**Trinity United Church of Christ**



***February 2024***

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***Worship: 9:00 am***

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**February 4th –** Mark 1:29-39

 “Time to Move On”

**February 11th –** Mark 9:2-9

 “Who Was On the Mountain”

**February 18th –** Genesis 9:8-17

 “God’s Covenant With Noah”

**February 25th –** Genesis 17:1-16

 “God’s Covenant With Abram”

**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

**\*NEW Office Email:** ***trinityofficejasper@gmail.com***

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

**YouTube:** Trinity UCC Jasper IN

**Monthly Calendar**

**F 2** 9:30am Mommy & Me Playgroup

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**S 3** 9:00 am Music Together

**SU 4** 9:00 am Worship & Communion

 8:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

**M 5** 9:00 am Music Together

**W 7** 3:00 pm KICS @ JMS

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 9** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**S 10** 9:00 am Music Together

**SU 11** 9:00 am Worship

 10:15 am Search Team (Room 213)

**M 12** 9:00 am Music Together

5:45 pmCE Team Meeting

7:00 pm Council Meeting

**W 14 *Ash Wednesday***

 7:00 pm Worship

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**T 15** 10:00 am Terminix

**F 16** 9:30 am Mommy & Me Playgroup

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**S 17** 9:00 am Music Together

**SU 18** 9:00 am Worship

 10:15 am Search Team (Room 213)

**M 19** 9:00 am Music Together

 5:00 pm Philharmonics Club

**T 20** 4:00 pmSunset Extension

**W 21** 3:00 pm KICS @ JMS

7:00 pm Lenten Service

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**F 23** 7:00 pm AA Meeting

**S 24** 9:00 am Music Together

**SU 25** 9:00 pmWorship

 8:45 am Gather & Sing Choir

 10:15 am Men’s Fellowship (Lounge)

 10:15 am Search Team (Room 213)

**M 26 February Newsletter Sent**

9:00 am Music Together

**W 28** 7:00 pm Lenten Service

7:00 pm AA Meeting

**Karen’s Kares**

 January has been a challenging experience in terms of our colder weather. After deciding to suspend worship on January 14, by Sunday, January 21, we had a hearty 49 persons in worship (just under our average worship attendance for 2023)! What I learned was - folks who worship with Trinity do not allow single digit temperatures to keep them away. Praise God for your faithfulness!

 As we ease into 2024, with new leadership on Council and our functional teams, folks are beginning to plan new ways to worship, to work and play together and move forward into an exciting future. Perhaps our best focus this year will be to spend the needed effort and energy to learn more about how to love and care for one another and those outside the walls of our building.

 **The** **Christian Education** **Team** now needs to begin searching for folks who are willing to lead Adult Bible or Topical studies. The options are endless and I am more than willing to share recommendations for topics and/or emphasis. One leader is considering leading a class about the history and expressions of the United Church of Christ as a denomination (i.e., where we came from, how we function, our theological emphasis and our hope for the future). We might also consider a class on the important reasons we want to welcome diversity in our midst and how it can benefit our congregation. Other topics might include studying a specific Biblical character(s) (such as Abraham, Sarah, Noah, Jonah, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, King David, and the different Mary’s in the New Testament, etc.) If you have ideas or suggestions for the type of studies we can offer adults, please let Pastor Karen or any member of the Christian Education Team know your thoughts, desires and needs. If you are willing to teach a class, please do the same.

 **The Worship Team** is planning to offer brief **worship experiences on Wednesday evenings during Lent** (which begins February 14, 2024). Pastor Karen will be using common “objects” (focusing on a new object each week) and building a worship theme around it. You will not want to miss this unique approach.

 **The ONA Hospitality Team** is planning to sponsor a meal in our Parish Hall near Earth Day targeted toward the gay community in Jasper. This meal is a basic step for us to begin to learn how to welcome and affirm those who may be underserved in the Jasper community. This team will continue to meet on a monthly basis to find ways that we, as a congregation can continue to be more inclusively diverse in all we do.

 I facilitate a group of clergy women once a month via Zoom. In our most recent meeting, we talked about **“What does Lent mean to me.”** All those in the group agreed, for us, Lent is no longer about “sacrificing” or giving up something we enjoy during the 40 days. Instead, the common understanding among us was **Lent is a time to intentionally focus our hearts, minds, souls and energy upon a new or a deeper spiritual practice.** During Lent, we all shared how we might find ways to challenge ourselves to keep becoming the beautiful, beloved people God created us to be and become. Recently a colleague recommended a book to me titled, ***“Lent in Plain Sight.”*** I ordered it and was delighted because it develops ideas about the common objects in our everyday lives. My prayer is that using this resource will help me rediscover and develop a stronger awareness of experiencing God’s Presence, Power and Promises in the common, everyday objects in my life. When I began seminary (43 years ago), it didn’t take me long to realize, that rather than learning about specific Biblical teaching, my seminary experience was mostly about learning how to theologize (to think and talk about God). In other words, learning how to discern God’s Presence in the common, everyday experience of life, which I have now chosen to do once again as my personal Lenten discipline this year.

 **What will you choose as your own personal Lenten discipline this Lent? I am most certainly ready and willing to talk with you about the possibilities.**

 Please remember, if you have questions or concerns about the direction our congregation may be heading, please schedule a time to meet with me so we can enjoy a time of understanding and conversation. I am always glad to meet and talk with you about any need or concern you may have. It is part of our developing our relationships in kind and loving ways.

In Christ’s Love and Care,

*Pastor Karen Fraser Moore*

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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.

**9:00am Worship Attendance**

**January 7th – 52**

**January 14th – cancelled due to weather**

**January 21st – 49**

**January 28th – 49**

**Mission Alive at Trinity**

**![C:\Users\Jane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\K2KY9B0Q\kids-saving-money-on-coin-jars[1].jpg]()**

**Adopt a Family: Year-to-date** we have collected **$3,980.09**

 We appreciate your continued change jar support. When we began helping our 2023 family they were in debt and stressed! We have helped them get ahead. Please remember to keep them in your prayers. Trinity’s generosity made a huge difference for them!

**Food Bank**

Even with the weather and the holiday season this past month, the people of Trinity United Church of Christ donated  8 small cans of soup, 2 large ones, and a box of broth, several plastic bags (needed for putting items in at the food bank), and 82 rolls of toilet paper.

We all know how expensive toilet paper has become! For those who have donated, **thank you very much!!**



**February items: Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce**

**New Hospitality Mission**

The Hospitality team recently considered a proposal to become involved in welcoming new residents to Jasper with greetings, handouts and offers of community. If this sounds like something you may be interested in and want to connect with new people, please let Pastor Karen or a member of the committee know.

**Trinity Women’s Guild**

The Trinity Women’s Guild will be providing sweet breakfast treats following the service on February 11th. Everyone is invited to come and share some goodies!

 On March 10th, we will be assembling the hygiene kits for Church World Service. Items needed are hand towels, wash cloths, wrapped bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs, fingernail clippers and Band-Aids.

These should be placed in the marked bin in the foyer. Thanks for helping with this project.

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 **December Council Highlights**

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| --- |
| **January Council Decisions:** |
| **- Approval was given for:** |
| * Approved motion to accept $26,000 quote to replace 3,000 sq ft of rubber roofing that is causing leaks. Funds will be taken from Edna Joseph. Motion by David Peters and seconded by Mark Blackgrave. Unanimous approval.
* Motion presented by Rod Kalb representing the Outreach Team to designate S.A.R.A. as our Lenten Project for this year with a goal of $5,000.

Seconded by Greg Schnarr and unanimously approved. |

**The next Council Meeting will be held on February 12th at 7:00pm.**



**Lenten Project to Benefit S.A.R.A.**

 Each year our Lenten Project rotates between local, regional, or international focus. In 2023, a “regional” year, we surpassed our goal of $5,000 and donated $5,266 to Dove Recovery House for Women. During the last 25 years, the “international” years, our donations have been to Water for South Sudan, Heifer International, Mercy Ship, Bhutan Christian Church Project, Skopje Macedonia kindergarten, Sri Lanka Girls’ Home, Nicaragua Medical Clinic, and Ryder Hospital in Puerto Rico. With your generous donations and caring hearts, over **$67,000** has helped these worthy organizations.

 After much research, the Outreach Team with approval from Council has chosen **Sharing America’s Resources Abroad** to be the recipient of our Lenten gifts this year.

 **S.A.R.A.** is a non-profit ecumenical ministry affiliated with the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. (This conference covers Northern Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia.) S.A.R.A. distributes medical supplies, equipment, and expertise throughout the world.

 The current focus of the Heartland Conference’s S.A.R.A. partnership is to bring aid to partners **in Ukraine** who are suffering as a result of the war. **Specifically, our Lenten gifts will go to the Good Samaritan Children’s Home and St. Michael’s Children’s Home in Ukraine to purchase healthy food and medicines for the children living there. Thank you!**

**Goal: $5,000**



**February 2024 - Worship Participants**

**February 4th –**

**Bible Reader:** Heather Goodhue

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

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

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

**Usher & Lock-up:** Judy Hubster

**February 11th –**

**Bible Readers:** Kaiden Roth

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Karen

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

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

**February 14th – Ash Wednesday**

**Bible Readers:** David Hubster

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Media Producer:** Kurt Heise **Media:** Kurt Vonderheide

**Usher & Lock-up:** David Hubster

**February 18th –**

**Bible Readers:** Susan McGovren

**Organist:** Mary Ann Weisheit

**Time with Young Disciples:** Heather Goodhue

**Media Producer:** Mark Blackgrave **Media:** Kurt Heise

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

**February 25th –**

**Bible Readers:** Dan Sergesketter

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

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Karen

**Media Producer:** Nichole Lechner **Media:** Nichole Lechner

**Ushers & Lock-up:** Larry LaGrange

**February Birthdays**

**Name Date**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Janis | Schnarr | 1 |
| Brad | Atkins | 2 |
| Larry | LaGrange | 3 |
| Mira | Vonderheide | 13 |
| Bill | Small | 14 |
| Cheryl | Hopster | 18 |
| Dan | Sergesketter | 22 |
| Tricia | Cole | 23 |
| John | Kahle | 25 |
| Adam | Roth | 25 |
| Selena | Vonderheide | 27 |
| Madison | Mauck | 27 |

**February Anniversaries**

**Name Date Years**

Brett & Haley Wright 2/2/2011 13

