

Trinity Grand Ledger

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November/December 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

The church year is drawing to a close, and we are preparing for Advent and the coming of Christ at Christmas as none of us can remember. We don't know if we will be worshipping inside the church Christmas Eve – or if we will be worshipping on Zoom. Our worship team is working on several plans so we can be flexible and creative to provide a meaningful and holy experience during the holidays.

Wednesday evening prayer will be back during Advent at 6 pm via Zoom, followed by discussion of the scripture, events of the day, and plans for our holidays.

As I write this, the election is underway, and soon we will know who our president will be for the next four years. Diocesan convention will be over, and we will continue to discern as a diocese about who will be our bishop – will we be prepared to invite Wayne Houglund back, or will we be starting the search for a new leader. We will have selected lay and clergy leaders for our diocesan offices, decided over the passage of proposals on the Assisting bishop's duties, and many other actions.

So much to deal with. Many changes and challenges. Some feel frightening, some feel just perfunctory. Our little church sometimes feels like a small boat in a big sea being tossed about in the storms. But we have images and promises of Christ who calms the seas, and leads us safely to shore. It is my prayer that no matter the outcomes of so many decisions that are before us, we remember that we are one in the Spirit, One in the Lord. We are the body of Jesus in the world. It is not up to us to judge our neighbors, but to love our neighbors.

We will continue to face challenges in health, the Covid virus won't just disappear the day after the election is declared. Care for the earth, and work on environmental preservation, will continue to demand our attention. The impact of both of these concerns on joblessness, homelessness and hunger will be something we will need to focus on as Christians.

There will continue to be conversations on racial and social justice – that will not go away after the election. Grand Ledge has a great job before us, to bring opportunity to all of our people. I pray that we will have the creativity and devotion to alleviate causes of hunger in our community. Not just with support of our food banks, which helps in the immediacy of hunger, but in providing opportunity in employment, education, housing, and hope to elevate hopelessness.

I will be providing office hours on Wednesdays from 11 – noon on a regular basis, and other hours by appointment, on Zoom at this time. If you would like to drop in for a conversation let

me know. I will be inviting everyone to join in open forums of healing and reconciliation so we are able to discuss our hopes for the future. More than anything, remember to love each other, as we always have.

Please feel free to contact me as you need.

Yours in the hopeful Love of Christ,

Pastor Gail

Trinity's Giving Tree

This year Trinity's Giving Tree will take on a new look. This year's tree will look like a cardboard box and will be placed in the church narthex to receive all your donations of kitchen utensils. All donations will be given to the Grand Ledge Food/Clothing bank. Thanks in advance for all your help with this outreach.

Christmas Eve

As of right now, there will be two services on Christmas Eve, one at 5:30 pm and one at 8 pm. We are limit to 25 people at each service and are asking members to reserve a place at one of the services. Rev Gail is looking for two torch bearers, a crucifer, an usher and a greeter for each service. If this is something you are willing to volunteer for let her know. Each service will be available on Zoom. Keep watch in your weekly bulletins for updated information.

Poinsettias

If you would like to make a donation to cover the cost of the Christmas poinsettias, there will be envelopes on the table in the narthex or you can send a check to the church, if the donation is in memory or in honor of someone, be sure and include that information.

Dear Friends,

Grand Ledge Meijer is once again offering their Simply Give Program. There are more than two months to participate this fall, from October 25th, 2020 to January 2nd, 2021. There are cards available near the check-out lanes to purchase for \$10.00. Each card purchased will be matched by Meijer and result in a \$20.00 donation to the food bank. There are two extra important dates to remember that are Double Match Days. Every \$10.00 card purchased on Tuesday, December 1st and Saturday, December 12th will result in a \$30.00 donation to the food bank.

The food bank is in need of a few volunteers to help in the food room. This involves sorting food and packing food orders which have been received by telephone. Please call Mary Holz, 517-627-4348, if interested.

We will once again be offering Christmas gifts to the food bank clients beginning early December. Donations of new practical gifts and toys would be appreciated.

Ideas include:

- Socks, all sizes
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Tools
- Kitchen Utensils
- Towels
- Toys, games and puzzles
- Throw size blankets
- Gently used Christmas Decorations

In addition to the gift ideas, we are in need of gently used coats in all sizes and baby/toddler clothes, especially baby boy clothes.

All donated items should be brought to the building directly behind the food bank accessed from the large parking lot during regular hours of operation which are Tuesdays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Thursdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please call 517-627-4348 with questions.

Many thanks for your support!

Peace,

Cheryl Mulder

Priest in Charge

The Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer 517.927.3099

Vestry members

Cliff Knaggs, Senior Warden	517.282.3754
Lori Hudson Junior Warden	517.881.1650
John Lanese	517.974.9663
Sandy Kallen	517.627.1664
Cheryl Mulder	513.325.6302
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Minister of Music

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