied 61. Paul Murphy, membership chair stated he has listed Professing Members on Pages 33 -35 after getting approval at open church meeting with our D S . He requests if anyone has questions about membership to contact church office, Pastor Rey, and they will contact him.

A prayer was said by Marianne for those Members who have passed listed on page 10.

- Beata Elliott
- Sylvena Mitri
- Al Halink
- Dick Marshall

No other names were removed from membership list.

Russ Shannon made a motion to accept Membership audit for charge conference and Joan Bethke seconded it. Passed

Church Conference Minutes *continued from page 8*

Pastoral Compensation on pages 13&14.

Russ made a motion to accept Paul Murphy seconded it. Passed

Clergy- 2023 Resolution on Accountable Reimbursements Plan on pages 15 & 16.

Joan Bethke made a motion to approve, Russ seconded it. Passed.

Resolution on Parsonage Furnishings Allowance, on page 17 & 18

Jan Starr made a motion to approve, Barb second it. Passed.

Lay Speaker annual report to the Charge Conference on. pages 21-23

Jerry Bower is a very active lay leader as stated by several council members . Rosie Steinmetz made a motion to approve and Russ seconded. Passed.

Trinity UMC 2023 budget presented Pages 24 & 25. Discussion- Increased items, computer upgrade, Heat for Trinity church, and insurance.

Question on the Love Fund. Love Fund has a separate check book. Members make donations directed to Love fund.

Missions sponsor Love Fund one month a year. Pastor disburses to the needy. Russ brought to our attention that Pastor Rey has not accepted any increase in his salary.

Joan Bethke made a motion to approve 2023 budget, Russ second it. Passed.

A closing prayer was said by Rev. Marianne. She and Jim were thanked for making the trip from Baraboo to facilitate.

Minutes Reported by Rosie Steinmetz

Sunday School News



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522

The Sunday School classes have combined for the month of January and have used the Jr. High material "Who Is Jesus". The focus is on knowing Jesus, His love for us and others, His greatness that at times that is beyond our comprehension, and the compassion He showed toward others.

The class has created bumper stickers that make a statement about Jesus. Make sure to check them out on the hall bulletin board.

Peace,
Barb Shannon

Committee On Nominations & Lay Leadership

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development Report Administrative Committees 2023

Church Council (4:00)

Kathy Bastian
Jerry Bower
Paul Murphey
Kathy Richardson
Barb Shannon
Russ Shannon (Chair)
Rosie Steinmetz
John Storer

Finance (4:00)

Jerry Bower (Chair)
Helen Nelson (2025)
Monica Eernisse
Chris Storer (2025)
Russ Shannon

SPRC (4:00)

Joan Bethke (2025)
Jerry Bower (Co-chair)
Russ Shannon (Co-chair)
Chris Storer
Annie Windstrup (2025)

Leadership

Jerry Bower
Russ Shannon
Shirley Wanless
Annie Windstrup
Pastor Rey Diaz (Chair)

Trustees (4:00)

Jerry Bower
Howard Nelson (2025)
Rick Orsburn (2025)
Russ Shannon
Jim Weber (2025)

Conference Delegates

Jerry Bower (Alternate)
Annie Windstrup (2025)

Membership

Paul Murphey (Secretary)
Joan Wheeler (Admin. Asst)

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development Report Program Committees 2023

Note: Program Committees have standing membership.

Communion Stewards

Joan Bethke
Ed & Bev Fink
Mike & Annie Windstrup

Memorial Ministry

Joan Bethke
Jerry Bower
Diane Cox
Monica Eernisse
Paul Murphey (Chair)
Kathy Richardson
Barb Shannon (Secretary)
Russ Shannon
Melissa Sprecher

Hospitality

Diane Monson
Melissa Sprecher
Shirley Wanless

Missions Committee (4:30)

Kathy Bastian (Chair)
Joan Bethke
Diane Cox
Chris Storer
Shannon Trebus

Worship Committee

Donna & Jerry Bower
Ed & Bev Fink
Jennifer Hall
Kathy Richardson
Russ Shannon
Melissa Sprecher

Coordinators of Readers & Counters

Jerry Bower

Historian

Jerry Bower

Education

Donna Bower
Stephanie Perkins
Kathy Richardson
Barb Shannon (Chair)
Melisa Sprecher
Rosie Steinmetz

Trinity Staff

Pastor: Rey Díaz
Administrative Assistant
Joan Wheeler
Treasurer/Financial Secretary
Monica Eernisse
Custodian: Bill Twining
Music Coordinator:
Jennifer Hall
Pianist: Jennifer Hall
and Sharon Moore



FEBRUARY MINISTRY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Dance Class 4:00 P.M.	2 Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at Grace Community	3 The office is closed	4
5 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school	6 PEO 1:30 P.M.	7 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Missions Mtg 4:30 P.M.	8 Dance Class 4:00 P.M.	9 Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at Peace	10 The office is closed	11
12 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M. 	15 The CHIMES deadline Noon Dance Class 4:00 P.M.	16 Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at New House	17 The office is closed	18 PEO Tea 10:00 A.M.
19 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school	20 Ad Council 4:00 P.M.	21 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M.	22 Dance Class 4:00 P.M.	23	24 The office is closed	25
26 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school	27	28 Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M.	 <p>ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).</p>			

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

WINTER WEATHER POLICY: On Sundays, please check the radio
(WRCO) before leaving your home in the event the
worship service has been cancelled.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rey Díaz

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-604-3094

Pastor's email: rreydiaz1952@gmail.com

Trinity Church Office

Hours: Monday through Thursday /1pm – 4pm

Trinity UMC Office: (608) 647-3203

Trinity's email: trinityumc@mwt.net

Web: www.umchurchrc.org & www.trinity.umchurchrc.org

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse

Custodian: Bill Twining

