**Trinity United Church of Christ**



***September 2023***



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

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**September 3rd – *Matthew 16:21-28***

***“Are You Nuts?”***

**September 10th – *Romans 15:7***

***Galatians 3:28***

***“Being Welcoming or Being***

***Open and Affirming?”***

**September 17th – *Matthew 18:21-35***

***“How to Develop and***

***Show Forgiveness”***

**September 24th – *Matthew 20:1-16***

***“Treating One Another as Equal”***

**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



**Monthly Calendar**

**F 1** 10:15am Mommy & Me Playgroup

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 3** 10:15 am Worship ONLY ~ Communion

**M 4 Happy Labor Day!** *Church office closed*

**T 5** 6:00 pm Property Team Meeting

6:30 pm Outreach Team Meeting

**W 6** 6:30 pm Budget Team Meeting

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 8** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

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

**M 11** 5:30 pmCE Team Meeting

7:00 pm Council Meeting

**T 12** 6:00 pm Hospitality Team

**W 13** 6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting

7:00 pm AA Meeting

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

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 17** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship

**T 19** ***Newsletter Articles Due***

4:00 pm Sunset Extension

**W 20** 3:00 pm KICS - JMS

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 22** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**SU 24** 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship

9:00 am Tea & Thee

9:00 am Men’s Group

**M 25 *Newsletter Sent***

**W 27** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 29** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**Karen’s Kares**

In the Small Group Meetings that have been held after worship services in August, a lot of new ideas and understandings have been shared. The Bridge Team will be reviewing the results of the Small Group meetings and reporting back to the congregation sometime in September.

In the meantime, one of the questions each Small Group has been asked is, *“Do you believe Trinity UCC is ready to consider entering the UCC process to officially become an Open and Affirming Congregation (O N A)?* Simply asking that question has helped us begin to think about what it would be like for Trinity to become an O N A congregation. I plan to deliver a sermon about the meaning of the ONA process on **September 10, 2023.** If anyone has particular questions for which you would like answers about this topic, please let me know.

In addition, if **anyone reading this newsletter would like to be part of a new ONA Team for Trinity, please let me know.** I am already aware of some who have volunteered to serve on such a Team, yet more than a few will be needed. All who are interested will gather in the Chapel on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00pm.

It could be extremely helpful for all of us to visit the Open and Affirming Coalition website <https://openandaffirming.org/> to begin learning about the history of this movement and how it continues to grow across the denomination. This website has a variety of helpful information as well as links to videos that can help a congregation’s ONA Team become familiar with how we as a congregation can begin to consider becoming part of the movement. *(One advantage of considering this process during a time of congregational transition is – the congregation’s Search Team will receive more Ministerial Profiles, even those who are not LGBTQIA+, who are seeking to serve a progressive congregation.)* Here is a taste of what can be found at the Coalition’s website:

“Open and Affirming” (ONA) is a movement of more than 1800 congregations and other ministries in the United Church of Christ that seeks to welcome and affirm all people as part of the congregation, especially folks who have or currently are experiencing marginalization in our culture. The movement currently includes all people of other races, cultures, languages, economic status, educational levels, cultural backgrounds and mental health conditions. An ONA Congregation welcomes and affirms all who are seeking, supports their relationships, and advocates for their basic rights. All sacraments and rites of an ONA congregation are available to all people, including Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, and Marriage, as well as positions of leadership. ONA congregations take seriously the Bible’s admonition to *“accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NIV)* More than 350,000 members of the UCC belong to ONA churches and our movement is growing rapidly.

Only after a time of study, dialogue and prayer, do congregations adopt an “**Open and Affirming Covenant** to officially become part of the movement. There are several reasons for our congregation to consider becoming ONA.

*“You shall not mistreat or oppress the stranger who lives among you, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 22:21)*

*“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)*

*“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)*

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15)*

*“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7)*

*“For Christ, having received, not one or two of us, but all together, has thus connected us, so that we ought to cherish one another.” (John Calvin)*

‘All Are Welcome’ isn’t enough. Many people of faith have experienced emotional and spiritual injury in congregations that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. **They have learned that “All Are Welcome” usually doesn’t apply to them**. So, they can’t assume any congregation will be a safe place for them and their families. A public welcome of affirmation by an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation sends a clear message to all seekers they have a safe home in the United Church of Christ. A congregation’s affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life-changing and life-saving experience.

A public welcome of affirmation to all who are seeking a place to worship, grow, learn and practice their faith helps congregations grow. When ONA congregations attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families who identify with the values ONA represents and want their children to learn the faith in a welcoming affirming congregation.

By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul’s admonition to *“accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NIV)*

Please feel free to share your thoughts with me as we begin to consider the possibilities and potential of what God may have in mind for us and our future.

In Christ’s Love and Kare,

***Pastor Karen***

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*Jasper, IN 47546*

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*Jasper, IN 47546*



**Pray without ceasing…**

* Pray for ALL in need of healing; may God grant them strength and patience.
* 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 **$1,819.05**

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.

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

**Food Bank**

Thank you to those of you who donated food items this past month. Larry and I were able to take 37 boxes of oatmeal or cereal of various sizes to our Community Food Bank along with 8 cans of vegetables, 4 cans of fruit, 1 large can of pie filling and plastic bags. Your help is greatly appreciated!

In case you didn't know, I collect the items and usually take them in. Larry collects nearly expired items at a grocery store here in town and takes them to the Community Food Bank weekly. He also stocks shelves at the food bank at least once a week. So, if I can't get the items from Trinity to the food bank, he can deliver them.

**September items:  Paper Towels**

**Mission Alive at Trinity**

**Date Worship Attendance**

**August 6** 8:00am15 10:15am 32 **Total 47**

**August 13** 8:00am 14 10:15am 40 **Total 54**

**August 20** 8:00am 16 10:15am 46 **Total 62**

**August 27** 8:00am 16 10:15am 38 **Total 54**

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**August Council Highlights**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **August Council Decisions:** | | |
| **- Approval was given for:** | |
| Approved using up to $11,000 from the Edna Joseph account to move forward with  streaming technology |

**The next Council Meeting will be held on September 11th at 7:00pm.**



**Good luck to all students & teachers!**

**Your Trinity Church Family wishes you a safe, happy and healthy school year! We are cheering for you!**

 **ME & THEE WOMEN’S GROUP**

The women of our congregation are invited and encouraged to come to the first **"Me & Thee" group on Sunday, September 24th at 9:00 am in the Foyer.** We will gather to share a cup of tea and a short time of devotion together.

This gathering is an attempt for women who have been part of Trinity for a longer time to get to know some of our newer women and learn more about one another and our congregation.

**All you need to bring is yourself!!**

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**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!**

Our **Adopt-a-Family** is so appreciative of how you opened your hearts and your wallets to support them. With your gifts we were able to **pay two months’ rent, make two months of car payments, and purchase school clothes and shoes**. This was made possible by your generous gift of **$1,855**.

From Dad: **Expenses had really begun to pile up on me, and I was wondering how to make ends meet with the extra needs that come with the beginning of school. Then I got a call with news of the amount you all collected for Christmas in July. I can’t find words to express how much your help means to me and my son. It relieved so much stress for me! I am so appreciative for everything Trinity has done. You guys are amazing.**

Thank you Trinity Family!

~ The Outreach Team

**September Mission - College Gift Cards!**

Our Outreach Mission for September will be supporting our three college students, Ella Hubster, Maggie Hubster, and Emma Emmons. We will be accepting monetary donations that will be used to purchase gift cards for these students.

We will mail the gift cards in October. There will be envelopes in the Narthex for your donations, or you may use your regular giving envelope with a notation that it is for College Care. *Thank you for supporting our youth!* **Our goal is $150.**

**GATHER & SING CHOIR**

THANK YOU to Alexander Thomas and Sarah Sergesketter for providing special music in August.

     A reminder that the GATHER and SING CHOIR will be singing on September 24th at the 10:15 service. We will meet at 9:45am in room B04 to rehearse. Thank you!



**TRINITY WOMEN’S GUILD**

The Women’s Guild will meet on September 10th at 9:00 AM in the Chapel Room. At this time we will hold an Agape Service to remember those women who have passed away in the last two years.

**Some reminders for future events –**

October 8th we will make the apple filling for next year’s Strassenfest.

The Cookie Walk will be held on December 2nd from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It’s not too early to start gathering your favorite cookie recipes and the ingredients for baking them.

All women of Trinity are invited to join us!

**Kid’s in Christ’s Service**

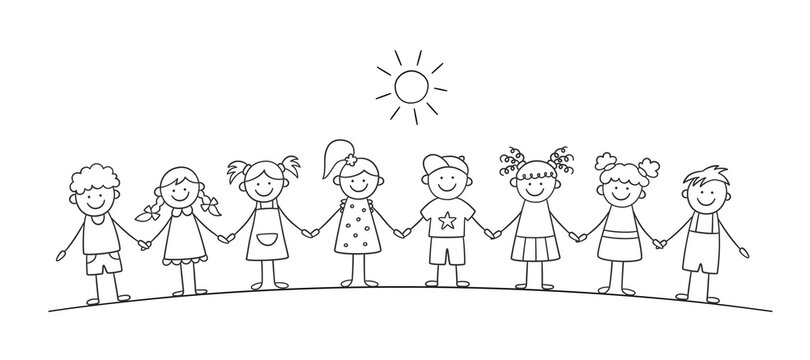
The Christian Education Ministry Team is excited to begin KICS (Kids in Christ's Service) for our elementary students.  This will be an after-school program from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at the Jasper Middle School on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. This program is open to Trinity youth grades K-5 and their plus one.

Dana Blackman will be taking the lead for this program, but she will need an additional adult (and/or teen) to assist her.  Please let Dana, Pastor Karen, or any Christian Education Ministry Team member know if you would be available to volunteer for some or all of the sessions.

In addition, kids are hungry after school, so we are asking for snack and drink donations. These donations can be anything from small water bottles, Capri suns, goldfish crackers, animal crackers, etc.  There is a bin in the back of church that is marked “KICS” where donations can be placed.

Permission slips are required to participate.  They will be emailed to all families and hard copies will be placed on the credenza in the Narthex.  Again, if you have any questions, please see Dana, Pastor Karen, or any CEMT member. Thanks in advance for your support with this program!

**This program will begin on Wednesday, September 20th!**



**2023-2024 Trinity Women’s Guild Fellowship**

*Motto: Let us not tire of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. - Galatians 6:9*

Every woman by virtue of her membership at Trinity UCC is considered a member of the Guild and is invited and encouraged to take part in the activities. Friends of Trinity are always welcome.

Fellowship will be at **9:00am** on the **second Sunday** of each month in the Chapel Room, unless noted otherwise.

The purpose of this group is to unite the women of Trinity in Christian fellowship. We seek to support the congregation and the community through donations, service projects, and funeral meals. We thank all who have contributed in so many ways.

Please consider joining us for fellowship on the following dates:

**September 10, 2023** - We will host an Agape service, originally developed by

Naomi Rasche. We will hold in remembrance the women of Trinity we have lost over the past two years: Margie Schnieder, Denise Schnell, Norma Blackgrave, Carrie Loveall, Eloise Breidenbaugh, Mariemma Huebner, Violet Ruckriegel and Helen Seemann.

**October 8, 2023** - Many hands make light work! Come help peel apples and prepare the cobbler filling for next year’s Strassenfest.

**October 10, 2023** - Any interested Women of Lincolnland can meet for lunch at noon at the Schnitzelbank.

**November 12, 2022** - Under the guidance of Doreen and Nicole Lechner, we will make Christmas crafts for our nursing home residents and other shut-ins.

**December 2, 2023 8:00am - 1:00pm** - O’Tannenbaum Days Cookie Walk. Plan on bringing your homemade cookies and candies. This is the only fundraiser for the Guild.

**December 3, 2023 11:00am** - Sunday School Christmas Program luncheon. Join us after worship for a luncheon celebrating our Sunday School students. Thanks in advance for donations of food for this luncheon.

**January 7, 2024** - **NO** gathering in January. Please consider donating some of the following items for Church World Service hygiene kits: hand towel, wash cloth, wrapped bar of soap, toothbrush, comb, fingernail clippers, bandaids.

**February 11, 2024** - Join us between services for coffee, donuts, muffins and other breakfast treats.

**March 1, 2024** - World Day of Prayer at Holy Family Catholic Church

**March 10, 2024** - Join us in assembling the hygiene kits to send to Church World Service.

**April 14, 2024** - Dr. Priya Alex will be sharing information about the needs of women and children that she sees in her medical practice.

**\*\*WEDNESDAY May 1, 2024 6:30pm** - We will caravan to Augustana UCC in Holland for a joint spring gathering with women from Augustana and St. Paul.

**May 14, 2024** - Any interested Women of Lincolnland will again meet for lunch at noon. Restaurant location to be determined.

The following members are assigned as the “contact” person for the month to reach out to shut-in’s through a visit, card and/or phone call. Please consider also serving in this

important ministry.

September - Jan Kalb March - Mary Ann Schroeder

October - Judy Hubster April - Judy Hubster

November - Sylvia Adams May - Sylvia Adams

December - Volunteer Needed June - Heather Goodhue

January - Visits and Contacts on your own July - Susan McGovren

February - Heather Goodhue August - Volunteer Needed

*(Officers are Heather Goodhue, Judy Hubster, Susan McGovren, Jan Kalb, and Sylvia Adams)*



**September 2023 - Worship Participants**

**September 3rd – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Readers:** Susan McGovren

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Time with Young Disciples:** Audra Jahn

**Media Producer:** Doreen Lechner **Media:** John Kahle

**Usher & Lock-up:** John & Susan McGovren

**Communion Prep:** Janis & John Schnarr

**September 10th - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Readers:** Selena Vonderheide, Kaiden Roth

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Time with Young Disciples:** Casey Uebelhor

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

**Usher:** Selena Vonderheide

**Usher & Lock-up:** The Roth Family

**September 17th – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

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

**Usher:** Mary Ann Weisheit & Connie Schmitt

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

**September 24th - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Readers:** Connie Schmitt, Melissa Blackgrave

**Organist:** Sarah Sergesketter **Special Music:** Gather & Sing Choir

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Karen Fraser Moore

**Media Producer:** MarkBlackgrave **Media:** Kurt Vonderheide, Adam Roth

**Usher:** Connie Schmitt

**Ushers & Lock-up:** Jan & Rod Kalb

**September Birthdays**

**Name Date**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tim | Hafele | 5 |
| Jerry | Thom | 6 |
| Emma | Kahle | 7 |
| Bentley | Lindauer | 7 |
| Hannah | Aull | 8 |
| Jack | Rumbach | 10 |
| Jack | Mattingly | 12 |
| Laurel | Hubster | 12 |
| Mark | Hopster | 15 |
| Aliek | Armstrong | 15 |
| Shea | McGovren | 16 |
| Audra | Jahn | 17 |
| Gerald | Knebel | 17 |
| Harland, Dr. | Wittwer | 17 |
| Hannah | Schnarr | 18 |
| Paula | Marshall | 19 |
| Angie | Hobson | 20 |
| Reid | Lindauer | 20 |
| Ruth | Coller | 25 |
| John | Coller | 29 |
| Kenley | Emmons | 29 |
| Greg | Schnarr | 30 |

**September Anniversaries**

**Name Date Years**

Christine & Daniel Dodd 9/3/1983 40

Mark & Cheryl Hopster 9/6/1987 36

Megan & Josh Premuda 9/8/2012 11

Josh & Sarah Blackgrave 9/16/2017 6

David & Sabrina Peters 9/23/1995 28

Kimberly & Billy Aull 9/25/1983 40

David & Stacy Hubster 9/26/1998 25

Rick & Angie Hobson 9/27/1980 43