

Sunday, December 8, 2024



The EOORC Campaign for MHI – United We Dream

(We owe the Aboriginal peoples a debt that is four centuries old. It is their turn to become full partners in developing an even greater Canada. And the reconciliation required may be less a matter of legal texts than of attitudes of the heart. – Romeo LeBlanc)

Welcoming and Announcements

Welcome to guests and new comers in our midst. Trinity is welcoming, open, inclusive and accessible. – Trinity is an Affirming Congregation.

The service this morning is being led on behalf of the Outreach Team.

The service has been adapted, with permission, from a MHI service prepared by the Rev. Dr. Teresea Sku' Nandum Burnett-Cole.

We are pleased to have with us **Sue Smarkala** who will be speaking about the **Multifaith Housing Initiative**, often referred to as MHI, which our Region, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region, is a partner of.

Our advent Candle lighting prayer is from “The True Gift Lives On: Christmas Poetry, Prayers, and Blessings.”

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, and is used with permission

Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday (Closed on Statutory Holidays). Please note that the office will be closed on Dec. 25th, 26th and Jan. 1st. All other regular hours will apply during the holidays.

Christmas Eve – “Lessons in Carols” - Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Please join us for Social Time After Church in the Fellowship Hall – If you wish to volunteer to help with Social time, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of each month. **Please note that the last Sunday School prior to the Christmas season will be today, Dec. 8th.** Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, January 12th.

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations.

Offering Options

Trinity has several ways in which to offer our financial gifts for the life and work of the church, by...

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- delivery to church office
- through Trinity's website DONATE button
- and by PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

Please noted, that our offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary, and though they remain there, we intentionally offer our gifts to God.

How You Can Help (from the Ministry and Personnel Committee)

– The workload of our secretary and media editor has increased *substantially* since Rev. Christopher's retirement and the busiest season is yet to come. You can help by emailing announcements and drafts of services to **both** Andrea secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca **and** Patty worshipleader1@msn.com **by noon of the Monday before the service.** Please note that emailing is preferred, but if need be, you can phone the office at 613-283-4444.

Special request regarding the Comfort and Joy concert with Tripoly and the Troubadours

– with the busyness of the Christmas season, ticket sales for the concert are not what we hoped for. If everyone could commit to talking with and inviting at least one other person to the concert, it would be helpful! **Friday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.** at Trinity. \$20 in advance or \$25 at door. Purchase your ticket before and after the morning service or from the Office at 613-283-4444. They also can be purchased on line at www.ticketsplease.ca

Cookie Sale – first three Sundays in December – Come prepared to purchase cookies for your Christmas celebrations! We will be selling cookies following the morning services.

“In Celebration Cards” – If you make a donation to any of the following ministries or initiatives, donation cards are available for your use, in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall:

Trinity United Church General Fund

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Lanark County Interval House

Multifaith Housing Initiative

Smiths Falls Police Services (mittens, hats, socks drive)

White Gift Sunday on Dec. 15th for Salvation Army

Christmas Hampers.

Gifts with Vision – In thinking about the upcoming Christmas season, Gifts with Vision is an excellent way to support those less fortunate such as providing a secure supply of food, fresh and clean water, reliable power, a social support network, clean laundry, and much more. Please visit www.giftswithvision.ca to view the many initiatives that Gifts with Vision is involved with.

In support of a request from the Smiths Falls Police Service, we started collecting hats, socks, and mittens (knitted or otherwise) which are being handed out by officers or their MCRT team. Thank you all for your donations! We delivered 111 hats, 5 scarves/neck warmers, 3 headbands, 11 pairs of socks, 1 pair of mittens and 1 pair of gloves. **We will continue to collect these items through the winter months.** If you do not knit, purchased items are acceptable. Due to hygienic and allergy reasons, only brand-new items from smoke free homes will be accepted. There is a basket in the sanctuary to collect items. Thank you everyone!

Chair Yoga – Come and join in on classes on Dec. 9th and December 16th at which time the classes will be suspended for the Christmas holidays. Classes begin again on Monday, Jan. 6th.

Advent Walk – Today, Sunday, December 8th at 4 p.m.

– The walk will start at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church and proceed through the town, stopping at various churches and sites (including Trinity United), and ending at St. John's Anglican Church.

Amnesty International “Write for Rights” on Saturday, December 14th – Drop in between 1 and 3 p.m., as well as Sunday, December 15th following the morning service. This event is hosted by Trinity United Church, 41 Market St. N. in Smiths Falls. Every year, around Human Rights Day, people all over the world send messages of protest to end human Rights abuses and message of hope to those who are suffering. These words change lives. Please join us!!

Lanark Interval House – We continue to pack a parcel for Interval House for Christmas. Unopened personal items, small gifts for women and children would be appreciated. Please consider regular and fragrance-free items. Donations may be left in the box provided at the entrance to the Church. Last day for donations is **December 15th**. Contact Diane Combdon or Joanne Hunter for any questions.

Hymns are not announced but are listed in the bulletin and are projected on the screen. You are invited to stand in body or in spirit when we sing, and the choir will guide you.

Introit: *You are invited to sing along, remain seated* (Gathering 2024, A/C/E, Year C, page 59, Bev Brazier, used with permission. Tune is the chorus of MV #79 “Spirit Open My Heart” WILD MOUNTAIN THYME.)

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Call to Worship

Hymn: VU 18 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

Lighting the Advent Candle: — **PEACE** (blue candle) ~ “*the True Gift Lives On: Christmas Poetry, Prayers, and Blessings.*” Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, used with permission

Opening Prayer: (Gathering 2021/22, pg. 31. Anne Mathewson, used with permission)

Prayer of Understanding: (~ Anonymous, Canadian)

Choir Anthem: The Wexford Carol (Irish Traditional)

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

Our scripture reading this morning is from the Gospel of Luke 9:51-62 using the First Nations’ Version

Meditation: “Pastorale on a French Carol” (Young)

Reflection: Sue Smarkala

Hymn: The Huron Carol (tune 71) (Used with permission by Crystal Shawanda)

Mission Story: **Helping Refugees** (Brenda King)

Offertory: (Gathering 2015/16, pg. 27. Kate Crawford, used with permission)

Hymn: VU 901 “Song of Zachariah” (tune VU 123)

Prayers of the People: (Presbyterian Worship resource, adapted, used with permission)

The Lord’s Prayer (in Unison)

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Hymn: VU 29 “Hark the Glad Sound”

Commissioning: *(Gathering 2024, A/C/E, Year C, page 59, Bev Brazier, used with permission. Tune is the chorus of MV #79 “Spirit Open My Heart” WILD MOUNTAIN THYME.)*

Blessing: *(Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Companion ©2012, adapted, used with permission)*

May the grace of Jesus the Christ be with your spirit. (Phil 4:23)

Choral Amen

Postlude: “Sheep May Safely Graze” (Bach)

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity

First Monday, 12:00 noon Remaining Mondays, 11am	Chair Yoga (Cancelled Dec. 2 nd)
Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Study - Start Date to be determined
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW – 9:30 a.m. (Gather at 9 am)
Fourth Monday, 9:30am (possible rebooking from time to time)	Property Team / Church Hall
Last Monday, 7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation – discontinued until further notice
First Tuesday, 2:00pm	Service at Van Horne Residence – Starts Nov. 5 th (UCW coffee/tea time following service)
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 9:30am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
First Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway (Trinity) – starts on Wed., Dec. 4th
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Fourth Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway (St. Paul's)
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion – discontinued temporarily
Second and Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle