



The Chimes

The Most Important Commandments of the Law

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity UMC:

One of the teachers of the Law came to Jesus and heard Jesus and others debating. The interpreter of the Law, noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “It is this: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but Him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:28-34). The gospel of Mark tells us about this incident when Jesus was asked about the first and most important commandment of the Law.

The love for God and neighbors, according to Charles Guignebert, is necessary to extend this love toward those who refuse to accept our love and therefore, by refusing to accept our love, they attempt to harm us. So, the love for God and the love for neighbors are essential commandments for us to keep in touch with the source of power, God. Also, this is a demonstration of the type of religious practice we must follow up with, which is according to God’s instructions.

Finally, this teacher of the Law received the Lord's answers, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” Being far or near doesn’t matter. What really is important is to be in the kingdom. To belong to the kingdom and become an active participant in His kingdom is what really matters. It could be considered as tragic being near the kingdom and at the end of life discovering that we do not belong to it. Life in the kingdom is manifested when we love God. It means we enjoy having fellowship with Him, and a strong desire to know more about Him. As we learn more about His divine will we decide to trust and obey Him more and more. Loving God and loving our neighbors is the commandment that will never wither, or get older and obsolete.

Pastor Rey's Message Continued....

The kingdom manifestation is demonstrated by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is based on the love God has for us and the love we direct toward God and our neighbors. This love is the only sacrifice acceptable to God and we may do well to extend this love to all our neighbors.

I hope you enjoy this season with both outside and inside home activities and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Please, do not miss church service this coming communion Sunday. It is time to return home for spiritual nourishment and Christian fellowship.

Pastor Rey Díaz



Final Exams

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on those lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?": Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals."

--Florence Littauer,
Women's Devotional Bible

Sunday School News



The Sunday School classes have been raising money for their Lenten Offering and I'm pleased to announce they have made their goal of \$20.00 to buy chickens that will be sent to a third world country.

We have also made and sent palm crosses in Easter cards to members of our church family. They enjoy remembering our members with birthday cards and get well wishes.

Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522

The teen class is finally starting the 5 week study by Max Lucado "The 3:16 Promise". It comes with a video featuring Max giving insight into the books chapters. The upper elementary class is learning about the events that follow Easter.

May will be a busy month as we celebrate May Day and Mother's Day in the congregation. The youth will also be doing some yard beautification in the parking lot.

Please continue to support and encourage our youth, they are our future.

Yours in Christ,
Barb Shannon

Mission Focus: Golden Cross Sunday – May 14th

May 14th Golden Cross Sunday



By making a contribution to the **Golden Cross Sunday**, you are making a difference in the lives of our senior neighbors through our connection as United Methodist but more importantly through our connection as Christians. We need your help in making life better for our great generation.

Annual conferences now use the funds in a variety of ways:

1. Emergency medical assistance for individuals
2. Support for church-related health institutions.
3. Support for after school care for children.
4. Purchase of equipment for youth ministry.
5. Scholarships for students purchasing health related careers.
6. Support of a residence for alcohol rehabilitation.
7. Advocacy education programs for emerging critical health concerns.

Each long term healthcare ministry receives 50% of the offerings received from our district (**Schmitt Woodland Hills**). The remainder is distributed to the Conference for their various related programs.

Your donations help make ends meet in emergency situations and help to bring the extra activities to the communities. Make a contribution or volunteer today! One of those ways is through **Golden Cross Sunday on May 14th**.

| MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2023 | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i> | |
| MAY | <i>Golden Cross Sunday This offering helps support Schmitt Woodland Hills May 14TH #1070</i> |
| June | ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 21 ST (Church Camp Fund) <i>Peace with Justice Sunday</i> June 4 TH #1035 |
| July | FOOD PANTRY |
| August | MEMORIAL MINISTRY WISH LIST |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| September | PASSAGES |
| October | HARVEST AUCTION: to fulfill our covenant with David Makobo, Senegal, Africa <i>World Communion Sunday</i> October 1 st 1045 |
| November | VETERANS PROJECT (project TBD) <i>UM Student Day</i> November 26 th #1055 |
| 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.

Ingathering 2023 – Dignity Kits are due May 21st

Ingathering for 2023

Items Needed For The Kits

Must Be New

Our goal is 20 Personal Dignity Kits!



- 1 hand towel – no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth – no dishcloths
- 1 toothbrush – no multipacks
- 1 bar soap – 3 to 4 oz
- 1 shampoo -12 to 19 oz
- 1 deodorant – 2 to 3 oz (stick, roll-on or pump)
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag – furnished by Trinity
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste

Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit

The Trinity Mission Focus for April is the Ingathering for Annual Conference. **The Missions Committee is asking for your help in meeting our goal of sending 20 Personal Dignity Kits to the Wisconsin Annual Conference Ingathering.**

Personal Dignity Kits are in great demand due to natural disasters and conflicts throughout the world. Everyday more people are being displaced and flee with only the clothes on their backs, and perhaps a small sack of their personal belongings. The items given in a Personal Dignity Kit are basic necessities for personal hygiene, which is so important for maintaining health and preventing the spread of disease.

There are gallon zippered plastic bags (a list of the needed items is inside each bag) available for you to pick up on the round table in the back of the church. Please pick up a bag or two to fill with Items.



The filled bags need to be returned by Sunday, May 21, so we can be sure to get them to Annual Conference.

If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please make a memo on your check that says **"Ingathering 2023."** The cost to complete a Personal Dignity Kit is about \$15.00. We thank you for your support of this important mission.

Together we can be the hands and feet of Jesus - sharing his love with the people of this world by giving of our abundant resources. **THANK YOU!"**

Special Sunday Offering in June



Peace With Justice Sunday is June 4, 2023
Advance #1035

From Despair to Hope

Today our world is facing crises on an unprecedented scale: war, genocide, poverty, hunger, disease, and global warming. Saddened by the state of the world, overwhelmed by the scope of these problems, and anxious about the future, we believe God calls us and equips us to respond.

Harsh economic conditions have made it impossible for the world's poor to break the ongoing cycle of despair and exploitation. The disparity between rich and poor has grown. Global financial improvement has not affected many of those living on the margins of society.

Ongoing wars and intractable conflicts and political strife and repressive conditions have led to the disregard for international law and the breakdown of international cooperation. Human rights continue to be violated and disregarded. These and related changes taking place in our global community diminish our hope for potential future reductions in military expenditures. Global military spending, totaling \$1.75 trillion in 2013 (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook), drains resources of money and talent that might be used for meeting urgent social needs, long-term sustainable social and human development, and protecting God's creation.

We have realized that we live in a broken world. We are challenged by acts of intolerance and aggression, by acts of racism and xenophobia, by acts of classism, sexism, ageism, and gender discrimination. God's beautiful universe and all that was good in creation are in danger of extinction by unsafe and unsound environmental practices. HIV/AIDS continues to escalate to pandemic proportions. Malaria and tuberculosis remain urgent concerns, even as new and deadly viruses like Ebola ravage communities around the world.

We must renew our call for a social transformation, for the quest to open the doors of opportunity for all, to distribute resources more equitably, and to provide better care for persons in need.

Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday
Advance #1035.

Your gift makes a world of difference.





Trinity's 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Tora V. Perkins. Tora is a repeat recipient for our scholarship and will be a fifth-year senior at UW-Whitewater majoring in Business Administration. Tora is a Trinity Professing Member (PM), and we are very pleased to continue our financial support as she pursues her bachelor's degree. Tora is the daughter of Brian & Stephanie (Shannon) Perkins.

Julianna E. Shannon. Julianna is a repeat recipient for our scholarship and will be a sophomore at UW-Oshkosh majoring in Exercise Science. Julianna is a Trinity Professing Member (PM), and we are very pleased to continue our financial support as she pursues her bachelor's degree. Julianna is the daughter of Chris & Destiny Shannon.



Talena M. Sprecher. Talena will be a 2023 graduate of Ithaca High School. Talena is currently a preliminary scholarship recipient, as her future higher-education plans will be known in June of this year. Talena is a Trinity Professing Member (PM), and we are very pleased to offer her our financial support should she make the decision to pursue her bachelor's degree. Talena is the daughter of Melissa Sprecher.

Congratulations to our three 2023 Trinity scholarship recipients. Each scholarship is valued at \$500.00.

Church Membership Notes



Church Membership Notes



Note: Address changes for the following members. Please contact the church office for any further updates on either Harriet Reese or Shannon Trebus.

Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Community
Attn: Harriet Reese, Health Center, Room 154
1400 West Seminary Street
Richland Center, WI 53581

Note: This is a temporary address change.

St. Mary's Care Center
Attn: Shannon Trebus
3401 Maple Grove Drive
Room #510
Madison, WI 53719

Note: This is a permanent address change. We all wish Shannon our prayers and support, as she adjusts to her new home. We will miss you! Shannon will maintain her full Professing Membership (PM) at Trinity.

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
– 1 Corinthians 12:27*

Pine Lake Programs



Visit:
WIUMCamps.org
for more information

WILD

A wilderness camping experience for campers looking to be outdoors, living in nature, close to the trees and all of creation.

Wild: Treehouses

Grades 2-4: June 18-21, June 25-28

Grades 4-6: June 18-23, June 25-30, and August 6-11

Summer excitement deep in the outdoors. Enjoy life in the woods at a bird's eye view. Campers stay in our iconic cabins on stilts for the week with a schedule filled with nature-centered activities! Prepare for adventure as you build a new community in Tree Town and learn new games with your cabin group!

Wild: Backpacking

Grades 6-9: June 18-23 and August 6-11

Everything you need for a great week in one backpack! Campers stay in provided tents and pack their belongings in supplied frame backpacks. The next steps are exploring nature with an emphasis on wilderness survival skills, how to set up a campsite for success, and grow in personal independence and faith. Campers will be hiking to various parts of our 440-acre site to explore nature with their friends in new and exciting ways.

Wild: Outdoor Adventure

Grades 9-12: June 25-30

The final step in the Wild progression! High school campers will work to perfect and learn survival skills onsite at Pine Lake. They will hike trails and have a true wilderness experience complete with camping in provided tents and working as a team to prepare meals and explore scenic trails together.



Lake Lucerne
W6460 County Road YY
Neshkoro, WI 54988
920.293.4488



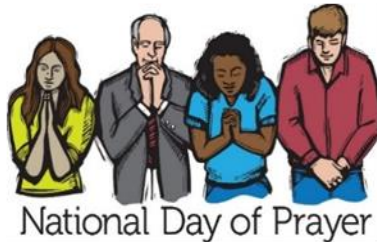
Pine Lake
W8301 County Road M
Westfield, WI 53964
608.296.2720

National Day of Prayer – May 4th

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 4, 2023
Noon
Courthouse Lawn



Please join us as we pray
for our town, our state our
nation.



Pentecost Sunday: May 28, 2023



Prepare to be Empowered

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in Free Men. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

Notes of Thanks

Dear Barb and All the Trinity Sunday school people,

This note is way, way overdue, I know. Ugh!

Wanted to thank you all for all the wonderful Christmas, Birthday, Easter, Valentine, Thanksgiving, and on and on cards! These cards always make my day! It is wonderful to have everyone's signature on these cards!

Trinity is so very fortunate to have such a great Sunday school, students and teachers.

Please keep up the good work!

Best wishes, Laura Vance (Beata's daughter)

Celebrations and More



MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Christine Storer | 5/1 | Chris Shannon | 5/14 |
| Betty Boeing | 5/3 | Nicholas Hodge | 5/16 |
| Jill Sommer | 5/3 | Millie Koehn | 5/17 |
| Carolyn Freeman | 5/4 | Mandy Brewer | 5/17 |
| Barb Shannon | 5/4 | Hadlee Jo Wilmot | 5/18 |
| Eiko Subera | 5/12 | | |



A Mother's Day Hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child into
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every child
God's Comfort, Grace and Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.

—Peggy Ferrell



SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE ICE CREAM SOCIAL:

Supports Youth Activities Fund



Trinity and Peace Churches are looking forward to another cooperative ice cream social to take place on **Wednesday, June 21st from 5:00-7:00 P.M.** in Schmitt Hall, Trinity UMC. The ice cream social is a fundraiser for the youth activities fund, which assists those from Peace and Trinity who may plan to attend church camps, church trips, and other church activities planned for the year.

Sign up sheets for workers and pies will be out by the middle of May. Please watch for them in the Narthex



Golden Cross Sunday
May 14, 2023

Please see article on page 3

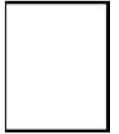


MAY MINISTRY 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 Missions Mtg 4:30 P.M. Library | 3 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 4 National Day of Prayer Noon Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at Grace Community | 5 <small>Cinco De Mayo</small> The office is closed | 6 |
| 7 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school | 8 Trustee Mtg. 4:00 P.M. - Library | 9 | 10 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 11 | 12 The office is closed House of Presence 7:00 P.M. | 13 House of Presence 7:00 P.M. |
| 14 <small>Mother's Day</small> 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school | 15 Ad Council 4:00 P.M. Library | 16 | 17 CHIMES deadline Noon Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 18 RAREA Mtg 10:00 A.M. Library CHIMES deadline Noon Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at Peace | 19 The office is closed | 20 <small>Armed Forces Day</small> |
| 21 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school Dignity Kits due | 22 | 23 | 24 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | 25 Revivalist Prayer Grp 4:00 P.M. at New House | 26 The office is closed | 27 |
| 28 9:30 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday school | 29 <small>Memorial Day</small> | 30 | 31 Dance Class 4:00 P.M. | | | |

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



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

Or zoolaar@live.com

Trinity Church Office

Hours: Monday through Thursday /1pm – 4pm

Trinity UMC Office: (608) 647-3203

Trinity's email: trinityumc@mwt.net

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



Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler
Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse
Custodian: Bill Twining