

Trinity United Church 111 McIntyre St. E. North Bay, ON P1B 1C5
Phone 705.474.3310 Fax 705.474.3311 Email: trinitynorthbay@gmail.com
Website: www.trinitynorthbay.ca Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinity north bay
YouTube www.youtube.com/c/trinitynorthbay

Spring Newsletter (April 2022)

From Rev. Ted's Desk: "Heads Above Water!"

The Roman Catholic monk, writer, and beloved spiritual teacher Thomas Merton coined a brilliant insight: Merton suggested that *we all spend most of our lives under water.*

Under water—below the surface. Failing to see clearly. Uncomfortable, unfocused, struggling.

Every so often, Merton suggests, each of us gets a moment: our head manages to clear the surface. We can look around, we can get our bearings. And then: *Bloop!* We're back under the surface, trying to manage with the rough compass bearings brought on by those rare moments of bright air, and clean breath.

In those moments when we get our bearings, Merton expresses our realization with these words: "*O my God! Look how endlessly trustworthy life is! Look at the God-given, godly nature of simple things!*"

The last two years or so have felt like an uninterrupted submersion in cloudy confusion, soaking in isolation and struggle. We've felt separated, aimless, and lost. Hopefully this has heightened our desire for communion, for direction, for moments of delicious connection, worship, and clarity of purpose. Precious time, with one another. With God.

You may still feel as if you're struggling, treading water—but blink your eyes clear. Let's see one another, let's reconnect. Together we will find ourselves laughing in the sun, gathered on the Trinity solid rock of community, faith, and joy!

Yours in Faith,



... from our DLM

This post is Covid Free

As the days begin to lengthen, we are surrounded with signs of re-birth and renewal – both in nature and in our Church community. This spring has seen the return of some of our regular groups and activities. We have returned to in-person worship and Sunday School is now back. The Virtual choir is meeting each week to rehearse and most of the mid-week groups are back to regular sessions. It has been fantastic to see some of our families and familiar faces return to church! It is wonderful to see our church building bustling with activity again.

As we emerge from our long hibernation period and into the promise and hope of the Easter story, it is time to take a long view. Where do we see signs of new energy happening here in our community? What new seeds can we plant? What new opportunities can be nurtured into being? Many of Trinity's long standing groups have continued to flourish by listening to the needs and interests of our community. If you have ideas that you would like to share about any of the existing groups – or if you have an idea for a new group or activity – please feel free to make suggestions. I hope that we are able to have many conversations along this line – I'd love to hear your ideas!

Please be sure to spend some time looking through the Spring newsletter, check out our website and/or facebook page and re-acquaint yourself with Trinity United Church and know that you are welcome here!

Grace and Peace,

Lisa Blais, DLM

Faith Formation and Outreach Minister

“On a Musical Note”

Our Trinity Virtual Choir continues to record and share their music every week. Often, Laura Farris-Einarson on flute and Chris Clarke on percussion share their talents on the recording.

I am very grateful for the dedication, spirit and expertise of choir members. Who would have thought that we would be recording for more than two years?

Over the past few weeks, the virtual choir has started to rehearse each Wednesday afternoon in the Fire-side Room. Although, at this point we are still masked and spaced apart, we’ve really enjoyed singing together. From a teaching and learning point, ensemble singing is wonderful. Any other choir members wishing to join us on Wednesdays are most welcome to do so. Hopefully, by September we’ll all be together in the choir loft.

As much as possible, we’ve been providing live singing leadership in our services as well as recorded music. I also try to play some musical favourites before the service. Please let me know of any hymns that you would like to hear played and/or sung.

The choir is very grateful to Lisa Blais for her continued expertise at mixing our voices each week. Lisa’s talent and patience are greatly appreciated. We also thank John Roberts, who uses his wonderful technical skills to put the whole service together. John has also mentored Michael Miller, and Eve and Erin Harrison to learn to run our tech table. Thanks to all of you. Marcel, Rowan and Amelia MacDonald do a great job of balancing our mics and making sure that the sound system is working.

Without this special tech team, our services could not be shared outside of our sanctuary. Many people enjoy Trinity’s weekly services because of the great team effort that we have.

As we move towards Easter, I hope that more of our Trinity membership feel safe and able to join us for live Sunday worship. While virtual services work, they can’t fully replace in-church worship. The staff is inspired by your live presence and support.

During this season of Lent and Easter, we are reminded of the sacrifice of Jesus, Our Christ. We anticipate with Easter joy the rebirth that is to come.

Yours, in Easter Joy,

Betty Farris, Minister of Music

... *from your Board Chair*

Hello Trinity Friends. I recently read a blog post from *churchanswers.com* titled “Five Lessons Churches Can Learn From Wordle”: 1. Simplicity beats complexity; 2. Rhythms are important; 3. Expectations are set; 4. Purpose is clear; and 5. Community is vital.

Have you played Wordle? The easy online game has taken the internet by storm! It is a fun little word game that only takes a few minutes. The rules are simple. You have six attempts to figure out a five-letter word. You receive colour coded clues about which letters are correct but in the wrong place, or in the right place, or if the letter is not in the word at all. You can only play it once a day and everyone plays the same game.

Something fun about Wordle is that so many people are playing it. Millions of people play it, from all around the world. People often share their results, but not the answer, on social media or privately with their family and friends. My nephew and I share our results every day and occasionally brag about our stats.

Wordle has built a community. We may not be together in the same place or solving the puzzle at the same time, but we are all solving the same puzzle and are part of this community. We all belong to the world of Wordle players!

Have you attended Trinity Worship on YouTube anytime in the last year or two? Or maybe you have begun to return to in-person worship. Church these days is a little like Wordle. We may not be in the same place, or even worshipping at the same time, but we are all engaging in the same worship service - we are connected to each other as part of the Trinity community. We know what to expect. We come prepared to learn and be enriched by the spirit. I would hope that we are also sharing our results on social media, or in-person, with friends, family and also strangers - spreading God’s love through our everyday actions.

Community is vital. Let us celebrate our church community. If you are in the sanctuary, across town or somewhere far away, we are all part of the same church family. We are not alone, thanks be to God.

Cindy Brownlee
Board Chair

P.S. If you have not played wordle yet, here is where you can find it -

[Wordle - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html)

or

Browser link - www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html

... from Finance and Stewardship

Income for the first three months of the year was \$72,300, about \$7,000 higher than the same period last year. Income includes donations for several things, including the completed ceiling repair project and for a January incident involving a boiler problem and frozen water pipes.

Thank you to the folks who have contributed to support our church community during the first quarter of 2022.

Trinity people have also responded in a tremendous way to the Ukraine Appeal Fund, contributing over \$3,000 so far. As Lisa Blais has outlined in her weekly email newsletters, this money is sent to ACT Alliance, an ecumenical partner of the United Church of Canada, who are providing critical assistance to those impacted by the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis.

Year-to-date Expenses as of March 31st were \$89,700, exceeding income by \$17,400 and are about \$3,400 higher than last year. Expense items of note are for heating, insurance, our quarterly UCC payment and costs related to the January heating and water pipe emergency. With regards to this incident, "BIG THANKS" go out to the folks whose donations have amazingly covered the repair costs and to Bob Cook and his gang for the quick and effective response to the emergency.

Looking ahead to future months, we continue to have a healthy bank account and are optimistic that in person fundraising events may return in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by John Haflidson

Dial for Hope

Dear friends in Christ:

For the last 2 years, a number of dedicated volunteers have been graciously and faithfully sharing their faith and hope through the 'Dial for Hope' Ministry.

A decision has been made to discontinue this program – at least for now. 'Dial for Hope' was begun over two years ago as a response to the isolation that Covid meant for many people. Now that spring is coming, and restrictions are being lifted, we will discontinue the 'Dial for Hope' ministry at the end of April.

Of course, we will keep an eye on how things look in the future, and if we feel it is important to revive the program, we will do so.

I am deeply grateful to those who took part. Some have been there for the long haul, and others have helped us out from time to time. Your generosity of time and talents has been immeasurable, and has meant so much to those who have called in. It has made my job easier to know that I could count on you folks! Thanks go to Rob, John, Karen, Rev. Ted, Rod, Rev. Gord, Rev. Lillian, Rev. Richard, Lisa, and Sandra. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

May God bless us all with Easter hope!

Sincerely,
Rev. Kathy

COVID Protocols at Trinity in April: Continued Masking

Your Trinity "COVID Task Group" has been meeting regularly, and monitoring the best available information from local and provincial sources. Because infections have been on the rise and Trinity has many members who qualify as particularly vulnerable, we will continue mandatory Sunday morning masking through the month of April. As well, Trinity volunteers at our Food Bank will continue to mask. During the week, groups engaged in low-risk activities will now have more latitude in determining if their group wishes to continue to require masking or not. The COVID Task Group will still be restricting certain higher risk activities and will review our policies at the end of the month, following on the scheduled provincial timelines.

Easter 2022, and Onwards!

Springtime has always been a time that we associate with Easter new life—but perhaps never more so than Springtime 2022!

St. Andrews hosts our North Bay United Church Good Friday service on April 15th at 10:30am. That service will be available virtually via the St. Andrews website, later the same day.

The Trinity AOTS Men's Group resumes hosting an Easter Sunrise service on Easter morning, April 17th at 7:30am. Hopefully we will gather at the corner of Ferguson and McIntyre for outside worship, followed by refreshments courtesy of the AOTS -- we will be allowed to unmask in the Trinity Fellowship Hall, adhering to some simple distancing.

We resume our Easter Sunday tradition of a joyous Sunday Communion service in the sanctuary at 10:30am.

Easter 2022 Needs Your Help!

Even as we return to in-person worship, our Easter season needs your “Virtual” contributions. Specifically, we want your NATURE PHOTOS and your JOKES!

Sunday April 24th is “Earth Day Sunday”—please share your nature photos from any season of the year! (we'd love your contributions two weeks in advance!)

Sunday May 1st is “Holy Humour Sunday”—please submit your jokes in writing or as a smart-phone video! (we'd love your contributions two weeks in advance!)

Please share you contributions with Lisa at Blais.Trinity@gmail.com

The Return of the Trinity Testosterone!

In autumn of 2021, the adventurous guys of the “Trinity Testosterone” managed to sneak in a last-minute soggy canoe trip into the “Kukagami corner” of Temagami. This year, we want to resume our tradition of a Father's Day weekend trip—heading into the wilderness on Friday afternoon, returning in time for Father's Day dinner on Sunday evening (Friday June 17th-Sunday June 19th). We're getting back to physically signing up for the trip—a sign-up sheet will be available in the Trinity Fellowship Hall as of Easter Sunday 2022! Registrations will be limited, “overflow” will be on our waiting list. (*Fear not! There are always cancellations!*) We'll gather in person some Sunday afternoon in May to study our maps and plan our logistics! (*Please note that the Trinity Testosterone adventure involves significant physical work, deprivation, KP duty, bugs, exposure to cold water, sunburns, obnoxious company ...and endless fun and laughter!*)

The Worship Committee needs you!

The committee is looking for new members. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know members of Trinity congregation and to assist Reverend Ted with the worship needs of the congregation.

We provide appropriate support and assistance to the Minister for the conduct of worship services. Some of our responsibilities are scheduling ushers, scripture readers, and lift operators; preparing communion; and assisting with baptisms. Lists of names are provided to use to schedule these positions for Sunday services.

If you'd like to know more about this important group, please talk to Reverend Ted, Lisa, Wanda, or a member of the committee. You can also see our responsibilities in section 1.8 of the recently updated By-Laws.

Alternatively, let one of us know if you'd be interested in ushering, operating the lift or reading scripture.

Members of the committee are Bonnie-Rae Bailey, Claudette Brown, Rod Carley, Chris Ford, Marian Robinson and Jean Rideout.

“Membership in May”

Trinity is overdue for a new Adult Membership Class. If you are not a full member at Trinity, we can fix that! We will gather for a couple of Sundays after church during May, with the hope of welcoming our new members with a Communion service on Anniversary Sunday, June 12th! This is also a good Sunday for anyone interested in learning more about our Christian faith, or about the United Church of Canada. If you're interested in a couple of informal gatherings to discuss Christian belief and how we “*Do church the United Church way*”—please be in touch with Reverend Ted and he will set up our May gatherings!

Rev. Ted's Secret Book Club

These past two years have brought us a new source of summer community and connection: “Reverend Ted's Secret Book Club.” The idea is simple: Rev. Ted selects a favourite book that has significantly impacted his own life of faith. For the cost of a suggested donation, members and friends of Trinity get a copy of this year's book (to be read in July), and an invitation to one of several intimate backyard (or on-line) book parties (in August) to re-connect and discuss the book! If you want to join in this summer, please e-mail Rev. Ted before June (tedharrison@hotmail.com). We'll need to order a big old stack of books—this year Rev. Ted guarantees a very memorable selection!

TRINITY'S VBC RETURNS

Get ready to go on an adventure as we discover the treasures of the Bible through the parables of Jesus. The week of adventure and fun begins on Monday August 22nd to Friday August 26th 9:30—3:30 each day,. Children in Junior Kindergarten through to grade 6 are welcome. \$75 per child—all snacks, materials and a camp shirt included.

Music, Crafts, Baking, Games, Experiments and more!

Youth in Grade 7 and up are welcome to help out for the week. Highschool volunteer hours will be granted for those who qualify. Registration is limited. Registration packages will be available soon!

Camp bursaries available to those who need them.

For more information contact Lisa Blais at blais.trinity@gmail.com

North Bay Union Cemetery

North Bay's Union Cemetery is administered by a Board of Directors. The members are volunteers from the four charter churches; St. Andrew's United, Calvin Presbyterian, 1st Baptist, and Trinity. The Board normally functions with five or six members, however, several members have recently retired and the Board is now in need of new members to fill those vacancies.

The Board meets in the Spring and the Fall. At the Spring meeting, a duty roster is prepared in which each member is assigned to be Union's contact person for one month during the summer. During that time, the designated member will meet with those wishing to purchase cemetery plots. This means attending the cemetery to enable the clients to select the location of their choice. Once selected, the sale of the plots are finalized by Henry Drenth. The contact person also liaises with local Funeral Homes regarding burial arrangements.

If you feel that you might be interested in serving on this Board and would like more information regarding the duties and responsibilities, contact Ross Brewer 705-474-3901, or Henry Drenth 705-495-1040.

Dates for Your Fridge:

Sunday April 17th: Easter Sunrise service, 7:30am at Ferguson and McIntyre

Easter Communion service, 10:30am in Trinity's sanctuary

Don't forget to sign up for the "Trinity Testosterone"!

Sunday April 24th: "Earth Day Sunday" – please share your nature photographs with Lisa!

Saturday May 7th: Evening Concert with Nathan Smith and Friends, Trinity sanctuary

Sunday May 8th: Mother's Day, Baptism Sunday

(Please contact the Trinity office with your interest, ASAP)

Sunday June 12th: Communion 10:30am

Celebrating Trinity's 140th Anniversary

Celebrating the United Church of Canada's 97th anniversary

Friday June 17th – Sunday June 19th: The 2022 Trinity Testosterone Men's Canoe Adventure!

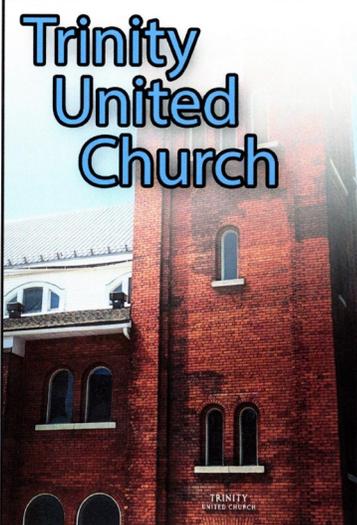
Sunday June 26th: Trinity's last Sunday before Summer Break!

(Trinity closed for Summer vacation, June 27th – Tuesday August 2nd)

Monday August 22nd – Friday August 26th: Trinity Vacation Bible Camp 2022!

Sunday September 11th: Rally Back Sunday with afternoon Picnic

Friday Sept 23rd – Sunday Sept 25th: Canadian Shield Regional Gathering, Sudbury



**Trinity
United
Church**

Find us on
YourTV
truly local

Sundays
8:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Cable 12 / HD Cable 700


Trinity United Church
North Bay, Ontario

Office: 705.474.3310 * Email: trinitynorthbay@gmail.com
trinitynorthbay.ca



live in concert
Vinta

Friday, May 6
Doors at 7:00, Show at 7:30

Trinity United Church
111 McIntyre St. E, North Bay

Tickets
\$25 advance,
\$30 at the door

Available at
www.vintamusic.com
in partnership with Trinity Arts

**ALTHOUGH COVID 19 HAS KEPT MANY OF US AT HOME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS,
LIVESTREAM/RECORDED WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE
ON TRINITY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL www.youtube.com/c/trinitynorthbay.
IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCESS THE INTERNET AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
A DVD OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE DELIVERED,
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (705-474-3310) TO REQUEST ONE.**