



Grand Island, NY

Mission Projects

2021-2022

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Introduction

Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church! Our mission statement is: **“To reach people for Christ, for the salvation of the world.”** To do so we need your help! The Mission Committee has put together this booklet as a way to celebrate the many wonderful ways God is working through his people at Trinity. In order to follow our mission statement, we are looking to inform the congregation about many of the mission projects already in progress and seek ideas that will help us expand our impact for the kingdom of God. Please let us know how we can help YOU get involved in reaching people for Christ!

Please be in prayer with us around our plans to adopt a new, church wide mission effort for 2021-2022.



The United Methodist Church and Connectional Giving

We are the body of Christ called United Methodists, people who send missionaries, as ourselves, into the world, to live as servants for Christ. We are the body of Christ who minister in 109 United Methodist schools, colleges and universities, as well as support 13 theological schools to educate our pastors.

We are the body of Christ that bear others' burdens through reaching out in times of need and disaster. We are the body of Christ connected together. We do more than express a concern for the worker, the sick and the poor. We do more than express a concern for the poor, the aging, the impaired and the oppressed. We, the body of Christ, participate together. We struggle together to help those in need. This is important to our faith.

By this connection we do more than any single individual, church, district or annual conference could ever do by itself.

We are together.

United Methodists identify with the need to be in mission. As United Methodists we desire to be in mission together, as United Methodists the mandate is to be in mission together everywhere. "A charge to keep I have, our calling to fulfill."

Funding is mission, an expression of our stewardship, and an expression of our connectedness.

Share Ministries (previously known as Apportionments) provide for us avenues for giving in order that we not only can be strong local churches and annual conferences, but that we can be connected together, seeking to be in mission together, seeking to be God's people at home and around the world.

As a United Methodist Church this missional giving is our first priority in our mission work.

*From a [Theology of United Methodist Giving](#), The United Methodist Church.

Children's Missions

The Children's department at Trinity consist of children birth to 5th grade. They make up our **"Roots"** program. We have Buds in the nursery and Blossoms in a classroom.

We strive to teach our young children to give at an early age. Several times a year we give to the congregation and to current missions ongoing within our church.

For example:

- Each Summer we have "Summer Break Out" a free family event open to the community for children to come and have fun playing games with bounce houses and outdoor praise music.
- Fall 2020- For Rally Day we made flower jars that were passed out to the congregation and included a free homemade cloth mask that our quilters and members made.
- Each October for we sponsor a Trunk or Treat- a free family event open to the community.
- Winter 2020- We made Christmas ornaments that were given to the congregation.
- In February we made Valentine's that were distributed to the community and member of the church that we had not seen or had not been able to attend.
- Throughout 2020 and 2021 we supported the Trinity Church Monthly Food Drive-Thru with various foods of the month.

If you would like to your children to attend our Children's department, please contact Cherie Sharp (716) 998-2194 and/or Keira Hayes (716)940-2165.



Youth Missions

Since 2000, Trinity Youth Ministries has consistently strived to involve teens in missions, serving locally, nationally and internationally. We have accomplished this mission through summer work camps or short-term missions' trips.

We've partnered with various local and national organizations, to develop opportunities for students to spend time serving through community outreach, roofing, painting and other various home repair projects. Students have reported back to the Trinity congregation around the ways their lives have been forever changed by meeting Jesus in the people and places they encountered.



How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Pastor Kevin Slough (716) 773-3322
- Ideas for fundraising efforts throughout the year for next summer's missions
- PRAYER

UMCOR: United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Trinity Adult Service Trip

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR works with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency and encourage partnerships. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger. www.umcmission.org

At the local church and conference level, our shared ministries go to support the work done through UMCOR missionaries all over the world.

In 2019, Trinity Church recruited over fifteen (15) adult missionaries who dedicated a week of their summer to help with re-building projects. They went to an UMCOR site in North Carolina, to assist those impacted by Hurricane Matthew. Through planning and leadership of Pastor and the mission committee, we hope to make these service trips a regular occurrence at Trinity.

How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Debbie Robinson (716) 245-8777 or gitrinitymissions@gmail.com
- Join in praying for the missionaries and those they will help
- Participate in a letter writing campaign to encourage the missionaries while serving
- Donations to be contributed to our host church are most welcome, place acct# 949 adult missions on envelope/check memo
- Consider joining a service trip in the future, post COVID





United Methodist Women is an International Organization that focuses on ministries with women, children, and youth. The entire program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission.

Our mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service & advocacy

Projects for 2020-2021

- We made St Patrick's Themed Gift Bags in March 2020 for Shut ins in a joint project with Trinity Youth. We collected small gift and toiletry items from members of Trinity, Sunday School and UMW and decorated bags with Youth. We delivered 50 Bags to Shut ins.
- We made Valentine Themed Bags in February 2021 filled with Small "Thinking of You" gift Items and delivered them to those unable to attend drive in church during COVID.
- Donated Turkeys and Hams for Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner Grocery Bag Giveaway.
- Donated Easter and Thanksgiving Dinners to Grand Island Meals on Wheels catered by 773 North Restaurant.
- Gift in Memory Cards were sent in honor of UMW members who passed away with donation to Mission Giving.
- Baby Cards were sent to all Trinity Babies with Gift to Mission donation in their honor.
- Baby Bibles are given to Trinity Babies at their Baptism.
- Donated \$1000 to Family Justice Center for furnishing and decorating room adopted by Trinity UMC.
- Secured a special grant from Niagara Frontier District UMW for furnishing reception room adopted at Family Justice Center.
- We hosted Niagara Frontier District UMW Gift Day in April 2021 for an outdoor event, collecting and distributing hundreds of needed items for eleven (11) projects assisting women, youth, and children in our area.
- Provided hundreds of Pink Bags for Women and Patriotic Bags for Men at Veterans Hospital, decorating bags, and collecting needed toiletry items and for patients.
- We also host spiritual growth retreats, craft, game and activity nights, movie nights out, field and travel trips (i.e.: Underground Railroad Museum), Programs on Race Discrimination (So You Want to Talk About Race), Mission Education (Mission u), Social Justice Programs (Immigration, Climate Change, Pushout: The School to Prison Pipeline, etc., and Bible Studies.

Trinity Church Monthly Food Drive-Thru

During the COVID pandemic, this program began in June 2020 and ran through June 2021. The monthly food drive-thru mission was developed in response to food insecurity and to help the Grand Island community.

In addition to the non-perishables below, our church family provided financial support. Funds were used to purchase food. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter dinner meals were also distributed. We were blessed to have the following community organizations and businesses partner with us: Step-In-Time Studio of Dance, Women of the Word, Pinnacle Staffing and Blue Ribbon Corporation.

On average, 45 bags of food were distributed the LAST Sunday of each month, resulting in a total of 540 bags of food for the entire year.

Shopping List Items Collected:

- oatmeal/cereal
- pasta/sauce
- canned veggies (lots needed for healthy options!)
- canned, or dried fruit, applesauce
- mac n cheese
- rice
- high protein soup
- canned tuna/chicken
- canned or dried beans
- peanut butter



Family Justice Center

Family Justice Center (FJC) is a not-for-profit agency that provides free services for domestic violence victims and their children through an extensive collaboration with several partner agencies, all located in one secured, comfortable location, where victims can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse. The FJC has transformed the former parsonage at our Trinity church into one of its welcoming satellites.

The FJC opened its doors on Grand Island in June of 2021. This particular facility will transform you or anyone you know that is in an abusive relationship or not sure if you are.

You can reach out to the FJC via phone at 716-558-SAFE and speak to one of the advocates or visit their website at fjcsafe.org.



Children's Gift Tree

For many years, Trinity congregants have sought to provide a Merry Christmas for children and families who might otherwise have nothing to open Christmas morning. In recent years, we've partnered with Seneca Street UMC. They work with their families to identify needs, provide us names and gift requests for their children. Trinity provides gifts for about 17 of the children. Each of the children's families requests 3 items of clothing and 3 toy/fun gifts that are age and size appropriate. Mary Jane Fonte gets the names and requests from the Seneca Street UMC. Tags are then made for each of the items requested and placed on the tree in the family room. The worshipers at Trinity sign up to purchase the requested items and return them to Trinity. Once all of the items are returned, by the middle of December, the Pastor from Seneca will pick them up and the Seneca Street families will wrap the gifts at the church. It is a joy and blessing to be able to share the love of Jesus through the gifts that the Trinity family provides for some of the Seneca Street families.

How Can YOU Help?

- Look for our Gift Tree in the Church Family Room around Thanksgiving time, take a tag or 2 to purchase the requested items.
- Pray for the families of Seneca Street UMC
- Direct questions to Mary Jane Fonte (716) 880-4615



Seneca Street UMC Reading Camp

Trinity supports our friends on the East Side of Buffalo at **Seneca Street Church** throughout the year, including for their annual **Summer Reading Camp**. The camp is held for 2 weeks every July. It was started when Buffalo teachers cited the decline in reading level of students over the summer. Reading Camp is designed to engage children in reading while providing a safe and fun atmosphere.

Contact: Mary Jane Fonte at (716) 880-4615



How Can YOU Help?

- Pray for the children impacted by camp and the love of Jesus Christ on their lives, families and community of the East side of Buffalo
- Look for information in the bulletin, and tidings newsletter in late spring/early summer with needs for that summer.
- Consider donating healthy snack food, Tops gift cards, or your time as a shepherd/teaching assistant.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ~1 Peter 4:1

Patriotic Bags for Men & Women Veterans



On a quarterly basis, twenty-five (25) bags are lovingly assembled in custom decorated patriotic bags for the women and 25 bags for the men and filled with healthcare, beauty items and toiletries. From the inception of this mission project that began as the Pink Bags for Lady Vets in 2008 to the present, the United Methodist Women (UMW) of Trinity Church have donated over 2300 bags to the Buffalo and Batavia Veterans Administration facilities. As the program evolved, the ladies began to make lap quilts to include with the bags to provide comfort and warmth to the veterans.

In September 2019, after reading stories in Isledegrande and the Island Dispatch regarding the Trinity United Methodist Women's Pink Bag project, the American Legion joined forces to expand this program to include male veterans with the donation of \$ 500. This partnership continues today. This group has become affectionately known as the “Bag Ladies” around church!

How can YOU Help?

- Contact Pat Shaw at (716) 773-4439
- Current Needs: hygiene supply donations (i.e.: medium sizes - shampoo, conditioner, soap, shaving cream, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, lip balm.)
- Volunteer to help assemble the bags
- Provide monetary donations to purchase more supplies
- PRAYER

Undie Sunday

Rotary of Grand Island partners with many of the Grand Island Churches, (including Trinity Church), Grand Island High School Interact Club and a few other locations in February to collect much needed underwear and socks.

Donations go to Niagara Community Mission and, depending on how large a collection is, other missions like St. Luke's and Buffalo City Mission may become a recipient of the donations.

On 2020, close to 12 Large garbage bags full of under garments and socks were collected. The largest collection was approximately 3 years and the three organizations were mission recipients.

How can YOU help?

- Contact Sherry Miller at (716) 417-4937
- Current Needs see below:



Operation Christmas Child

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

Trinity's Children's Ministry Department has arranged "packing parties" each year to assemble the shoe box gifts from donations collected throughout the fall from the entire congregation. Contents include items such as small toys, art supplies, toothbrushes, washcloths and empty water bottles.

How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Michelle Swartzmeyer at (716) 828-5095
- Website: www.samaritanspurse.org
- In mid-October, materials are available in the family room, instructing you how to "fill a shoe box" gift. Supplies used to fill boxes, empty shoe boxes, wrapping materials, and monetary donations to help with the \$9.00/box shipping rate are needed. Stop by our table to learn more! National Collection week is mid- November, so that the gifts can be delivered across the globe by Christmas.
- PRAYER



UMC Africa 360

Africa 360 is a combination of two ministries of the United Methodist Church in Africa, “Imagine No Malaria” and “Africa University.” Our fundraising campaign is held for Mother’s and Father’s Day, as part of the UMC global initiative. These funds are used to provide mosquito nets to protect vulnerable populations from malaria and support the education of the emerging leaders in African countries through higher education degrees in agriculture, education, health sciences, humanities, and others.

How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Margie Tyrrell at (716) 560-5838
- Website: umcgiving.org
- Look for our table in the Family Room about 3 weeks prior to Mother’s Day and Father’s Day to participate. Donations can be made “in honor of” or “in memory of” loved ones, whose names are included in the bulletin on Mother’s Day and Father’s day. A \$10.00 donation is suggested for each individual listed.



Church World Service: Cleaning Buckets

Cleaning Buckets (formerly referred to as Flood Buckets) are a way that Trinity members can assist persons whose homes have been affected by severe weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes or flooding. Each 5-gallon bucket contains specific materials for a cleanup including various cleaners, trash bags, dust masks, gloves and scrubbers. Buckets are taken to a UMCOR receiving center and transported to a storage site where they are ready to be distributed after an emergency. This is an on-going effort so that the storage facilities are full of cleaning buckets when the sudden need is presented. Members can bring specific items for a bucket or join with others to create an entire bucket. Some members like to contribute funds to purchase items or put toward the transportation costs.

How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Diane Blum at (716) 775-5160
- Current needs: individuals willing to assist with organizing this project; contribution of needed supplies to fill buckets; monetary donations to buy extra supplies to complete the buckets.
- PRAYER



NOMADS

NOMADS is under the umbrella of UMCOR. We work at Methodist agencies such as churches, children's camps and children's homes, we all so have disaster rebuild projects. The only requirement to being a NOMAD is that you have an RV.

We are a national organization with close to 1000 members.

We have projects in all states except Hawaii. Dave and I have been very blessed in being able to facilitate these agencies to continue their mission.

NOMADS Purpose

- Use our hands to do Christ's work
- Glorify God in the work that we do
- Be an example that will encourage others to serve God
- Grow in personal faith
- Experience a broader world view, different cultures and different geography
- Form new relationships

How Can YOU Help?

- Contact: Dave Barclay at (716) 308-0283
- Website: www.nomadsumc.org

