

# Getting Involved at Trinity



## **Trinity United Methodist Church**

5767 Pleasant Hill Rd.

Milford, Ohio 45150

513-831-0262

[www.trinitymilford.org](http://www.trinitymilford.org)

## **Welcome to Trinity!**

We are so glad you're interested in getting involved! We have a wonderful caring congregation that is active in study, missions, and fellowship. We are a congregation of approximately 500 members. We are a part of the United Methodist Church, which means that we are connected to congregations across the United States and around the world.

The United Methodist Church was begun by John Wesley, a priest and reformer in the Church of England. He and his brother Charles emphasized holiness of heart and life as essential to the life of faith. They joined together in small covenant groups to help each other live faithful lives. In their decision making process they emphasized a balance between the influence of Scripture, reason, experience and tradition. We still see these principles as key to living the Christian faith as United Methodists today.

## **Why Get Involved?**

Getting involved in a small group or ministry is one of the most important aspects of being a part of a church. We are called as Christians to worship together, but also to study and serve together. It's during the times when we're studying in a small group, washing dishes in the kitchen, or bumping along in a van in Mexico together that we find opportunities to understand the practical side of how our faith affects our lives. As our relationships grow and we connect with one another, we find that our faith also grows. We realize that we are not alone in our questions and struggles, in faith and life.

## **Questions?**

We would love for you to contact us with any questions you have.

Pastor Kirk Peterson: [trinitykirk@fuse.net](mailto:trinitykirk@fuse.net)

Pastor Laura Saunders: [trinitylaura@fuse.net](mailto:trinitylaura@fuse.net)

Church office: Lyn Barton, secretary 831-0262

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## Sunday Mornings at Trinity



**8:15:** Traditional worship service. This service is generally smaller than our other two services. It is basically the same order of worship as the 11:00 service but the choir does not sing. Occasionally we have special music.

**9:30:** Contemporary worship service. Many of our young families attend this service as it is less formal and takes place during our hour of children's Sunday School. Our contemporary band, Trinity Live!, leads us in many of the top contemporary worship songs of today.

**11:00:** Traditional worship service. This is our main traditional worship service. The chancel choir leads us in our musical praise of God. The bell choir also leads us several times a year.

**Nursery Care:** Provided during all three services.

**Children's Sunday School:** Takes place at 9:30

**Adult Sunday School:** Takes place at 9:30

**Attendance Cards:** We ask everyone to fill out an attendance card each Sunday they attend worship. This helps us out with our record keeping, with our ability to welcome all, and also with our caring ministries. At the bottom of these cards we invite you to share your joys and concerns and to mark how you might like to be involved at Trinity.

**Fellowship Time:** You are invited to join us for coffee and donuts each Sunday in 'Sacred Grounds' in the Education wing.

## Staying Connected

**Monthly Newsletter:** If you would like to receive the monthly Trinity newsletter and are not already, please mark your attendance card or call the church office at 831-0262.

**Trinity Update:** Each week we send out an online update to let you know of any special events. If you would like to be added, please write this on your attendance card.

## Fellowship Opportunities



**Sacred Grounds:** Each Sunday you are invited to join us for coffee, donuts, and conversation in the “Sacred Grounds” Café.

**Stone Soup:** This Wednesday night fellowship meal is named for the children’s story where no one in the village had enough food but when they all brought what they had they made a pot of soup which fed everyone. Each week a theme is set such as Italian, Mexican, or the very popular Breakfast night. A few sign up to provide the main course and everyone else brings a side item or dessert. A donation basket is set out to cover the nominal cost of the main dish. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us at 6pm each Wednesday in the fellowship hall! Contact: Anna Fabisiak 575-4998

**Softball:** During each spring and summer we have a men’s and women’s softball team that practices and plays every Monday night. New players are always welcome. Contact: Ed Fisher 831-9197 or Lynne Engelman 575-2992



**M-Squad**—our retired crowd, meets the third Tuesday of every month for lunch and activities. Contact: Mildred Jones 965-9796

**Scrapbooking**—A no-frills opportunity to scrapbook or craft. Bring your own supplies, all skill levels welcome. No cost, no reservations. First Friday monthly from 7:00—11:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact: Jennifer Horning 575-4875

**Quilters & Crafters**—Meet the last Wednesday monthly from 10:00-4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This group does service work for Hospice and other organizations. Contact: Joe Ann Keller 248-2101 or Dee Brown 248-1808.

**Fall Festival:** Each October we host a “Trunk or Treat” event for the kids, accompanied by games, a “haunted house,” and a chili and hot dog meal. This is one of our favorite Trinity traditions and well attended by community friends! Contact: Scott King

## Small Groups

**Men's Group:** This intergenerational group of men meets each Monday night at 7pm for Bible Study and support from September through April. Contact: Dean Engelman 575-2992

**Tuesday Morning Women's Group:** This group meets year round in the Parlor at 9:30. Besides doing regular Bible Studies, this gathering has a strong Children's Christian Education focus. Contact: Lynne Engelman 575-2992

**Prayer Group:** Meets weekly Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Parlor. For novice and seasoned prayers alike. The group prays for requests that come in from the congregation and the community. Contact: Bill Gray 248-4466

**Basics Study:** Lee Saunders leads a weekly study on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm in Room 5. The material is geared toward those who want to gain an initial understanding of Bible topics and study techniques. Contact: Lee Saunders 248-9140

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Pastor Saunders leads a topical Bible Study Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm in Room 3. Contact: Pastor Laura Saunders 831-0262

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Pastor Peterson meets with a morning group at 10am and an evening group at 6:30pm each Thursday throughout the year. They are working through the Bible and are currently in the Old Testament prophets. Contact: Pastor Kirk Peterson 831-0262

**Fall All Church Study:** Each fall we unite as a church in the study of one particular book. The Sunday School classes, small groups and worship all connect around this topic.

**Welcome Center Hosts:** This group has an area at the Visitors Entrance in the Breezeway off of the Memorial Garden. Hosts greet and welcome new visitors by providing a smile, church information brochures and building directions. Contact: Pastor Laura Saunders, 831-0262.

## Music at Trinity



**Chancel Choir:** Trinity's Chancel Choir sings each Sunday in the 11am worship service during the school year. They occasionally share special music in the 8:15 service as well. During the Easter and Christmas seasons they share a Cantata during both of the traditional worship services.

Everyone is invited to join the Chancel Choir. They practice on Wednesday nights at 7:45 in the Sanctuary. Child care is available. Director: Juli Peterson 831-2551

**Tower Bells:** Trinity's bell choir performs on a monthly basis throughout the school year. They always welcome new members. They practice at 6:30 on Wednesday nights in Room 1. Director: Shelly Witt 752-5565

**Trinity Live:** Trinity Live is our band that provides the musical leadership for our Contemporary worship service. They also play in the community as a form of evangelism and outreach. They occasionally need new vocalists and band members but also need help with sound, PowerPoint, and other technical support. They practice on Tuesday nights at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Contact: Doug Kinslow 965-0322

**Teen Choir:** grades 7-12. Practice Sunday 5:30 pm in the Choir Room, prior to Youth Group. Director: Juli Peterson 831-2551

**JAM Choir:** This choir is open to all children from 4th—6th grades. They sing once a month during the school year and are part of the Christmas and Easter programs each year. Directors: Chris Womack 248-9140 & Kathy Fuhrman 444-4425



**FISHIES Choir:** This choir includes any of our children from pre-school through 3rd grade. They sing several times each season and are part of the Christmas & Easter programs each year. Directors: Kelly & Kari King 575-1353

## Sunday School

Sunday school provides an opportunity to grow in your faith and in your relationship with others. We believe Sunday School is an important aspect of spiritual growth for those of all ages.



### **Children's Sunday School at 9:30**

*\*\*\*Register your child each week prior to the 9:30 worship service at the "Name Badger" computer (located in the Christian Center) for a Sunday School nametag.*

Our 9:30 Sunday School follows a Rotation model. Each Rotation, which lasts approximately a month, focuses on one theme or Bible verse and provides different learning forms such as cooking and drama to help reinforce the lesson.

The children begin in the sanctuary for the 9:30 worship service and are dismissed to Sunday school after the Children's Moment.

Contact: Christian Education Director Dora Slyder 683-7296

### **Adult Class at 9:30—all adults are welcome!**

Class Leader Ed Fisher: This group meets in the Education wing in Room 2. They work through various books of the Bible focusing on just a few verses per week in this discussion-oriented class. Contact: Ed Fisher 831-9197

## Children's Education

### **Nursery: 8:15, 9:30, 11:00**

Our nursery is open and staffed with caring and well trained caregivers during all three services.  
Contact: Nancy Seng 831-3228



### **Toddler Sunday School at 9:30**

We have a toddler room for those 2-4 years old. They follow a standard Sunday School curriculum with a Bible story focus. Contact: Dora Slyder 683-7296

### **Children's Sunday School at 9:30**

#### **Kids R.O.C.: Where Kids Rely On Christ**

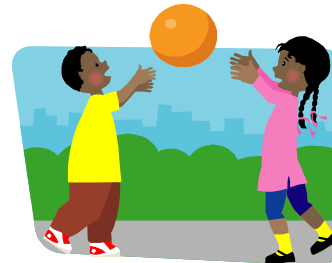
Our 9:30 Sunday school for those in pre-school through 6th grade follows a rotation model. Each rotation lasts approximately a month, focuses on one theme or Bible verse and provides different learning forms such as cooking and drama to help reinforce the lesson.

The children begin in the sanctuary for the 9:30 service and are dismissed to Sunday school after the Children's moment. We ask that parents register their children prior to this service at the "Name Badger" computer in the Christian Center.

If you have questions about Sunday school, please contact our Children's Education Director Dora Slyder at 683-7296.

### **Vacation Bible School:**

Each July the church is transformed into a place of adventure as our children experience and learn about God's love at Bible School. We have been to the farm, a tropical island, and on a safari over the last few years.



Our VBS is well-attended, and advance reservations are recommended. Please check our website or call the church office early in June to reserve a spot for your child, aged Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Contact: VBS Director Jennifer Horning 575-4875

**Trinity UMC is a “Safe Sanctuary” church. All adults who work with our children have undergone a background check and participated in safety training. We care about our children!**

## **Youth Activities**

**JAM (Jesus and Me):** 4th-6th graders

Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30 weekly (school year)

This older elementary group meets for fun activities, crafts, Bible lessons, and service projects. Parents are encouraged to help with planning, and are an important part of our adult leadership. All of our 4th-6th graders are invited to join us.

Contact: Kathy Fuhrman 444-4425 or Kent Slyder 683-7296

**TUMY (Trinity United Methodist Youth):** 7th-12th graders

Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 weekly (school year)

Our youth group meets every Sunday night during the school year and as planned during the summer for games, faith development and service projects.

We are a mission-oriented group, and serve the greater Cincinnati community with numerous outreach events. We also engage in special activities such as the “SouperBowl of Caring, WinterJam, the high ropes course at Camp Kern, Relay for Life, the CROP Walk, and a summer mission trip. All teens in Jr. High and High School are invited to join us.

We have a wonderful group of adult leaders:

Youth Leader: Scott King, contact at 575-1353

Shepherds: Sherri Barringer, Phil Coddling, Pastor Laura Saunders, Lee Saunders, Karla Wilson

**Confirmation:** 7th graders January-April, when classes are formed. All 7th graders or older teens who have not been confirmed are invited to attend this class. Pastor Kirk and our Youth Director Scott King teach the class and parents are encouraged to attend.

During our time together, we cover basic Christian and United Methodist beliefs in preparation for the teens to make a decision as to whether they would like to join the church.

Contact: Pastor Kirk Peterson 831-0262

## Missions



**Local Missions** Contact: Jane Loomis 831-6765 (unless otherwise specified)

**Milford Miami Ministries (MMM):** Trinity actively supports and participates in this collaboration of over ten local churches in the Milford area to help those in need. Food, rent and utility assistance is distributed to those in the Milford school district. A special collection of back to school supplies is received and distributed in August. Holiday food boxes are given at Thanksgiving and Christmas along with gifts for the children at Christmas.

Volunteers are needed once per month to help with food distribution as well as during the special events and with fundraisers such as the Nelson Chicken Dinner and the CROP Walk. Contact: Dorothy Ruffley 248-4016 or Nancy Seng 831-3228

**CROP Hunger Walk:** Yearly in October, Trinity members join other Christian walkers to raise funds for the fight against hunger. Part of the proceeds benefits MMM locally. Contact: Jan Gerdom 469-0958

**Tender Mercies:** Tender Mercies is a housing ministry located in downtown Cincinnati for those with mental health issues. Trinity provides the evening meal on the first Sunday of each month. Volunteers are needed to:

Purchase ingredients—a list can be found on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary each month

Cook the meal—at 2pm in Trinity's kitchen

Drive downtown and serve the meal—about 4pm

Contact: Rich & Mary Sheer 722-4695

**Whiz Kids Tutoring:** Trinity partners with the Eastside Christian Church on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 pm to help at-risk kids from our local elementary schools. The children receive positive, Christian assistance to help them with their academic challenges. (school year)

**ShareFest:** Yearly in June, Trinity UMC partners with other Milford-area churches to benefit the disadvantaged in our area by providing labor and supplies for household projects and offering a Free Sale of household items, furniture and clothing. This extended weekend event includes a complimentary car wash and cookout meal. Many area businesses join the effort by contributing food or supplies.

**Relay for Life:** Yearly in May, Trinity joins the fight against cancer by sending a least one team to our local chapter's event.

**Hoxworth Blood Drive:** At least yearly, Trinity sponsors an opportunity for our congregation and community to give blood.

### **Missions beyond our community:**

**Matamoros, Mexico:** Over the past number of years we have developed a partnership with missionary Larry Cox and Dr. Nancy Rodriguez and their ministry, "Juntos Servimos." Each year over President's Day weekend in February, we travel down to learn and serve in the colonias of Matamoros. We stay on the Texas side of the border and drive across the border each day to interact with the people, build homes, and provide medical care for those in this exceptionally poor setting.

Contact: Dr. Gary Clemons 831-4801

### **Special offerings through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

When major crises such as Katrina and the Tsunami strike, we invite the congregation to give directly to mission relief through UMCOR. 100% of the money given goes directly to mission and ministry in the place designated by the offering. UMCOR is committed to disaster situations for long term rebuilding as well as providing immediate relief in the short term.

We also invite the congregation to give directly to missions through the Bishop's miracle offering taken at Annual Conference and the Christmas Miracle offering for the Sudan.



## Caring Ministries

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers are Christian caregivers who support people experiencing a difficult time in their lives. They meet weekly with a care receiver to walk beside them as a Christian friend. All discussions are confidential. Each Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training in skills such as listening, dealing with feelings, and helping those experiencing loss. There are times when each of us needs the care of another person, a Christian friend, a Stephen Minister. These needs may include: illness, job loss, the death of a loved one, life transitions, divorce, spiritual crisis, aging, the birth of a child.

If you or someone you love would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister or if you would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact our Stephen Leaders Rich and Karen Bell at 248-4033.

**Pastoral Care:** Our pastors want to be there with you through the difficult times in your life. If you or a family member will be having surgery, staying in a nursing home, or become home bound, please let us know and we will visit on a regular basis. We are also available when you simply need to talk through painful experiences in your life or when you have spiritual questions. Please contact Pastor Kirk or Pastor Laura if you are going through one of these times in your life at 831-0262.

**Weddings:** Our pastors and facility are available for weddings. Please contact Lyn in the church office for a wedding booklet and scheduling at 831-0262.

**Funerals:** Our pastors are also available for funerals of church members as well as for those who have no affiliation with our church. Please contact the pastors to discuss funeral arrangements at 831-0262.

**Funeral Luncheons:** The ladies of the church offer the ministry of providing a meal for family and friends after a funeral. Please contact Dorothy Ruffley 248-4016 if you would like to help with this ministry.



## United Methodist Women's Circles

We have three women's circles that meet once a month for fellowship, mission outreach, and study. They also work together several times a year to sponsor larger events such as the Spring Rummage Sale, the summer Ice Cream Social, and special Christmas and Easter Celebrations.

All women in the church are invited to be involved. Contact: Betsy Williams 575-1231 or Pati Scheper 474-9707.

**The Esther Circle** meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10am in the church parlor. The program consists of a video with discussion. They often have lunch together after their meeting.

**The Susanna Circle** meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the church parlor at 7pm. This group enjoys crafts, especially scrapbooking. Many of the younger mothers of the church and working women are involved in this circle.

**The Anna Circle** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm, usually at member's homes. They rotate in their leadership of devotionals and a program.



## Caring for the Church

**It takes many groups to keep the church running smoothly. Listed below are many of the committees that help do this.**

**Church Council:** This is the governing board of the church. It is made up of about 40 members. All major decisions about the church property and direction come before the Church Council. Everyone in the church is welcome to come to the quarterly meetings and have a voice but only those on the board have a vote.  
Chairperson: Ward Billhimer 831-8163

**Trustees:** The trustees oversee the building and all its maintenance. They are always in need of volunteers who are 'handy' to help with repair and maintenance projects, particularly during the week. They are also always looking for individuals to help with the maintenance of the church grounds such as weeding and trimming bushes. Chairperson: Dr. Bill Loomis 831-6757

**Church Work Day:** Each April and November the Trustees sponsor a church work day to care for the church grounds. Many hands are needed to spread mulch, rake leaves, etc.

**Staff Parish Relations:** This group works with the pastors and staff of the church as well as the district and conference to make sure that the church is being administered effectively.  
Chairperson: Jim Parker 625-9268

**Finance:** This group deals with all financial matters of the church including budgeting, stewardship, and meeting our financial commitments.  
Chairperson: George Pattison 831-7887  
Treasurer: Eileen Gronberg 575-1611

**Nominations:** This group meets in the fall to discern and then recruit members to be part of the various committees listed above. Most in the positions listed above serve a term of three years.  
Chairperson: Pastor Kirk Peterson 831-0262

## The Connection

One of the strengths of being part of the United Methodist Church is that we are all connected and united under a common leadership. Below is an outline of this connection.

**Apportionments:** This word refers to the tithe that our local church pays to the district and the conference. This money goes to mission support, retirees health insurance, and salaries for those who lead the annual conference.

**District:** We are a part of the Ohio River Valley District. This district covers the southwest corner of the state. Our District Superintendent is Randy Stearns.

**Annual Conference:** We are a part of the West Ohio Conference. Each year we gather together at Lakeside, Ohio to discuss the business of the conference and to fellowship and worship together. Each local church has one lay member for every clergy member. Therefore at Trinity we have two lay members for our two pastors. Every four years at Annual Conference we vote on a certain number of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conference.

**Jurisdictional Conference:** There are several jurisdictions across the United States. They meet every four years. The main work of the jurisdictions is to elect bishops.

**The General Conference:** Representatives of all of the Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church around the world make up the General Conference. The General Conference meets once every four years to discuss and vote on the material that makes up the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. The document that lays out these beliefs and practices is the *Book of Discipline*. It includes the history of the church, the social beliefs of the church, and the practical details of how clergy and committees function in the church.

## How and When Can I Join?

**Membership Classes:** Pastor Kirk leads membership classes approximately four times per year. The membership class involves meeting for several sessions in order to understand the beliefs and expectations of being part of the United Methodist Church. It also includes helping new members to find their place within the life of the Trinity congregation.

**Before you join:** We encourage all those who are considering joining the church to begin to fulfill the commitments of membership before deciding to join the church. This means that we prefer that you get into a regular habit of worshipping for several months and find a small group such as a Bible study, Sunday school, or mission group to get involved with before you decide to join. The vows that all members take are to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

**Joining the church:** There are several ways of joining the church.

**Transfer of membership:** If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or Christian Church, you may transfer your membership from that church to Trinity.

**Profession of faith:** If you have not been a member of a church previously but have been baptized, you may join by professing your faith in Jesus Christ and your commitment to be a part of the church.

**Baptism:** We believe in the baptism of those of all ages. Infants and children become baptized members when their parents bring them forward and promise to raise them to know Jesus Christ in their lives. When they are in 7th grade they become professing members when they go through Confirmation.

**Adult Baptism:** Adult baptism involves a profession of faith. If you have never been baptized, you are invited to join in this way. If you are not ready to become a member but would like to be baptized, we welcome you to consider this option.







