

Trinity United Church of Christ

5200 Hilda Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63123

Rev. Mary Albert, Pastor
Cell Phone • (314) 707-9091

Steve Tate, Director of Music
Office Manager
Cell Phone • (618) 316-6586

Echoes of Trinity

Church Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 9-3
Phone - (314) 352-6645

Facebook - www.facebook.com/trinityuccstl.org

Email - trinityuccstl@aol.com

Website - www.trinityuccstl.org

SEPTEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 267 • ISSUE 4

Called to “Be” the Church

I once saw a young man wearing a T-shirt with a message on the front which read, “DON’T GO TO CHURCH.” As you can imagine, that caught my attention immediately! On the back of his shirt was another message: “BE THE CHURCH!” His shirt was a real conversation starter. I learned he was part of a house church that focused on being active in its community. The church members lived in a run-down neighborhood, and they started their ministry as they renovated houses. Then they organized after school activities for children. Then they started delivering meals to elderly neighbors and volunteering at a house for homeless people. Together with neighbors, they tended a free community garden and participated in peaceful protests. And they did all these things as an expression of their Christian faith. They called it “putting love in action.” Each week they met in one another’s homes for Bible study and worship which inspired their outreach in the neighborhood. This conversation happened several years ago, but I remember it every time I see our “Be the Church” banner because it captures this same sentiment. We are called to follow Jesus, and that means practicing what we preach. Being the church calls us live so that people can see that Jesus lives in us.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

There are many ways we can do this, and our banner lists a few possibilities. Take a good look at the list. Which items draw your attention? Are there any which would be difficult for you? God doesn’t expect us to do it all, but we all have gifts which God can use to let God’s light shine through us in some way. What is your gift? Are you a compassionate listener? Do you have a special heart for animals? Do you find yourself getting angry when you see injustice and want to do something to help make the world more equitable? Maybe you have experienced discrimination, so you have a passion for including others. Perhaps your heart is opening to giving and receiving forgiveness. Paying attention to these inner longings may give us clues as to how God might lead us in ministry – both within our congregation and in the community.

On September 17th Trinity will be walking in the Affton Lemay Community Parade alongside Gary’s truck which will be decorated with our “Be the Church” banner. I am looking forward to sharing our message with the community that Trinity is a congregation that tries to “walk the walk.” (There will be plenty of room in his truck for those who want to ride, if you want to come along!) And if you cannot come along that day, I hope you will be thinking of the rest of us and praying for those who will see our signs as the invitation they need to join with us as the Spirit leads us in our next chapter of ministry together.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Mary

Council News...

Council held its first meeting following the annual meeting on the 14th of August. We welcomed Gary and thanked him for his willingness to serve. Before conducting business, everyone agreed to continue to serve Council in their same positions, with Gary accepting Vice President.

After we opened with a prayer. We conducted the monthly business of minutes, bills and financials.

We then dug into several community events to participate in as well as mission work and spiritual growth opportunities. While we are not able to attend or participate in everything, please note we strive to find what fits now.

Our calendar is pretty full, so be sure to check out the events listed. Pastor Mary shared that Trinity can have one other representative at the association meeting coming up and Larry will be attending with Pastor. Pastor Mary with councils blessing will be taking part in a UCC summit conference in September that will talk about current events and challenges of the church and how to help navigate through virtual trends. If this is of interest to you, pastor has more information. She is also in talks with Eden Seminary about a great opportunity, shall it become available...keep a look out for more information.

Due to " Grub Day", Septembers Council meeting will be held on the 18th, following worship. We closed with prayer.

I am excited to see where we are going and continue to be blessed to serve such a great church family. Council members are always available for sharing of ideas or concerns, so don't hesitate to share them. We are the Church and together we can and will make a difference.

God's Blessings
Angela

Annual Congregational Meeting...

The last Sunday in July we held our Annual Congregational Meeting. Business was conducted as usual. We welcomed Pastor Mary and listened to some of her plans and visions for the church. Our budget was approved for the next year. Council members were voted to continue terms and Gary Hicks was nominated to join. He graciously accepted.

We discussed ways to communicate more efficiently and to reach others. A emergency call list was put in place, if at church and need assistance please contact Larry Becker, Pastor Mary, or myself, but in that order. If assistance is needed outside of church hours please call and leave a message at church first. If it needs immediate response again use the following call chain, Larry, Pastor, myself. You may also send personal pastoral needs by call, text or email to Pastor Mary, but please remember she is part time and may not respond immediately. You may also call, text, or email me at anytime, but in general, I will not be able to respond until later in the evenings. A rule of thumb, always call the church and leave a message of your request/need so it can be followed up. With all of this we are here for you and the church, so we want to know what you need or wish to share. We closed the meeting with song.

Following we were able to partake in the first potluck in awhile. The food and fellowship as always was great.

Affton Food Bank...

For the month of September Trinity is collecting boxes of Cereal, boxes of individual packages of Oatmeal and boxes of Cream of Wheat.



Back to School...

Thanks to all who brought in pencils for students in grade school. I didn't count how many, but there were a lot collected in August!



—Janet Smith

" Grub Day" Sunday September 11th

We will hold a short service and then do some work around the church. There are a couple projects both inside and out to work on, plus some extra cleaning. We may even have some craftiness needed. Please wear clothes that may get dirty/messy. Church will provide some light snacks/sweets and beverages, but feel free to bring your own sandwich if something more is needed. There is no ending time posted, we will do the best we can, with whatever we have. We look forward to working together on making our space even better.

Aftton/Lemay Parade, Saturday Sept 17th 10am

This year we will have a vehicle/walking entry in the parade. In the years past Janet has passed water bottles out to parade participants. This year she is unavailable, so we have lots of opportunities to share in this day, promoting our church. If you are interested in participating please see a council member. If not consider supporting by being a spectator of this event with family and friends. It's always a great parade and a fun time!!!

Sept 24/25 Tower Grove Pride in Tower Grove Park. This event supports the LGBTQ+ community with music, food vendors, and community booths. The ONA coalition will also have a booth promoting the UCC Churches that are Open and Affirming. Pastor Mary is working the booth Saturday afternoon. The festival runs Saturday, Sept 24th, 11am-6pm and Sunday, Sept 25th, 11am-5pm.

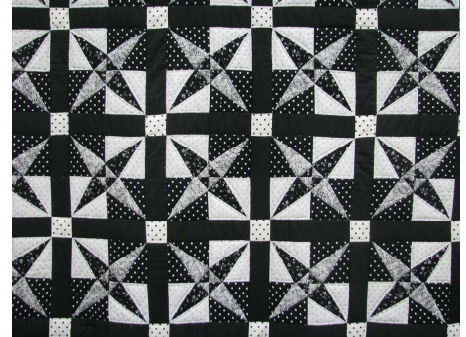
Sunday, October 2nd World Wide Communion Sunday Outdoor Worship and Picnic. We will be holding this event at Ohlen-dorf Park this year. It is in the planning stages, so any suggestions/ideas are welcome. Mark your calendar for a great Sunday!

The Quilter's Corner—Janet Smith

We have a new quilter joining us, her name is Terri and she is the daughter of Eileen. Terri did not know how to do hand quilting when she joined, but is doing great now. She does do beautiful hand embroidery!

Mid August was great because everyone of the ladies has returned to the group.

On August 21st, Sharon from the Friends Foundation came to church and picked up the quilt we are donating for their November 6th auction in Washington, MO.



We finished quilting my twin quilt the end of August. I am not sure what I am going to do with it when I finish all the hemming. The quilters did a great job—it "puffs up" wonderfully. When it is completed, I will display it on the last pew of church.

P.S.: The picture below is of the donated quilt.





Nick's mother stops for a moment as her son reads the Bible to their cat.

"Isn't that sweet" she says.

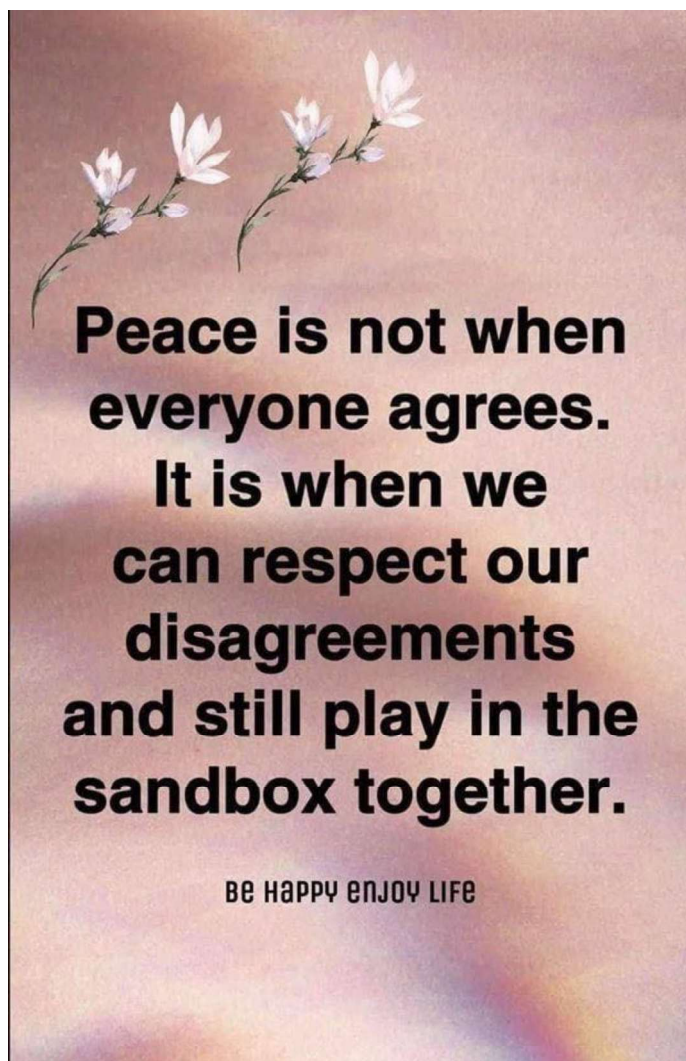
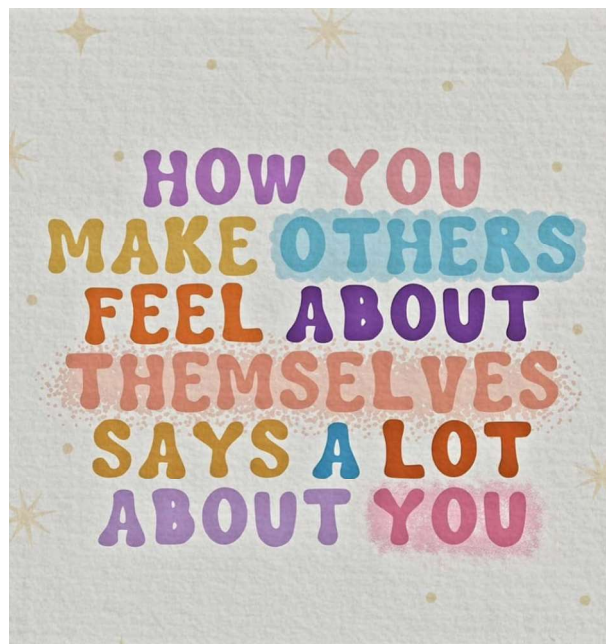
But an hour later, she hears a terrible racket! Running out the door, she finds Nick trying to dunk the cat in a bucket of water.

"Nick, what are you doing?"

"I'm baptizing Muffin" he says.

"But cats don't like to be in water" she says.

Nick says "Well, then she shouldn't have joined my church."



- 4—Morning Worship/Communion - 10:30 am
- 5—Labor Day
- 7—Quilters - 9:00 am
- 11—Morning Worship/Work Day - 10:30 am
- 13—Happy Birthday! - Clayton Chilson
- 14—Quilters - 9:00 am
- 17—Affton/Lemay Days
- 18—Morning Worship/Council - 10:30 am
- 21—Quilters - 9:00 am
Happy Birthday! - Noah Wagner
- 24 & 25—Gateway ONA/Tower Grove Pride
- 25—Morning Worship - 10:30 am
- 28—Quilters - 9:00 am