



The Communicator

October 2021

Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls

www.trinityunitedsf.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls>

41 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON

K7A 2E7 613-283-4444

Andrea, Office Administrator

secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

Rev Christopher Ryan, Minister

minister@trinityunitedsf.ca

Norma Wrightly, Licensed Lay
Worship Leader

secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

Message from Rev. Christopher

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25-33

Although this is a familiar passage, it was only in the consideration of it for Thanksgiving that this stood out – **“For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things”**

What was the difference between Jewish and Greek thought that would cause Jesus to conclude that Gentile or Greek culture was inherently more anxious than that of the Jews?

One difference was the way the Jews and Greeks viewed their God or gods. For the Jews, Humankind was created from the earth by God in the Image of God. God is Creator and we are the Created. For the Greeks, gods are created by humans in the image of humans. Quite literally, crafts folk cast or carved or moulded gods from the earth with their own hands.



<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>

Another difference was the way the Jews and Greeks viewed their own nature. For the Jews, each person was a single entity. Body, mind, soul and spirit were one. There was little sense of internal strife or battle between one aspect of being and another. For the Greeks, each individual lived in a state of internal conflict. Most notably was the struggle between the passions and reason.

How does this relate to worry, anxiety and thanksgiving?

For the Jews, Divine relationship and fullness of life are **received** as gifts and life is lived in balance.

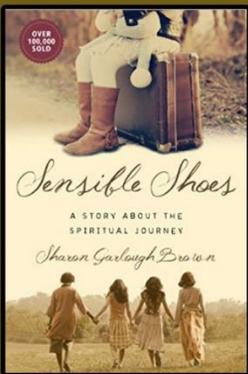
For the Greeks, divine relationship and fullness of life are **achieved** by our own effort and life is lived in strife.

The Christian Church was born in two worlds, Jerusalem and Rome. Whether we are conscious of the fact or not, we are influenced by both. Thanksgiving is a time when we are encouraged to pause and remember that we are created in the image of God, life is a gift. Thanksgiving is a time to remember that our relationships within ourselves, with the created order and each other are best lived in balance. Thanksgiving is a time to remember that **understanding our bounty as a gift received rather than an accomplishment achieved frees us from a burden of anxiety and worry.**

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving

Rev. Christopher Ryan



Trinity's Spiritual Leadership Team will be hosting a 12 week book study starting Monday, September 13th

Contact Church office for more details

Trinity on Tuesday

Discussions are in progress with the Outreach and Social Justice Team and Christian Community regarding how we will proceed with this ministry. We are looking at ways to serve our church family and the community. Please watch the bulletin and Facebook for updates.

Sunday School

We send our sincere appreciation to Jana Ranger for her years of service as our Sunday School Teacher. After much discernment, Jana has stepped aside from this position.

During the pandemic we have been mailing and delivering Sunday School packages once or twice a month to 16 children/youth. We will continue to do so until families are comfortable attending in person classes and when we have a teacher to lead the class. Please contact the church office if you would like to receive these packages.

In saying that: Are you willing to provide leadership on Sundays for your young people? We are very flexible and will work with you and your schedule to develop something that will work for everyone.

There are talks of a Confirmation Class in the Spring—stay tuned for more information.

Contact Heather Quinn or Rev. Christopher Ryan



Treasurer's Report

"Although Thanksgiving comes but once a year, every day should be a day of Thanks." - Monique Hammond

This quote seems very fitting this year as we continue to cope with COVID in our daily lives. I am thankful that we are now allowed to come together as a church family.

Although there have been no in-person church services the work of your church has continued. The day-to-day accounting, administration and reporting has carried on. With that being said, the financial picture at Trinity does not look good. However, I am cautiously optimistic with Trinity being open once again, we will see the financial picture improve!

As of August 2021, Revenue \$132,087.08 less Expenses \$163,415.15 equals \$-31,328.07

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give." —Ben Carson

Happy Thanksgiving,
Diane Bennett
Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

"If you want to make God laugh, tell God about your plans." – Woody Allen (Comedian)

How true this was this past 19 months! Your Stewardship Team mustered through with a couple of fundraisers – Geranium Plants and Compost Sale. Thanks to your support, and that of the community beyond, we achieved a net profit of \$3,510. Special thanks to The REAL Deal Store who allowed Trinity to use their parking lot for our Compost sale throughout the summer. The Team extends appreciation to all the volunteers we had, from coordinating the compost purchase and delivery, digging and bagging some 800 30L bags during the hottest week in May and to staffing the sale site on weekends. We plan to hold both these fundraisers again next year and we will be looking for volunteers.

This summer our long serving Secretary, Barb Byam, has moved from Smiths Falls due to health reasons and the Team will miss her contribution of clerical skill and advice. This Secretary position is available if you have an interest in serving on the Stewardship Team. Please make your interest known to one of the Team members.

The Gift Card program was suspended early in 2021 as the office was closed during lockdown periods. As all cards have now been sold and funds used to meet expenses, the Stewardship Team and the Treasurer will recommend to Council that Trinity no longer participate in the program going forward. Given Trinity's financial position at this time, where Expenses continue to exceed Revenue, the outlay of further cash to fund the gift card purchase is not prudent. Thank you to everyone who supported the program over the years.

The Financial Task Team has continued to oversee the monthly financial statements and has worked with our Bookkeeper to maximize cost savings and minimize expenses where possible.

While Trinity begins to reopen to new opportunities of Ministry within the Trinity family and the community we serve, the Stewardship Team reminds us all of the abundance we enjoy of God's grace and how thankful we are for it.

Blessings for a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Your Stewardship Team –

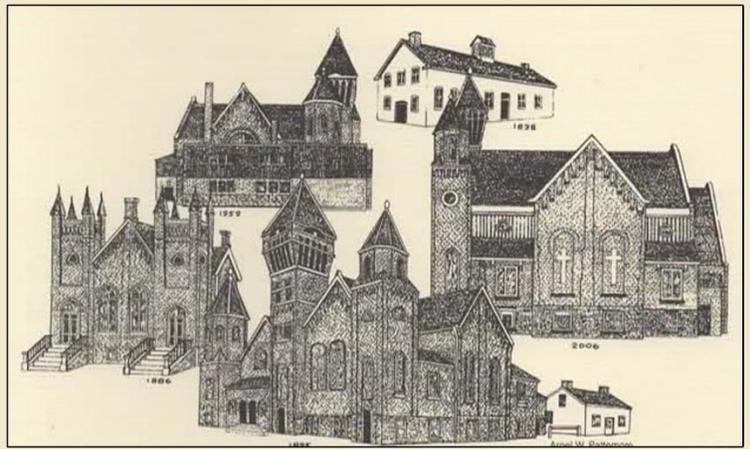
Jan Montgomery (Chair), Joanne Hunter, Mike Murphy, June Pevere, Bob Swan (Trustees), Diane Bennett (Treasurer) and Rev. Christopher.

Rainbow Sabbath

We continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Friday of each month. We have been meeting by Google Meet and have had one outside gathering - Thank you, Heather Quinn.

With restrictions changing and lifting slightly, we hope to meet in person in October. We will follow the Health Unit guidelines and with approval from Council, as to when we can share a meal together in conjunction with our time of friendship.

Blessings

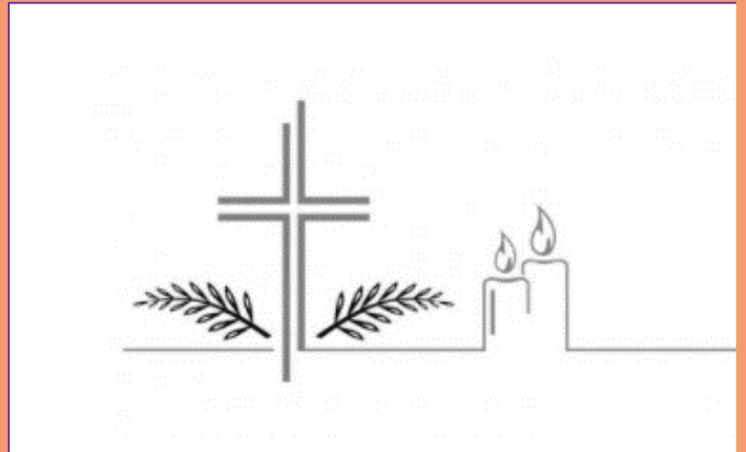
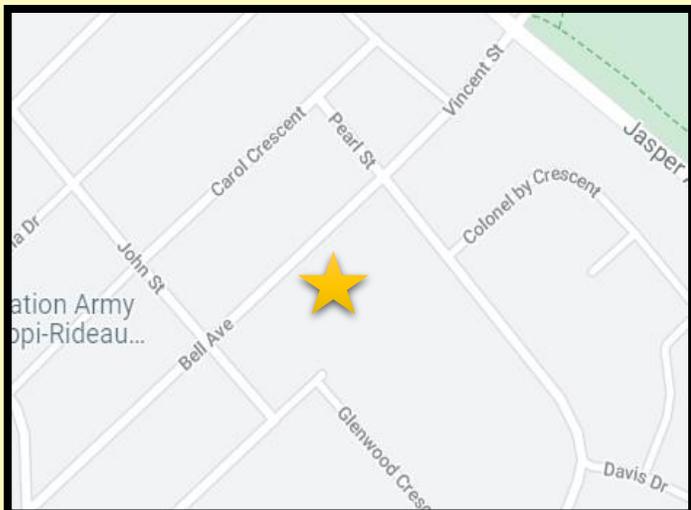


There is a history of Trinity United Church being worked on. You can find it by clicking the link at www.trinityunitedsf.ca/trinitys-history If you have anything to add, please contact Chris Dickson by emailing secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca

Board of Trustees – Bell Avenue Property

At the Annual Congregational Meeting held on September 12, 2021, a motion was passed to “list the Bell Avenue Property for Sale”. The Board of Trustees will, on the direction of the Church Council, prepare and submit a formal request to the United Church of Canada, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council seeking consent to list the property for sale. Updates to follow as the process evolves.

Bob Swan, Chairman, Board of Trustees



Christian Community Team

A Service of Remembrance and Reunion will be held on October 17th, 2021 at 10:30 am.

The Christian Community Team hopes to host a form of Memorial Service for folk whom we lost during COVID 19 and could not properly acknowledge as a congregation. We will remember in word, in prayer and in fellowship. We will monitor Covid limitations closely and adjusting if necessary.



TOTTAWA
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY

Connecting People on the Path of Faith and Learning
Fall Term: 20 September -29 November
Mondays 7:30 pm, Fall Term—remote learning
Choose 2 classes per term/ each term 2, 5-week sessions.
Adult Learning—All Welcome.
More information and registration: <https://osts.ca>

I can't say enough about the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality. "Connecting People on the Path of Faith and Learning", their tag line, really does say it all.

I have taken a variety of classes over three years and I am starting year four by ZOOM . This is adult Learning at its best: affordable, eclectic choices and Accessible. Plus, there are no exams, papers to write or homework per sae. Check it out at www.osts.ca
Norma Wrightly

Communications Team

Even though we are only now able to assemble again in the church, the Communications Team keeps on communicating. Our Facebook page has been very busy over the summer with more and more followers all the time. We would like to thank those who take the time to look at our posts. Your likes and shares are our encouragement to keep at it.

This first Communicator since re-opening the church for in person services has been somewhat of a challenge as not only are we typically a bit slower during the summer but with no meeting in person, Sunday Services or regular events, it's been quieter than usual.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and we look forward to seeing you back in the church real soon.

Chris Dickson, Chair, Mary Joynt, Daisy Au, Peter Au and Arlene Hunter



Covid 19

Trinity is committed to your safety and will strictly follow all Covid 19 policies recommended by our Health Unit.
Please Stay SAFE!

Happy Thanksgiving



Trinity's United Church Women
Christmas Wreath Sale
Beautiful 18" Balsam

- * Decorated & comes with bow for your hanger.
 - * \$25.00 pre paid.
 - * Order by Sunday, Oct. 31
 - * Call Linda Zieman at 613-283-2728 or email trinitysfundraising@gmail.com
 - * Payment options will be discussed when you order.
 - * Pickup on 29 November, Monday afternoon.
 - * You will be notified about the time closer to the date.
(Special arrangements can be made).
- Thank you for your continued support,
especially during this pandemic.

HEALING PATHWAY



God is the circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. We are always in the divine circle; we are always home; we are always loved, and our light and love radiate across the Universe... Bruce G. Epperley & Katherine Gould Epperly.

Knowing this to be true, the Healing Pathway Team continues to offer Distance Healing at specific times and by request. By consciously opening to the flow of God's healing light, we share healing with one another and anyone else who also chooses to open to that flow. We will offer one healing circle in October (27th). The schedule beyond October, remains to be determined. Regular in-person, hands-on sessions will not resume while uncertainty around Covid variants and the long-term effectiveness of the vaccines continues.

We send out a reminder email (which includes suggestions on how to participate on your own or through Zoom) the day before each Distance H.P. Circle.

Private Distance Healing Pathway sessions continue to be available to anyone at mutually convenient times. Those who have taken advantage of this option have been pleasantly surprised by the depth of the experience.

If you wish to be on our "reminder" mailing list and/or wish to receive a private distance session or more information, contact the Church Office, or get in touch with Carolyn Lunn at trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com.

Trinity Healing Pathway Team: Rev. Christopher Ryan, Carolyn Lunn, Norma Wrightly, Betty Lou Kempt, and Linda Stronski (in partnership with Barb Loynes and Dawn Best of St. Paul's United, Perth).