



Trinity Talks

WINTER 2022

Christmas Blessings!

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Another year is coming to a close - Rev. Read is on sabbatical and this is my 2nd year working as Church Secretary. I want to thank you all for your support. There have been quite a few ups and downs, but as a Community we held on and we keep holding on. In the beginning of the year, Sheri asked us to do a Blessings Jar. I hope that many of you have followed up on this and can now open this jar and look back to the Blessings and Gifts that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has given us. There are so many hurting right now. The war in Ukraine, the displaced people, children, animals. The senseless acts of violence throughout the year. But then, on the positive side, we had the reconciliation with the Indigenous people. We pray that forgiveness and healing will start.

This season of preparation for Christmas, once again, shows us how much we are in need of peace. Remember, we are all

Ministers, we are the hands and feet of Christ.

The peace of Jesus Christ is within us. Bring this peace to the church. We are all valued and we need to care for one another. I cannot express this any more than I already am. This life of ours is a journey, don't waste it, enjoy it.



May this Advent make you realize how deeply valued you are, here, in this community, here at Trinity United Church. We are not just a building, we are family. We argue, we forgive as Christ forgives and we grow.

Never hesitate to call me 514-721-1820 - just to talk, or just say hello.

Wishing you all the very best as we start Advent and await the Birth of the Christ Child.

Christine Tatarewicz

Minister's Message



Greetings to all from Rev. Read (lol - remember me?!)

I pray each of you is doing well as Christmas approaches, and know I have been keeping you all in my prayers during this rich time of sabbatical rest, learning and adventure. You'll remember that I'm scheduled to be away from September - December 2022 and returning to work - wait for it! - on Sunday, January 1, 2023! Let's pray for good weather that day so many of us can be together in person, or on Zoom, after celebrating the turn of a new year in the Lord's sight.

I eagerly look forward to returning and catching up with you and all that has happened during my time away. I remain grateful to all who have volunteered to keep the churches moving forward - thank you thank you thank you!! As I learned at Iona, God is always at work in our lives and the life of the world - century by century, year by year, moment by moment.

What a privilege to do so much more than simply mark time during our span of life, but to actively engage as Christians (which simply means as people who try to love as Jesus did, and does, each day). We can make faith so complicated when it really is so simple! But owning a loving faith and putting it into action

consistently isn't easy. I forget. We forget.

Advent can be a time of awakening from forgetfulness. Anticipating new birth of light in the darkest time of the year.

I have so much to share with you about my time spent at Iona - an ecumenical community that welcomes guests to a restored, 13th century CE abbey on a tiny speck of rock off the west coast of Scotland. The Abbey itself is magnificent, with each stone telling a story both ancient and new about faith lived in community. It began to rise from the ruins in 1938 when the modern Iona Community was born - seminarians working as labourers for out-of-work master craftsmen each summer to rebuild the living quarters of the Abbey. Men (yes, it was only men back then) living and working together to build not only stone walls but also community, and understanding, between themselves.

The Rev. Dr. George MacLeod's vision was to connect people who had become disconnected, in the original case well-educated seminarians and working-class men who rarely shared about their lives and faith (the preacher sure talked, but who ever took time to listen to the people in the pews?).

MacLeod saw the church of his day needing new light and a rebirth of Christian community, one that included everyone and God's creation too. From 1938 to today, the spark George MacLeod lit continues to evolve thanks to the Holy Spirit's help and guidance. Members and friends of the Iona Community live and work all over the world to share the light of Christ through actions for social justice and inclusive worship. I'm so grateful to now consider myself one in that effort myself, more of which you will hear come January and beyond.

But there's another light I wanted to write to you about. It's simply the light of Iona, green, green isle that it is. The Inner Hebrides (especially in fall/winter/spring!) is known to be a place where the weather is very changeable. From one hour to the next, pouring rain and driving wind can suddenly shift to dazzling sunshine. The black clouds scud across the grey stormy skies until the light breaks through - as it always seemed to do during my two weeks on the island.

Going walking is a major activity on Iona. If you waited until the sun shined to go out walking, you'd likely never get out to explore the endless and wild beaches; green, green pastures; the boggy lowlands and windswept hilltops. You'd miss out on learning about the Celtic history of Iona which goes back to 562 BCE (and in pagan forms, even earlier). You'd miss out on making friends with the people you walk with. You'd miss out perhaps of encountering God in the midst of sky and sea, where the light emerges stunningly from utter darkness, where rainbows appear and disappear as quickly as a turn of the head.

Iona taught me that to see a rainbow, you need to be willing to chance getting wet! And so it is at Advent, we are invited to come out of our individual selves and take the risk of being community together. Despite the storm clouds we've experienced, we learn again to expect new light to break through those clouds, quickly to dry up our soaked-to-the-bone souls, until we can play

once again like children of a living God on the beaches of Anjou and Trinity's front doors.

The only guarantee is that we will get wet and face wild winds and dark clouds on this journey called faith. But we will also meet unexpected sunshine and warmth to fill our hearts. We will see rainbows! And how much better to see a rainbow in community where we can share the experience and remember its beauty together.

Could it be that the rainbow that is Christian faith begins in Bethlehem and ends, via the clouds of Good Friday, at Easter joy? How could that not be exciting and an adventure worth pursuing with all of our hearts?

So I will be seeing you very soon - and wish you a blessed Advent and rich, joyful Christmas spent in community of friends, family and with God, who is forever and always with us.

Keep the faith! And be on the lookout for those rainbows that will always appear, often unexpectedly, in moments of kindness, forgiveness given and received, in daring acts for justice and peace. Our faith is a faith of action, my friends. Little and big gestures that demonstrate every day who Christ is for us and what we actually believe.

God's gift at Christmas dares us to believe that we of human flesh can live as Jesus did. Talk about light spilling in and over us and all people and this earth!

With love and hugs,

Read



Christmas Events

Blue Christmas Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 PM

For those of us experiencing loneliness, sadness, and loss, the Christmas season can be difficult. But we are not alone. Please join us in a simple worship of song, readings, and a reflection of God's hope for us and presence with us in feeling what we feel. All are welcome.



Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 AM

Come have breakfast with Santa! A lovely breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausages, coffee and tea await you and Santa at this year's Breakfast with Santa. All ages are welcome.

Price \$8 (children under 4 eat free!)

RSVP with Diane Best at (438) 765-7904 or diane_red-pink5@live.com.

Paint the Nativity Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1:00 PM



Come learn how to paint this Nativity Scene! It's easier than you might think. You'll be guided through a step-by-step tutorial that is easy for beginners and children alike.

Price: Minimum donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the canvas and the paint. Any proceeds will go to the Best Gift Fund. Reserve with Sheri at kids@trinityuc.net.

Best Gift Shopping Friday, Dec. 16 at 5:00 PM

Our youth will go on their annual Best Gift Shopping Extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 16, at 5:00 PM. All school-aged children and youth are invited to participate in this shopping spree for children from underprivileged families!

Please RSVP with Sheri at kids@trinityuc.net

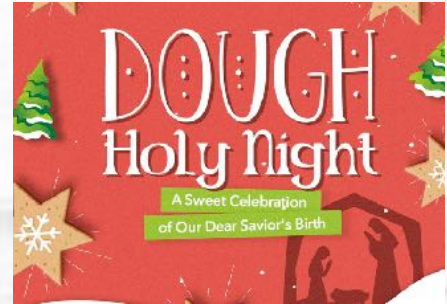


Dough Holy Night Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1:00 PM

All are welcome to come bake those last-minute cookies - just in time to share at Christmas!

Fun for the whole family! A \$5 donation is appreciated to cover the cost of ingredients.

Reserve with Sheri at kids@trinityuc.net



Worship Services during the Christmas Season:

Sunday, November 27: Advent I

- * This Sunday we light the candle of Hope & the Eastern Direction
- * This service will take place at Anjou United at 10:30 AM, led by Neil Whitehouse
- * Advent Messy Church will take place at Trinity at 11:00 AM

Sunday, December 4: Advent II

- * This Sunday we light the candle of Peace & the Southern Direction
- * This service will take place at Trinity United at 11:00 AM, led by Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil

Sunday, December 11: Advent III

- * This Sunday we light the candle of Joy & the Western Direction
- * This service will take place at Trinity United at 11:00 AM, led by Trinity's Youth and Young Adults

Sunday, December 18: Advent IV

- * This Sunday we light the candle of Love & the Northern Direction
- * This service will take place at Trinity United at 11:00 AM, led by Erika Leung

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

- * This Saturday we light the candle of Christ Candle & the Center Direction
- * This service will take place at Trinity United at 9:30 PM, led by Gary Tompkins and Heather Purcell

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

- * This service will take place at Anjou United, led by Murtee Taigbailee





Announcements

Christmas Tree of Thanks, Memories, & Hope before Monday, Dec. 5

Again this year we are having our special Christmas tree of thanks, memories and hope. This year they are handmade but special like always for our loved ones who have left us.

The money raised from these special memorial ornaments will help us with ongoing expenses of our church.

We are asking for a donation of \$5 or more per ornament. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Please e-mail diane_red-pink5@live.com with the name of the person you wish to honour.

Diane Best
Fund Development Ministry Leader

Ways to Give This Christmas by Friday, Dec. 16

The Benevolent Fund

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – a time of celebration with family and friends.

But there are those who are in need, emotionally, financially, and spiritually.

Please give to the Benevolent Fund – a fund to be used at the Minister's discretion for those in need.

Donations are especially important during this Festive Season. Every little bit counts.

Peace & Blessings,
Christine
Secretary at Trinity United Church office

The Best Gift Fund

The Best Gift Fund – a youth-led mission initiative – is taking place once again this year. The Fund, started by Trinity's Youth Group in the early 2000s, arose out of a discussion regarding needy children and their lack of new toys at Christmas. The youth decided they wanted to do something about it and the Best Gift Fund was born!

Today's youth still go to buy toys to donate to Sun Youth and are careful to ensure that the toys are multicultural and non-violent.

Please support our youth in their wonderful initiative!

Sheri, Sabz, Veronica
Youth Leaders



Nominations Committee



"There was an important job to do and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it."

-- Charles R. Swindoll

Some folks are quite happy to come to the Sunday service, whether they park in a pew or arrive via surfboard -- they listen to the sermon, they pray with others, they drop an envelope on the offering plate (or the online equivalent) and go home and that's that.

But in order for that experience to take place, there is a whole bunch of volunteers behind the scenes. A bunch of Somebodies and Anybodies. Some roles have a weekly commitment, while others are more seasonal.

Most importantly, you won't be alone. Council functions as a team for the ongoing administration of the church. Most Ministry Leaders run a committee to spread out the tasks, and they report to a selected Director for support.

Detailed descriptions of Council and Ministry Leader roles are here:
<https://trinityuc.net/pubs/2022-Governance-Position-Descriptions.pdf>

In addition, we are also looking for nominees as Regional Council Reps (Adult and Youth), and a Member at Large for next year's nominations team.

So we, the Nomination Committee, are here to ask Everybody to tell us which Somebody and Anybody would be the best "bodies" to help the church. We don't want Nobody stuck doing things again. At the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting (date TBA), the congregation will elect members to fill 22 roles from the nominees collected.

It's never too early to talk to us about taking on a governance role. One email reaches the whole committee at once: nominations@trinityuc.net. We're also reachable individually by telephone, and two of us are on Facebook. Or you can be real old school, and grab us in person.

Be Anybody. Be Somebody. Don't leave the task for Nobody.

Sabz, Rosemary, Mikayla
Nominations Committee 2022-2023

Buildings & Grounds

Just in time for the busy Christmas season, our kitchen has a new sink and countertop. A big thank you goes to Ralph Goodrow (son of the late Joyce Goodrow, a member of Trinity for many years). Ralph is a very handy fellow who volunteered two very full days to help me put in the replacement sink and countertop. He also gifted a cutting board made from the countertop material removed for the sink opening.

Ashley Verhaeghe continues to do many very important jobs around the church to ensure that the church is kept in good condition. He has taken time to find and supervise contractors doing work around the church, including recently getting the lights repaired over the choir. Christine has also been very involved in helping Ashley get some of this work done.

Recently, Council has approved that John Bridgman will continue his duties cleaning the Sanctuary Building and that Christine Verhaeghe will take care of similar duties for the 7th Avenue Building.

John Brosseau will continue his work as Security Officer for the church property and ensure that snow is cleared from the building entrances as required.

Thanks very much to all team members for your important contributions to the physical upkeep of our church.

The team at Building and Grounds wishes everyone in the congregation a wonderful Christmas Season and a happy and healthy New Year!!

Blessings,
Norman Doré

New Congregation!

Speaking of our building, it is now being used by not 1, not 2, not 3, but 4 congregations! That's right! Our building is now being used to the glory of God from early Sunday morning to late Sunday evening: 4 congregations from 4 different denominations. God is good!



Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2023

I will be giving out the weekly Offering envelopes for 2023 in the next month. If you would like to have the weekly offering envelopes, please contact me. Also if you would like to start giving by PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) directly from your bank account, please contact me. If you do not wish to have the weekly offering envelopes anymore, please contact me.

Thank you,
Shirley Cartmill
Envelope Secretary.

My contact info is: Phone: 514-376-2159 or e-mail: tazmagoo@sympatico.ca.



Friends, Food, and Fun!

Friends, Food, and Fun is a bilingual group, meeting every Thursday at 11:30 AM. This group is open to everyone who is able to attend. We do a variety of activities, from bowling to bingo, to parties, to so much more. Keep your eye on our weekly digital newsletter for details, but here's a sneak peak of some upcoming events:

- ★ December 1: Christmas handicrafts
- ★ December 15: potluck
- ★ December 22: bowling!



VBS 2023 Theme Reveal

Wondering what this year's VBS theme will be? Well, you'll just have to chill out for now, but wait until our theme reveal in January!

*...and Read is coming back on January 1, 2023!
Woohoo!*



*Wishing you and your family a
blessed Christmas filled with hope,
peace, joy, love, and Christ.*



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