

Trinity Spire

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.



Rev. Steve McPeck

I Will Build My Church

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. (Matthew 16:13-18 Common English Bible)

The church is found to be standing on solid ground. The rock of Christ Jesus and the one given the authority to establish the gathered community of faith. The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, which means "called-out ones," and is used in the first century Hebrew scrolls translating the Greek word as assembly, congregation, community. The usual English translation of *ekklesia* is "church". What is being spoken about is a spiritual community of people based on trust in God and his son the Christ Jesus. This would include all people throughout history who so commit themselves, or a group of such people at a particular time and place across the globe, such as the Messianic community in Corinth or Jerusalem. *Ekklesia* is never referred to an institution or to a building.

The identity of the early church was on the faith community who lived their lives in a specific way focusing on the teachings of Jesus Christ. They were given the name Christians by those who knew them. Unbelievers called them Christians because of their faith in Jesus Christ and the way they lived in the world. Early believers in Jesus Christ would be loving toward their enemies, forgiving often, giving what they could, sharing with one another, praying for one another and also those who they considered to be their enemies. They would care for the sick, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, gather together to worship, pray, sing and eat a meal. They would place others before themselves and would show life is for others in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of His Church, which is universal. The early Church was not known for their high steeples, youth programs or stained-glass windows. They were known for their love of God, Jesus, and people who others ignored, put down or oppressed. We are the church, the "called-out ones", who are anointed for the purpose and will of God in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to the awareness of God's created ones.

Let us be built up and known as the "called-out ones" who are willing to live as disciples of Christ Jesus in the world today, so that people will see and experience the loving and life transforming emerging Kingdom of God in the world today.

Shalom,

Rev. Steve



in-SPIRE-ations

EVANGELISM. There! I said it! THAT word that makes us squirm. It ranks right up there with “stewardship,” which is the topic for our upcoming September class.

In August, our 20/20 Spiritual Formation group discussed what “evangelism” IS and what it is NOT. Stop for just a moment here and think about that. What or who comes to mind when you hear the word “evangelism?”

The word comes from the Greek and has two parts. Euangelion means (eu) good (angelion) announcement. (pronounced you-on-gel-eon) If you were envisioning Billy Graham, people coming to your door to give you their tract, saving souls, etc., then you’re pretty much on track with common thought about what evangelism is. HOWEVER, that’s not the case.

My Master’s is in Spiritual Formation and Evangelism. That raised some eyebrows in my family! I can assure you I don’t have a belt with notches for every soul I’ve saved. We get that part all messed up because we don’t fully understand what evangelism means. If you want to hear it from my Evangelism professor, Dr. Mark Teasdale, you can go to this quick video teaser for an upcoming 6 week class that deals with his book *Evangelism for the Non-Evangelist*... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsXg8JEubfo&feature=emb_logo

God reveals God’s self in three ways: Through **written word** (Scripture), **Living Word** (Jesus Christ) and **spoken word** (that’s where we come in). According to Smith and Graybeal in *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*, “In talking about our faith, we speak the written word (The Bible) that tells about the Living Word (Jesus Christ) so that hearers can establish a relationship with God.” Romans 10:17(MSG) “Before you trust you have to listen. But unless Christ’s Word is preached, there’s nothing to listen to.”

You don’t have to be Billy Graham to be an evangelist. You just have to tell others how God has touched your life. You don’t have to have a degree. You don’t have to have a silver tongue...Moses sure didn’t. You don’t have to know every word of Scripture. Most clergy I know don’t spout scripture and references every 5 minutes. They just tell the story of Jesus Christ at work in the world.

News Flash! It’s not YOUR job to save someone else’s soul. That’s God’s job. It’s pretty arrogant to think we can put Jesus in our backpack and head out the door to take Jesus into the world. HE’S ALREADY IN THE WORLD...ALL OF IT. It is our job to “nudge” people to see that God that is already at work in them and the world, as Leonard Sweet says in his book, *Nudge*... We meet people where they are, plant the seeds by pointing them to God through how God has touched our lives and then we nourish their spiritual growth however we can. We may never know how that story turns out. That’s because sometimes it takes several people to help another see God at work and that’s okay. God knows! Again...that’s between God and that person.

We really MUST get away from the idea that evangelism is about “turn or burn” end of the world talk. For goodness sake, don’t make the GOOD news all about BAD news. Evangelism should always be rooted in the love that Jesus displayed for us on the cross not hellfire and damnation.

Why is evangelism a spiritual discipline? Isaiah 43:10 says “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that YOU may know and believe me and understand that I am God.” We witness not only so that OTHERS may know but so that WE may know and believe and understand that God is the Great I AM. Your mission is the Great Commission...Go and tell others and keep it simple while you do. Just give that nudge and pray while God does the rest.

Be Blessed and Be Well. Rev. Angie

Trinity Women's Bible Study

Trinity Women are gathering outside at the park for 10:00 Wednesday morning informal times of sharing our Christian faith this summer. **Wednesday, September 16, 9:30**, we will "return to the building" to start our new Bible Study for the Fall. Beth Moore's book, "Chasing Vines, finding your way to an immensely fruitful life" will be our focus. As usual, you are welcome to just come and join in the discussion and Beth's video teaching. But if you want the full experience.... Beth's book (\$16) and a separate Group Experience workbook(\$10) are available. Order your own copies online, or sign up for a book/workbook at the church office or contact Kathy Brittenham. Hope to see you on Wednesday mornings for this Fall's 7 week study. Bring a friend. (We will meet in the gathering hall or one of the large spaces at Trinity so that social distancing is possible. Bring your mask and your own beverage.)

ONLINE GIVING

We have all been challenged by the outbreak of COVID-19 this year. We have been physically distant from one another as we continue to slow the spread of the virus in our community. But we also have great opportunity to learn more about stewardship. In tithing and supporting the ministries of Trinity Church you can contribute by going online to our website at www.trinitychurchum.org and click on make a donation. First, set up an online profile if you have not done so. You can give by debit card. Provide banking information at to how you would like to give. Then click submit.

If you aren't already, please prayerfully consider online giving. For more information, to begin the process, or to adjust current accounts, please contact Carla Butler carla@cpa-butler.com.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support for the ministries of Trinity Church United Methodist as we seek, serve and grow the Kingdom of God with the love of Christ.

blessings bubble up

✝ I have loved seeing more and more familiar faces coming to Sunday service. We have seen steady growth every week and have almost doubled since opening our doors again. Pastor Phil

August Worship Stats

| | Online | 9:30 | Total | Offering |
|---------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| July 26 | 23 | 36 | 59 | \$2,908 |
| Aug. 2 | 13 | 36 | 49 | \$3,681 |
| Aug. 9 | 13 | 37 | 50 | \$4,271 |
| Aug. 16 | 15 | 43 | 58 | \$1,924 |
| Aug. 23 | | 34 | | \$2,414 |
| Aug. 30 | | 47 | | \$2,641 |

September

7 - Labor Day - office closed

16 - 9:30 am - Ladies' Bible study returns to the building

20 - 6:00 pm - Marks the start of a ZOOM book Study on *The Call: The Life and Message of The Apostle Paul* by Rev. Adam Hamilton

Youth News

Oct. 17th - 5 pm - We will meet at the amazing corn maze in Kendallville.

Nov. 21st - 5 pm to 8 pm - We will be doing a Thanksgiving dinner at Pastor Phil's house.

Dec. 20th - 5 pm - We will be having a Christmas Party at Pastor Phil's house.



August Movie Night at Pastor Phil's house.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

You can support the ministries of Trinity Church United Methodist of Kendallville by grocery shopping at Kroger stores. Kroger Community Rewards is a program that gives cash rewards to benefit non-profit organizations you desire to support. For those of you who have been designating Trinity Church as recipient of these funds, Thank you! If you are not enrolled in the program and would like to participate, you can call 800-576-4377 to enroll. When you add Trinity Church on your Kroger Plus Shoppers Card (you must have one of these cards to participate) you should clearly see on your receipt that Trinity Church is receiving the rewards. Trinity's NPO number is 69456. So, every time you shop at Kroger, Trinity Church gets a cash back reward. We have already received several hundreds of dollars from those of you who are already signed up. Again, we say "Thank you".

1. Go online to krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on **Sign In**
3. Use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

If you have never logged into Kroger's system before, you will need to register. Do this by clicking on the **Create an Account** box. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email. Click on **Sign In** and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

4. Click on **Enroll Now**
5. You should see your personal information. Under Community Rewards click **Enroll Now**.
6. Enter our group number **69456** or Trinity Church United Methodist Church (be careful to select Trinity Church in Kendallville) and click search. Select Trinity Church United Methodist Church from list and click on confirm.
7. If this is successful a green line will appear on the screen that says your community rewards has been updated. You can check by scrolling down to the Community Rewards section of your profile and making sure Trinity Church is listed there.