



# Trinitopics & Church Announcements



To Grow in Faith, Fellowship & Service Through Christ Jesus

**# 20 ~ Thursday, September 23rd, 2021**

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## News from the Board

I hope that this note finds you safe and healthy.

The Board has made a plan for resuming in person services and have decided to put out a timeline subject to provincial and federal regulations regarding Covid-19.

We currently have a re-opening plan in place that we feel will be able to keep everyone who attends in person safe. We will still have to wear masks, physically distance, and have capacity limits. These are required now due to provincial and federal regulations regarding Covid-19.

We currently are not able to open due to plumbing issues that are taking more time than we had anticipated. Since we do not have water and cannot use the washrooms, we will postpone the reopening of the church until a later date.

This is the goal that the Board is working on right now, but we may need to adjust due to restrictions. We also would like to have an Office Administrator in place to help facilitate the re-opening process. We feel it is important to have something to look forward to and have plans and a timeline in place to resume shortly.

Jason Splett    Board Chair



## Update Gift Card Fundraising Project

As of Wednesday, September 22nd, twenty-two households have submitted gift card orders totalling \$10,370.00 which has earned Trinity \$359.43. Thank you for your overwhelming support of this fundraiser. We have surpassed our minimum target goal of \$5000 and will avoid any shipping charges on this order.

There is still time to submit an order. **Orders, including payment, must be received by Tuesday, September 28th at 4:00 pm.** All confirmed orders will be sent on Friday October 1st to Fund-Scrip. Payment for your orders will be to Trinity United Church by cheque, cash or e-transfer. Please clearly indicate your money is for payment for the gift cards. Credit cards cannot be used as a method of payment. **Orders will be received by Alan Silvius at any time so there is no need to wait until the deadline date.** Orders will be accepted by email at [silviusa@mymts.net](mailto:silviusa@mymts.net) or via phone at (204) 726-4169 (Home) or (204) 570-2338 (Cell).

If you are wanting to support this fundraiser but do not want to purchase gift cards, you can make a donation directly to Trinity United Church & indicate Fundraiser Donation to Trinity.

**Trinity Untied Church Affirming Vote: Sunday, September 26th, 2021; 11 am.**  
Information Package and Voting Procedures will be sent out to all Trinity e mails by Rev. Doug. Please check your emails.

For non e mailers, you will receive the package with your newsletter.



## Orange Shirt Day, September 30

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

**Indigenous Ministries and Justice at The United Church of Canada encourages everyone to participate in Orange Shirt Day**

On September 30, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential schools.

The summer of 2021 was a summer of orange shirts as Indigenous communities across the country shared the truth they have always known; that many of the children who never returned from residential schools remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children.

This Orange Shirt Day is also the first observance of a **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. For settler Christians in particular, this is a time when we can reflect on our role in colonialism and the residential school system, and our ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

Why orange? Because of Phyllis Jack Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, who went to St. Joseph Mission Residential School. On her first day of school, Phyllis wore an orange shirt that her grandmother had given her. It was immediately taken away, and that marked the beginning of Phyllis's long separation from her family and community, a separation caused by actions of the church and federal government.

Orange Shirt Day is a time for us all to remember those events, their ongoing impact, and just as importantly the continuing strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples.

#### A Prayer for Orange Shirt Day

*Today we wear orange  
to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who  
went to residential schools.*

*Today we wear orange, and we pray  
for the residential school and intergenerational survivors  
who are still struggling.*

*Today we wear orange, and we are thankful  
for those who speak the truth, and who work to shine a  
light on injustice.*

*Today we wear orange in the name of compassion and  
the spirit of truth and reconciliation.*

*Help us, God, to remember and act on this every day.*

*Amen.*

(Story and Prayer from United Church of Canada web-sites)

#### Truth & Reconciliation Week, Brandon

**September 27 – October 1, 2021**

The Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council (BUAPC) and partners have planned events for the public to learn about the history of residential schools and the ongoing impacts of colonialism. This will include both in-person events at the Riverbank Discovery Centre and virtual Zoom sessions hosted by ACC and BU.

For a detailed calendar of events and sessions, visit [http://buapc.ca/images/pdf/Sched\\_22.pdf](http://buapc.ca/images/pdf/Sched_22.pdf) or check for details in the Brandon Sun.



Image: Brandon Sun, Saturday, September 4, 2021, Brandon Friendship Centre knowledge keeper Frank Tacan speaks to students from École secondaire Neelin High School about his experiences being taken from his family to a residential school. Public-school classes will be cancelled on the last day of September so students and staff can observe Canada's inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

## Church of Pentecost Canada

There is a new congregation worshipping at Trinity. They use the Sanctuary on Sunday evenings. There are COP congregations throughout Canada

From the website:

The Church of Pentecost Canada is registered federal religious non-profit organization carrying the gospel to all parts of the world and in Canada in particular.

The Church of Pentecost Canada is a branch of The Church of Pentecost International, which has its general headquarters in Accra, Ghana, West Africa and traces its origin to 1937 when the English missionary, Rev. James McKeown, began his ministry in the then Gold Coast (now Ghana).

Pastor Gabriel, of the congregation at Trinity, might have a few words for the next newsletter.

Welcome Pastor Gabriel and  
Church of Pentecost!!

## Our Trinity Gardeners are RETIRING!!

Ken & Carol Winstone are going to finish up the garden this fall, but are then asking someone else to step up and be ready to take over in the spring.

*"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."* -Marcel Proust.

Thank you, Ken & Carol, for your years of dedicated nurturing !

If there is someone who think they might be interested, you could check in with the Winstone's and get the duty info from them!!

**Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only #1, 3, & 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs!**

## An Act of Kindness

A Pennsylvania professor went above the call of duty for a student who couldn't find a babysitter.

In January 2020, a sweet video showing Aqeel Dix, Ph.D, a health sciences professor at Lincoln University, a historically Black college near Oxford, Penn., holding a student's baby while giving a lecture went viral. Dix, who tells Yahoo Life that he has a big family, held the baby facing his mother, which seemed to relax him as he walked across the front of the classroom.

"It Takes A Village....When my students need me, I'm there," Dix captioned his original post. "Student came to me and said Dr. Dix I'm going to miss class. My reply, was why...She then says I don't have a babysitter. I said yes you do, bring him to class I'll take care of him. I always say, we as educators are more than our title. I will never have a student miss class because they have no one to keep their kids. I will hold 'Dr.Dix Daycare' in the back of my class before I allow them to miss class. Days like this makes me fall in love with what I do."

During a recent password audit, it was found that a PERSON was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"

When asked why she had such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital.



This lovely coloured pink 'emergency room' sits outside of our church.

The RCC Church placed it there due to no water and bathrooms facilities inside. They have generously offered its service to all; Key to it in church.

# Wondering What More You Can Do To Become Anti-Racist?



"We commit to this work not alone but with God."

Wondering what more you can do to become anti-racist in your local communities?  
You aren't alone.

It's one of the questions Adele Halliday, the United Church's Anti-Racism and Equity Lead, is asked a lot. *40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism*, a new cutting-edge program set to run from October 12 through November 26, is one of the ways Halliday is answering.

"I took the question to heart, mulled it over with colleagues, and an idea was born to invite the whole church to intentionally reflect on a range of racial justice issues in creative ways for a specific period of time together," she says.

Each day for 40 days, heart-expanding reflections on anti-racism themes written by contributors from across the church will be shared on the United Church's website. These free reflections geared for individuals and small groups will also come with activities for children and families, prayers, and practical ways to take action in local communities.

What does Halliday hope the impact of the program will be?

"I'm hoping there will be engagement with advocacy, personal transformation, and continued commitment to work to become actively anti-racist not just for 40 days but over the long haul," says Halliday. "We commit to this work not alone but with God. Ultimately, I hope 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism will draw church members into a deeper understanding of God's vision for a just world and how they can live it out."

Your Mission & Service gifts help support the development of awakening education and learning resources like 40 Days. Because of your generosity, the whole of the church will be blessed with practical ways to live into God's call to become anti-racist. And in turn, our world will become a more just and equitable place for all. Thank you.



YOU'RE RIDING A HORSE FULL SPEED, THERE'S A GIRAFFE NEXT TO YOU, AND A LION CHASING YOU. WHAT DO YOU DO?

GET OFF THE MERRY-GO-ROUND!!

**BREAKING NEWS!** Man gets hit by a rental car. Said it Hertz.

WHAT DO YOU CALL A MELON THAT'S NOT ALLOWED TO GET MARRIED?  
**CANTELOPE.**



A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of homey inside. ... Winnie the Pooh

Two things to make your day better:

- 1 Do not watch the news.
- 2 Stay off the bathroom scale!!!!

**Happy Birthday**  
 Belated September 16th Rick Church  
 September 23rd Linda Friesen  
 September 22nd Bill Hutchings 94 years young!!



### Roy & Kathy Mitchell

I had a nice phone visit with Kathy last week; they are still in their own home on Dennis St., doing well. They have been with Trinity since 1970. They celebrated their 61st anniversary in March 19th of this year. Nice visit, Kathy!!

### Shirley O'Driscoll

How thrilled I was to find this lovely lady's phone number in the Community Directory!! I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me because her old phone #729-8442 wasn't working any more but there was one in directory with the same last four numbers!

Shirley's phone number is 204.717.8442.  
 I had a great visit with her and she would love to hear from her Trinity friends.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

### UCW Birthdays

#### September

8th Evelyn Thompson  
 14th Helen Hicks  
 17th Joanne McMillan  
 September 19th Louise Hume  
 80 years young!!



Service Celebrating the Admission to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada of Rev. Christopher Davis in Melita on September 12, 2021. Left to Right: Diane Dwaka, Co-Chair of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Rev. Doug Neufeld, Minister at Trinity United Church, Brandon, preacher for the service and Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister of Prairie to Pine, Living Skies and Northern Spirit Regional Councils. Note: Rev. Doug had his first in person service in Melita. He is the tall one!

### Grab and Go Groceries

There will be something missing at two Whole Foods stores opening next year: the rows of cashiers. Amazon, which owns the grocery chain, said that it will bring its cashier-less technology to two Whole Foods stores for the first time, letting shoppers grab what they need and leave without having to open their wallets. Cameras and sensors track what's taken off shelves. Items are charged to an Amazon account after customers leave the store with them. But there will be an option for those who want to shop the old-fashioned way: Self-checkout lanes will be available that take cash, gift cards and other types of payment. Amazon first unveiled the cashier-less technology in 2018 at an Amazon Go convenience store and has expanded it to larger Amazon supermarkets. One of the new stores will be in Washington, D.C.; the other in Sherman Oaks, California. They will be stocked with the typical Whole Foods fare.

NOTE: Are we ready for this??

The Sunday school teacher asked young David if he thought that Noah might have done much fishing from the Ark.

Please think about our folks in hospital and care homes and drop them a greeting through the Prairie Mountain Health website.  
<https://www.prairiemountainhealth.ca/pmh-well-wishes>

Please be sure to call or e-mail Marlene Wilson, 204.729.8574 with any reports of folks in hospital or needing some contact.



80th Sunday since we have gathered  
Greatness is about Humility & Love  
Serving others & putting yourself last.

*Affirming Vote*  
*Sunday, September 26th; 11 am*

*Our thoughts and prayers to anyone we have missed who are spending time in hospital: or having health issues.*

### **Our thoughts & prayers to:**

**Gordon Fraser:** Assiniboine 3; which he calls the 'holding tank'! I had a telephone visit with him and he asked me to say 'hi' to everyone at Trinity!! He enjoys the greetings that he gets through the Prairie Mountain Health & any contact. To call him; call 204.578.4000 & ask for him on Assiniboine 3rd floor. Keep up the great humour!!

**Grant McCausland:** Assiniboine 3; The word on the street is that he and Sheila are playing lots of cards. Thinking of both of you!

**Ferg Hall:** Taken to hospital last Saturday. Running some tests; he is ready for home! Hopefully soon. Thinking of you & Myrna.

If you know someone, or yourself,  
who would like a care call from  
Rev. Neufeld; call 204-441-8140

### **Our Friends in Personal Care and Senior Homes**

**Dinsdale:** Lois Aube

**Fairview:** Audrey Campbell, Lillian Atchison, Linda Garson, Louise Hodge, Dennis Hume, Bea Lee, Betty Russell, Keith Vrooman, Alma Yule

**Souris PCH:** Emma Garden

**Rideau:** Don Chambers, Murray Hicks, Jean Hutchings, Robert Jarvie, Eleanor McCreath, Garry VanRenselaar

**Valleyview:** Laura Cliffe, Bernice Erskine, Shirley O'Driscoll, Lois Wolfe,

**Riverheights Terrace:** Judy Diswinka, Patty Hargreaves, Al & Helen Lauder, Vera Skayman

**Rotary Villas:** Marg Lovstrom, Frank Rabe

**Victoria Landing:** Pat Rathwell, Alice Wesley

May your troubles be less  
May your blessings be more  
Wishing nothing but happiness  
To come through your door.

*May you always have:  
Love to share,  
Cash to spare,  
Tires with air, And  
friends who care*



### **Trinitopics & Church Announcements**

The newsletter is prepared every 2nd week  
Delivery is being made to all non email

**The next issue will be October 7th**

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May God hold you in the palm of His Hand

# **Information Package & Voting Procedures for Affirming Congregational Meeting**

**sunday, September 26th. 2001**  
**ZOOM**  
**11 am**



# Notice of Trinity Congregational Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, September 26, 2021, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Format:** Zoom/telephone (instructions will be provided)

**Purpose:** Vote on becoming an Affirming Ministry

**Motion:** Members of the congregation will be asked to vote on the following:

***"That Trinity United Church, Brandon, become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, thereby also becoming a member of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble."***



## What is an “Affirming Ministry”?

**Affirming Ministries** are congregations and other ministries within the United Church of Canada that work toward the healing and wholeness of creation.

Affirming Ministries publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Affirming Ministries challenge bias and discrimination based on appearance, culture, class, or age; work to end racism; promote economic justice; increase accessibility; and care for the planet.

Affirming Ministries continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God’s way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation. Just as God rejoices in the goodness and diversity of creation, so too Affirming Ministries honour and celebrate diversity.

(Source: Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in The United Church of Canada – pg. 1, adapted)



***Whatever your perspective, we invite you to join the conversation, to consider new ways to live out your faith, and to express your wishes in the vote to become an Affirming Ministry on September 26.***

## **Trinity Congregational Meeting & Voting Procedures**

Topic: Trinity Congregational Virtual Meeting – Vote to become Affirming

Time: Sep 26, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82672773861?pwd=c1VmZngvaDk3ZTR2bFV6VmRwNFhGQT09>**

Meeting ID: 826 7277 3861

Passcode: 140859

Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

Meeting ID: 826 7277 3861

Passcode: 140859

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdb3IAU1IF>

Please mute yourself when you are not speaking and unmute if you want to talk. This will help with background noise.

Voting outcomes for the motions for this meeting will be done by simple majority. The vote on becoming Affirming will require 75% in favour.

### **Voting instructions will be as follows.**

Motion will appear on zoom screen and be read by the Chair.

Discussion/debate on the motion will be asked by the Chair.

Chair will give instructions that those for the motion to raise your hand. Scrutineers will count votes for the motion. Chair will ask if any couples differ in their vote. Scrutineers will adjust the result if necessary.

Chair will ask Doug to clear the hands.

Chair will ask to vote against the motion. Scrutineers will count votes against the motion. Chair will ask if any couples differ in their vote. Scrutineers will adjust the result if necessary. Chair will ask Doug to clear the hands.

Chair will ask for those that abstain from voting to raise your hands. Scrutineers will count votes that abstained from voting. Chair will ask if any couples differ in their vote. Scrutineers will adjust the result if necessary. Chair will ask Doug to clear the hands.

Chair will tally and announce the outcome of the vote.

## **Some notes on the voting process:**

### **On the phone:**

\*6 to mute/unmute yourself.

\*9 to raise your hand to vote.

### **On iPad:**

To mute/unmute: touch your screen, touch the “mute/unmute” button near top center.

To Vote (Raise Hand): touch your screen, then touch the “3 dots/more” button on top right, then touch “Raise Hand”.

### **On iPhone:**

To mute/unmute: touch your screen, touch the “mute/unmute” button on the bottom left.

To Vote (Raise Hand): touch your screen, then touch the “3 dots/more” button on bottom right, then touch “Raise Hand”.

### **On Android Phone:**

To mute/unmute: bottom left (sometimes labeled “Join Audio”).

To Vote (Raise Hand): touch your name, touch “Raise Hand”.

### **On Computer Zoom Meeting:**

To mute/unmute: As you move your cursor, the toolbar will appear on the bottom. Click the “mute/unmute” button on the bottom left.

To Vote (Raise Hand): As you move your cursor, the toolbar will appear on the bottom. Click on the “Reactions” button, then click “Raise Hand”.

Or on older versions: Click mouse on “Participants” button at the bottom of the screen, then a window should pop up showing you the option on one of the buttons to raise hand.

## Trinity's Journey to the Affirming Vote (2016 – 2021)

As we prepare for the upcoming vote to determine if Trinity will become an Affirming Ministry, the following provides an overview of Trinity's journey over the last few years that brings us to this point of decision.

### **The Visioning Process**

- In November of 2016, Trinity United Church held a Visioning event. The congregation was asked to list their priorities for the future of Trinity. Becoming an Affirming Church was one of the top five categories of the Visioning process.
- At subsequent Visioning events in February, April and October of 2017, becoming an Affirming Ministry was discussed in more detail with the ultimate goal being identified that Trinity form a group to move forward with this initiative.

### **Formation of Equity & Diversity Committee**

- In September of 2018, an informal congregational meeting was held to discuss the idea of becoming an Affirming Ministry and to measure general interest and support. The meeting included a information session as well as opportunities for questions and answers. Following the majority consensus of those who attended this meeting and approval of the Church Board, the formation of the Equity & Diversity Committee was recommended to help steer our efforts towards becoming an Affirming Ministry.
- At the Congregational meeting in November of 2018, the congregation approved the Board's recommendation that Trinity United Church form an Equity & Diversity Committee as part of the Official Board. The role of the committee was to provide guidance in exploring becoming an Affirming Ministry.
- On November 21<sup>st</sup> of 2018 the Equity & Diversity Committee held their first meeting and began planning how to carry out their mandate given by the Board and congregation.

### **Education and Discernment Activities**

**2019: In-person services (pre-pandemic)**

Liaised with Affirm United Coordinator Rev. Liz Carter-Morgan.

- Several articles were shared, via electronic, hard copy or newsletter submissions, with the congregation to encourage conversations e.g., *Five Things to Remember When Using the Bible Against the LGBTQ+ Community*.
- Trinity representatives attended Trans Day of Remembrance service at Knox; Affirming Ministry Celebration at Westminster United in Shoal Lake; and Prairie to Pine Affirm workshop at Knox United Church.
- Special service for first annual United Church Pride Day (June 2) and hosted guest speakers (Laura Crookshanks, May 5 and Julie Hutton Nov. 17) who shared their stories with Trinity congregation.
- Hosted Blanket Exercise (Nov. 23) with 25 Trinity members participating.
- Some diversity resources were added to the Trinity Library for everyone's use.

### **2020: In-person until mid-March, online/newsletter after pandemic shutdown**

- Trinity hosted movie night *Boy Erased* (Feb. 21) followed by discussion.
- Instituted regular 'Affirming Moments' as part of virtual online services, references in sermons to work of committee and promoted themes/video clips.
- Articles were shared in church newsletters on a regular basis, including related graphics, quotations, personal stories, and others soliciting feedback/questions from congregation.
- Rainbow ribbons were made available in the Church to show support for the LGBTQ+ community.

**(Continued – over)**

## Trinity's Journey to the Affirming Vote – Cont'd

- Provided updates for congregation, soliciting feedback/questions
- Presentation to UCW
- Began development of draft documents required for Affirming process (Visio Statement, Marriage Policy and Action Plan)
- Continued liaison with Affirm United Coordinator

### **2021: Online/newsletter (pandemic shutdown continues)**

- Some Trinity members participated in PIE day with Knox (online service, ordering pies)
- Observed United Church Pride Sunday with a meaningful service (June 6).
- Shared personal stories from LGBTQ community (Corey, Ken, Sharon) via newsletter items, also live as part of online worship service (Al Friesen & Linda Ross).
- Distributed electronic and hard copy article "What Does the Bible Really say about Homosexuality" by Reverend Blair Odney of Lynn Valley United Church, invited feedback & discussion
- Ongoing Affirming Thoughts and Affirming Moments in newsletter and services – thought-provoking stories, images, and interpretations were shared.
- Ongoing invitations and opportunities for congregation questions and engagement.
- Following approval of the Board placed Orange Ribbons at Trinity in memory of children lost at Residential Schools.

## Preparation for Becoming an Affirming Ministry

- Developed documents required for Affirming process (Vision Statement, Marriage Policy and Action Plan), approved by the Board and Affirm United,
  - Documents distributed to congregation for review and feedback, Vision Statement and Marriage Policy approved at Feb. 21, 2021, Annual General Meeting
  - Action Plan was shared with the congregation for information and discussion.
- Continued liaison with Affirm United Coordinator who indicated we were ready to go to a vote after documents were approved
- Board set date for vote on becoming an Affirming Ministry (September 26, 2021).

In summary, Trinity congregation has engaged in a three-year period of learning and discernment through worship, study, and inquiries to reflect on what it means to be truly inclusive and how becoming an Affirming Ministry will help us live out our faith. Trinity has met all the requirements of Affirm United, including approval of relevant documents (Vision Statement, Marriage Policy, and Action Plan).

As such, the time is now for the congregation of Trinity United Church, Brandon, to decide on whether to become an Affirming Ministry, thereby also becoming a member of Affirm United/S'affirmir Ensemble.

We hope that you will consider this matter in prayer and reflection, and that you will join us in making this important decision on September 26.

