

Trinity World Newsletter

March 2024

Happy Easter



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

1. The estimates received by Bruce Groff for placing siding on the rear exterior wall were much higher than Council felt were reasonable to spend on that project, so we decided to go back to plan A. :) Bruce will get an estimate from Winterton for repainting the entire wall, as they did about 12 years ago. We may go with a different color...maybe grayish to match the grout.
2. There are 6 trees along our back property line that we feel should be removed. They are growing in the chain link fence and old stone wall. Bruce requested bids for the job and received three. Council has decided to go with the lowest bid (\$2500) because all were reputable workers. A letter, formulated by Cindy R. (thank you!), was sent to the owner of the property behind us, so they are aware of the work to be done, though it is on our property.
3. The toilet in one of the upstairs bathrooms is being replaced by Fix It Kit, the same people who previously repaired our garbage disposal. It was decided that a total replacement was more cost effective than replacing parts. The cost is only \$125, very reasonable!!
4. ABC Chem Dry did a wonderful job cleaning and refreshing our Lounge carpet and furniture. We highly recommend them! Cindy R. said they were very polite, efficient, and professional.
5. On Sunday, February 25th a special part of our worship service was to honor our former pastor, Rev. Frank Graichen, with the title of Pastor Emeritus. The Council had voted to bestow this honor to recognize Pastor Frank's many years (24) of excellent service to Trinity Church. He received a certificate and special card, and flowers were given to Sandy for all she did over the years. We were delighted with the number of people in attendance to share this special day! Our coffee hour included cake, fruit, and cheese & crackers...yum!! Congratulations, Frank & Sandy!! Thank you, from all of us at Trinity!!

Council will not have a formal meeting in March, but will meet next in early April. As always, please share with us your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions!

Kathy Wood, Sue Gatley, Sarah Barcomb, May Klepadlo, Gerry Nelson, Dick Kekis, Danyell Coccia

Pastor Karen's Korner for March 2024

It is February 28 h and I am sitting in my kitchen listening to the wind as it blows outside my window. It is a warm day for February and according to the weather person it will get colder today and snow. Yesterday it was 70 in Syracuse and tonight it will be 30. Since in a day it will be March , the saying is true that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. And so it is with the weather.

But yet it is not only the weather. This week in our gospel reading, Jesus overthrows the tables in the temple and tells the money changers and sellers to take everything out of the temple. What a way to begin this month, hearing of Jesus who is usually mild makes a whip of cords and drives them out of the temple. A strong way of beginning the month. And the ending, the resurrection of Jesus. This just an observation.

Lent does continue in this month and as I thought about Lent I wondered about things we may have lost in our lives. What things, values, even treasures have we lost , replacing them with things that have no value? Maybe during these last weeks of Lent we can try to find them. To pray for guidance, to seek those things that will bring us back to God and Christ. It may take some deep searching but, it will be worth it. I want to end with a poem by Ann Weems

“And the Glory”

The silence breaks into morning

That One Star lights the world

The lily springs to life and

not even Solomon ...

Let it begin with singing

and never end!

Oh, angels, quit your lamenting !

Oh, pilgrims,

upon your knees in tearful prayer,

rise up

and take your hearts
and run!
We who were no people
are named anew
God's people
for he who was no more,
is forevermore.

Blessings for this month and for a glorious Easter

Pastor Karen

As I write we are still in the season of Lent. Palm Sunday is on the 24th of March and Easter Sunday on the 31st . On the Thursday of Holy Week the church will have a Maundy Thursday service in the evening. The particulars will be in the bulletin and also the monthly calendar. I hope that you will be able to attend.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3 (Sunday)

The next episode of Chosen will be shown in the lounge after the morning service

March 10 (Sunday)

Pizza will be served following the morning service, then we are off to bowling at King Pin Lanes. We need a head count by March 1st, so that alleys can be reserved, please contact Melody with that information.

March 17 (Sunday)

St. Patrick's day celebration, where everyone is Irish. Join us for an Irish lunch, music, games and fun following our morning service. Don't forget to wear your green!!!

March 24th (Palm Sunday)

Immediately following our morning service, pastor emeritus Frank Graichen and his wife Sandy, will present a program in the lounge on their 1988 visit to the Holy Land.

March 31st -Happy Easter

April 6 (Saturday)

Reception for the opening of an art exhibition, by artist Linda Fedigan-Hale , being held in the Lounge , from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The exhibit will include several art pieces and poetry, by Linda Fedigan-Hale, it will remain on display for the month of April. This event will be open to the public at designated times.

April 14th(Sunday)

In combination with the art exhibit in the lounge, we will begin exploring the hobbies and interests of our church family. This will be similar to last year's exploring our heritage event, where we had an opportunity to share our backgrounds and learn about the common heritage of others within our church.

This display will be set up in Fellowship Hall from Sunday, April 14th to Sunday, April 21st and will give all of us an opportunity to share with others, various hobbies and passions within our diverse church family. We encourage both children and adults to participate in sharing hobbies, interests or special collections.

First, kindly complete the questionnaire, it can be returned to Melody or the church office, in person or via the church email. Or you can simply reach out to Melody to discuss.

Second, let Melody know if you will be putting together a display, so that she can provide enough space for your needs. This can include any photographs, stories, awards, art work or other memorabilia that relates to your interest, hobby or collection.

Third, join us for a pot luck luncheon immediately following our Sunday morning service. After the luncheon, feel free to walk around the hall to view the various displays and/or any demonstrations. If you need any assistance with setting up your display or would just like to discuss the event, you can reach out to Melody for any questions or assistance.

April 21st(Sunday)

Enjoy displays of hobbies, collections and interests, by our Trinity Church family members.

April 28th (Sunday)

Spring Penny Party

Dates, Times and Locations for the Youth Group

(Sponsored and supported by First Presbyterian and Trinity Churches)

Times: 5:00pm to 7:30pm

March 10th- First Presbyterian Church

April 14th- Trinity Church

May 12th- First Presbyterian Church

June 9- Trinity Church

Photos of Past Events

Lenten Luncheon on February 22nd



Fastnacht Celebration

Great food and entertainment



Music by
Collage, Jazz
Band featuring
Aaron Browka
on piano.



Dancing

Great array of German food. Bratwurst,
buttered noodles, applesauce and of course
those fried Fastnacht.

Enjoying the music



Photos of Past Events



Pastor Emeritus Frank Graichen receiving his certificate from Pastor Karen Marshall on right.

On left are Pastor Karen Marshall, Pastor Emeritus Frank and Sandy Graichen.



Candlemas Celebration on February 4th



**February Youth Group
Making meatballs and spaghetti sauce
tasting.**

To our TUCC friends,

Since 1996 the members and friends of Trinity UCC have supported me and my family.

We have laughed and cried together, we have pulled up our shirt sleeves and accomplished special and endearing mission projects together that some said could not be done by a small church family such as the \$5,000 Ark of animals for Heifer, but we did. We had teen aged youth on the Church Council with full voting rights to help us understand and move into the future giving them tools and abilities for their future in the world. We have world class music with the potential to do so much more. We survived the CoVid crisis. All these things and more were an affirmation of life changing ministry. And all of this and more supported me in ministry among you.

We carefully guided our path together to change in ways that were needed to take care of our congregation and those who were given the authority to govern. We listened to each other and made responsible decisions that made our church stronger internally and more capable of mission and ministry externally. I thank you for all of that.

My time among you was rewarded with sabbaticals; the first time in your history to do so: 2003, 2010, and 2017. These were times for refreshment, building, re-envisioning, and growth. Those things came to you and to me. You learned to adapt to new pastoral leadership and that leadership is still with you today in Pastor Karen's employment. For me, it gave me time to focus on and strengthen my marriage to Sandy and to get closer to my children, Christopher and Heidi, as they entered their teen years. It gave me a chance to rest and take care of my body. It gave me a chance to stop thinking about everybody else and my responsibilities for a time. It gave me time to (no pun intended) focus on my photography.

My time among you was rewarded with personal faith development. This was most revealed at the Wednesday Soup and discussion that was begun by Rev. Ed Townsend, your interim pastor while you looked for your new minister. Soup and Discussion, followed by choir practice, was a tradition. In all those years we may have had JUST soup but I can't say I remember when! It was a typical smorgasbord of food that saw me gain some pounds. More to the point though, there was always stimulating conversation around the tables as we took out our Bibles and read the Word of God together. We had teens, Mids and Elders and we all found a place to learn. Me especially! While politics swirled around us outside the church, at

Bible study all that faded from the forefront to the back so we could ask, what does God require of me? That included me too. What does a pastor do in the midst of a diverse congregation and how am I to be effective to everyone and not just a segment that agrees with me became the critical questions to be addressed – for years.

You supported me following funerals I was responsible for. Collations became our calling card as grieving families were offered a time of refreshment and fellowship to meet and greet, to cry and to celebrate together. As a pastor, collation capped a sad day with hope and vision. I can't think of one whose family members were disappointed but could only praise the food and time together.

You supported me when death came to my door too. My grandmother (paternal) died only a month after I arrived; my father, Frank Sr., died a year later. To follow them was our daughter Heidi, and just recently, her husband Jeff succumbed to the cancer that riddled his young body. Recently, of course, was the death of my sister, Sandy, (my only sibling) and you were there even though I was retired. Asking the hospital to plant a tree in her honor was a most deeply felt condolence one could have. There were also the deaths of both of Sandy's parents, and all her aunts and uncles on her mother's side. Without the support of the parish

this would have been an enormous burden. Of course you would have been unaware of so many others that died in our time together and they included my professors from school and colleagues in ministry that were my contemporaries and some my mentors.

Not wanting to end on such a sad note, I will continue to hold dearly in my heart the many people that touched my heart in a special way and that special way was for them to grab life by the horns and go for it! To name them here would be unfair and embarrassing to them. Let it rest that many were young but not all; some are preaching today and never believed it possible when we started; some have a new found understanding of the Bible; some are in new jobs having received college educations when they believed at first they did not qualify or weren't smart enough or there was no sense in trying. Recently, I have heard from young people who were children when I came to TUCC. Now they are adults with families, going to church, being excellent parents, and taking up vital roles of leadership where they live. There are more of course but you get the idea.

When submitting my annual reports for our meeting I would add how I would be brief. After a while, at least I got a few laughs on how untrue that was. In reality it was true because if I wrote down everything no one would read it all. So, you can imagine how now, as I try to write a thank you to all of you that covers 22+ years of ministry and almost 5 years of retirement it is quite impossible to say it all. Therefore, I will stop here. But let it be known that every one of you hold a special place in my heart. I hold you in prayer morning and night. Lastly, and this really is the most important thought I want to leave you with, I thank you for the ways you supported and affirmed Sandy's ministry among you. The best ideas came from her and not from me. She was my mainstay and support and you made that possible. This is something that a lot of churches DO NOT DO for their pastors or their spouses. You did it and in style. Without a doubt I am in her debt for the way she augmented my ministry and my understanding of the needs of all of you. And with that, I close. May God bless you in all goodness as you seek to follow the Way of Jesus our Christ and that the Holy Spirit be alive in and among you as you choose to move together in the pathways of faith.

As always, Onward and Upward,

Frank Graichen

Tidbits of Trinity

We are showing chapters of the movie Chosen, following Sunday morning services through Easter on our new DVD and a 65-inch television in the lounge.

The schedule is in the newsletter.

This is the Story of Jesus through the eyes of those who followed him.

If you are not familiar with this movie, it stays true to the details that are in the text of the New Testament. Each episode takes artistic license to fill in the many blanks where the text does not go into detail, but this artistic license is all feasible considering the details that are provided.

Dallas Jenkins, the creator, writer, director and executive producer of “The Chosen” series, is an evangelical raised Baptist who studied both the Bible and media in college, culminating in his expertise in Christian filmmaking. In the cast there are actors of Orthodox tradition and Christians of various denominations, from Jewish families or even agnostics.

Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus is a Catholic actor who is teaming up with the world’s most popular prayer app to share the importance of faith.

The majority of filming for “The Chosen” is done at Capernaum Studios near Fort Worth, Texas. The producers of the show, Angel Studios, selected the studio because of its history as an ideal location for productions set in the first century.

Capernaum Studios specializes in Faith-based and historical sets.

The show’s first season was released in 2019 and received positive reviews.

Executive Producer Derral Eves states, “The whole purpose of the show is to have people experience an authentic Jesus. He believes the show is resonating with so many people because of its fresh, authentic, human approach to the Bible narrative.

Join us for fellowship following our morning service on any or all of the showing of this series. For those who can not join us but would like to see this film, we will be lending out the DVD’s for your viewing at home.

Melody Kiepert Milewski



MARCH

3rd- Beverly Matthews

4th- Daniel Revette

5th- Paul Gatley

5th- Mike Klepadlo

5th- Olivia Potter

7th- Cassie Rouillier

7th- Robert Glur

8th- Paul Kiepert

9th- Gwendolyn Clarke

14th- David Wood

15th- Don Packer

31st- May Klepadlo

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

14TH- SCOTT AND HEATHER HEWLETT

17TH- EILEEN AND CRAIG MCCA

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