



Trinity Talks

winter 2023

Fa - la - la - la - la!

And here it is, once again - the Christmas season!

I always find there is something so magical and beautiful about Christmas: the trees, the lights, the desire to reach out and help... the birth of a little baby so long ago.

The story is simple and yet so poignant. Travellers looking for a place to stay, a kind innkeeper, a quiet (?) birth. And then there's the angel chorus - proclaiming to the lowly shepherds that their Messiah has been born. Magic. Wonder. Joy.

This season is a busy time, filled with gift shopping, baking, and preparing. But let us all take time and make room for Jesus in our hearts and minds.

Yes, let us come and adore him. But also, let us come and adore each other as we experience love, joy, peace, and hope this Christmas season. Wishing you all the best!

Hugs and blessings,

Sheri

Trinity Talks Editor

Sunday, Nov. 26

* Advent 1

Sunday, Dec. 3

* Advent 2

* Holiday Bake Sale

Thursday, Dec. 6

* Blue Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 9

* Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, Dec. 10

* Advent 3

* Sunday School Pageant

* Dough Holy Night

Thursday, Dec. 14

* Carol Sing on Zoom

Saturday, Dec. 16

* Holly Jolly Dinner & Dance

Sunday, Dec. 17

* Advent 4

Sunday, Dec. 24

* Candlelight Service

Monday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the after time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

– Isaiah 9:1-2



Rev. Read Sherman

Dear Friends,

The great Hebrew Prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when two lands and peoples who had been conquered by the Assyrians and packed off to exile would be lifted out of their misery and restored to new prosperity and peace. Would it be so again, might we pray, for the lands of Israel and Palestine, during the darkness of their current and bitter battle? Or perhaps for Ukraine and Russia, or other places around the globe that so need a new light to shine?

We know this prophesy well because early Christian evangelists such as Matthew picked up Isaiah's belief that God would send a new king, an ideal king, to sort out all the troubles of the past and create a new age of lasting peace. Matthew saw that ideal king had come in Jesus. The author of John would go so far as to say Jesus was/is "the light of the world." We still find hope in this prophecy today, focussing as we do in Advent on the light of that new star in the sky – the star of Bethlehem – that takes centre stage in the story of Christmas.

We begin the journey to Christmas on Sunday November 26 with our Advent 1 Communion service at Anjou at 10:30am. All our Trinity and Anjou friends are welcome to come in person to Anjou's beautiful little church and the great hospitality offered! Or come online – all are welcome!

How blessed we are to be able to gather in person again after several

years of COVID. We know the virus is still out there, of course, but if you're like me, the need to be in community as winter sets in is great. There is so much trouble in the world. How much more important to find strength in each other and the hope-filled faith we share!

Come be part of the light of this story – of angels and shepherds, of a young woman so open to God's leading, of a husband humbled before God and the woman he is to marry, and yes, of a baby born who will embody "the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight." (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

You may recall I was away on sabbatical last year at this time. I am still in process of reconnecting with so many of you! Please reach out if you have any need and I look forward to connecting with you soon – my cell is 514-592-7037.

Together, let us look forward to the light of Christmas!

In Christ's love,

Read



O Come, All Ye Faithful



Advent 1 Sunday, November 26
Our worship service takes place at Anjou at 10:30 AM while Family Sunday take place at Trinity at 11:00 AM.



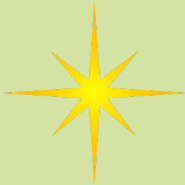
Advent 2 Sunday, December 3
Our worship service takes place at Trinity at 11:00 AM.
Holiday Bake Sale following the service.



Advent 3 Sunday, December 10 **Sunday School Christmas Pageant**
Our worship service takes place at Trinity at 11:00 AM.
Dough Holy Night following the service.



Advent 4 Sunday, December 17
Our worship service takes place at Trinity at 11:00 AM.



Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24
NO WORSHIP service in the morning.
9:00 PM Candlelight Service at Trinity, followed by a time of fellowship



Christmas Events

Holiday Bake Sale Sunday, Dec. 3 after worship



After the church service, join us downstairs for coffee, tea, and conversation. Enjoy fellowship and music as we begin the Advent season.

There will be tasty treats and homemade jams for sale. Our bake table will include apple crisp, lemon loaf, butter tarts, shortbread, date

squares, muffins and more delicious items.

Stock up on goodies for Christmas! Gift a friend with a jar of jam! Or just enjoy time together! All proceeds go to the Benevolent Fund.

Blue Christmas Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 PM

It can be hard to celebrate Christmas when you're missing a loved one, but we are here for you. Come participate in the Blue Christmas service and light a candle for your loved one. The Memorial Tree will also be lit at the service.



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

Guess what? Santa Claus is coming to town and wants to have breakfast with US! Will you join him? Tickets cost \$10 but children 4 and under are free. Please come in by the 7th Avenue door. Tickets will be on sale soon or can be purchased by contacting Diane Best at 438-765-7904 or diane_red-pink5@live.com.



Carol Sing Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 PM

On Thursday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Christmas Carol Sing at Anjou and on Zoom. Please contact Andrea Hook (514-381-2441, amhook@gmail.com) by the end of November if you want to lead a song or two and/or play an instrument. Please also let Andrea know which favourite Christmas songs and carols you would like to sing so that she can get the words and music ready.



Dough Holy Night Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 PM

All are welcome to join in fellowship and the baking of Christmas cookies! Along the way we will rehearse the Christmas story and sing carols. A pleasure for the whole family. \$5 per person to cover the cost of the ingredients. Please RSVP to Sheri at kids@trinityuc.net or in person by Sunday, Dec. 3. Thanks!

Holly Jolly Dinner & Dance Saturday, Dec. 16 at 6 PM

Come join in the festive dinner of turkey, tortière, potatoes, carrots, and desserts! Tickets cost \$20 and all the proceeds support the Best Gift Fund - a fund that was created by our youth many years ago to buy toys for children at Christmas who otherwise would not have any. Tickets will be on sale starting at the beginning of December, by contacting Sheri directly in person or by email at kids@trinityuc.net.



Best Gift Fund Sunday, Dec. 17 at 1 PM

Our Sunday School will be attending the first part of worship and then taking off to buy the toys for the Best Gift Fund!

Our Honour Rolls: How Our Past Shaped Our Present

Story and photos by Rosemary Warren

It all started with a deceptively simple request from Regional Council: Send us a photo of your honour roll so we can make an online montage for Remembrance Day. Well, at Trinity we have a few honour rolls on the walls. Make that a LOT: In the sanctuary and the main hall, there are 23 honour rolls, representing 15 different churches and both world wars. How often do we stop and look at any of them, as we bustle off to the bathroom or to our pew? Maybe one or two of them records the name of a now-long-deceased family member.

We remember how three churches came together to form present-day Trinity United in 1970. Rosemount First United Church, Trinity United Church, and Mount Stephen United Church amalgamated into one congregation, using the building of one of the churches, the name of another and the minister of the third. But these rolls include plenty of church names that have faded into history. United Churches only came into being in 1925 -- so the World War I memorials are from Presbyterian and Methodist congregations. Any memorial with a United Church congregation name would be from WWII.

The lists of names reflect a very different demographic in eastern Montreal from today. Rosemount, the suburb, was created at the turn of the 20th century to offer local housing primarily to employees of the new Angus Shops, the repair facilities for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Angus Shops attracted many immigrants from England, Scotland, and Ireland -- the rolls are awash in Anglo-Saxon names. Some surnames appear multiple times, as whole families of men (they are mostly men) signed up to the war effort. (Conscription was strongly supported in English Canada during both world wars, while many French Canadians opposed the idea.) Consider how large each congregation would have been at the time to record so many people. Consider also how many anglophone families have now moved away from eastern Montreal.

The memorials themselves are interesting pieces of art. Long before computers could spit out perfectly alphabetical lists, or draw precise detailed graphics, these plaques would have been largely handcrafted, especially the WWI memorials. You can see where some names were tucked in last minute, out of sequence, so no one was forgotten. Once in a while, a tiny symbol appears next to a name: killed in action, or prisoner of war. The Union Jack and the Red Ensign are much more detailed flags to reproduce than the maple leaf flag introduced in 1965. And generally, the artists are not credited.

What about for modern war efforts? How would we honour those from our congregation who fought in Afghanistan, or the Falkland Islands, or Ukraine, or wherever else our soldiers are sent these days? We don't have the same mentality anymore of a whole family signing up to the armed forces. I haven't seen one yet that was church-based, but I've seen photos of honour rolls in parks, commemorating local members of the armed forces up to the present day. Two examples are in Bass River, Nova Scotia (Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park) and Broadview, Saskatchewan (Kahkewistahaw First Nation Cenotaph). These lists of names are more publicly accessible. Technology also brings us databases of the fallen, such as the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, which honours and remembers the sacrifices of the more than 118,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who, since Confederation, have given their lives serving in uniform. Each name can be drilled into to see dates of birth and death, regiment names, digital photos, and more.

I wonder also what our rental congregations consider when they see our war memorials. Their congregations are very new; their people don't have that kind of history behind them. What will be the important events and milestones they will carry forward, 50, 60, 100 years from now? Whose names will be recorded for posterity?

A picture may be worth a thousand words. In this case, a few pictures captured more than a century of history, and provided much food for thought. They record a time that is no more, yet has shaped the congregation that Trinity United is today.

Regional council's Rolls of Honour digital gallery, including all of Trinity's rolls of honour, is here: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/remembrance-day-photo-gallery/>



Rosemount First United, from WWII. The same sword imagery is used in the Books of Remembrance displayed in Parliament.



Terminal Park Methodist, one of two from WWI. The names are handwritten.



Trinity United, one of four from WWII. Two of them show an artist credit: H. Brinkley.

Friends, Food & Fun

by Rosemary Warren

What are YOU doing on Thursday? For those of us who attend Friends, Food, and Fun (FFF), the answer is never "I don't know." Every week something is happening -- whether at the church, or around town.

We beat the heat in August by heading to the cinema. It was a blast from the past: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem. We invited the Vacation Bible School children to share the experience with us. Kowabunga! What a treat to learn Superfly's gang shares our passion for bowling! We've got our eyes peeled for the sequel next year.



TMNT Mutant Mayhem movie poster

In September, we visited Concordia to see the engAGE Living Lab Showcase. The eLL focused on research with (primarily) seniors and how they connect with the world through art, storytelling, and movement. We also tried to play mini-putt at the edge of Anjou, "no reservation required" --- but no one was there from the facility to greet us! We had a good giggle over the situation over great pizza and subs at a nearby restaurant. Another activity to schedule next year!

At the eLL Showcase, everyone in the audience received a small ball of clay to play with and create. Michelle made a peace sign, Rosemary made a cat, and another participant made a basket. Photo credit: Rosemary

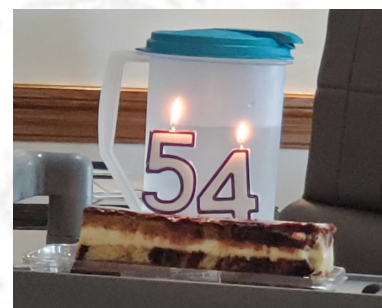


October was an exciting month. We road-tripped to St. Constant to the Canadian Railway Museum, explored vintage trains up close, and celebrated Rosemary's birthday. We tiptoed through the tulips -- er, make that the trees in autumn splendor -- in a nature park. We dressed up for Halloween, played some frightful games, and ate some delicious treats. And like every month, we finished off the month by bowling.



Riding an authentic Montreal streetcar through the Exporail complex. Photo credit: Gary

Birthday cake tops off any meal in style! Photo credit: Gary





*John leads the way through
Parc du Bois-Jean-Milot.
Photo credit: Rosemary*

to their members. To join in on the fun, you will need a double RSVP -- to their organizer and to Rosemary.



*Our first joint potluck with Gay & Grey Montreal.
The first of many, we hope! Photo credit:
Rosemary*



*It's all treats and no tricks at our Halloween party!
Photo credit: Read*

We also love taking pictures -- of each other, of our surroundings, and most importantly our lunch! The pictures and videos are pooled into a special Dropbox account. It's free to sign up for Dropbox -- the free link is well hidden but it's there! If you attend an FFF event, you'll receive an email afterwards to see (or add to) the picture pool. Ask Rosemary how to access or share pictures from a particular week.

We have a new partnership with Gay & Grey Montreal, an organization devoted to those aged 50 and older who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. On the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) they hold a potluck supper at their meeting place in NDG. It is one of the few G&G activities open to non-members, and they are a friendly and welcoming bunch. In exchange, they pick one of FFF's activities once a month to promote

Check your Saturday newsletter or the Narthex bulletin board for the monthly schedule. The Saturday newsletter and the Life and Work of the Church announcements also include a blurb for the current week. See you soon!

In Other News...

Mystery Person

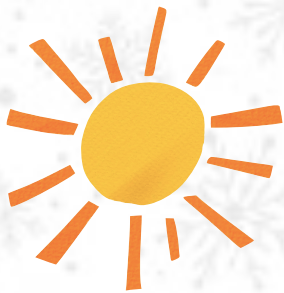


Was this you? Someone put a plain envelope in the offering plate with the number 12 marked on it, but number 12 belongs to someone else. In order to receive a tax receipt, Shirley Cartmill (Envelope Secretary) needs to know who you are. Please contact her at 514-376-2159 or see her after the service. Thanks!

Winter Wonderland Saturday, Jan. 20 at 2 PM



Sleigh bells ring - are you listening? We will be walking in a Winter Wonderland from 2 PM to 4 PM in this community event open to all. There will be snow people making, hot chocolate, and whimsical snowshoeing through frosty lanes. Sounds like fun? Join us!



VBS Theme Reveal January

Ready, set, mark your calendar! VBS will take place from July 1 - July 19, 2024. The theme? It's still a SECRET, but get ready for our theme reveal in January!

