**Trinity United Church of Christ**



***May 2023***



***Worship: 8am & 10:15am***

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**May 7th – “The Martyrdom of Stephen”**

**Acts 7:55-60**

**May 14th – “The God No One Knows”**

**Acts 17:22-31**

**May 21st - “What Now?”**

**Acts 1:6-14**

**May 28th – “Tongues of Fire”**

**Acts 2:1-21**

**Communion: Please pick up your communion wafer & cup as you enter the sanctuary.**

**Offering: Please place your gifts in the offering box as you enter or leave worship.**

**Contact Information**

**Pastor: Rev. Karen Fraser Moore**

welwoman@hotmail.com, 618.920.3592

**321 W. 8th Street … Jasper, Indiana 47546**

(Corner of Clay & 8th Street)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 386

Jasper, Indiana 47547-0386

**Office Administrator**: Taylor Popp

**Office Phone:** 812-482-4090

**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

9am – 1pm & 2pm - 3pm

**Website:** htps://www.trinityjasperucc.org

**May Monthly Calendar**

**M 1** 2:30 pm Prayer in the Sanctuary

6:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting

**W 3** 6:30 pm Guild Spring Celebration

***Office closed from 1pm-3pm***

**F 5 *Music Contest today and tomorrow***

10:15 amMommy & Me Playgroup

**SU 7** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship ~ Communion

9:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

**M 8** 2:30 pmPrayer in the Sanctuary

7:00 pm Council Meeting

**T 9** 12:00 pm LincolnLand Lunch at Schnitzelbank

**W 10** 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

**TH 11**  6:30pm Bridge Team Meeting

**SU 14** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship

**M 15** 12:00 pm Blood Drive in Parish Hall

2:30 pmPrayer in the sanctuary

**W 17 *Newsletter Articles Due***

**F 19** 10:15 am Mommy & Me Playgroup

**SU 21** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship

9:00 am Men’s Fellowship

9:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

**M 22 *Newsletter Sent***

2:30 pm Prayer in the Sanctuary

**T 23 *The church office is closed this week***

4:00 pm Sunset Extension

**SU 28** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship

**M 29 *Memorial Day ~ Office Closed***

***The church office is closed Tuesdays & Fridays!***

**May Weekly Calendar**

**AA –** Wednesdays & Fridays @ 7:00 pm

**Sunday School –** Sundays @ 9:00 am

**Karen’s Kares**

Recently while I was visiting our local residential facilities, I realized there are people who are part of Trinity UCC who are not aware of the work our Bridge Team is doing. By the way, the Bridge Team does not meet to play the card game titled “Bridge” together. On the contrary, they meet once a month to discuss and respond to questions about our congregation such as: **Who Are We (now)? Who Are Our Neighbors (now)? What is God calling us to do now? What type of pastoral leader can lead us into God’s Preferred Future as we discern and understand it?**

Our Bridge Team has been working on several projects over the past several months. Their first project was to respond to the question **“Who Are We Now?”** and then personally reflect on the values that are important to our congregation. After creating a list of those values, they sent out surveys via email or USPS to folks connected with our congregation to discern if that list of values they had created rang true with everyone else. In addition, they had hoped to learn about some of the hopes and dreams held by our congregation in regard to the future. *(However, rather than providing hopes and dreams as a way to reflect upon* ***“Who Are We Now?”*** *many folks saw this as the opportunity to respond to the last question,* ***What type of pastoral leader can lead us into God’s Preferred Future as we discern and understand it?*** *Yet, to jump to the final question without first dealing with the other parts of the process could be disappointing to the congregation’s future. It is understandable that folks want to move as quickly as possible in calling a new pastor. Yet, without first doing the homework, it will be challenging to find a “good match.”)*

The Transitions Team of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference designed the framework and process for Bridge Teams to follow so they could smoothly and efficiently move forward to answer the four above questions. The IKC Transitions Team believed it was important to first determine what makes each congregation unique and/or how the local community would respond if the congregation were to disappear. What would the community miss if the congregation was no longer in existence?

After working through a few other exercises, our Bridge Team is now almost finished with the first phase of the process of being able to articulate **“Who Are We Now?”** The next phrase will be to discern **“Who Are Our Neighbors?”** They are beginning to review a significant amount of demographic data about the neighborhood located within a 5-mile radius of our building. Another project in this second phase will be to interview community leaders to learn how our congregation is seen and known in Jasper.

The third phase will include ways to determine what needs are present to which we, as a congregation, could respond. The Team may also decide to hold a number of small group meetings to gather input from the congregation. The Team may also take several “Prayer Walks” around the neighborhood to pray for our neighbors and their needs.

At that point, the Team might begin to gather additional information in small group meetings to learn what the congregation believes will be important strengths and characteristics for the next pastor to have.

Only after completing these phases, will the Council be ready to choose a “Search Team” to review the data gathered by the Bridge Team, and begin to complete a Congregational Prole. Once the Profile is completed, it will be forwarded to our Associate Conference Minister to be validated. One it is validated; the Profile will go into circulation and the Search Team will begin to receive Ministerial Profiles of pastoral candidates. Preferred candidates will then be chosen and interviewed. If there is a top candidate that seems like a good fit, a neutral pulpit will be arranged for the Search Team to hear that candidate lead worship and preach in nearby community. At that point, negotiations could begin.

At present, the Bridge Team is still following the outlined process and is almost ready to begin **phase 2**. However, it may still be a number of months before the Bridge Team completes its work and the Search Team begins its work.

It is understandable the congregation may feel it is taking too long to complete this process. However, it has been shown, that when the process is rushed, the next called pastor may not stay long and then another Transitional pastor will be needed. When the background work is not completed, a pattern of short-term pastorates and interims may be the result. However, when the process is given the time needed for the congregation to respond to the first three questions (**Who We Are Now? Who are our Neighbors? What is God calling us as a Congregation to do now?**), the potential for a successful long-term pastorate is increased. Only after those questions are answered can it successfully be determined which potential pastoral leader is the best fit for Trinity UCC now. Never fear, the congregation will have a number of opportunities to provide input into responding to the question, **“Which potential pastoral leader is the best fit for this congregation now?”**

**I invite you to begin to pray for our Bridge Team** as they work through the process of responding to the questions in this article. I invite you to **speak words of encouragement** to them as they work, and then to **place your faith and trust in their abilities** to represent you well in this process and in ways that will eventually produce outstanding results. I invite you to **take deep breaths, exercise patience, let go of any anxiety and allow God’s Holy Spirit to bring comfort and hope that all is well, and that all will be well**.

In Christ’s Love and Kare,

*Pastor Karen*

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**Jack Astrike** *4213 Baden Strasse, (812-634-7920)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Corrine Clark** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. # 202 (812-482-3482)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Mariemma Huebner** *Good Samaritan (Nursing Center) (812-481-9258)*

*2515 Newton Street*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Sherry Malone** *660 Rumbach Ave. Apt. #322 (812-582-2721)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Claire Rohleder** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. # 220 (812-482-3185)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Violet Ruckriegel** *Scenic Hills, 710 E Sunrise Dr. Rm. # 503 (812-504-2578)*

*Ferdinand, IN* *47532*

**Janice Sunderman** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. # 134 (812-556-3196)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Alene Frank** *Good Samaritan Society (Garden Ridge) (812-482-1722)*

*2515 Newton Street*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Shirlene Dreher** *St. Charles Health Campus, 3150 St. Charles Street (812-634-5670)*

*Jasper, IN 47546*

**Linda Troxler** *Legacy Living, 1850 IN-56, Rm. # 237 (812-556-3196) Jasper, IN 47546*



**Pray without ceasing…**

* Pray for ALL in need of healing; may God grant them strength and patience.
* Pray giving thanks that the Covid-19 numbers continue to fall, remembering that there are still those who are losing their lives. We give thanks for our health care workers!
* Pray for those impacted by the devastations from wind, fire & water.
* Pray for those families and communities where the young and elderly have been killed by senseless violence in various places in our country, including children in schools, those getting groceries, and those attending worship.
* Pray for our military, first responders and those in law enforcement.

**Mission Alive at Trinity**

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**Adopt a Family: Year-to-date** we have collected **$460.05**

This year’s family is a single dad and his middle school son. They have given their permission for us to share a bit of their history with you.Both parents were together when the boy was young, but Mom eventually moved to Texas with him because Dad was struggling with drugs and had spent some time incarcerated. Dad has overcome his past issues and has been able to stay away from drugs for 5 years now!!! A job brought him to the southern Indiana area and he settled in Jasper. Recently, Mom notified him and indicated she did not feel capable of raising their adolescent son. The child also has been diagnosed with autism, so there are challenges besides the “usual” pre-teen issues. She wanted to send him to Jasper to live with Dad, who was eager for the chance to be with his son full-time. He is a great kid who enjoys school, Legos and drawing. They have enjoyed their time together, and Dad is determined to provide a safe, comfortable and loving home for them both.

When contacted about becoming our new Adopt-A-Family, he was overwhelmed. It will help him to continue “to climb his way out of the hole” (his words) he created for himself. He has much gratitude for our kindness. Already, we have provided Christmas gifts for both Dad and son (they say THANKS!!) plus the January change jar gift, a $150 gift card to IGA to be used for groceries and/or gas.

We appreciate your continued change jar support of our new family. Please remember them in your prayers, as well. We feel confident Trinity’s generosity will make 2023 a wonderful year for them!

With gratitude, The Outreach Team

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Trinity UCC – Parish Hall on Monday, May 15, 2023

12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**Lost & Found!**

There was some jewelry found in the church parking lot a couple of weeks ago. If you have lost something, please call the church office and identify what you lost.

(812) 482-4090

**Food Bank**

The people of Trinity Church have really opened up their hearts.  So far this month alone you have donated 112 items to the Food Bank, and we are only half way through the month. That is very generous and shows what the people of this church are like.  Thank you!

**May item: Shampoo**

**Lenten Mission**

I'm not sure if God spoke to a lot of people's hearts, but our Lenten Mission goal of $5,000 has been met and exceeded. The Outreach Committee is very grateful for the support you have given to this mission project.

Most importantly, helping the women living in Dove House to become sober, dependable citizens is a very Christian thing to do. Thank you for seeing the need and acting.

If you have not sent in your donation yet, there is still time to do so. Your contribution would be gladly accepted. Thank you!

**One Great Hour of Sharing - It’s Time to Share**

Outreach Team, with approval from Council, has selected “One Great Hour of Sharing” as our mission for May.

**OGHS** is one of the four special missions of the United Church of Christ. The theme for the 2023 special offering is **“It’s Time to Share”.** The theme is based on Galatians where the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. There’s a great need in the world, but we can make a difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate and long term support to people around the world experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis. The United Church of Christ is able to offer hope through Wider Church Ministries as it fulfills its commitment to respond to a variety of global and local concerns.

The opportunity is now and the need has never been greater! Thank you for your gifts to **“It’s Time to Share!”** Envelopes are available in the pew holders and on the table in the Narthex.

**Our goal is $400**

**TORNADO RELIEF EFFORTS**

On March 31st, a devastating tornado hit Sullivan, Indiana. It caused 3 people to lose their lives and hundreds more to lose their homes and all their belongings. Efforts have been underway to help Sullivan cope and rebuild. Aid in the form of food and items has been overwhelming and appreciated. At this time, only monetary donations are being accepted for immediate and future use. If your heart would like to help, the list below is only a few of the ways in which to do that.

(1) Wabash Valley Community Foundation for online gifts:

<http://wvcf.org/funds/help-Sullivan-recover/>

(2) For checks, please send to Wabash Valley Community Foundation

200 S 8th Street

Terre Haute. IN 47807

812-232-2234

\*mark your check “Help Sullivan Recover”

(3) Contact Merom Camp and Retreat Center (our church camp)

8555 Phillip Street

Merom, IN 47861

812-356-4511

Merom is being used to house some of the out of town and state relief workers. They would appreciate your gifts to help with increased costs of electricity, water, etc.

Any amount is greatly appreciated, thank you!

**Money donated so far: $1,725**



**Property Team / God’s Home Improvement**

During the last Property Team Meeting we discussed multiple projects and the status of these projects. Current projects are the sump pump replacement in the Elevator Shaft and the Sump pump capacity in the mechanical room. We are re-quoting the Ceiling repair and hope to have a new start date shortly. During that team meeting in April, several other projects were presented to the team. Many of these proposed projects are large in scope and will not be able to be pursued in 2023. After a brief discussion we decided to pull the God’s Home Improvement team back together.

The God’s Home Improvement Team will be tasked with collecting the projects list from each of the different teams, creating a general list of projects, collecting some basic information, determining the priority and/or needs along with getting a general cost to complete each job. The parsonage will be evaluated and included in this project list. Once we have a project list, we will present it to the council. The project list will be included in the property team minutes going forward. If you have any questions, please contact one of the members of the property team. Thank you.

**** David M Peters

**CALLING ALL 2023 GRADUATES!**

Are you or someone you know graduating from High School or College this May? If so, the church office would like to recognize all graduates in the June Newsletter!

**Graduate information could include:** name, graduating from, major, where they are going to school, plans after school, etc.

Please have all information emailed to [trinityucc@psci.net](mailto:trinityucc@psci.net) by Thursday, May 11th.

**Thank you & congratulations!**

** May Council Highlights**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **April Council Decisions:** | | |
| **- Approval was given for:** | |
| * **donating $250 to help sponsor the DC Pride Festival** * **donating $750 from Edna Joseph fund to help fund the General Synod Meeting in Indianapolis** |

**The next Council Meeting will be held on May 8th at 7:00pm.**



**Date Worship Attendance**

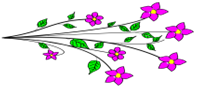
**April 2** 8:00am 18 10:15am 60 **Total 78**

**April 6** 7:00pm 37 **Total 37**

**April 9** 8:00am 18 10:15am 96 **Total 114**

**April 16** 8:00am 15 10:15am 40 **Total 55**

**April 23** 8:00am 13 10:15am 52 **Total 65**

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**Women’s Guild**

The Guild will host the Spring Celebration meeting with the women of St. Paul and Augustana on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30pm in Holland. All women of Trinity are invited to join us for a fun evening.

The Women of Lincolnland will meet for lunch on Tuesday, May 9th at 12:00pm at the Schnitzelbank in Jasper. If you are planning to attend, please contact Susan McGovren.

We will not meet again until September. If you have any ideas for programs or projects for the next year, please contact a Guild officer. Thank you!

**Gather & Sing Choir:** Thank you to the Choir for singing at both services on Easter. We will be singing on May 7th and 21st and then taking a break for summer. We meet at 9:45am in room B04 to rehearse on the Sundays that we sing. We welcome new members at any time! ~ Sarah Sergesketter



**May 2023 - Worship Participants**

**May 7th – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Bible Readers:** Bill Small, Heather Goodhue

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit, Sarah Sergesketter **Special Music:** Gather & Sing Choir

**Time with Young Disciples:** Casey Uebelhor

**Media Producer:** Mark Blackgrave **Media:** Adam Roth, Mark Blackgrave

**Usher:** Bill Small

**Usher & Lock-up:** Judy Hubster and Heather Goodhue

**Communion Prep:** Alexander Thomas

**May 14th – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Bible Readers:** Selena Vonderheide,Mark Blackgrave

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit, Sarah Sergesketter

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

**Media Producer:** Doreen Lechner **Media:** Kurt Vonderheide, Nichole Lechner

**Usher:** Selena Vonderheide

**Usher & Lock-up:** Cindy Howard

**May 21st – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Bible Readers:** Mary Ann Weisheit, John Kahle

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit, Sarah Sergesketter **Special Music:** Gather & Sing Choir

**Time with Young Disciples:** Audra Jahn

**Media Producer:** Kurt Vonderheide **Media:** Kurt Vonderheide, John Kahle

**Usher:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Ushers & Lock-up:** John Kahle

**May 28th – Pentecost Sunday**

**Bible Readers:** Connie Schmitt, Dan Sergesketter

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Karen

**Media Producer:** Nichole Lechner **Media:** Kurt Heise, Adam Roth

**Usher:** Connie Schmitt

**Ushers & Lock-up:** Dan Sergesketter

**Communion Prep:** Janis & John Schnarr

**May Birthdays**

**Name Date**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Janet | Meyer | 1 |
| Judy | Hubster | 2 |
| Evan | Vonderheide | 2 |
| Taylor | Popp | 3 |
| Andrea | Hulsman | 4 |
| Jan | Kalb | 4 |
| David | Hubster | 6 |
| Brad | Vonderheide | 8 |
| Thomas | Peters | 12 |
| Jim | Sheetz | 12 |
| Gayle | McDaniel | 14 |
| Jack | Astrike | 17 |
| Sonia "Sunny" | Klem | 20 |
| Inez | Knies | 21 |
| Rhonda | Johnson | 21 |
| Meghan | Premuda | 22 |
| William | Cox | 23 |
| Natasha | Schnell | 25 |
| Jeff | Berg | 26 |
| Kyle | Berger | 26 |
| Sherri | Uebelhor | 27 |
| Lillie | Campbell | 30 |

**May Anniversaries**

**Name Date Years**

Gerald & Corma Knebel 5/8/1976 47

Lucas & Kristen Hobson 5/11/2013 10

Ann & Kim Schroeder 5/12/1997 26

Candy & Mike Berger 5/13/1989 34

Mary Beth & Les Brozman 5/23/1986 37

Terry & Diane Kapp 5/23/1970 53

Adam & Kari Roth 5/23/2009 14

Heath & Kathirene Astrike 5/26/2018 5