

We've Re-Opened!!!

Trinity's Council formed a Re-Opening Committee back in the spring to plan for the eventual re-opening of our building. Well, the time has come and Trinity re-opened for Sunday services on September 13th. We would love to see you IN church but there are options if you are not quite ready
In the Sanctuary Sundays at 10:30 following guidelines
On Facebook / Website live to watch anytime
Cogeco - this Sunday's service NEXT Sunday at 9am and 2pm
NOTE: You are getting this via email so we can reduce contact, reduce our environmental impact and at the same time save money. We hope you enjoy it.

Online Issue

2

Oct.
2020



Connect, Inspire & Serve, our community and beyond



TRINITY

UNITED CHURCH

Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada



THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM REVEREND CHRISTOPHER

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Thanksgiving is a time when we remember the myriad ways in which we are blessed. We celebrate family, friends, faith and material comforts. Every year, we assure one another that we are blessed, indeed.

This year, our shared circumstance is different. For many, COVID-19 has changed their employment and income. With restrictions in travel and wisdom in avoiding confined or crowded spaces, there may be no Thanksgiving reunions with family or friends. Even space for worship is limited with "Fellowship Time" being one of our suspended activities. This Thanksgiving will be part of a continuing anxious time for many. It may be difficult for some to speak of abundance.

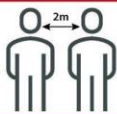
While our world may teach the blessing of having an abundance, Scripture speaks of sharing an abundance. As a consequence, Trinity has shared abundantly in every good work and has given cheerfully. With a mandate to share and the needs of our community being amplified by COVID-19, Trinity has been working hard to live out "Connect, Inspire, Serve" at a critical time.

- More than 6000 lunches have been distributed as part of "Brown Bags and Blessings"
 - Close to 4000 non-medical masks have been made and given away
 - Hundreds of meals and encouraging words have been received in the doorways of people we love
 - Conversations and prayers are shared regularly every week
 - Worship services were able to continue even when we couldn't meet in person via Facebook and Cogeco
 - We have sown bountifully, what have we reaped?
 - We learned how generous our neighbours are in supporting our Ministry
 - We have formed new relationships with caring folk across Smiths Falls and beyond
 - We communicate and connect with anybody, anywhere at any time
 - We proved that we are forever young; we dream, we dare, we do
 - We demonstrated a Gospel that matters
- What a harvest, what an abundance, what a blessing.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving
Rev Christopher Ryan | Minister

Protect Yourself & Those Around You

COVID-19



Avoid close contact with people - keep at least 6 ft/2m away



Stay home when sick and as much as possible when well



Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and warm water



Work from home, conduct meetings virtually



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Cover your cough or sneeze



Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth



Use alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol



Wear a face covering/cloth mask to protect others when you can't keep your distance



If concerned, get tested at a local Assessment Centre



For more information about reducing the spread of germs visit www.healthunit.org or call 1-800-660-5853 ext. 2499



Trinity vs Covid 19

Back in the spring, Trinity formed a "Re-Opening Committee" to plan how this would happen, when it would be allowed and how we would keep everyone safe. We worked closely with the local Health Unit and listened carefully to their advice. Masks are worn at all times while in the Church. Cleaning is done after each use of a space. Social distancing is always used.

Our first Sunday back in Trinity's Sanctuary was September 13th and everything went very smoothly. Masks were worn by everyone who entered, we cleaned and sanitized thoroughly, took contact trace information and kept socially distanced. Everyone felt safe and blessed to be back.

At a recent Council Meeting the purchase of extra sanitizing equipment was approved. We will be purchasing a device for the front entrance so hands can be sanitized without touching anything. We will also be purchasing an Electrostatic Sprayer to assist the cleaning staff in keeping our Church germ free.

Stay Safe
Betty Lou Kempt
Re-Opening Committee

United Church Women

Mark 12 41 – 44

As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins worth about a penny.

He called his disciples together and said to them, "I'll tell you that this poor widow has put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches, but she, poor as she is, put in all she had – she gave all she had to live on."

This is the basis of The Fellowship of the Least Coin. Under the Women's Inter-Church Council, we support this initiative. Throughout the year, we collect our least coin – a nickel since the pennies have been phased out. Together with \$100. from our UCW, we send our offering to WICC.

Be sure to come to Women's Sunday on Oct 25 to continue this story. Please raid your piggy banks for your nickels or whatever is in your pocket to add to what we have collected. You will find out how this started and what happens to the funds collected.

Linda Stronski, Co-Chair, UCW

UCW Bakeless Bake Sale

The UCW has been like all other organizations, unable to sponsor many fundraisers at this time. Thus, the envelope for a donation. Keep in mind all the cookies, squares and sandwiches you have not been asked for since the pandemic hit.

Please give generously.
With Thanks,
The United Church Women



Outreach and Social Justice

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye, shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that knocketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

This scripture could certainly be the motto of the *Outreach and Social Justice* team since March. In such times of uncertainty and fear, concerns abounded for how the marginalized and socially isolated in our community could remain healthy. Yet, God is faithful and answers prayers; inspiring leadership and creativity in people.

The Outreach Team met three times via Google Meet since the Covid-19 shutdown. The needs of our community did not change, or pivot, during the last six months and neither did the compassion, generosity and commitment of many volunteers from Trinity United. And so thankfully, tremendous progress has been made despite our current restrictions.



Under the leadership of Betty-Lou Kempt we have continued "Trinity on Tuesday" by providing volunteers and meals twice weekly. This important work is possible with the aid of grants, from all levels of government, including the town of Smiths Falls. On Tuesday, the local business of *Two Guys for Lunch* prepares nutritious lunches for 140 community members

and around 60 Trinity friends. On Saturdays, from May until August we were fortunate to have teachers from Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute and Duncan J Schouler Public School volunteer and prepare Brown Bag lunches. Once our teachers went back to school, Two Guys for Lunch agreed to cater for the Saturday meal in addition to the Tuesday meal. We feel blessed to have helped so many people in our community with these meals. If you can volunteer and help pack the lunches in brown bags please contact Betty-Lou at 613-291-0701



We know that good food is essential to good health and so Chris Dickson continues managing the ordering and monthly delivery of the Good Food Box. If you wish to order one of these \$20. food boxes packed full of fresh produce, please contact Chris at 613-485-6876 or stop into our Community Lunch program Tuesday or Saturday at 11:30 and Betty Lou will sign you up.



Arlene Hunter responded to a need in our community for protective masks. Under her leadership many volunteers from the church and friends in the community have sewn and distributed almost 4,000 masks. Heather Quinn and others have also been busy making "ear savers" that make a big difference if you need to wear your mask for long periods of time. Please contact the church office if you require a mask or you may pick them up Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11:30.



It can be certain that in the future Covid-19 and our restrictions will pass. However, we also know that protecting our environment will never be able to be overlooked. The work of educating members of the church and community about more sustainable practices continues at the Legion on Sept. 30th with a Zoom Workshop entitled *Well-Preserved*. Trinity's very-own Judy Drummond will be presenting as well as Heather Mitchell Adams who is the owner of Modern Thymes.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar as we move through the fall.

Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day.
Oct 18	World Food Sunday
Nov 01	Dedication of Affirm Stained Glass Window

Thank-You,
Lorraine Ryan, Chair of Outreach and Social Justice

Affirm Anniversary Window

Through the generous donation of Heather Quinn and her mother, Carol Royle the Outreach and Social Justice team was able to commission the work of Reta Troop, local artist, to create a stained-glass window celebrating the Anniversary of Trinity United Church becoming an Affirming Congregation on February 09, 2019. The Quinn and Royle families are pleased to offer this gift to the church in memory of brother, and son, Douglas (Jason) Stanley Royle and father, and husband, Ernest Stanley Royle. Rev. Ernest Stanley Royle was minister at Trinity between 1974 and 1980.

There are many layers of symbolism in the art: God's creation is seen in the earth, sky, and water, and in the rainbow, for all God's people especially those in the LGBTQ+ community. The earth from which things grow, the grass for new life/ new beginnings, the water: needed to sustain life, that Jesus is the Living Water, and of our baptism, and the empty cross, reminding us of the risen Christ (our hope and salvation). We hope that as you view this artwork that you, too, will find ways to see God at work in our lives.



This window will be dedicated on November 1st during our service and mounted in the panel of glass as you enter Church. So, please be sure to look up and be

inspired.

RED – life, ORANGE- healing, YELLOW- sunlight,
GREEN- nature, INDIGO- harmony, VIOLET- spirit.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Our challenge in the past few months has been to continually be in contact with our church members and the community, with limited visitations. Thank goodness we are able to phone, email, send notes and deliver brown bag lunches to keep that connection. We are inspired by Rev. Christopher with his weekly Telephone Tree messages. We are sensitive to the needs of folk who need that reassurance that we are here for them. We strive for strong faith in doing Christ's work with respect and love.

Members of the Christian Community Team

Communications Team

We have been busy over the summer recording your services with Wendy and Christopher then bringing them home to load onto Facebook so you see them every Sunday morning. The service then goes to Cogeco where you can watch that service NEXT Sunday at 9am and 2pm. NOW... we can LIVE STREAM our service and you see it on Facebook and the Website as it happens! Many thanks goes to **Jim Crosbie** for installing the cable that made that happen. We also want to take this opportunity to thank **Karen White** for her long time contribution to our website. She puts the bulletin on weekly so you can all follow along.

Great Opportunity for Personal Growth

Attending the Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality (www.OSTS.ca) is one of the best things I have ever done. This is adult learning at its best and it just got better. How? - by offering all classes on ZOOM for the fall and winter semesters; no more driving after dark. I will still get to see people, interact with the instructor and join in discussions —all from the comfort of my home. The classes aim to provide theological and spiritual education to the laity and, in so doing, to deepen and strengthen their faith. There are no exams and no required text books to purchase - just some suggested reading. You will not require a Zoom account to participate in classes. Once you register for a course prior to classes you will simply click on a link that will be provided by email.” It is \$75.00/semester or \$140.00 for both with two classes per semester.

“The School, originally known as the Ottawa Lay School of Theology, started as part of an initiative by the United Church of Canada. From its beginning the School has had an ecumenical focus and today it is co-sponsored by the United, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches. While maintaining its Christian roots, the School recognizes the importance of better understanding between Christians and members of other faith traditions; today many of our courses reflect this belief.”

Norma Wrightly

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

With the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the past seven (7) months have been a new, challenging and stressful time for us all. It certainly has been the case for Trinity's "Treasury". During the past seven months we have experienced a decrease in church revenues, while at the same time we have had to meet our on-going day to day operational expenses. The good news is that we have been able to pay for those expenses with revenue that has come in and resources already in our coffers.

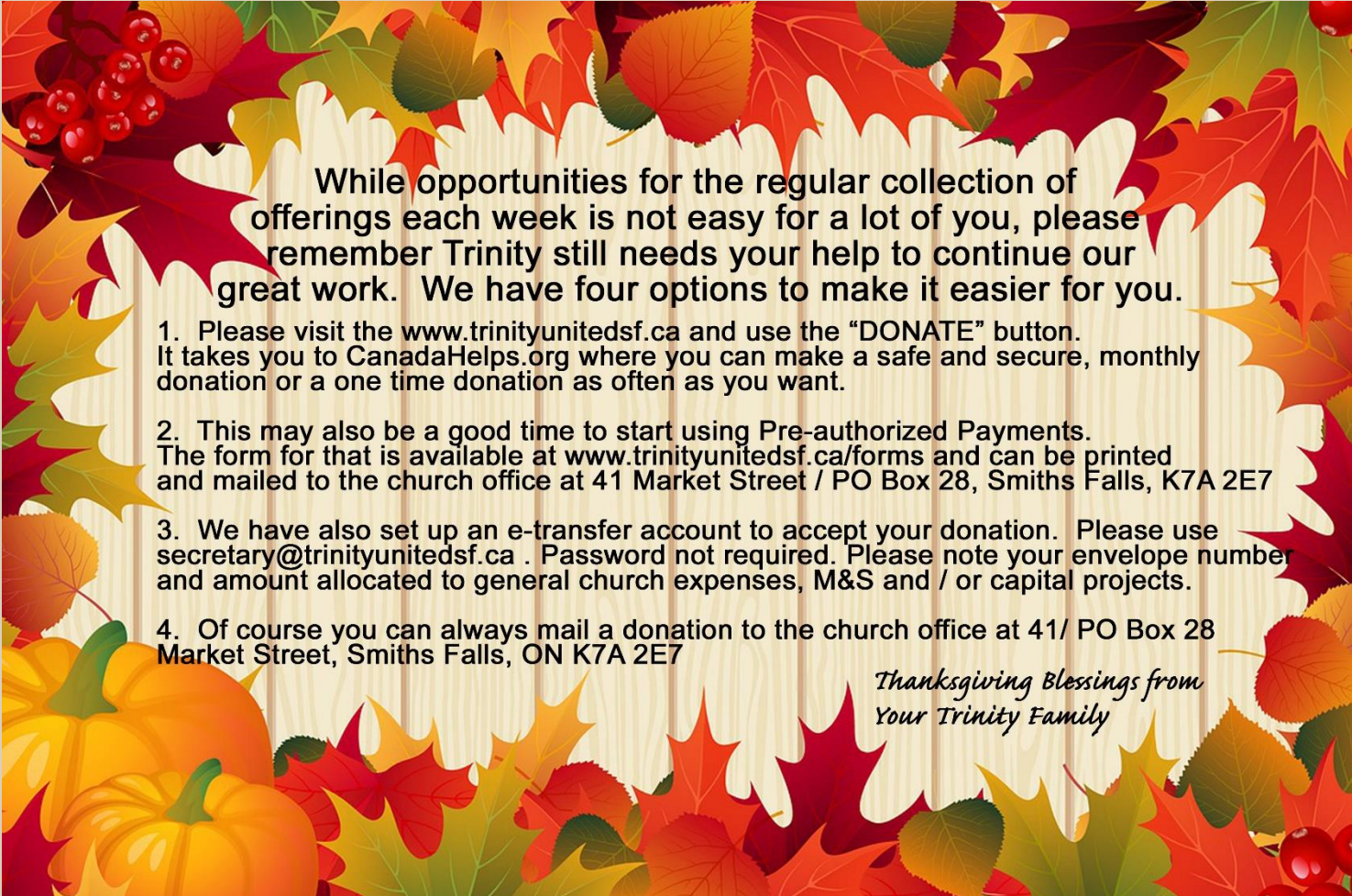
Thank you to all of you who made arrangements to ensure your contributions reached the church during the period when the church was closed.

Equally important, has been the tremendous financial support that has been provided to Trinity's Outreach Brown Bags and Blessings Programs. Rev. Ryan has worked tirelessly to raise funds through various grant programs, as well as the individuals who also made personal donations to the program. I would like to recognize those individuals (both from Trinity and the greater community) who made a donation (in materials, time, talent and funds) to support the mask making project and its free distribution.

As you know the church was closed for "business" from mid-March to early July. There has been and remains much catching up to do on the administrative front. From a financial perspective, the goal is to provide you with your statement of contributions for the current year to September 30, 2020 and an overview of church finances and financial activities for the same period. We are setting our sights on getting the information out to you by Thanksgiving (October 12, 2020).

Please bear with us as we regain our footing and return to a more normal and stable base of operations.

Diane Bennett, Treasurer and Bob Swan, Chairman, Board of Trustees



While opportunities for the regular collection of offerings each week is not easy for a lot of you, please remember Trinity still needs your help to continue our great work. We have four options to make it easier for you.

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, monthly donation or a one time donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is available at www.trinityunitedsf.ca/forms and can be printed and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca. Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S and / or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

*Thanksgiving Blessings from
Your Trinity Family*

Christmas Wreath

Trinity United Church Women Fundraiser

18" Fresh Balsam Wreath



Pre-order by October 30th

by emailing

trinitysfundraising@gmail.com

or by calling

Sharon at 613-283-6923

More details on dropping off money or pick-up
will be given when you call or by return email

Pick-up date is December 1st.

\$25.00

**This Communicator is brought to you by the
Communications Team of Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls**

Thank you for reading it. If you enjoyed it, please pass it on to a friend to enjoy.

If you received a printed copy, please provide us with your updated contact information so we can email further copies in our effort to be environmentally conscious, save money & reduce contact transmission of Covid 19.

We have expanded our delivery of this document to spread the word of what Trinity is doing during this unprecedented time as per our motto of Connect, Inspire & Serve. If you do not wish to receive further copies, please just let us know by either return email or by calling the office at 613-283-4444.

Blessings from the Communications Team,

Chris Dickson, Peter Au, Daisy Au, Arlene Hunter & Mary Joynt