



# TUC THANKSGIVING 2020

## From the Minister's Desk

I'm choosing gratitude. That might seem a little strange to need to say, yet in light of everything that is going on in the world, it actually feels counter cultural. Gratitude is a choice, much like any other mindset or orientation. You and I can choose to be grateful...or not. Both are equally valid modalities. I completely understand not feeling like being grateful. I get it (and occasionally find myself in the same space) that when we look around at what's happening in the world: an estimation of 1 million dead from COVID-19, clear indicators of a second wave, election rhetoric that makes me shake my head, storms that resurrect themselves, justice that is denied, power that won't accept truth, violent drug crime on our streets, and an opioid crisis that's claims more people every day – it's hard to get the gratitude vibe, yet that's exactly when I need to spend a little extra effort to find it.

I've often said that popular media tends to focus on and highlight the negative. I don't think they're to blame for that. Human beings are hardwired to notice and pay attention to what our brains perceive as threats. The more you label something a threat the more you'll notice it and the more others will pay attention. It's not a media conspiracy theory, it's human nature and that's where gratitude comes in because it can reverse the trend, shifting our focus and when that happens our moods change, our interactions change, our perceptions change, our words change...we change because we're not rooting our responses in fear. Instead we're choosing to root them in joy and in hope. Gratitude is an expression of joy and hope and it is part of the vaccine against fear and anxiety. That's why I'm intentionally trying to be grateful.

I'm grateful for all the people who stepped up and shared their faith, stories, and skills while I was on vacation. There's quite the list in the worship report and I'm grateful for each and every one of them. I'm grateful for people like Marion who spend more hours than I want to count sanding, taping, painting, and re-painting so that our space is welcoming. I'm grateful for people like Betty who made masks; Vicki who helps the team make sandwiches; for Bill who crawls around inside furnaces changing filters so we will have better air quality; for Diane, Katherine, Erica, Vic, Angela, Roberta and Sandy, and the choir members who share their joy of music; for our community partners who are figuring out this whole COVID-19 thing right alongside us; for our Board that that looked at the lockdown and pandemic and went, 'Ok. Let's make a plan'; for a finance committee that kept meeting through the summer; for children and youth kits that we're dropped off at homes; for emails and texts and phone calls affirming the approach we were taking and the things we were doing, yet most of all, (seriously) I'm grateful for each of you. I posted on Facebook not too long ago that there isn't a church family that I'd rather go through a pandemic with. Your support. Your commitment. Your faith. Your sense of community. Your gratitude inspires me. There have been lots of tough days since the 15<sup>th</sup> of March and you have buoyed my spirit. I'm grateful for each of you, the countless ways you embody what Trinity Untied is all about, and the real difference we make in one another's lives, in our community, and beyond.

Undoubtedly this fall will bring a few more pandemic pivots. We know our children and youth programs will be restarting in October – keep an eye out for a special Thanksgiving Messy Church. We're doing recordings with the choir...just in case. Planning a very different Advent and Christmas...there might even be a Christmas Day service. There's a takeout Fall Supper being planned and a Soul Food with Trinity United program. Groups have started meeting in-person again and we've fostered 6 more community partnerships. The pandemic hasn't slowed us down, it just altered how we do things.

I'm grateful that we continue to work towards a partnership with BC Housing, Phoenix Transition Society, and Harmony House. It's a long, long, slow process. There has been some progress over the summer with a survey and environmental assessment completed. The re-zoning application has been submitted and the first two readings were done. Unfortunately, there was a newspaper article that was just bad journalism. The land isn't being sold. The re-zoning hasn't been approved. Community engagement will happen. We still don't know what the building(s) may look like. It's hard not to jump the gun (because it really is a good news story) and it's hard not to fill in the blanks with information. We will get there and as we have more information it will be shared with you.

I'm grateful. I'm grateful for our church community, for each of you, for the way we embody being an inclusive fellowship with a living faith through joyful service. I'm grateful for our city, our province, and our country. Speaking of which...don't forget to vote on October 24 and if you don't want to risk going to a voting poll in person, please don't forget to request a voting package to be mailed to you and if you know someone who'd like one, yet doesn't know how to get one, please help. If you can't find someone, just let me know!

I'm grateful and it's in no small part because of each of you. I hope we'll see one another online or (physically distant) in-person soon. (There's more about that in the Worship section) Remember, be safe, be calm, be community and together let's offer and receive the presence of Christ with and from one another.

Rev. Dr. Bob

## From the Official Board

One of my favourite times of year is the autumn. Just like spring, there are so many changes, too numerous to mention, but changes none the less. I find it fascinating to watch, as nature 'settles' in and prepares for the harshness of winter. From the changes of the colours in the forests to the added fur our pets grow for warmth. The knowledge that migrating and hibernating species have, to either leave or bulk up, and then slow down. What a wondrous world God has given us and how intricate the workings are.



We are in a time of uncertainty, and are charting new territory, with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have had to change many things that we had become accustomed to, in order to keep everyone healthy. The board has had the arduous task of finding this path, for which I thank my fellow board members for their commitment to this. The changes appear to be working, and we are enjoying the success of a flourishing congregation, despite the pandemic. The congregation continues to reinvent ways to do the things we were used to doing and to maintain some state of normalcy, in the face of constant changing parameters.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out, filled in, stopped by, cooked, fed, cleaned, comforted and simply done what needed to be done when it needed to be done. We are living in uncertain times, and we are especially thankful that so many people are willing to step up and pitch in when help is needed, we are the Church.

As we enter the fall, we are seeing an increase of COVID-19 cases, and with that comes added concern and worries, but hopefully we can navigate this season, with wisdom we gained when this pandemic first hit. We do not walk alone.

Take Care of each other  
Be Safe  
Gabriele Slater  
Board Chair

## Outreach Report

Thank you to everyone who helped out with Soup Kitchen through the summer. The need for physical, mental and emotional replenishment never goes away even in a pandemic. The delivery of our soup and sandwiches looks a little different the past few months, as there isn't any inhouse meals. Instead paper bags are packed with soup, sandwiches, a juice box, fruit and dessert and handed out at the door. With fall, the weather is cooling off, and our guests aren't able to come in and warm up. Last year we started collecting new or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, socks and blankets to hand out to anyone in need, and would like to start this up again. If you have any of these items, please drop them off at the office with a Soup Bus/Kitchen label and date of your drop off on them. They are very much appreciated!

Also, I was reminded today that there is only 90 days until Christmas! With that we would like to start up our Christmas Shoebox campaign again. We will be handing the boxes out on December 13th and would like your boxes to be dropped off 2 weeks ahead (by November 30th) if possible. Please note that we are organizing them a week earlier than usual due to COVID 19 precautions. You may include hats, socks, gloves, scarves, toiletries (no mouthwash, cologne, hand sanitizers please), cards/games, pen/pencil, a sweet treat, coffee gift cards, or any other ideas you may have. Donations of money or items towards a shoe box would also be gratefully accepted. Once again, we are asking the Choir to make up boxes for women, and the remainder of the congregation will be for men. On Saturday December 5th, we will make up extra shoe boxes (including a few gender-neutral boxes) to complete a total of 150. Thank you everyone for your continued support and stay healthy!



Vickie Brown

## Message from the Ministry and Personnel Committee

The year 2020 has brought change for all of us. The M&P Committee is no exception with the designation of myself as the new chair. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Marilyn for her numerous years acting as the committee chair and for her continued participation on the committee.

The M&P Committee continues to act on the direction from the churches Official Board and to provide confidential support for all of its paid staff. Another role entrusted to the committee is to provide direction, when questions or concerns are raised, related to staff working for the church from other staff members or from members of the congregation. Acting as a liaison for both groups (staff and congregation) provides the church community with the means to maintain a supportive relationship.

Our committee members (listed below), know the importance of a supportive community. This year, more than ever, this is especially true with the impact of Covid-19. That is why we are always willing to have a conversation if there are concerns related to the roles and actions of the churches paid staff.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)  
Marilyn Blair (past Chair)  
Vicki Brown  
Shannon Carson  
Don Homan  
Les Waldie





## Finance Committee



As the new Finance committee chair since this spring, I'd like to thank the staff and Finance committee for all the wonderful work they have done in these last 7 months. I am also very appreciative of the generosity of the congregation with their time, talents and financial support. Many of us have not had the opportunity to physically meet as a community of faith but that has not diminished our support of each other and the greater community. At the end of the summer our annual finances were breaking even, which is historically good for that time of year. M&S and the Soup Kitchen are both slightly ahead for this time of year as well. However, some of our revenue sources have dried up significantly. Events like the muffin sales, soup and sandwich lunches and the silent auction have all been nearly silent. We have had a few creative donations where people have donated the money they said they would have usually spent of these social events. Again, I'm continuing to be amazed by the congregation's generosity.

I would like to remind everyone that we have a number of different ways that you can continue to support the church. Envelopes are a staple, sign up for pre-authorized payments (PAR), go on-line and donate through [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) or set up direct deposit by e-mailing [bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca). We are also looking at a few other creative ways to give, like setting up a donation account with the bottle depots and a few other ideas yet to come. Please be aware if you donate through [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org), they will issue you a tax receipt it will not come from the church at year end.

Doug Hofestede  
Treasurer



## Mission & Service

We have been alternating between members of our committee speaking one month to having a video on a pertinent subject the next. We started with a video in March "Community Ministries Make A Difference"

In April we read "Access to clean water" One of the most pressing issues is inadequate supplies and it is a fundamental right for all to have clean water.

In May we read "LGBTQIA and 2 Spirit Youth" The Larry Chang Centre in Jamaica. Outreach to youth is in a critical state for housing and access to skills training. June, we saw a video "National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering" with indigenous members of the United Church of Canada.

July, we read "White Privilege" and what it means to be an intercultural church.

August was a video "Healthy Babies in Gaza" supporting medical services for families in war torn Gaza.

In September we read "Holding Space for Life" which was on the opioid crisis and ministry at First United Church in downtown east side of Vancouver.

We try to touch on issues in Canada and around the world. Mission and Service is the foundation of how we offer healing and hope in a hurting world. We support education programs, world empowerment, assistance for theological students and lay leaders, congregational support, healing the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people, youth programming and much more. Mission and Service are the heart and soul of the United Church of Canada and we thank you for your support.

Wishing you a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Mission and Service Team

# Worship Committee

What an interesting summer we have had. COVID-19, rain to beat all rains, cool temperatures, and almost everyone taking up either gardening for the first time in years, renovations to their homes and yards, canning and freezing everything from their own gardens, or raiding the fruit trucks up from the Okanagan. When we felt the need to get out of the house, we bundled the family together and went for walks. So many positives in a time of so much uncertainty.



Rev. Dr. Bob had a much deserved and much needed staycation at the end of July and into August. This has been quite a year, and while he couldn't totally escape, when he returned, you could definitely notice that he had had a chance to fit in some rest and relaxation.

In turn, Rebecca Fillier also got some much need time away from the Projection and all the duties and requirements that make up that job and by the time she had updated and/or trained the summer projection crew, she had definitely earned every minute of her vacation time. Thank-you so much Rebecca for all your work with the Tech Team.

I am sure in some churches, when these positions are on vacation, it results in some worry and concern about who will fill in, and at times requires them to seek out temporary clergy to fill the void, yet here at Trinity United Church PG, we are ever so fortunate to have so many wonderful people willing to step in and fill the gaps. This year was no different from the "ordinary" years. With that being said, I want to send out a huge thank-you to the following individuals who all stepped forward and did a wonderful job of helping to make sure that the summer services went as smooth and meaningful as possibly could be.

So, on behalf of everyone (I am sure), Kudos and a huge thank you to the following:

## Worship Leaders

Judy Thomas  
Katherine Tuck  
Maria Brower  
Beth Quesnel  
Fred Speckeen

## Piano and Music/Anthem

Angela Alba  
Vic Steblin  
Sandy and Roberta Long  
Diane Kjornen

## Worship Assistants

Betty Belado  
Deena Latta  
Don Homan  
Barb Dean  
Doug Hofstead

## Greeters and door minders

Shannon Carson  
Pam Boulding  
Karen Hynd  
John Neumann  
Betty Belado  
Jim Reid  
Sharon Vincent  
Katherine Tuck

## Service Projection

Dustin Hudyma  
John Neumann  
Shannon Carson  
Dean Appleton  
Marion Bartlett

## Projection Builders

John Neumann  
Dustin Hudyma  
Marion Bartlett

And thank you to everyone attending online for being patient and understanding the couple of times that the service start was delayed due to some equipment malfunctions that took a few minutes to sort out. We were just happy that the problems were ones that were fixable in minutes vs hours!

Another huge thank you to the Board and Worship Committee members who have taken turns and worked together as greeters and gate keepers at the entry door for church services once we restarted f some in-person worship. Their willingness to step forward to help ensure

the safety of those attending and those helping in the service delivery is what made the opening to a maximum 15 persons possible. Our hats are off to each and every one of you for stepping in as we worked at refining the protocol guidelines.

Many have asked about our attendance online, i.e.: how many, where from, is it changing, etc... So here goes.

At the very beginning of lock down, our online attendance numbers were pretty much just our congregation, but very quickly Castlegar and a United Church on the island joined in, and as the word spread that we had a real full-fledged service we were quickly joined by people from all corners reaching numbers in the 200/300+ sign ins, which equates to some 500 to 800 actual attendees (many had more than 2 or 3, some as high as 6-8 all in one room sharing service. As expected, those numbers have been shifting and drifting throughout, with us now having a lower number signing in. Just think, at the beginning of the pandemic, there were 11 United Churches equipped to provide online services, now there are 200+providing full and meaningful services online. We were fortunate to be in a position to bridge that gap, giving other congregations time to figure out how to provide their own online services. Or very own Rev. Bob was a huge part of helping many of them to achieve that goal. Even with a still growing number of churches starting on-line worship, we have people from across Canada and a few international guests every week. The Trinity United community: in Prince George and beyond!

In the meantime, people who could not normally worship together, were able to by all joining together online at a Trinity United worship. People like my sister, who lives in Rosetown Saskatchewan, and I, were able to do just that. Because of distance, we never seem to have a chance to attend church together. Her church had a new minister (one Sunday with his new congregation and "hello COVID-19) and they had nothing set up to enable a full, true service to be provided. So, throughout the spring and early summer my sister and I each signed into Trinity United PG, and for several months attended church together without leaving our homes. That was a real special feeling.

And in addition to assisting others with online services, while others struggled with building their COVID-19 safety plan, Trinity Board, Worship Committee and staff worked together from the beginning to first prepare and finalize a working COVID-19 SAFETY plan, and then over time to adjust the plan as situations changed and more information was received. Rev. Bob has indicated that our plan has been pick up by many who were struggling in piecing together their own. It is really all down to the dedication of these members and their willingness to work as a cohesive team that made us able to perform this task with relative ease.

So, what is the fall and winter going to look like?

A wider opening for in-house worship. Commencing the 1st Sunday in October, we are moving to maximum of 40 congregation attendees in the church. These, combined with the 9-10 persons that it takes to deliver the service, brings us to the maximum 50 persons under provincial COVID-19 guidelines. With this it will be mandatory to sign up ahead of time, plus we really don't want to be fined. There will be two options for this.

- 1) Sign up through [www.trinitypg.ca](http://www.trinitypg.ca) (we're using a service called Eventbrite)
  - [https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-trinityucpg-tickets-119543639243?utm\\_campaign=post\\_publish&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-trinityucpg-tickets-119543639243?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail)
  - Read the About this Event
  - Select the date that you want to attend by clicking TICKETS at that date
  - Fill in the number of tickets desired (how many seats do you need)
  - Click on Register
  - Fill out the contact information listed and click Register
    - You and the number in your bubble attending are now registered
- 2) The second option is to phone the church and register with the office.
- 3) Remember – if you desire a bulletin, you can download one from the Trinity website. We aren't planning on making hard copies available on Sundays at this point.

#### A picture of Entering Protocol aka What to Expect

When you arrive at church, everyone attending must enter through the main doors 5th Avenue. (the front parking lot)

- 1) There will be physical distancing cones leading up to the foyer entry doors. Please honor that distancing (your bubble can proceed inside as one)
- 2) Do not enter until the person/group ahead of you has finished signing-in. If the greeter holds up a hand, please wait for a wave signifying you may now enter

- 3) Ensure everyone in your bubble is masked, (or uses one of the masks provided) then enter the building.
- 4) Follow sign-in directions from the greeter
  - a. Sign in and provide contact information (mandatory) There is a confidential way to do this.
  - b. If you are bringing an offering with you, please deposit in the offering plate.
  - c. Fully sanitize/disinfect with the sanitizers provided
- 5) The Wonderhost will direct you to your seat(s)
- 6) There will be a couple of visiting spots, well marked, designed to help provide properly distancing avenues to visit. If you wish to visit with someone, please use those spots. Only one group per spot at a time. Please be mindful there may be others that wish to have time. Weather permitting, you can also visit with one another outside.

## Worship

- 1) We are trying to keep worship to 45 minutes. There are two main reasons for doing this:
  - a. Provincial guidelines recommend limiting the amount of time you are indoors with a group of people.
  - b. 45 to 50 minutes is a pretty typical of the time people are remaining online for worship, an indicator that is the preferred time frame.
- 2) Even with the return to worship of up to 40, based on our current sign-ins the majority of attendees will continue to be online. To make the service as good as possible online, it requires focus toward the camera a good portion of the time hence the person speaking may not always be delivering directly to the in-house congregation.
- 3) As well, when people come back, they may very well feel a difference, i.e.: no choir, singing with masks, no mingling and visiting, etc. For some, online may be the best fit or feel for them. Each of you can decide which you prefer. Both options will be open.
- 4) At the end of worship, please exit in an orderly with physical distancing through the main door or the side door behind the tech booth. If you wish to visit, we would ask that you do so for a limited amount of time, in the spaces provided, maintaining physical distancing.
- 5) You might want to stop by the tech booth and say hello to the people who join for the Snack n' Chat after worship.
- 6) We are beginning with one worship for up to 40 persons. Once we begin coming close to reaching that attendance number, we will be implementing a 2nd service on Sunday (more details to follow should that need be evident)

## Communion

The communion experience will be significantly different for those that have not yet attended a recent in-person worship.

- 1) Prior to worship, table(s) will be set up at the front with small plates, with an individual communion cup and a rice cracker. We're using gluten free crackers because people can't choose for themselves anymore and this way, we don't single anyone out.
- 2) When it is time for the congregation to receive communion, there will be directions for people to go up front while practicing proper physical distancing (there may be an usher providing direction)
- 3) Each person will take 1 plate and return to their seat (for people in bubbles, to avoid congestion, 1 person could bring back 2 plates, 2 people bring back 4 plates...)
- 4) Once everyone has received their plates and returned to their seats, the Worship Leader will continue with communion. Please wait for everyone to be served.
- 5) When worship ends, please place your plate and cup on your chair seat. **DO NOT TAKE THEM BACK TO THE TABLE.** Someone using proper safety protocols will collect the plates once everyone has left the sanctuary.
- 6) We see that this will be the communion protocol for the foreseeable future.

## Christmas

We are still working on and trying to figure out a plan to enable as many people as possible to have an opportunity for in-person worship Christmas Eve and possibly Christmas Day. With close to 450 persons total attending the Christmas services last year, it will take some time and effort to design, yet we have already begun the planning process. So, there will be



more information as we finalize those details. It is safe to say that it will look and feel very different this year. Each worship opportunity will be live-streamed.

I know this is very lengthy, and I apologize for that, yet is a lot of information to pass on. If anyone has any questions, suggestions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact myself by phone – 250-964-4696, text 250-613-5628 or email [marionjbartlett@yahoo.com](mailto:marionjbartlett@yahoo.com) or Rev. Bob at Trinity United or by e-mail [revbob@trinitypg.ca](mailto:revbob@trinitypg.ca)

Stay safe and Well

Worship Committee



## Books in Need of a New Home

Barb Dean is downsizing her large collection of spiritual books. She would love to find a good home for them. If you would be interested in looking at any please contact her at 250-960-9153 or [barbdean@shaw.ca](mailto:barbdean@shaw.ca) to arrange a time to do so. There are books by Marcus Borg, Barbara Brown Taylor, Joan Chittister, John Dominic Crossan, Neil Douglas Klotz, Joyce Rupp, Richard Rohr, Jim Taylor, Jean Vanier and many, many more! A number of them focus on Buddhism and other belief systems. Thank you to anyone of you who are willing to peruse Barb's book treasures!

## Trinity presents Messy@Home!

Thanksgiving weekend we will be releasing our first at-home Messy Church event - Messy@Home: New Beginnings. This will be a follow-along video and include cooking, a story, and a craft - as well as something a little messy!

Menu: leftovers frittata (or hash if eggs aren't in your diet).

You'll need some leftovers (meat, vegetables, grains - whatever you think will go well together), cheese, and eggs (or stove top hash browns). Exact amounts determined by how many people are eating, you know your pod best!

Activities supply list:

Plain paper (1 piece per participant)

Wax crayons or pencil crayons

Access to a sink with water, or a large shallow pan filled with water

Cornstarch (approx. 1 cup per participant, or 2 cups total for a shared activity)

Food coloring (optional)

Medium or large bowl(s)

This Messy@Home activity will be available online for you to access when it's convenient for you. No participation fee is required, but if you feel called you can add some extra in with your regular donation. If you have any questions, please email me at [messy@trinitypg.ca](mailto:messy@trinitypg.ca)

If you are planning to do Messy@Home on Thanksgiving weekend and are unable to get the supplies needed you can email [messy@trinitypg.ca](mailto:messy@trinitypg.ca) by 12pm on Monday, October 5 and we will arrange for a package to be picked up at the office.

Susie (Messy Church Coordinator)