



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!"

September, 2024



New Beginnings

Fall officially begins with the autumnal equinox on Sunday, September 22 – the day that marks the midpoint between the summer solstice (longest day) and winter solstice (longest night) in the Northern hemisphere. The word equinox is derived from Latin *æquinoc̄ti*, which in turn came from *æquus* (equal) and *nox* (night). Equinox refers to the two times each year (in fall and in spring) when the nighttime is equal to the daytime – each 12 hours in duration. Fall is the only season with two names – *fall* and *autumn* – but before either of those, the season was known as *harvest*.

Autumnal equinox aside, we have different ways of marking the beginning of fall. For students and teachers, it is the return to school. For farmers and gardeners, it is when the crops are ready to come in. For sports fans, it's football season. For a squirrel, it is the sudden and irresistible urge to bury nuts. And for many nature lovers, it is cool, crisp air and brightly colored landscapes of trees.

For the United Methodist, of course, fall officially begins on the Sunday following Labor Day weekend. This year, our Kick-Off Sunday is September 8. Let the season begin! I love the crisp air and the beautiful colors, which pass by quickly in Minnesota. But what I especially love about fall is the sense of new beginning that the season brings for me. The cycle of the Christian year is filled with beginnings – Christmas and the birth of Christ, New Year's Day, and spring with its reawakening of nature, Easter and the Resurrection – but at no other time than fall do we launch as many new activities and opportunities.

This fall at Holy Trinity we are beginning anew with a September worship series called *Re-Shaped*, which focuses on how we respond to change, and how, within change, God transforms us. As much as we resist change, it is change that

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builds our values, our character, our faith, and our resilience. In October, leading up to the November election, we (along with many other United Methodist Churches) will follow a worship series called *Do Unto Others*. In this time of anxiety and divisiveness, we will focus on kindness, respect, love, and listening. Let us be an oasis of serenity! Finally, in November we will follow a worship series called *Grateful* – after all, fall is the season of abundance and thanksgiving.

Our children will be following a new curriculum called *Celebrate Wonder*. Our youth will gather for study and activities. We have plans for an abundant harvest and re-launch of our Fresh Expressions garden ministry (including a new name – our garden is now the Don Hartley Community Peace Garden); a fall festival that will include food, games, movies, and a haunted house; and a Holy Trinity presence in Community Fest, Chalkfest, and the Candy Crawl. In November we will have a chance to dream together about what lies ahead for Holy Trinity.

As Christians we do not fear change, and more than that – we are not afraid to fail. We are not afraid because our God is a God of abundance. Always and forever, new pathways are opened to us and we begin again. In whatever we do at Holy Trinity, we will have fun along the way. Cabins are closed, roses are buried, and leaves fall from the trees – but it's a new beginning for the church year. Get in here!

Pastor Leigh



Inclusion Starts with I

By Carol Ottoson

I have lived nearly my entire life in school years, even in retirement (I'm already scheduled to sub this fall), thus, September has always been a month of radical change for me. When I was teaching full time, directing theater, and coaching speech, as well as serving on various committees in school, at church, and in the community, September felt like a 0-60 race that I didn't even have enough time to figure out how to get in the starting blocks – and yes, I know that it's a mixed metaphor, but September has always been the month where life shifts drastically, not just for me but for so many people. Our August focus has been on anti-bullying, and our September focus will be on the differently-abled community, but I believe we also need to focus on those who are not only differently-abled, but also those who are discovering their true identities, even if we may not understand their journey. Within the past week I've had fairly deep conversations with two people who have finally found the path to their own authentic life. One is a former student who finally found herself by transitioning from male to female, and the other is a relative who is finding his own authenticity through a same-sex relationship. They both needed nothing more from me than love and understanding – and a listening ear with absolutely no judgment. Trust me when I tell you how much both of these individuals have deeply struggled throughout their lives. Trust me when I tell you that I have feared for their lives due to these struggles. Trust me when I tell you how much peace they have found by finding their own authenticity. As school starts this fall, please listen to the children in your lives, love the children in your lives, and be there when they need you without judgment. Remember, we are all children of God. Romans 15:7 gives us a very simple but important guide: "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." And, as always, don't forget that **Inclusion starts with I.**



Rearranged

We recently moved a trailer full of furniture and personal items from our home to the Kansas City area, where my son Tom and his family have moved. Most of these items, including a really nice desk he made with his dad, were Tom's from before he and Bre were married. Tom put that desk in my basement office/studio which he took over as his remote workplace when he moved back home before the wedding. Afterward, the desk was one of the things they didn't have room for, so he left it and I was very happy to use it and my office. And now, that desk is gone. The dresser in one of the bedrooms is gone. There is an empty bedroom closet that used to be full of his clothes and random items, and there's a whole lot of space in the garage where his bed and bins of other things used to be. Now we need to rearrange. Lots of things need to move or be removed, especially in my office, to make the space better.

It is liberating to free ourselves of clutter, but it can be hard to let go of things that remind us of important people, or special times. Emptying a drawer, I found some printouts of materials I used for online Sunday school during the pandemic. I also found some little kits I prepared and dropped off at homes ahead of time so the kids, when they joined the Sunday Zoom, would be able to work on activities together. The printouts and kits reminded me of how hard we all worked to stay connected, and how the messages (in this case Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up,") were so important. I recall the laughter as we caught up over Zoom, and serious moments as we shared concerns, and encouraged each other. The online youth groups also brought some amazing moments, despite (or maybe because) we were all struggling. Those memories bring me both joy and heartache. We had to rearrange our lives and our sense of the world when the shutdowns happened, and when things opened up we rearranged again. But we couldn't just put everything back to how it was before. Some things had changed permanently, both for better and for worse.

A lot of families are rearranging now after moving kids off to college, and others are making different

kinds of moves, to a new home, or a different job, or a different grade, or stage of life. Some are welcoming new family members, or grieving the loss of someone important. Every change brings with it a chance to re-evaluate what is important, and what it is we want to take forward with us, even if it is hard to do, even if we have to do it while carrying some grief about the way things were before. While cleaning up the office is a chore, I am excited to have a workspace makeover to refresh my focus. I miss having Tom and Sam live with us and I miss Tom's desk, but I still love all these kids and look forward to making the most of our time with each other. I am grateful the shutdown is over, but I deeply miss how valuable those online "together times" felt, and how the importance and urgency of kids' ministry was so evident to us all.

Now we begin a new season of Kids' and Youth Ministry. We have a new all-ages curriculum that helps spark (or rekindle) families' wonder and love for God, we have new opportunities for adults and older youth to lead this experience of wonder and be involved in youth activities, and we have an urgent need to find some leaders. I am asking YOU to consider rearranging your own time and commitment to the Holy Trinity community. When you can't be at Holy Trinity, I ask that you check in at <https://www.htumc.org/sermons/>; at least listen to the sermon or the prayers & concerns to see how your community is doing. Why? You are better when you make worship, prayer and God a priority. If you can be with us I ask that you consider increasing how often you attend worship in person. Why? We are all better when you are with us. If you can help lead Kid' Church even once a month (we need two adults or older youth each week, all the needed tools and info are provided,) please contact me (call, text or email below) to find out more. Why? Our future is our families and children, and they do better when we support them. The effort is worth it, and if we don't give up we WILL see rewards both in our lives and in others'.

Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator
kidsandfamilies@htumc.org
651-492-8188

September Mission of the Month



Water to Life is a grassroots organization born out of the desire to improve access to life-sustaining clean and safe drinking water to families and communities without access to this basic necessity. This is done by providing low cost, low maintenance water filtration systems to individual families as well as to hospitals and churches. Water to Life began working in Haiti and has recently expanded into Honduras and Cuba. This year alone, Water to Life has:

- Distributed home filters to 900 families in Cuba, with 600 more to install – providing clean water to ~7,500 people.
- Distributed home filters to 650 families through a partnership with Goodjustice in Honduras – providing clean water to another 4,300 people.
- Installed 7 large-capacity filters in two hospitals in Cuba, with 5 more to be installed this year. These filters benefit thousands of people, both care providers and patients.
- Maintained 15 large-capacity filters installed in churches in Cuba, providing clean water to all in the community (not just the church members).

Water to Life brings teams of volunteers to Cuba to distribute and install these effective, but easy-to-use filters. There are currently five trips scheduled over the next six months. Deanna Hawkins was fortunate to join one of the first teams going to Cuba in 2022. Reach out to her if you would like to learn more about this opportunity. Otherwise, your cash donations will go 100% toward the purchase of additional filters.



Core Team and Finance Updates...

The Core Team met on Monday, August 19. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Finance: We are still in search of a new Finance team chair. Despite stewardship campaigns in the past few years, we still have a significant gap between income and expenses. Quotes are being gathered for a new copier in the office (Tina Chant to coordinate). A decision was made to sell the church van, which is quite expensive to maintain and deteriorating from lack of use. Pat Green is looking for a title for the van, and then will find out who is authorized to sign over the title.
- Several events are upcoming: Kickoff (Rally) Sunday Sept 8; Fall Community Fest on Sept. 16 at PLHS; Fall Festival (a haunted house Sat Oct 26, with a little kids version and carnival games on Sun Oct 27, pizza, fall harvest theme); Candy Crawl Thursday, Oct 31 (Lakers for Love Foundation will be sharing Holy Trinity's space); One Table meal/event on Dec 15 (sharing our cultures and communities through food and stories).
- The I Team has identified quarterly areas of focus. We will try to organize outreach/missions ministries of the month to fit within these quarterly foci when possible. We remain strongly committed to living into our congregation's value of inclusivity.
- Kids' Church is changing to a simple curriculum and is seeking leaders to help once a month using that curriculum. We hope to have leaders for both preschool and early elementary (through 4th grade).
- Leigh will be connecting with HTUMC youth to build relationships and re-form the youth and confirmation programs. Initially we hope to have youth involvement for our coffee house on Kick-Off Sunday and our haunted house during the Fall Festival. Leigh will also connect with Pastor Brenda North at Glendale UMC in Savage, to learn about their programs for children and youth, and to see if collaboration is an attractive option.
- VBS in June 2025 will be in conjunction with Glendale UMC.
- In early November we will gather the congregation to brainstorm together regarding Holy Trinity's future. How do we build a bridge forward? What is God calling us to do and to be? We will discuss our hopes and dreams, and which resources are important vs negotiable to achieve those dreams, with an eye toward sustainability and budget.
- Fresh Expressions: A meeting was scheduled for Aug. 21 – watch for updates from that meeting. We will seek new ways to involve the community in this ministry. In the short term, the garden is producing abundantly, and we need more people to pick produce daily.

Full minutes will be added to <https://www.htumc.org/core-team/> The next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 23.

Upcoming Events

September 8	Fall Kick-Off Sunday
September 14	Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Building Event
September 16	Fall Community Fest at PLHS
October 26	Haunted House Youth Event
October 27	Fall Fest at Holy Trinity
October 31	Candy Crawl
November 3	All Saints Sunday
November 10	Bridging Discussion
December 15	One Table Event



Thank you for donating **\$1122 to Reaching Our Communities Kids (R.O.C.K.)** and **numerous backpacks and school supplies to CAP** during the month of July.



Sunday, Sept. 8
9:30am Worship
10:30am Couches and Coffee

Join us for Kick-Off Sunday when we'll start a new sermon series and kick off "Couches and Coffee" after the service. Delicious coffee will be served with several add-in offerings as well as fresh-baked cinnamon rolls provided by our Bread Oven Ministry. Sit on comfy couches and catch up with fellow Holy Trinity members and friends. You don't want to miss it!

Lakefront Bible Study

September 17
from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room



Lakefront Bible Study will resume Tuesday, September 17 at 1:00pm and will be led by Pastor Leigh Brown. After September, the group will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

This is a non-denominational group.
Everybody is welcome!

Please contact Barb Bollinger if you have any questions at 612-670-1847.

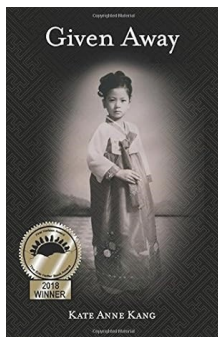


Trinity Readers
Tuesday, September 24
2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for September: *Given Away*
by Kate Anne Kang

Given Away begins as a portrait of a childhood spent in two very different worlds: Korea and America. One forgotten, one remembered. It is a story that asks the questions of home, family, and identity, and is, in its own right, a story of race and belonging.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Gathering for September

Tuesday, September 10th at 2:00pm
-Meet in Fellowship Hall at the church-

We welcome all women to join us as we support local & global missions and gather for fellowship, devotions, prayer, study & mission business. For questions, please contact Sharon Dougherty at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.

UWFaith's Summer Picnic



Lots of good food and fellowship were shared and enjoyed at the UWFaith's Annual Summer Picnic held this year at Wilds Park. We were honored to have Pastor Leigh join us. We also bid Connie Scott best wishes as she makes her move to Mankato. The weather was perfect for our day!

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Building Event
Saturday, September 14 8:30-10:45am

Join us to build beds for kids in our community who are without a bed. We will cut, sand, assemble and finish bed components. These builds are designed with everyone in mind. A few hours of your time will mean the world to a child sleeping in an unfavorable condition.



Please sign up HERE (make sure to choose the Saturday, Sept 14 8:30AM-10:45AM time slot):

<https://x.gldn.io/e/twICOfKftLb>



September 2024

Holy Trinity UMC
 (952) 447-2990
 office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	2  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	3 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	4 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	6	7
8 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	9 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	10  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UWFaith 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	11 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	13 9am-3pm Quilters	14  8:30am Bed Building Event
15 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am I-Team Meeting	16  7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	17 1-3:15pm Quilters  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	18 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	20	21
22 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	23 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage	24  2:00pm Trinity Readers 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	25 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	27	28
29 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	30 7pm Al-Anon at the parsonage					

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

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

Pastor: Rev. Leigh Brown
pastor@htumc.org

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

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

Church website: www.htumc.org



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