



# Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

## The Sail

**Our Vision:** *"To love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and everywhere we go!"*

**October, 2023**



### ***"Living in Community"***

On September 10 we celebrated "Homecoming Sunday." During worship I preached a message on "Living In Community." In that message, I suggested that there were at least three important components that make a community successful:

- COMMunication
- U (that is, YOU!)
- UNITY

I want to offer a few more thoughts on the goal of unity as it relates to our community.

First of all, unity does not imply sameness. It is natural to possess different opinions on topics of discussion. The goal of the church is not to get everyone to think alike. We can co-exist in a community, even where there is disagreement, as long as we hold true to some guiding principles.

Second, when disagreements arise, I like to remember a quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement. He said, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" In other words, no matter what the disagreement, we should strive to continue to love – love God, love one another, love others, and love ourselves. Wesley summarized it this way: "May we not be of one heart though we are not of one opinion? In this way, all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."

With those two thoughts in mind, our Core Team was introduced to the idea of "Holy Conferencing" at their last meeting. Holy Conferencing goes all the way back to the late 1700's, where John Wesley was instructing and encouraging his small groups on how to talk to one another for the sake of finding a way forward. Holy Conferencing (or holy conversation) holds as a primary premise the notion that *how* we talk to one another is even more important than *what* we talk about.

#### **In this Issue**

Pastor Chad	1-2
Children, Youth & Family	3
Mission Corner	4
Core Team & Finance Updates	5
Church Announcements	6-8
Inclusion Begins with I	8
October Calendar	9

*Continued on next page...*

## Pastor Chad continued...

Holy Conferencing holds close 8 guidelines or principles. Bishop Sally Dyck (retired; Bishop of the MN Annual Conference from 2004-2012) writes, "When we follow the guidelines or principles of holy conferencing, we discover that it is more than just being nice to each other around divisive issues. We find ourselves reaching deep into our souls as we seek to follow the gospel message of loving our neighbors and our enemies, including those who disagree with us with as much passion and conviction in their viewpoint as we have in ours."

The 8 Principles of Holy Conferencing are:

- **Every person is a child of God** - Building up relationships in the body of Christ is fundamental to holy conferencing. The more we strive to know and care for each other, the better able we are to see the other as a child of God, as a friend who may disagree with us, as a person whose opinion is borne of his or her own experience—and the more likely we are to treat that person with respect.
- **Listen before speaking** - Holy conferencing isn't for convincing others that we are right. It is for listening to others in such a way that we understand better why they hold their beliefs.
- **Strive to understand from another's point of view** – There is an old adage about "walking a mile in another person's shoes." It communicates the importance of imagining what it would be like to have had another's life experiences, feelings, and truths. Christian conferencing means to confer in order to discover the truth.
- **Strive to reflect accurately the views of others** – It takes great spiritual maturity not to skew others' viewpoints. To strive to express accurately others' views is a matter of honesty, not to mention integrity.
- **Disagree without being disagreeable** - It's been said that in order to change the culture, we must change conversation. In order to change the culture of disharmony, we have to change the conversation so that we are not denigrating each other but respecting each other even in our disagreements.

*Continued above...*

- **Speak about issues; do not defame people** - Words that defame kill both the spirit and the reputation of others. However, clearly giving your reasons for an opinion or belief, without disparaging someone else—no matter how painful it is to hear the other viewpoint—is not inflammatory.
- **Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions** - Prayer is the communication we have with God that keeps us in love not just with God but also with the other, the one with whom we differ.
- **Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness** - It's always appropriate to call for prayer and also to be in an attitude of prayer in the midst of discussion about weighty, divisive, and important conversations. Let our prayers begin with asking God to help us listen, love, and be open to the movement of God through us and others.

Our Core Team has adopted holy conferencing as the way we will be in relational leadership with one another. They have also suggested that there are some decisions that will require input from a larger body of people. Please watch for invitations to join the conversation, and a process that will help our conversations be more healthy and holy.

God's Peace-  
Pastor Chad



5 New Members joined Holy Trinity UMC  
on Sunday, September 24. Welcome to...

Butch and Carrie Trebesch

Dan and Ardys Sabin

Grace Swanson

\*\*\* If you are interested in church membership,  
please contact Pastor Chad or the church office.

### Kids' Church

When I was a child, faith came easily. It made perfect sense that Someone infinitely loving, wise, and powerful created me and everything else, and could be trusted to manage a complicated world. But truthfully, the more I read the children's Bible stories (the great flood, Job, etc.) the more questions I had. By my earliest teen years I felt I had two irreconcilable views of God to choose from: the loving Creator I could feel in my heart or the capricious Judge that, like the world, would reject me if I got it wrong. Fortunately, I went to a summer church camp that helped me be convinced of a loving Creator, but some Bible passages can still make me feel confused.

The Bible isn't a collection of isolated stories, like Aesop's fables. It is one continuous story, told using literary devices we, as a modern audience, may not catch. The language and structure of our modern translations can also obscure important details. So, if a person, here and now, wants to know if God cares, if God is trustworthy, if there is any hope in the kingdom of God, what can we do?

We can ask questions, dig deeper, and take "a closer look." And we can help our kids do that, too. We, as parents, are THE most important influence on our children's spiritual formation. Even one morning every single week at church can't have the impact of conversations at the dinner table, a prayer shared at bedtime or in crisis, or letting your child see you reading the Bible. We don't need all the answers to be effective influences, but we do need to display that our faith is important to us and take opportunities to share this faith with them.

One way to be more confident about our role as a spiritual influencer is to be intentional about growing in faith, through spiritual practices with our community at church and on our own. Upper Room daily devotionals (available on the cubbies by the front entrance of church for you to take) have short, thoughtful messages written by everyday Christians from around the world, a few verses of Scripture and a prayer each day. These are good for individuals and families.

*Continued above...*

There are many book studies for various interests, and we have a bunch in our church library that you are free to borrow to do on your own, or you could suggest one and we could look into starting a small group (learning in community is fun!) And if reading isn't your thing, The Bible Project at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/> has a great collection of \*not cheesy\* videos (also blog posts and podcasts, but DEFINITELY the videos) on many different themes and passages that both kids and adults could find entertaining and thought-provoking.

Our current sermon series "A Closer Look" examines familiar, but also sometimes upsetting, stories from the Bible. In Kids' Church we emphasized that in the story of Noah, God saved creation with an ark, because God has empathy and compassion, but God also cares about justice and peace, which did not exist in the pre-flood world. We, here and now, can help save our world a little bit at a time by having empathy for our neighbors, showing compassion, seeking justice when others are treated unfairly, and making peace where possible. Here is a link to The Bible Project's video on Creation, Noah, and the tower of Babel: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/torah-genesis-1/>

When the sermon series took on the story of Abraham and Isaac (the shocking one with the sacrifice) we explored the idea that Abraham trusted God but was still getting to know what God is like. The gods other people worshipped in that time and place were often thought to be cruel and demanded terrible sacrifices. God needed Abraham to know that those kind of sacrifices weren't what God wanted. God wants our love, our trust, and our willingness to live out our love for God and others in our lives.

If you didn't know, Kids' Church meets in the Fellowship Hall during the sermon and closing of worship. We discuss a fun-sized version of the sermon and do activities or free play until church is over. It is intended to help kids learn the message's main points in a wiggle-friendly atmosphere while the more mature attendees get the full message in the sanctuary, with fewer distractions. If you know an older youth or adult interested in helping with Kids' Church, contact me and let me know!



## October Mission of the Month



### R.O.C.K. Reaching Our Community's Kids

#### Our History

Seeing a need in our schools where kids were coming back to school on Monday mornings hungry because they didn't have food over the weekend, we decided in 2014 to start R.O.C.K. and send home Power Packs to students which include: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, a fruit and a vegetable. We offer our Power Pack Program to all families who feel they could benefit from these food items.

#### Our Mission

To help break down barriers to learning by working to meet the basic needs of our community's kids.

~Sending home meals (Power Packs) over the weekend

~Providing hygiene items to social workers to distribute

~Providing a food corner at Bridges and PLHS

~Providing any other needs (coats, hats, gloves, shoes etc.)

**In addition to monetary donations, please consider donating these most needed items...**

~Kraft Easy Mac & Cheese in a cup

~Granola Bars (any brand/any flavor)

Bring these items and/or your monetary donations to the church anytime during the month of October.



Thank you for donating  
**\$1,253 to Sleep In Heavenly  
Peace** during the month of  
August, as well as various  
sheet and bedding sets.



Your donations will help SHP build, assemble and deliver top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!"



Thank you to those who helped with the bed building event at SHP on September 9.



### Don Hartley/Otti Castriotta Memorial Garden



As of 9/20/23, 1162 pounds of produce and herbs have been donated to the CAP agency food shelf.

Thank you to our gardeners (and those donating from their personal gardens) for your dedication to this important ministry.



Help us spread the warmth this season by donating your new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves & scarves! We will be supporting **Hats & Mittens**, an organization that provides over 25,000 sets of hats, mittens, gloves & scarves annually to over 150 organizations across the Twin Cities and 7 metro counties. We will collect these items in **October/November** (watch for the collection box in Narthex)

Check out: [www.hatsandmittens.org](http://www.hatsandmittens.org)  
Facebook: Hats & Mittens

## Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met on Monday, September 25th. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Finance shared the news that our building insurance has more than doubled compared to last year and giving continues to be down from this same time a year ago. We are continuing to utilize interest accumulation from investments to supplement giving. We do have a budget shortfall however and are looking at other options to balance.
- A new sign for the front of the church and possibly a second for the back is being proposed by the I-Team. We anticipate taking a vote on this at the next meeting and invite all who would like to have input on the subject to attend the meeting.
- Carol Ottoson will be interim chair for the SPRT while Don is recovering.
- Recent church and community events have been successful and we look forward to hosting a Fall Festival on October 29th after church. Volunteers will be needed to make this a great event. See additional information on page 7 of this newsletter.



The next Core Team meeting will be at 6:30pm, Monday, October 23. Full minutes of Core Team meetings can be found at <https://htumc.org/core-team/>

### Finance Update as of August 31, 2023

Operating Income	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	percentage	Variance
Pledged	\$171,866.00	\$113,699.96	66%	\$58,166.04
Regular Unpledged	\$27,000.00	\$23,447.00	87%	\$3,553.00
Gifts	\$5,000.00	\$3,893.14	78%	\$1,106.86
Plate	\$3,800.00	\$2,296.50	60%	\$1,503.50
Misc	\$4,400.00	\$2,507.14	57%	\$1,892.86
interest from accounts	\$30,000.00	\$20,700.00	69%	\$9,300.00
Designated Gifts		\$10,000.00		-\$10,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$242,066.00</b>	<b>\$176,543.74</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>\$65,522.26</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Administrative & Salaries	\$91,000.00	\$60,155.84	66%	\$30,844.16
Pastoral Ministries	\$102,498.00	\$76,624.50	75%	\$25,873.50
Apportionments	\$32,953.00	\$21,968.00	67%	\$10,985.00
Property & Maintenance	\$48,906.00	\$41,032.47	84%	\$7,873.53
Program Ministries	\$8,644.00	\$1,863.02	22%	\$6,780.98
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$284,001.00</b>	<b>\$201,643.83</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>\$82,357.17</b>
<b>Net Operating Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$41,935.00</b>	<b>-\$25,100.09</b>		<b>-\$25,100.09</b>

**Monthly  
Financial  
Report**





United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith Gathering for OCTOBER

*We believe love in action can change the world.*

**Tuesday, October 10th at 2:00pm**

**-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-**

Join us as we gather for devotions, prayer, study,  
fellowship & mission business.

We support local & global missions.

Please contact Sharon Dougherty for questions at  
sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

### All Women Invited!

Holy Trinity UMC and Lydia Zion UMC  
United Women in Faith

#### FALL GET-TOGETHER

**Saturday, October 14th at 11:00am**

Lydia Zion United Methodist Church  
1026 E 205<sup>th</sup> St – Jordan MN 55352

Enjoy Lunch – the soup promises to be yummy!

Hear a CAP Agency Speaker –  
learn more & how we can help

Meet our Minnesota Conference's President  
Cindy Saufferer

See other Sisters-in-Christ & form new friendships

**RSVP to Sharon Dougherty at**

**sdsrdougherty@gmail.com**

**or 612-280-2103 by October 6**

\*Opportunity to bring items for CAP Agency –  
see note below...

Our United Women in Faith unit is collecting **specific**  
kitchen items for the **CAP Agency Warehouse** to  
help keep their supply inventory stocked. These  
specific items are needed when a housing situation  
is set up for a CAP client. **Please join us in collecting**  
**these items until October 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**SILVERWARE (no plastic)**

**DISHES (plates, bowls)**

**CUPS (ceramic)**

**GLASSES**

**STORAGE CONTAINERS (such as Tupperware, etc.)**

These items can be used (in good condition) or new.  
There's a large box in the Narthex for your  
donations. Please donate **ONLY** these items.

CAP



## Feed My Starving Children Packing Event



HTUMC will be participating in a meal packing event  
at FMSC in Chanhassen on

**Saturday, November 4 from 9:00am-10:45am.**

Come and help pack lifesaving meals! You'll make it  
possible for FMSC to send nutritious meals to  
children around the world.

Kids (ages 5 and up) and adults can hand-pack  
nutritious MannaPack meals specifically designed to  
assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition.  
Families are encouraged to sign up together.

Sign up NOW: [https://bit.ly/HT\\_fmsc\\_2023](https://bit.ly/HT_fmsc_2023)



## Lakefront Bible Study

**October 3**

**from 1:00-2:30pm**

**Lakefront Plaza Commons Room**

The group is currently studying the book  
*Common Ground* by Amberly Neese.

The 2nd study will be on the book *Beatitudes From  
the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

Both books are available on Amazon.

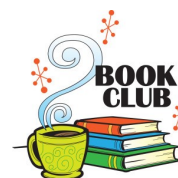
This is a non-denominational group. All are welcome!

Call Barb Bollinger with questions at 612-670-1847.

## Trinity Readers

**Tuesday, October 31**

**1:30pm at the Parsonage**



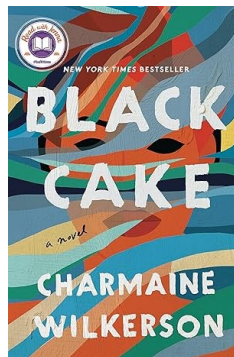
If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for October:**

***Black Cake***

**by Charmaine Wilkerson**

*Two estranged siblings must set  
aside their differences to deal  
with their mother's death and her  
hidden past - a journey of  
discovery that takes them from  
the Caribbean to London to  
California and ends with her  
famous black cake.*





### Life of the Beloved

Lynnette will be leading a study for *Life of the Beloved* by Henri J.M. Nouwen on Wednesday nights beginning Oct 11-Nov 15 from 6-7pm (six weeks). We are hoping for 8-10 participants, but if we get more than that she would offer an additional day/time those same weeks. Please sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/LotB-small-group>

She has a few books available for loan. Here is the description and link for Thrift Books:

"...we are called to live our lives with a deep inner joy and peace. It is the life of the Beloved, lived in a world constantly trying to convince us that the burden is on us to prove that we are worthy of being loved." Henri Nouwen walks us through four steps that will help us see our whole lives in the light of being Chosen, Blessed, Broken and Given. "A ringing affirmation that everyone is loved by God and can enjoy the life of the beloved."

<https://bit.ly/LifeOfTheBelovedBook>



**Saturday, October 14**  
**9:00am-12:00pm**

The trustees will be organizing some fall cleaning projects inside and outside of the church building.

**Any and all volunteers are welcome!**

Bring rakes to do outdoor work, and/or cleaning supplies to wash windows and light fixtures inside.

**Sunday, October 29**  
**10:30am-12:00pm**



Holy Trinity is planning a fun fall festival, but we need your help to make it happen! There will be games and activities for the kids in our church as well as from the greater community, and food, drinks and fellowship for all. Please consider where you could help and sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BAFA723A0F9C34-44670480-fall> or on the paper sign up at church. **We need to confirm we have enough volunteers to run this event by October 8 or the event will need to be cancelled.** We are excited to have you volunteer and make this a fun day for all!

### 2023 Beyond Conference

On **Saturday, October 14th** Southern Valley Alliance is joining 2 other agencies to offer the "2023 Beyond Conference". It will equip individuals, churches and ministries in prevention, outreach and survivor support for those impacted by violence, trafficking and exploitation. **The conference will be held in Waconia (Freshwater Church) from 9am – 3pm** and will have 5 speakers on: Navigating Trauma in Ministry; Child Trafficking & Exploitation; Domestic Violence; Child Protection; and Church Safety & Security. There will also be networking and resources. Cost is \$30. <https://www.actunited.org/2023-beyond-conference.html>

### 4th Sunday Conversations in the Parsonage

October 22 from 10:45am-11:30am

We will use this time to talk about our monthly focus each month.

### Check out New Books in the Church Library

Located in the "New Titles" section.



*Girl on the Train*—Hawkins

*The Blue Flower*—Fitzgerald

*Little Fires Everywhere*—Ng

*This Tender Land*—Krueger (MN author)

*The House on Lowell Street*—Keane

*The Nichol Boys*—Whitehead

*The Lilac Girls*—Kelly

*The Four Winds*—Hannah

*Where the Crawdads Sing*—Owens

*Gone Girl*—Flynn

*Joan of Arc*—Harrison (Biography)

*Before All is Said and Done*—Pat Miles

*Get Your Life Back*—Eldredge

*Worry Less, so You Can Live More*—Rubietta

*Charles Wesley*—Best (Biography)

*Bird's Eye View*—Bird (Biography)

*The Way to Cook*—Julia Childs

*When God Doesn't Fix It*—Story

Check out these NEW books PLUS MORE...

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## Inclusion Begins With I...

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By Carol Ottoson

My book club just finished reading a beautiful memoir entitled *I Am a Girl from Africa: A Memoir of Empowerment, Community, and Hope* by Elizabeth Nyamayaro. It is a story of a girl from Zimbabwe whose life was literally saved by a United Nations (UNICEF) worker when she was eight years old in the early 1980's. That experience informed her life to the point that she has worked for the UN in many humanitarian capacities, including fighting world hunger issues and being instrumental in creating the UN's *HeForShe* movement, which actually speaks to the I Team's October emphasis on Domestic Violence. Nyamayaro speaks of the African philosophy of *Ubuntu*, which means "When we lift up others, we are ourselves uplifted." She goes further to say, "I am because we are." This speaks to everything that we are trying to accomplish as a Reconciling Congregation. This is why we have a different emphasis each month – *When we lift up others, we ourselves are uplifted*. This is truly what being a Christian means.

Every single community that we focus on includes people who are part of the Holy Trinity Community. We lift them up so that we can uplift us all. **October's emphasis is Domestic Violence.** Sadly, no one is immune, including members of this community. Their reality is feeling alone, misunderstood, judged, and ashamed, as well as feeling that no one can help, that no one loves them, believes them, or supports them, that no one will take their side, and fear of what may happen to them if they reach out for help. As members of the Holy Trinity community, we need to not only become educated ourselves about domestic violence, but we also need to be a safe space for anyone who needs us. During the month of October we will have brochures available, as well as a poster display and volunteer opportunities. **Katie Schauman from Southern Valley Alliance (SVA) will give a three-five minute talk at our October 15th worship service.** *If you are interested in further education, you can sign up for 2023 Beyond Conference in Waconia. Details on page 7 of this newsletter.* Become educated and open to others. Remember, Inclusion Begins with I.

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### NEW Holy Trinity Gear is HERE and READY to order!

Holy Trinity gear is now available to order in multiple colors, styles and sizes.

Check out some sample items in the Narthex.

Orders can be placed online here: <https://fbcompaniesmn.com/collections/church-pride>

If you need help ordering, please stop by the church office for assistance.







# October 2023

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream <b>10:30am I-Team            Meeting</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30am AA at the parsonage  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>3</b>  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront            Bible Study</b> 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>4</b> 8:30am Moment of Prayer  <b>6:15-7pm 7th/8th            Confirmation Class            at the parsonage</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>     6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>9</b> 9:30am AA at the parsonage  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>10</b>  United Women in Faith  <b>2:00pm UWF            Fellowship Hall</b> 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>11</b> 8:30am Moment of Prayer  <b>6:15-7pm 7th/8th            Confirmation Class            at the parsonage</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>     6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>9am-12pm</b>  <b>FALL            CLEAN UP</b> <b>11:00am</b> <b>UWF Fall            Gathering</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>16</b> 9:30am AA at the parsonage  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>17</b> 1-3:15pm Quilters   7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>18</b> 8:30am Moment of Prayer   7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>     6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream <b>10:45am</b> <b>Conversations in            the Parsonage</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30am AA at the parsonage <b>6:30pm Core Team            Meeting</b>  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>24</b>    7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>25</b> 8:30am Moment of Prayer   <b>6:15-7pm 7th/8th            Confirmation Class            at the parsonage</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>     6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	<b>30</b> 9:30am AA at the parsonage  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	<b>31</b>  <b>1:30pm Trinity            Readers</b> 7pm CoDA at the parsonage				

## *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE  
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

**Worship:** 9:30am (in-person & online)

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Gilbertson  
(952) 356-4616 [pastor@htumc.org](mailto:pastor@htumc.org)

**Family Ministries:** Lynnette Dobberpuhl  
(651) 492-8188 [kidsandfamilies@htumc.org](mailto:kidsandfamilies@htumc.org)

**Church Admin:** Tina Chant  
(952) 447-2990 [office@htumc.org](mailto:office@htumc.org)

**Church website:** [www.htumc.org](http://www.htumc.org)



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