



Trinity Happenings

To be a compassionate, inclusive, and joyful faith community



Minister's Message

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We were connected to one another, and to those whose stories were not physically present with us. We were connected to those living in fear, afraid to leave their homes; to those offering support; to those grieving the loss of loved ones; and to those anxious about what may yet come.

Because we are all connected, when someone is hurt or treated unjustly, we are called to respond—with our voices, with our actions, and with our presence. At the very least, we can stand in solidarity and remind one another that no one is alone.

We are all connected—from birth, to death, to one another, through God.
May those who are hurting feel our love carried through the web of life.

May we continue to hold one another in compassion, courage, and hope, trusting that our shared humanity and God's love bind us together.

Carol-Ann



The Life of Trinity

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February 22	How to say NO!
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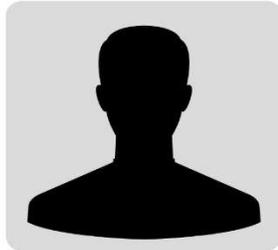
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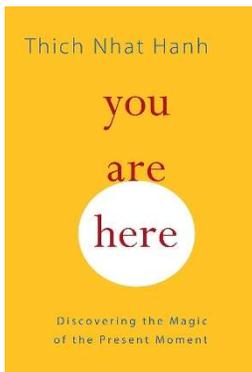
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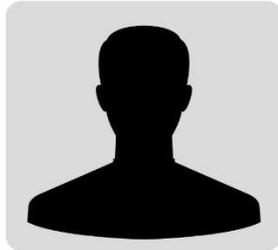
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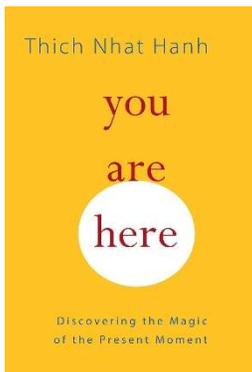
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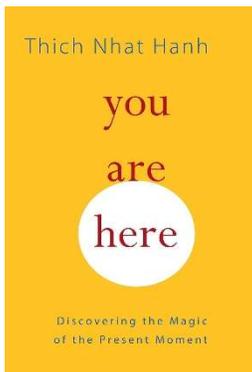
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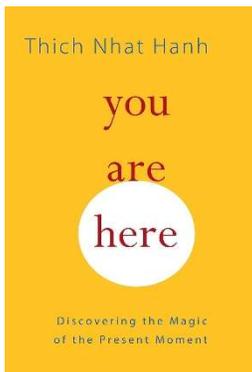
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Social Justice
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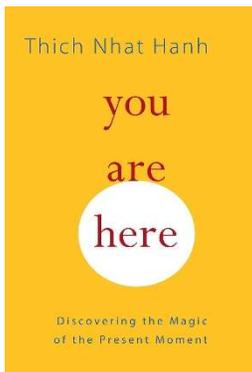
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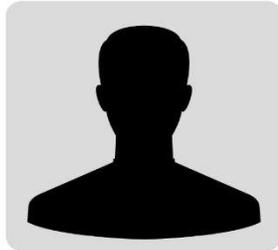
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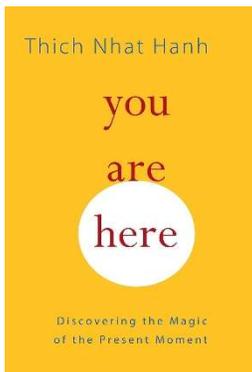
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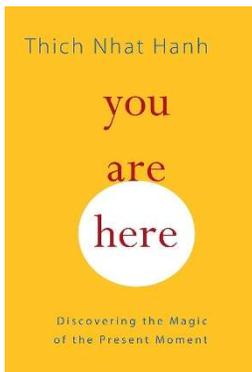
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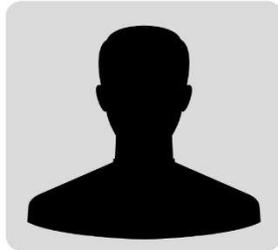
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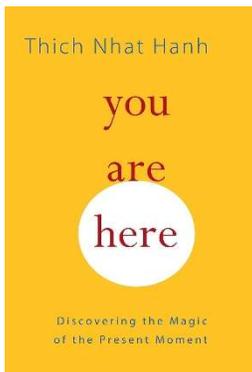
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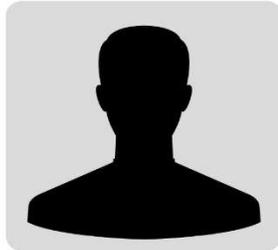
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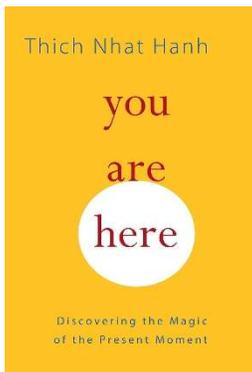
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Trinity Happenings

To be a compassionate, inclusive, and joyful faith community



Minister's Message

"We are all connected."

These were the words a wise woman shared with me as she lay on her deathbed. I have returned to them many times since first hearing them, wondering what she meant. In those early moments, I pictured a spider's web: each person a point, each life intricately connected to every other across the globe.

On February 5th, at the vigil where we gathered to remember and to stand in solidarity with those who have experienced violence and injustice in Minneapolis and throughout the United States, those words took on deeper meaning for me. I felt, in a profound way, just how connected we truly are.

I began the vigil with an Indigenous land acknowledgement that spoke of the rivers, waters, and land—connected across the continent. Then I met people who had travelled from Barrie, Huntsville, and Port Carling to join us at Trinity, carrying their grief over losses in the U.S. Others shared concerns for the safety of friends and family. In that space, we were bound together by common sorrow and care.

We were connected to one another, and to those whose stories were not physically present with us. We were connected to those living in fear, afraid to leave their homes; to those offering support; to those grieving the loss of loved ones; and to those anxious about what may yet come.

Because we are all connected, when someone is hurt or treated unjustly, we are called to respond—with our voices, with our actions, and with our presence. At the very least, we can stand in solidarity and remind one another that no one is alone.

We are all connected—from birth, to death, to one another, through God.
May those who are hurting feel our love carried through the web of life.

May we continue to hold one another in compassion, courage, and hope, trusting that our shared humanity and God's love bind us together.

Carol-Ann



The Life of Trinity

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

February 15	Guest Minister Gordon Flint
February 22	How to say NO!
March 1	Bless You!
March 8	Are you regular?
March 15	I've Had Enough!
March 22	Who'd Have Thank it?!

Weekly Church Life

Prayer and Meditation: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. **CANCELLED** on February 16 due to the Family Day weekend.

Study Group: Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Social Time at Sawdust 3 p.m. They will be starting a new book, *You Are Here: Discovering the Magic of the Present Moment* by Thich Naht Hanh on February 19. Speak to Nancy Jamieson for more information.

Other Events this Month

Prayer Shawl Ministry: the first and third Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Potluck Supper: Sunday, March 8 after service. If you are able, please bring a dish to share with the group. All are welcome to stay for lunch.

Carol-Ann's Upcoming Schedule

Please Note that Friday and Saturday are Carol-Ann's regular days off and she is available for urgent matters or scheduled events only.



Community Connections

Weekly What's Happening

G.A.P. Food Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Elderberries Choir: Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

G.A.P. Coffee Hour: Wednesdays from 12 p.m. til 2 p.m. Join the community for a cup of tea or coffee, light lunch, and a chance to meet some new people.

YWCA Circles South Muskoka: Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the Auditorium.

One Kid's Place: Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room and the Chapel

Alcoholics Anonymous: Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. and Fridays at 12:00 p.m.

Alzheimer's Society Drop-In: Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Special Events



On Saturday, February 14, as part of the Gravenhurst Winter Carnival, we will be hosting a vendor's market in the sanctuary. We will be handing out hot chocolate and cookies in the Narthex during this time (donations to the church are appreciated). There will be chili and drinks out in our parking lot as well. Lots to see and do, so come on out!



Stewardship

Some of our Monthly Expenses for January 2026

Heating Bill (Enbridge): \$1,708.27
Snow Removal: \$3,912.06

Nobody loves paying the bills, but they are a necessary part of running a church.
Thank you for your ongoing support!

How to Support Trinity Financially

Regular donations are the best way for Trinity to meet its monthly financial commitments. Some of the ways you can do this are:

PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance. Monthly contributions are withdrawn through automatic debit. Please contact the office to set this up.

E-Transfer: Please send all e-transfers to trinityunitedgravenhurst@gmail.com

Canada Helps: Go on-line and make monthly donations using a credit card. (Can also be used for one-time donations) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119271245RR0001-trinity-united-church/>

Cheques: Consider post-dated cheques for the year, to ensure your regular donation.

Envelopes: Put donations in your weekly envelopes and drop them off when you come to church. Please contact the office to obtain specially numbered and labelled weekly envelopes for 2024. If you already have envelopes, the 2024 envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Grateful for What Has Been — Faithful for What God Is Doing Next

Hard copy cards of the back page of this newsletter will be found in the bulletin during Lent, and we ask that you take a look and prayerfully consider where you might say YES! this year. We will collect and bless them on March 15. Alternatively send your copy or answers to the office via trinityunitedgravenhurst@gmail.com.



Who's Who at Trinity



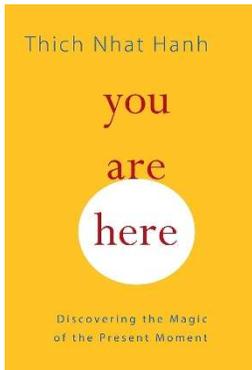
We need you! Each month, we feature a member of the congregation as a way to get to know each other better. If you would be interested in sharing a part of your story, please reach out to Courtney at trinityunitedgravenhurst@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests



Carol-Ann is updating her prayer list for 2026. If you would like someone to remain, be added, or be removed from this list, please send her a message via carolantrinityuc@gmail.com, or drop a note in the collection plate. Thanks.

Study Group



You are Here: Discovering the Magic of the Present Moment

By: Thich Nhat Hanh

Starting on Thursday, February 19 at 1 p.m., our Study group will be discussing this book.

"Cut through the busyness and anxieties of daily life to discover the simple happiness of living in the present moment, taught by a world-renowned Zen monk."

Book is available on Amazon. Speak to Nancy Jamieson if you have any questions or wish to participate in the discussion.



Black History Month:

Honouring Black Leadership in the United Church of Canada



Black History Month offers an important opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the leadership, faith, and witness of Black communities within the United Church of Canada. Black members and leaders have long shaped the life of the church, and in recent years their voices have been especially vital in calling the church toward deeper justice, accountability, and hope.

Across Canada, Black ministers and lay leaders have played key roles in advancing the church's commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination. The work of the United Church's Anti-Black Racism Task Group and the establishment of the United Church Black Clergy Network have helped bring greater visibility to the lived experiences of Black people in the church. These initiatives have encouraged honest conversations about systemic racism and have supported concrete steps toward change in governance, ministry formation, and congregational life.

Some notable contributors include:

- ✓ The Very Rev. Wilbur Howard, the first Black Moderator (1974–1977) was the first Black Moderator who broke significant racial barriers in the church's highest office and was a pioneering graduate of Emmanuel College
- ✓ Rev. Eleanor Scarlett who is known as the third Black woman ordained (1996) in The United Church of Canada, she brought essential, diverse perspectives to the ministry
- ✓ The Rev. Michael Blair the first Black General Secretary (2020)
- ✓ Rev. Tessica Hackshaw who served as the first person of colour in various ministry roles, including at Knox United Church in West Grey, and is currently serving to enhance equity in pastoral care
- ✓ Charmaine Bailey who recently became the first Black person to be commissioned as a diaconal minister in the church.
- ✓ Union United Church (Montreal): A historic congregation that has served as a center for Black, particularly Caribbean-Canadian, community and spiritual life for over a century.

Black leadership has also been visible in theological education and public witness. At institutions such as Emmanuel College, Black theologians and educators have contributed scholarship and teaching that challenge the church to engage faith alongside issues of race, justice, and liberation. In congregations across the country, Black-led ministries enrich worship through preaching, music, storytelling, and pastoral care rooted in resilience, joy, and hope.

As we observe Black History Month, we honour the contributions of Black members past and present and recommit ourselves to listening, learning, and acting. May we continue building a church where Black lives, leadership, and spiritual gifts are fully valued — not only this month, but throughout the year.

Additional Links for more information:

<https://youtu.be/fo3SyaMAO0g?feature=shared>

<https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/i-am-because-we-are>

Grateful for What Has Been — Faithful for What God Is Doing Next

We are called to be the Church. Because of your generosity and commitment, our congregation has made real progress together:

2023: \$35,925.69 deficit

2024: \$9,270.56 deficit

2025: \$2,323.19 deficit

This is a story of ***gratitude, faithfulness, and hope.***

Looking Ahead to 2026, together, we prayerfully seek to:

- End the year without a deficit
- Launch a capital campaign for an electronic sign
- Encourage each person to serve in a new way

A Prayerful Note

As you reflect on your 2026 commitment, you may wish to consider an increase of 5%, reflecting inflation over the past 2 years, as you are able.

Example: $\$100 + 5\% = \105

Where will you say YES!

Name: _____

My total financial offering in 2025:

\$ _____

My intended financial offering for 2026:

\$ _____

(Weekly / Monthly / Annual — circle one)

Where might you offer your time or talents in a new way?

How can we help you do so?

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