

CARE AND NURTURE FOR ALL

NEED A VISIT? If you, or someone you know, needs a visit—or even just a phone-call—from Foster or from a member of our Telephone/Pastoral Care team, please let Foster know ASAP! And if you—or someone you know—is in hospital (or expects to be in hospital), please let us know. THANKS!!!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP This is an informal, weekly opportunity, for **anyone** working through grief—for any reason—to spend an hour in the company of others dealing with similar challenges. This is an ongoing, drop-in, no-obligation group which meets from **11:00 to noon on Tuesdays**. Open to all. **And please note the group meets even when Foster is away!**

NEED A RIDE to or from Church for the 11am Service? Speak with Rev. Foster at the Church Office!

TRINITY PRAYER LIST Frank Sartorio, Charlotte Roe and the Family of Stan Mackey, Scott Stacey, Jon French (Mary-Margaret Caldwell's husband), Scott Shore, Jennifer and Mark, Jono and Grace, Ryan and Shelley, Jeanne Winters, Marlene Yurichuck, the families of Jason and Jerrett be blessed with children, Virginia, William Prince, Ellen Davies, Domenic Logozzo, Mark & Giselle Allen, Michael Short, Nick R, Lee Mason, Terry Finch, Ilse Wetklo, Avis Ten Have; Joan LaPointe, Matthew, Mariah.

PRAYER LIST Please call the office directly at 250.390.2513 to add someone to our Prayer List, names will automatically be removed after three weeks.

Let's Celebrate – Month of March

Birthdays: Betty Smith (1st), Matt Hawkins (4th), Doug McBride (20th), Alan Surgin (22nd), Alex Retzer (23rd), Lenore Thomas (23rd), Gay Harrigan (24th), Barbara DeJonghe (27th), Melanie Barnum (30th).

Anniversary: Bev & Roy Roberts (7th), Joy & Harry Leeb (10th), Barbara & Lloyd DeJonghe (22nd).

Trinity United Church

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250.390.2513 • tunec@shaw.ca

www.trinityunitednanaimo.ca

Office Hours:

Monday 9am – 12:45pm

Tuesday to Friday 9am – 1:45pm

March 15th, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Minister: Rev. Foster Freed **Music Director:** Alison Dalton

March 15th

Greeters: Garth & Linda W.
Ushers: Pearl J. & Carole R.
Reader: Mary Thompson
Coffee: Diane G. & Lorna F.
Lock-up: Sue Luoma
Counting: Marlene W. & Cheryl B.
Projection: Brad Luoma
Sound: Brad Luoma
Sunday Sch.: Sue Luoma

March 22nd

Denise Damer, Wendy Ebert
TBA
Alan Surgin
Marilyn D. & Maggie S.
Brad Luoma
Ken S. & TBA
Brad Luoma
Brad Luoma
Sue Luoma

March 16th to March 22nd

Tuesday	Grief Group	Lounge	11:00 am
Tuesday	Lenten Film Series	Lounge	1:00 pm
Tuesday	T.O.P.S	101	5:00 pm
Tuesday	Al-anon	214	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Council Meeting	217	10:00 am
Thursday	Lenten Bible Study	217	10:00 am
Thursday	Ladies Tea Meeting	213	1:00 pm
Thursday	Lenten Bible Study	217	7:00 pm
Friday	Alpha	Hall	5:00 pm
Sunday	Choir Practice	101	9:15 am
Sunday	Sunday School	217	11:00 am
Sunday	Worship	Sanctuary	11:00 am

WELCOME!

WELCOME Good morning! Welcome to our service of worship for this, the **3rd Sunday in Lent**: as we continue our annual sojourn through this season of preparation, a season that culminates with celebration of the miracle of Easter. Here at Trinity, we have been preparing—and will continue to prepare—through a series of sermons that follow in the footsteps of our Lord. What that means, this Sunday, is that we will be bringing to a close a six-sermon series that has tried to create a “six-dimensional” portrait of the Lord Jesus, a portrait which today reaches its fitting climax. Having pondered Jesus as Prophet and Herald, as Healer, Teacher and [Church] Founder, today we will ponder him under what may well be his defining “title”: **The One of Singleness of Heart and Mind.**” That title, we hasten to note, brings with it both great comfort....and (perhaps especially during this reflective Lenten season), great challenge to those who seek to be his disciples. But while this sermon series draws to a close this morning, our Lenten sojourn in his footsteps will most certainly continue! **As we gather for worship this morning, we welcome to Trinity United.**

SPECIAL WELCOME TO VISITORS A warm welcome to all who are visiting us this morning, whether you are visiting from afar, or church-shopping. If you are visiting with us today, we trust that you have been warmly received and made to feel welcome. If you are here from afar, we are pleased to have you in our midst. If you are worshipping from within Nanaimo, and seeking a Church home, we would love to tell you more about the life of this congregation. Whether you are a long-timer or a newcomer, we delight in welcoming you, this morning, to the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre and to Trinity United Church! **If you are able, please join us for refreshments after worship.**

FOSTER’S OFFICE HOURS Rev. Foster plans to keep office hours this week **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings from 10:00 – 1:00**, although study and fellowship groups will punctuate that time on Tuesday and Thursday, and the TU Council meeting will do so on Wednesday. You are encouraged to make an appointment during these hours or—if you wish to see him outside these hours—to be in touch with him.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND TIME

A COVID-19 UPDATE Last week we suggested, in light of current concerns around the Coronavirus, that **we refrain (for the time being) from the informal “passing of the peace” handshakes and embraces** that characterize that segment of our morning worship. We are encouraging the same thing for this morning, noting that a nod and a smile to your neighbour will have to suffice for the time being. **In addition:** because we are a congregation that generally gathers somewhere in the ballpark between 60 and 80 souls, we have the luxury (a) of continuing to gather for Sunday worship as well as (b) the luxury of **spreading out** when we gather for worship, thereby practicing the sort of **social distancing** that is being encouraged at this time. In short: our recommendation is that folks **try to avoid sitting in clusters**. Realizing that this may especially impact those who pay extra to purchase a back-row seat (!), we hope that folks will make full use of the sanctuary for the next while, so that we reduce the possibility of spreading germs as we make a joyful noise! In the same spirit, we have decided to **“suspend” our coffee hour for at least the next few weeks**. These are not easy choices, but we believe they are the right choices. God bless you!!

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 22ND Next Sunday is the **Fourth Sunday** In Lent. Readings for this Sunday in the Church’s calendar include:

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

However: Rev. Foster plans to return, beginning next Sunday, to **the Apostle’s Creed**: hoping to offer a third helping (to be precise, a Lenten/Easter helping) of sermons based on that ancient statement of faith. Our reading for next Sunday will be: **Matthew 16:21-28**.

GREETERS AND USHERS Dear Friends please permit me to try another adjustment to this opportunity for service. I would like to have ***only Greeters for the month of March***. The Greeters would also have the Bulletins and Sermons. Members can either leave them on the table or hold them as each person decides. I thank you for your patience with me while I explore efficiencies. Sincerely Mary Thompson

LADIES STRAWBERRY TEA It has been decided to have a strawberry tea June 6 2020. We have had one meeting and some preliminary decisions have been made – nothing set in stone YET! Levena, Lorna, Cheryl and I have offered to organize this event. Ladies, we are trusting that you will all help make this event happen. Gentlemen, we will need you brawny side for set up and take down; and your genteel side for the serving of tea and strawberry shortcake. More details to follow. Should be a fun event! **And please know that there is a contingency plan in place in the event that the COVID-19 situation makes it impossible for us to hold this event.** Please speak to Betty Bordal for more details.

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE is looking for folks to help on various committees. We have filled most vacancies for the upcoming year and are grateful to those who have volunteered. However, we still need to increase membership in a few areas. If you think you may be able to help out please speak with Donna Bouvette as soon as possible.

ADULT WORSHIP CHOIR Our Choir meets for weekly rehearsal at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. They all gather twice monthly for Thursday late-afternoon rehearsals, starting at 5:30. (The choir will next gather on Thursday, March 26th. **New members are always welcome; please speak to Alison for details!!**)

LIBRARY We are grateful to the Scobie family, who, in honour of their father David, donated books from their father's library. Our thanks also go to Ken and Maggie Schmitke for their contribution of books to the church library.

HOT OFF THE PRESS The long awaited 2020 Spring Planned Giving Workshop has now been officially set for after Worship on Sunday, April 26th. Immediately following the service there will be a light lunch, with the Workshop starting promptly at 12:45 PM. This event will be led by three presenters; leading off is the UCC Pacific Mountains Regional Financial Planning Officer **Jane Harding**. Jane will be assisted by two local members of the Nanaimo community – **Trina Brubaker**, with the law firm of Johnston, Franklin & Bishop, her practices are Wills & Estates, Real Estate, and Civil Litigation, she enjoys working with clients to create plans tailored towards their individual needs, and advocating on their behalf – **Brian Dugaro**, with IG Wealth Management, provides well thought-out plan for ones financial future which is an integral part of building the life you want for yourself and your family. - - Stay Tuned - - **Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Trinity United coordinator for this event, Hugh Sproule.**

OUTREACH

MISSION AND SERVICE Congratulations! Trinity United gave a total of \$7,089 in 2019 to M&P. **Thank you so much everyone for your contribution.**

AL-ANON Affected by your loved ones drinking? Al-Anon meets at NEC on ***Tuesday nights at 7:30pm*** in the couch room.

LOAVES AND FISHES Nanaimo's food-bank is a local outreach which we, here at the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre, seek to support. Monetary gifts—as well as gifts of cash—are always welcome. With the “festive season” now behind us, there is the very real danger that we will forget all about the foodbank. **Your generosity is always appreciated!**

THE CHALLENGE OF HOMELESSNESS The City of Nanaimo--in co-operation with the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition and the United Way—is holding a series of "Design Labs" to improve the way the challenge of "homelessness" is addressed in Nanaimo. If you wish to learn more about these Design Labs, or if you would be interested in participating, please head to: **nanaimohomelesscoalition.eventbrite.ca**.

FUTURING

BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

KNOX (PARKSVILLE) PRESENTS *The Arrogant Worms*, an exciting trio who offers lively, fun-filled, musical entertainment to folks of all ages. **March 15th 2:30pm. Tickets are \$30 each at Eventbrite.ca, for more details go to kucparksville.ca / arrogantworms.com**

NEC NEWS

FACILITY RENTALS AT TRINITY UNITED / NEC Seven venues available with seating from 25 to 300, full audio-visual system and a fully equipped commercial kitchen with serving window to 3,500sq.ft. hall.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE MINISTRY For those who are new to the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre, you too can place a plaque on the Memorial Rock in the Trinity Garden. This service is open to members of both congregations and to participants of the wider community. In other words, to anyone. The ***Garden is a memorial to loved ones, to those we wish to remember and honour, no matter their beliefs.*** You can have a plaque mounted for a loved one with first and last names, and with birth and death years, or you can mount a Reserved plaque for yourself or another. Just give a donation of \$250 to the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre and ***you will receive a tax receipt for the full amount and a mounted plaque.*** When the person for whom the Reserved plaque is mounted passes on, it will be replaced at no extra charge with a plaque with the name and dates of that person. For further information, please contact Sarah, at the NEC Office: 250-390-2612.

Mission Statement

Trinity United Church exists to be a supporting and outreaching community that provides spiritual nourishment to all through worshipping Jesus Christ.

We are creating, with God, a world of love, compassion, and respect for all creation.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE Each week our team members are approached with questions about our search. We really appreciate your interest. Unfortunately it is sometimes difficult to answer because, while we are committed to keeping you informed, we are also mandated to keep any applicant information confidential. That said, we are excited to tell you we are starting the interview phase. Plans are in place to interview, via internet, this month.

Once our interviews are complete, we need to bring any successful candidate for an on-site visit. That travel expense, along with the moving cost, is our responsibility and we are grateful for the donations you are making to the Transition Fund. (See below!) And please keep this process **in your prayers** as it enters a critical phase!

TRANSITION FUND At the October meeting of Trinity United Council, the decision was made to establish a “transition fund”, to help meet the extra-ordinary expenses that will likely be incurred as we search for a new minister. We have set, as our initial target, \$10,000.00 which we hope will be raised by “over-and-above” gifts to this fund. **We have now reached—and slightly surpassed--\$6500.00 to this important fund...and have made use of a small portion of it to arrange transportation—for an onsite visit—for one of our candidates!** Please continue to give this fund your prayerful consideration over the coming weeks and months! And, as always: **thank you for your generosity!**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND LEARNING

PRAYER CIRCLE Our next monthly prayer circle gathering is scheduled for Wednesday **April 1st at 10am**. Please speak with Rev. Foster for more details. And please note: we are cracking open a new book on prayer: Anthony Bloom's small classic: "Beginning to Pray". Please speak to Rev. Foster if you wish a copy of this book. And remember: **all are welcome to join us for our monthly gathering of the prayer circle!**

UPCOMING LENTEN FILM SERIES a 6-week **Retrospective** series—featuring our "greatest-hits"!, continues this Tuesday. Once again led Phyllis Thompson and Rev. Foster, it will continue until April 7, with films screening at 1:00pm followed by refreshments and conversation. **This Tuesday** our feature will be: *Joyeux Noël*, future titles will include:

March 24th: *Paper Clips*

March 31st: *Of Gods and Men*

April 7th: *Babette's Feast*.

No charge; refreshment and discussion follow each movie. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

ALPHA Our current offering of Alpha is forging ahead. This weekend we enjoyed the Holy Spirit weekend which represents one of the special "places" in the Alpha-experience. Although it is likely too late to get involved with this current offering of Alpha, it is never too late to learn more about the programme! For information please contact Donna Bouvette.

LENTEN STUDY This year's six-week Lenten study continues. As in year's past, there will be two sessions offered: **Thursdays at 10:00 or Thursdays at 7:00**. Titled: "Journeying through Lent with the Hebrew Scriptures", Rev. Foster—unlike previous years—is designing a "curriculum" for our use, rather than making use of a published curriculum. **Copies of the study-sheets for Session #4 will be available this morning; please speak to Rev. Foster if you wish a copy! All are welcome!!**

