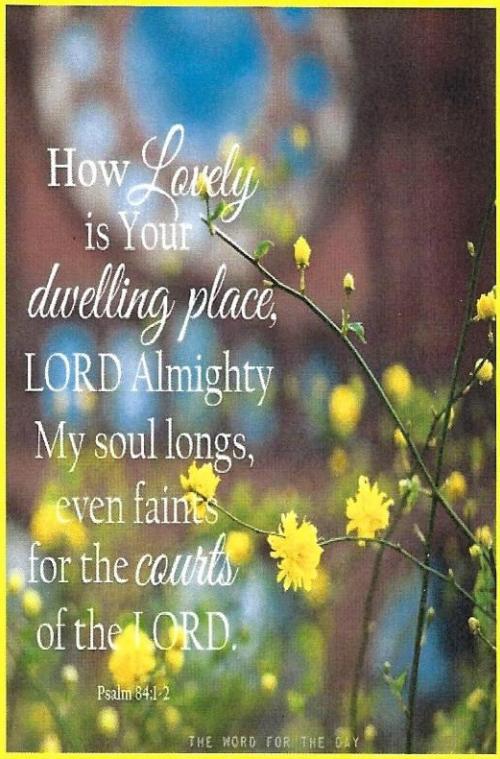
Trinity Tidings

April 2017 Tidbits

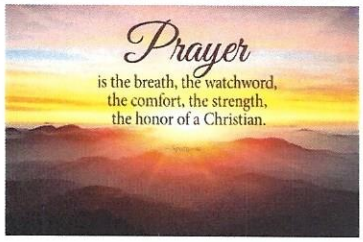


A Huge Thanks you to Tom & Jackie Lamoreaux and to Teri Filius for supplying items for our gift bags that we give out to visitors at the church. It is truly appreciated!!

Also, a Big Thanks to Fern Alberts who coordinated and all the ladies that helped get the kitchen organized and looking great!!

CAMP AO-WA-KIYA
Christ Centered Camping on Stony Lake

Please see Aaron about signing up your child today!



Mission Opportunities

April 24th - Volunteer at Women's Alpha Center 6:30 and 6:30 pm

Training Opportunities

April 17th - Friendship Evangelism at Fair Haven Church in Hudsonville - 7pm
April 18th - Friendship Evangelism at Ada Bible Church - 7pm
April 26th - Talking Points: Topic: Racial Justice and Equality at Cornerstone University at the Christ Chapel from 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Mission News
Change 4 Change

Alpha Women's Center

Helps women who are experiencing challenging circumstances, such as an unplanned pregnancy.
They provide a safe place for these women and offer mentoring, single mom support services as well as Educational services.

You can help by collecting the following donation items for their Sweet Beginnings Shoppe: New or gently used baby bath towels, bath toys, toys, and sippy cups. New items needed include: diapers, baby wipes, shampoo, baby bottles, infant outfits and gift cards. Also, they continue to make use of the plastic bags that the Press or Advance come in. So please bring those in and we will collect them.

April 8th
Christian Ed
11:30am
Chairman
Pastor Aaron Smith

April 11th
Diaconate
6:30pm
Acting Chairman
Kathy Wilson

April 11th
Trustee Meeting
6:30pm
Chairman
Steve DeGraaf

April 18th
Council Meeting
6:30pm
Acting Moderator
Wally VanHouten

One day, a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday Bible Study, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome but said nothing.

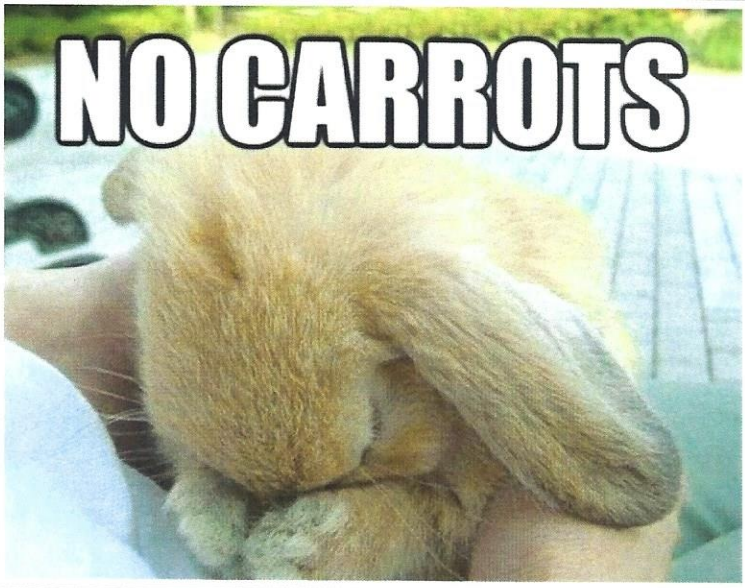
After Sunday morning Bible Study, the visitor went into the church sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit. You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing. Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood, and his appearance began to change.

Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied... "I took your place."

Author Unknown

On Behalf of Doris Lambert and family we'd like to thank all of those that were involved with son, Roger Lambert's funeral services on February 6th.
A special Thanks to Pastor Izzy and Pastor Aaron for delivering such a perfect service. Also, thanks to all those that helped with the luncheon. It was all so appreciated during such a difficult time!
With Love,
The Lambert Family



Our Daily Bread is on the Table in the Narthex

Women's Fellowship Luncheon
April 25th at 12:00
At First Wok on Alpine

Men's breakfast - 2nd Saturday of the Month at Russ' on Alpine at 8:30 am

Serving Among Us

For

May

Deacon of the Month

Rose Baker

Date	Acolyte	Coffee	Greeters	Nursery	Opener
6	Meghan Quinn	Nancy Trew & Betty VerStrat	Sandy & Traci Baird	Mary VanDyke	Phil Stewart
13	Autumn Van Dyke	Mother's Day Breakfast	Sue Host & Sara Edge	Jan Hoogewind	Jan Hoogewind
20	Becca Hoogewind	Eric & Jane Schweinzger	Pam & Harley Whiting	Mary Beth Hoogewind	Eric Schweinzger
27	Sammy Timm	Michelle & Troy Timm	Michelle & Troy Timm	Cherie DeHaan	Cherie DeHaan

Trinity Tidings

To all the women who have participated in the Women's fellowship and who have donated their time, money and efforts in helping to make our shut-ins feel like they are special. Thank you!!

Annual Meeting is on May 20th

Please join us after church to go over all the annual reports and to discuss important initiatives in the direction of our church and its functions.

All Board Chairperson's must have your Annual Reports submitted to the office no later than April 20th.

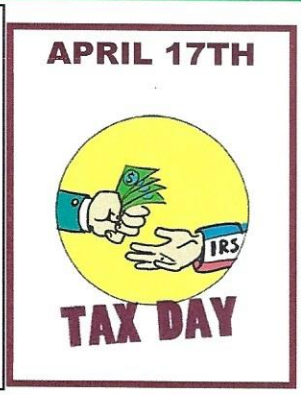
Written by Marcia Krugh Leaser

At the Foot of the Cross

Fearing the battle was over
And I'd already lost the war,
I was tired of trying and failing.
I just couldn't fight anymore.
So, dragging my battle-scarred body,
I crawled to the foot of the cross.
And I sobbed. 'Oh please, Father forgive me.
But I tried…I tried.. and still lost.'
Then the air grew silent around me.
I heard his voice just as clear as the dawn:
'Oh, My child, though you are tired and weary,
You can't stop, you have to go on.'
At the foot of the Cross, where I met Him,
At the foot of the Cross, where He died,
I felt love, as I knelt in His presence.
I felt hope, as I looked in His eyes.

Then He gathered me lovingly to Him,
As around us God's light clearly shone.
And together we walked though my lifetime
To heal every wound I had known.
I found bits of my dreams, long forgotten,
And pieces of my life on the floor.
But I watched as He tenderly blessed them,
And my life was worth living once more.
I knew then why I had been losing.
I knew why I had not grown.
At the foot of the Cross came the answer:
I'd been fighting the battle alone.
At the foot of the Cross, where I met Him,
At the foot of the Cross, where He died,
Then I knew I could face any challenge
Together–just my Lord and I.

Jesus Died for My Sins



Coming Up in May

Mother's Day Breakfast on May 13th

Annual Meeting on May 20th

SPRING FRIDAYS

Fun for Seniors!

Join your friends and neighbors in our Golden Panthers Senior Space. Enjoy programs, music and crafts!

At Greenridge School
3825 Oakridge Ave NW
Programs begin at 11:00 AM

April 13 Cookie Bake Off with music by The Gentlemen of Ragtime To enter the competition, contact Doreen at 616-724-6501 Sponsored by Cookie Chicks, Grand Rapids Popcorn, Dokl's Meat Market, & Bostwick Bakery	**April 20** Create a decorative hanging mason jar vase for your home or for a friend! Sponsored by Kent District Library	**April 27** History of the Grand Rapids Speedrome by Dan Van Kovering Sponsored by Nick Finks, Grand Rapids Popcorn, Comstock Park Body Shop, & River City Motors
May 4 Bring Back the Bluebirds By Gene Wasserman Sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, Backyard Birding, & Earthkeeper Farm	**May 11** Meet the Author! Hi, It's Me a Memoir by Toismom by Merredith Perkins She will share an excerpt from her book and discuss Grieving, Coping, and Surviving after loss Sponsored by Kent District Library	**May 18** Guitars for Vets and Potluck Party Sponsored by American Legion Post 47

For more information call 616-254-5243 or email
cpgoldenpanthers@cppschools.com

Like us on Facebook to stay updated!
www.facebook.com/cpgoldenpanthers

GOLDEN PANTHERS OF COMSTOCK PARK

ENHANCE FITNESS

EnhanceFitness classes:

- **Meet 3x/week but you can drop in anytime!**
- **Are available at a suggested donation of $3.00/class**
- **Focus on strengthening, balance, conditioning, flexibility and having fun!**
- **Allow you to make new friends!**
- **Are safe and effective for older adults!**

Classes are available at:

Greenridge Elementary School,

3825 Oakridge NW, Comstock Park MI

- Mon, Wed, & Fri. at 9:30

All you need is comfortable shoes and clothes.

Do what you can do!!!

Call 616-233-0283 for more information!

Senior NEIGHBORS
no longer alone

COMSTOCK PARK ROTARY INVITES YOU TO "WONDERLAND" 4TH ANNUAL SENIOR PROM!

Everything is Free!

For our Senior Citizens
60 years and older!
Thursday, April 26, 2018
3:00 - 5:00pm
Comstock Park High School
Fine Arts Center

An afternoon of dancing, food and fun!
Attire is casual to formal, your choice!

Don't be late for a very important date!

RSVP by April 20th to 616-784-0626
or email alpinefloral@att.net

Special thanks to: Beuschel Funderal Home, Amore Trattoria Italiana, Alpine Floral and Gifts and other local businesses

During our Leadership conference on March 17th, it was brought to our attention that there may be some people who do not know what the boards of this church do and how they function. The following information defines what each board does and their role within the church function.

Please know that that we are always looking for good people to help fill roles on these boards. If you are interested in filling a roll or just would like to attend one of the board meetings, please let a board member know. All are welcome to attend these boards.

The Church Council

The Church Council is considered the Executive Board of the church because it has general oversight of all of the programs of the church. The council is the policy making body of the church and reviews and approves all proposals and policies of the church. It helps in the short and long term strategic planning of the church to determine what is important to the church as noted by its parishioners. Included in this planning is also the review and authorization of budgets and also unbudgeted expenses that may come up during the year. This includes entering into a contract with all paid employees. The council meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Christian Education

The board of Christian education helps in the development of Christian Education policies and works as the administrative board that offers guidance and leadership in developing, carrying out and evaluating the Christian Education programs of the church. This includes Sunday School, Baptism classes, preparation for membership and adult education. The Board members also assist and provide training to all new teachers and youth instructors as well as insuring that there are proper supplies, equipment and furnishings for the use of the Christian Education Program. The leader of the Christian Education board is part of the Diaconate board and coordinate efforts with this committee. The Christian Education Board normally meets the 1st Sunday of every month after services.

The Diaconate Board

The Diaconate board's primary goal is to minster to the spiritual needs of the church. The Board helps in the care for the needy, the sick, those who are sorrowing, and the stranger. This includes calling upon prospective members and introducing new families into the life of the church. The board also provides regular visitation of the current members of the church as needed. It is in charge of scheduling for greeters, acolytes, and nursery care for worship and provides pulpit supply in the absence of the Pastor. The board has general oversight of the Music Program which includes choir, bells, organ piano and other music. It provides, prepares, and assists in administering the sacraments and insures that all worship related supplies in the sanctuary are being cared for.

One of the most important aspects of the Deacon Board is its mission outreach. The missions outreach supports the church's mission, both local and world with their time and money. The mission outreach program brings concerns of the larger church before the people of the local church and plans what missions are aligned with the goals of the church as a whole. The Deacon Board normally meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the oversight and maintenance of all church property (both inside and out) and order repairs and improvements after periodic inspection of the church and properties. It insures that all improvements or repairs are followed and the jobs successfully completed. The board sees that good stewardship is maintained in the use of the church facilities. It also sees that the properties of the church have adequate insurance against loss by fire, windstorm or other hazard and obtain liability and workmen's compensation coverage. The board is also responsible for the record keeping of the church such as deeds, Clerk's books, insurance policies and other valuable papers are preserved and kept in a safe place.

The Board of Trustees also have charge of the administration of the Memorial funds and any interest which it may accrue. The board also collects the proposed budgets from the various boards as well as creates a budget for the future repairs, maintenance and improvements to the church. The board then organizes these budgets into a total church budget and submits them to the Church Council. The trustees them make necessary changes to the budget as directed by the Council. The board of Trustees usually meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

I was asked by the council to write up a synopsis of the NACCC vs the CCCC since this will be an area that we will be voting on at the annual meeting. Currently, we are members of the NACCC (National Association of Congregational Christian Churches). It has been recommended that we switch our membership to the CCCC (Conservative Congregational Christian Churches) primarily due to the fact that we align more closely with them in our beliefs as a Church.

History of Congregational Churches as written by the NACCC

Congregational Churches are sometimes known as the "Church of the Pilgrims" after the small congregations of the early 1600's. The people of these congregations moved from England, some by way of Holland, and then to the new world in pursuit of religious freedom. From them, we inherited a wonderful spiritual heritage - one that is uniquely suited to our contemporary world.

This is a tradition that has deep convictions based upon the Word of God as each person interprets that Word according to the dictates of conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. According to Congregational luminary Harry Butman, this naturally attracts men and women of genuine conviction, of adventurous faith, and of gracious regard for each other's sincerity to the Congregational Christian fellowship.

Since every Congregationalist possesses full liberty of conscience in interpreting the Gospel, we are a diverse group of people united under Christ. We believe there is strength in diversity and by it there are unending opportunities to learn from each other and to grow in faith.

- Christ alone is the head of the church.
- All church members are spiritually equal and called to the work of ministry.
- Every local church is autonomous and complete.
- Each local church is called into wider associations of fellowship.
- Believers are bound one to another in voluntary covenant.
- Every Christian possesses full liberty of conscience in interpreting the Gospel.
- The Bible is fully sufficient as our guide in matters of faith and practice and will inspire individuals and direct the church with fresh light and truth for every generation.

Position of the NACCC

Although the NACCC does not have a Statement of Faith per se, the belief of the NACCC as stated in their publication is as follows:

"Every member church is fully self-governing and spiritually complete. There is no authority outside of the local church except for Crist, who is the head of the church. There is no other ecclesiastical authority over the local church.

The local church is free to determine its statement of faith, select and ordain its clergy, and maintain stewardship of its resources and property.

Respecting the ability of each local church to discern God's intensions and purposes for them, the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches does not pass resolutions on social or political issues nor does it make statement on behalf of or binding upon the member churches."

Their website does contain much more information regarding services offered by the NACCC but does not have positional papers regarding some of today's topics of concern.

The CCCC Statement of Faith Reads as such:

"We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a godly life in this present evil world.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ."

Furthermore, the CCCC has a statement of Polity which is stated as follows:

1. "We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of His body, the Church universal, and of each local church.

2. We believe that each local church is in itself a complete church, and therefore autonomous and possesses all rights and responsibilities of the church by the Holy Spirit as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

3. We believe that Jesus Christ exercises His authority in each local church by the Holy Spirit and through the Holy Scriptures.

4. We believe that each local church is ultimately answerable only to Jesus Christ, and not to any association, conference, council, synod or any other ecclesiastical body.

5. We believe that it is proper and beneficial for each local church to seek fellowship and counsel of other such local churches."

There are many similarities between the 2 different Membership opportunities but the largest difference in the NACCC vs. the CCCC is that the CCCC has taken positions on certain aspects that affect today's world. The most notable is their position on marriage which aligns with our statement of marriage as well. The NACCC will not take positions on any topics such as this so it is up to the church to decide on their own position.

I would encourage that each of you take some time to look on-line regarding these 2 entities to become better educated. If you are unable to get on-line, I do have packets at the back of the church that give a general overview of the NACCC and the CCCC.

Thanks,

Ruth

(Copied from www.naccc.org and www.ccccusa.com)

Pastor Izzy Ramblings...

O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble...Jeremiah 16:19

This has been a very tough winter at Trinity. We have endured a lot of grief and a lot tears and for many of you the words of Jeremiah have been your anchor in the midst of these storms.

We have cried as dear friends (Ken Willard, Verna Strotbaum, Roger Lambert, and Janine Vanderklock) have made their journey home to heaven and we have prayed in earnest for those who have had health issues from strokes, to heart issues, to cancer, to broken hips, to a very nasty flu.

And through all of life's struggles we say with resolve and determination, "O' Lord you are our strength, our stronghold, and our refuge in these days of trouble.

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but it's the size of the fight in the dog that matters most".

And as we have been punched, kicked, and beaten by life this past winter, it can be very easy to quit, give up, and surrender.

So I encourage you to embrace the words of Jeremiah and not let your spirit of fear take hold of you. Instead I encourage you to find the size of God's fight inside of you and not be defeated when life throws everything it has at you and it seems as if surrender and quit is all that you have left.

It is in those moments of doubting, questioning, and wrestling with God; that God presents to us a wonderful opportunity to deepen our faith and know him more.

They say we learn more in failure than in success and that is true in faith as well.

Our faith only grows when we realize that the only strength left to us is the ability to cry out to God and say to God, "I can't do this anymore. I need you to get me through this".

Our faith only grows when we realize that the only thing keeping us strong is God whispering to us, "Get up keep going. You are not done yet."

Our faith only grows when we realize that everything we used to rely upon is now gone and the only thing left intact in our lives is the refuge of God himself and God says to us, "Come and let me take care of every hurt, every tear, and every worry".

As we are walking through these moments where all of life seems like one large desert; these are not obstacles to our life but these are opportunities in our life to deepen our relationship with God and opportunities to grow as individuals if we are willing to fight through them.

Other notes…

We will be shifting our focus from Jesus and his church after Easter to the first letter of John. May we take heart in how John encourages us to know and live for Jesus.

One of the evidences that a person has a true believing faith in Jesus Christ is the desire for living life in the midst of community.

Despite what some may think and say…true Christianity is not a solo endeavor.

We must come together to worship in truth and spirit.

We must come together to pray for one another.

We must come together to encourage one another.

We must come together to laugh.

We must come together to share life with one another.

We must come together to study God's word together.

It is only through community (living a shared life) that we truly experience Jesus alive and well inside of us.

So how are you doing in making others a part of your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, so that you and others may share in the joy of a shared life with Christ?

Blessings,

Pastor Izzy Young

Trinity Congregational Church ~~ April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:30am Worship 10:00am w/Communion b-Jackie Lamoreaux	2	3 Children's Ministry 6:30-7:30p Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Comparitive Christianity 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Men's Group 6:30-7:30p Faith & Real Life 7:30-8:30p b-John Fowler b-MaKenzie Young	4	5 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p	6	7
8 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p	9 b-Lynn Bowers	10 Church Night 6:30-8:30 pm b-Isabelle Fetterley a-John and Kathy Wilson	11 Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting 6:30 pm b-Julie Naill a-Pam and Harley Whiting	12 Green Acres 10:00 Herron Woods 11:30 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p One West Michigan Kick-off La Grave Church 7pm a-Ron and Gayle Sutter	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:30a – Russ' Fellowship Hall Reserved
15 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p	16 b-Mayra Smith	17 Church Night 6:30-8:30 pm Special Guest Rev Steve Poelman Missionary from India Tax Day	18 Council Meeting 6:30 pm Friendship Evangelism at Ada Bible Church 7pm b-Tom DeHaan	19 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p b-Nancy Trew b-Sarah Timm	20	21 b-Michelle Timm a-Josie and Jim Piccard
22 **Earth Day** Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p b-Ron Hoogewind	23	24 Church Night 6:30-8:30 pm Volunteer at Alpha Women's Center b. Morgan Piccard	25 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm at First Wok	26 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p Cornerstone University's Christ Chapel 9am-4:30pm Racial Justice and Equality	27 **Arbor Day**	28
29 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p b-Gary Naill	30 b-Caleb Smith				Opener of the Month Roger Alberts	Deacon of the Month *Teri Filius*