

OCTOBER 2026 | ISSUE 19

The Monthly Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church

CONNECTIONS

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Welcome to the October Connections!

Every time the calendar turns over into October and the sky is a crisp blue and the leaves begin to change, we can all shout with Anne Shirley from *Anne of Green Gables*: **"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers!"** As you revel in the beauty of this month, we hope you revel in all the goings on here at Trinity too....

We are wrapping up our Season of Creation sermon series on October 4, but you'll find some recommended reading for going further and deeper into creation care and Christian discipleship, if you want to keep going. And in these pages you'll find the "Naming Your World" congregational activity in case you missed it!

And flip a few more pages in and you'll find an update from our Church Safety Team, and learn all about 3D printing from Kevin Brower in this month's Trinity Creates column.

Also, make sure you flip back to our Community Notes to get the latest on the upcoming Food & Flick Wednesday nights in October, birthdays and anniversaries, and a special highlight of a Trinity member who just got recognized for his amazing career-long contributions to blueberry horticulture!

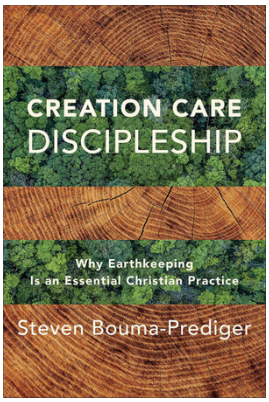


A snapshot from our Frederik Meijer Gardens Bus Trip! (Be sure to flip to the back to see a few more photos)



THE SEASON OF CREATION

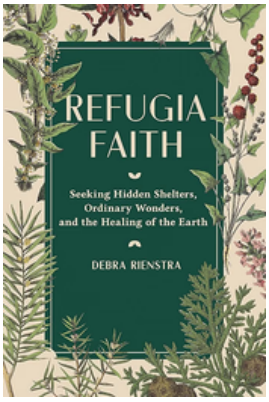
Just because we finish up our Season of Creation on Sunday, October 4, doesn't mean you have to stop pondering and wondering and learning about this beautiful book God has given us! Consider picking up one of these books to learn more aboout the world around us and the God who made it...



Making his case from Scripture, theology, and ethics and including insights from the global church, **Steven Bouma-Prediger** explains why Christians must acknowledge their identity as earthkeepers and therefore embrace their calling to serve and protect their home planet and fellow creatures. To help readers put an "earthkeeping faith" into practice, he also suggests numerous practical steps that concerned believers can take to care for the planet.

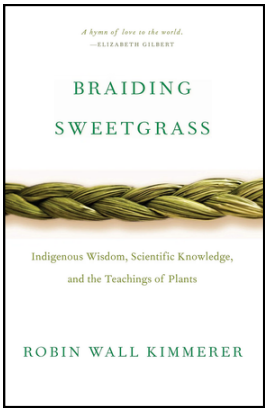
Bouma-Prediger unfolds a biblical vision of earthkeeping and challenges Christians to view care for the earth as an integral part of Christian discipleship.

Steven Bouma-Prediger lives in Holland and teaches at Hope College!



Refugia (reh-FU-jee-ah) is a biological term describing places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis, such as a volcanic eruption, fire, or stressed climate. **Debra Rienstra** applies this concept to human culture and faith, asking, In this era of ecological devastation, how can Christians become people of refugia?

By weaving nature writing, personal narrative, and theological reflection, Rienstra grapples honestly with her own fears and longings and points toward a way forward--a way to transform Christian spirituality and practice, become a healer on a damaged earth, and inspire others to do the same.



As a botanist, **Robin Wall Kimmerer** has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she grounds her writing in the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

NAMING THE WORLD AROUND US



Spend some time this week getting to know your particular little part of creation. Try to get as specific as possible in your naming! Take this as an opportunity to be really curious and learn some new things about the world around you....



Name 5 Kinds of Trees Near Home

Pick One Tree to Learn its Latin Name



List 5 Types of Flowers You See....

...Which Ones Are Native to Michigan?



What's Your Closest Body of Water?

What Lives In The Body of Water?



Name 5 Kinds of Birds You See Today

Name 2 Birds You Hear Today



What Phase Is the Moon In Tonight?

Name a Constellation You See Tonight

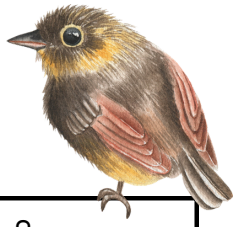








Trinity
Reformed Church



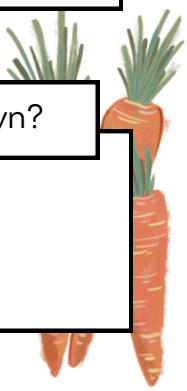
Where's the Nearest Farm to You?

What Grows There?



What's the Last Vegetable You Ate?

Where Was the Vegetable Grown?





What's the Last Fruit You Ate?

Where Was the Fruit Grown?



Name a Wild Animal You Saw Today

What Does that Wild Animal Eat?

Name a Garden You Love

Name What Makes It Special To You and Give Thanks to God!



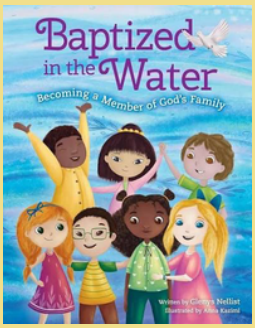


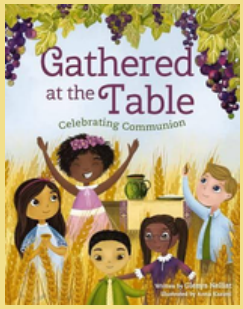
Trinity Reformed Church

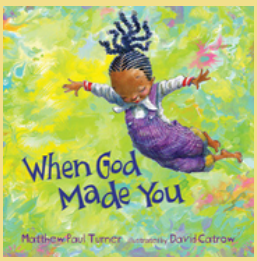


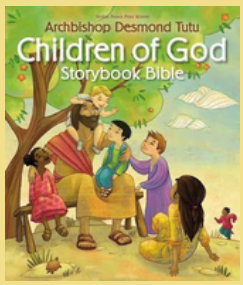
TRINITY KIDS' CORNER

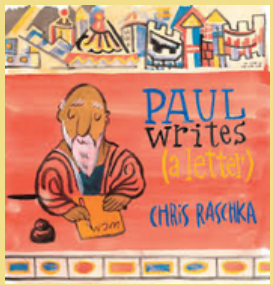
Check out these good children's books available at the Children's Worship area in the sanctuary!

















We're trying something new!

As our younger ones have aged up and out of the Children & Worship curriculum, we're going to try a new thing from Sept-Dec.

During our new Children's Story Time (name still TBD!), leaders will use a short video format called *The So&So Show* which engages kids in bible stories with humor and a little slapstick fun. Each video will be framed by discussion and prayer and song!

And instead of every week, we are going to try a balance of in-worship and out-of-worship for our young ones. Children's Story Time will run on **the 2nd and 3rd week of the month**. This means our kids are always in worship when we come to the Table on the 1st Sunday - to either participate or become familiar with the sacrament.

All kiddos (and grandkids!) from kindergarten age to 5th grade are welcome to join!

And we'd love feedback from parents and kids as we try this new thing....

Join us for Children's Story Time on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of each month!

All kids are welcome to join Mrs. Lori to engage with bible stories through video, discussion, prayer and song!

Hey! Have you led Children & Worship before? Or want to know more before volunteering as a Story Time leader? Reach out to Lori Kooyers!

SAFETY TEAM UDPATE

By Russ Johnson, Chair of the Church Safety Team

This spring, our Church Safety Team began meeting to identify ways we can make our church a safer place for everyone who worships and gathers here. We have made good progress, while recognizing that there is still important work ahead.

We completed a fire inspection, and several items identified during the inspection have since been updated. We also conducted a successful fire drill, with everyone exiting the building safely in just three minutes.

Another important step was hosting a training event for members of our congregation to learn CPR and how to use our automated external defibrillator (AED). Having people prepared to respond in an emergency can make a significant difference.

Looking ahead to the fall, the Safety Team plans to

- provide training for our consistory so that elders and deacons understand their responsibilities when they are the person in charge.
- We are also looking at expanding camera coverage around our entrances and adding keycard access to selected doors.
- In addition, we will examine how we should respond if an environmental emergency occurs during a worship service. We also plan to seek guidance from our local police department regarding emergency response procedures.

There is still quite a bit of work to do, but we are encouraged by the progress we have made.

Our goal is simple: to help make our church a safe and welcoming place for everyone.



An easy safety precaution to take is to keep designated fire doors closed. So, if you're wondering how you can help keep us safe, just make sure to close a door when you see this sign!



You may have already noticed new occupancy signs popping up around the building. This is to get Trinity compliant with safety requirements.



TRINITY CREATES

Here's the 3rd instalment of our new Connections column for 2026-2027! We are exploring all the different ways we live into the image of our God through our creativity and craft.

This month, we highlight Kevin Brower who shares with us some of his creative work...

> **Our creative work "is a reflection of God's creativity, an evidence that we are made in the image of God."**
>
> **-Francis Schaeffer**

Q: What do you create?

Kevin: 3D printed objects



3D printing is a fun way to turn digital designs into real, physical objects at home. A 3D printer builds items one thin layer at a time, usually using plastic filament. Hobbyists use 3D printers to make things like replacement parts, tools, organizers, toys, models, decorations, and custom projects.

Q: When and how did you begin creating this way?

Kevin: Around June 2025, I became interested in 3D printing because of something that happened during Carla's Alzheimer's journey. While I was outside doing yard work, she turned on our kitchen faucet, rotated it over the counter, and walked away. When I came inside, there was water all over the counter and floor.

I couldn't find anything online to prevent the faucet from rotating 360 degrees, so I asked a coworker who had a 3D printer for help. After taking a few measurements, he designed and printed a simple device that limits the faucet's rotation. It worked perfectly—and it's still on the faucet today.

My coworker then told me about an entry-level 3D printer that was getting good reviews from Beta testers. So I went online and bought my first one.

My first print was a design I downloaded from a 3D site - something similar to a chip clip. The first one failed really badly. I went online, did more research, and did more calibrating of the 3D printer, which made a huge difference in print quality.



Q: What are some of your favorite things you've created?

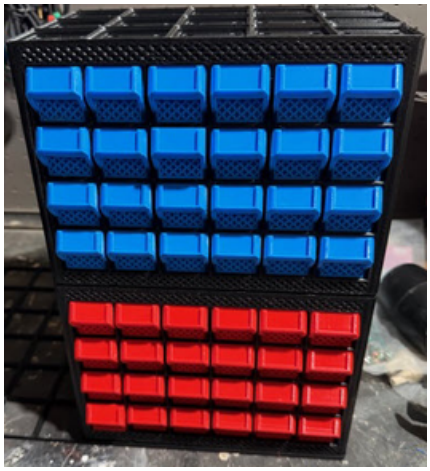




Kevin: **Waste Basket:** After buying a larger 3D printer, the Creality K1 Max, I wanted to try printing something bigger than I had before. While looking through designs online, I came across this waste basket. The printer has a maximum print height of 300 mm (11.81 inches), so the waste basket is printed in two sections that fit together. Once assembled, it stands about 12.5 inches tall. I liked the design because I could print waste baskets in different colors to match the rooms where they would be used.

Screw Measuring Tool: The screw measuring tool was another useful item I found online, downloaded, and printed. After my brother saw it, he wanted one for work, and his son wanted one too, so I ended up printing two more.

Storage Drawers: I've also been printing a lot of drawers to help organize different areas. For our sound room cabinet, I made drawers to store microphones, microphone holders, computer cables, and other equipment. I've also made drawers for my workbench and a cabinet in my basement office.





I'd like to make more organizers, probably over the winter when the weather isn't as nice for being outside. Depending on their size, these can take quite a while to print. Some of the frames take up to 10 hours, and the drawers can take up to 6 hours each. 3D printing isn't always a fast process, but it's pretty neat to see the finished items and put them to use.



3D printing involves a few basic steps:

Create or find a 3D model – Design an object using CAD software or download an existing model from a 3D-printing website.

Prepare the model – Use "slicer" software to convert the model into layers and create instructions the printer can understand.

Set up the printer – Load the filament, prepare the print bed, and select the proper temperature and print settings.

Print the object – The printer heats the plastic and deposits it layer by layer until the object is complete.

Finish the part – Remove the print, clean up supports or rough edges, and sand, paint, or assemble it if needed.



COMMUNITY NOTES



Sign up using this QR code

Trinity Care Closet

This month, Care Closet needs the following items. Would you please consider making a donation to assist our neighbors who could benefit from some extra support?

Look for the donation basket located on the Welcome Desk!

Thank you very much for your continued support of Trinity's Care Closet.

Donations of the Month

OCTOBER

DISINFECTING WIPES + MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER

Trinity Reformed Church



Congratulations to our very own Ed Wheeler!

Ed received the **2026 Duke Galletta Award** for excellence in blueberry horticultural research!

Winners of the award:

- Have demonstrated leadership in research within the blueberry industry
- Have contributed to the blueberry industry development

Ed spent his career in the blueberry industry as a breeder, overseeing the production and patenting of over 20 varieties in his career!

It's likely that you have enjoyed a blueberry cultivated and patented by Ed!

Especially if it was a really big sweet one.



MICHIGAN BLUEBERRY FACTS

- In 2024, Michigan produced more than **84 million pounds** of blueberries on nearly 17,000 acres.
- Michigan is a **top producer** of blueberries in the U.S. with over 20 varieties grown.
- The Michigan blueberry industry provides **more than 6,600 jobs** on an annual fulltime equivalent basis.
- Michigan is one of America's **largest producing blueberry states**, with an average yield of 5,100 lb/acre.
- Most of Michigan's commercial blueberry production is **located in southwest Michigan** where sandy glacial soils and high-water tables result in excellent blueberry soils.







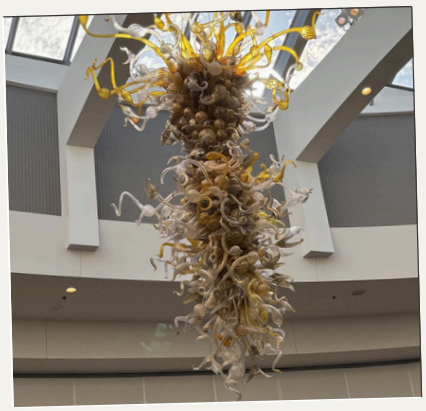








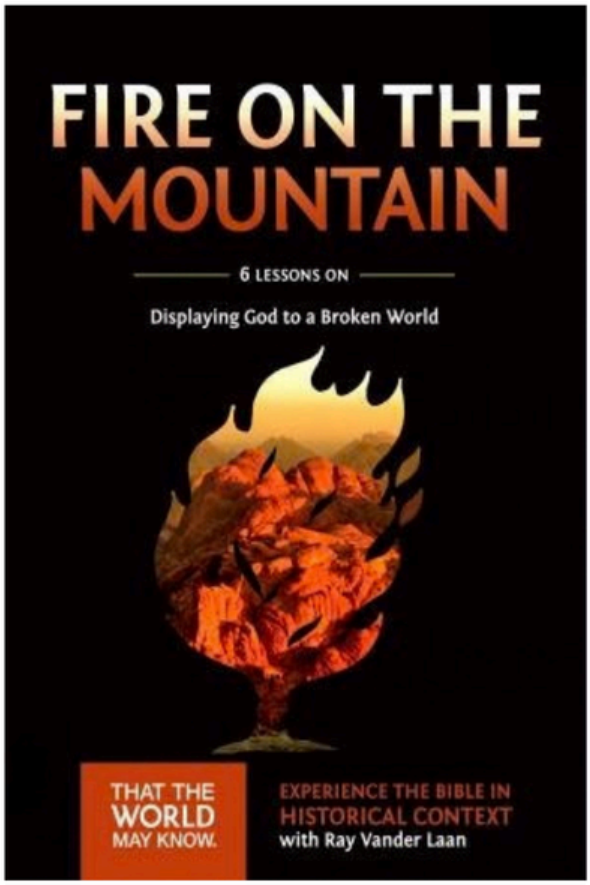






FREDERICK MEIJER GARDENS CHIHULY EXHIBIT

Take a look at the photos from our recent bus trip! Thanks to everyone who participated, and a special shout-out to the Community Connections Team for organizing this wonderful event!



Fall Food & A Flick

Wednesdays Oct 7 thru Nov 11

Dinner 5:30, Video & Lesson 6:00

6 Faith lessons by Ray Vander Laan on Displaying God to a Broken World

When the Israelites left Egypt, they were finally free. Free from persecution, free from oppression, and free to worship their own God. But with that freedom comes a new challenge - learning how to live together the way God intends. In this ninth volume of Faith Lessons, discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves him and the lessons we can begin to live out in our lives today

Study guide $15 is available but not mandatory

Please sign up at the welcome desk.

Cover to Cover Book Club

The 2026/2027 Book Club will meet for the first time this season on Thursday, September 24 at 7pm.

If you are interested in joining, please let Sharon Kruse know!

October | Capote's Women by Laurence Leamer
November | Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
December | NO MEETING
January | Horse by Geraldine Brooks
February | Something to Look Forward To by Fannie Flagg
March | Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict/Victoria Christopher Murray
April | The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
May | Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Cover to Cover Book Club will meet in The Reflections Room at Trinity

This time is upon us
When new colors will bloom
Yellow and flaming red trees.
Warmth will soon disappear
The coolness of weather
Will overflow into our lives.
Change will soon come
Appearing fast as dawn breaks
New season upon our earth.
Many welcome the change
Others think of cold winter
Soon to come.
Seasons bring different life
Under God's blessed care.
Welcome each day
As new.
Think not of winter
With bitter cold winds.
Think of change of color
As God's paintbrush
Continues to change life.
From bright sunny flowers
To redish golden trees
To white flowing from earth.
God's seasons
Are new blessings.
Be refreshed.

Written and submitted by Linda Louisa Johnson

LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS OF THE 1953 NORTH SEA FLOOD IN THE NETHERLANDS

In 1953, the Netherlands experienced devastating flooding, causing **mass migration to Michigan.** There, new communities and lives were built.

Now the Watersnoodmuseum in the Netherlands is creating an exhibit on how that event impacted migration from families affected by the flood, and **we're looking to find and interview any survivors or family members of survivors.**

If this sounds like something you or your family survived, please scan the QR code below to help us in our research!

If you have any questions, please contact: niemie23@msu.edu



Second Sunday Brunch

Sunday, October 11

Join us for an egg and french toast casserole potluck following the worship service.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you are coming and/or to volunteer to bring something!



Missional Opportunity:
We will wrap silverware for the **Great Thanksgiving Banquet** after breakfast.

GATEWAY MISSION
HOPE FOUND HERE.

October Birthdays

Glen Vereeke	10/02	Ron Blauwkamp	10/28
Dennis Snyder	10/12	Nancy Quillian	10/29
Brooklynn Oom	10/23	Jennifer Timmer	10/30
Sally Harper	10/25		

October Anniversaries

Steve + Crystal Lundy	10/01
Ed + Wilma Prince	10/03
John + Sandy Bedard	10/20

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 🔒 No Trinity Bus Women's Retreat at Grace Adventures 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am - 11:30am Digging Deeper 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	**28** 🔒 Greeter + Prayer Reminders 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Meeting with Amanda 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Athletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class 6:00pm - 7:00pm Safety Team Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Worship Life Meeting	**29** 🔒 8:00am - 2:00pm Mast Heating + Cooling | Fall Start-Up 9:30am - 11:00am WOW | Book of Matthew 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Coffee with Pastor Amanda - 6:00pm - 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	**30** 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Bulletin Folding Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Facility Use Task Force Meeting 1:30pm - 2:30pm Escape Ministries	**1** 🔒 Updated Greeting + Prayer Reminders 5:30pm - 6:30pm Bread House Set-up 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm Community Connections Meeting	**2** 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 🔒 10:00am - 3:00pm Cleaning	**3** 10:00am - 2:00pm Craft/Quilt Group Meeting 11:00am - 6:30pm Jimenez Baby Shower Church Building Closed at 8pm
4 **World Communion Sunday** 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:00am - 11:30am Digging Deeper 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	**5** 🔒 Greeter + Prayer Reminders 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Meeting with Amanda 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Athletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class 6:00pm - 8:00pm Finance Team Meeting	**6** 9:30am - 11:00am WOW | Book of Matthew 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Coffee with Pastor Amanda - 6:00pm - 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	**7** TBD Food & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Bulletin Folding Group 1:30pm - 2:30pm Escape Ministries	**8** 🔒 Dianne M leaves for AZ 🔒 Updated Greeting + Prayer Reminders 🔒 10:00am - 2:00pm Nestlings Pick Up 5:30pm - 6:30pm Bread House Set-up 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	**9** 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 🔒 10:00am - 3:00pm Cleaning	**10** 2:00pm - 3:00pm BH Usher Team Meeting Church Building Closed at 8pm
11 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Story Time 10:45am - 11:45am Second Sunday Brunch 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	**12** **Columbus Day** 🔒 Greeter + Prayer Reminders **Indigenous Peoples Day** 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Meeting with Amanda 11:00am - 1:00pm Executive Team Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Athletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class	**13** **9:00am - 10:30am Care Closet Packaging** 9:30am - 11:00am WOW | Book of Matthew 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Coffee with Pastor Amanda - 2:00pm - 4:00pm Churches in Mission Team Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	**14** 🔒 Call Bob Evans for Third Thursday 616-392-9096 TBD Food & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Bulletin Folding Group 10:00am - 12:00pm Care Closet 1:30pm - 2:30pm Escape Ministries	**15** 🔒 Updated Greeting + Prayer Reminders 9:30am - 10:30am Third Thursday Breakfast 5:30pm - 6:30pm Bread House Set-up 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	**16** 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 🔒 10:00am - 3:00pm Cleaning 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Leadership Meeting	**17** Church Building Closed at 8pm
18 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Story Time 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 10:45am - 11:15am Trinity Talks! 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	**19** 🔒 Greeter + Prayer Reminders 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Meeting with Amanda 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Athletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class	**20** 9:30am - 11:00am WOW | Book of Matthew 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Coffee with Pastor Amanda - 12:00pm - 1:00pm Deacons Meeting 12:30pm - 2:30pm Elders Meeting 6:00pm - 7:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	**21** TBD Food & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Bulletin Folding Group 1:30pm - 2:30pm Escape Ministries	**22** **Connections Deadline** 🔒 Updated Greeting + Prayer Reminders 5:30pm - 6:30pm Bread House Set-up 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night 7:00pm - 8:00pm Cover to Cover Book Club	**23** 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 🔒 10:00am - 3:00pm Cleaning 6:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Prayer Meeting	**24** Church Building Closed at 8pm
25 **Reformation Sunday** 8:00am - 9:00am TRC Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am - 11:00am TRC Worship 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45am - 11:30am TRC Post-Service Coffee 11:00am - 12:00pm Bread House Coffee & Breakfast 11:30am - 12:00pm BH Set-up + Rehearsal 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bread House Worship	**26** 🔒 Greeter + Prayer Reminders 🔒 No Dan 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Meeting with Amanda 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bread House Praise & Worship Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Athletic Sensations | Baton Twirling Class 7:00pm - 9:00pm Worship Life Meeting	**27** 9:30am - 11:00am WOW | Book of Matthew 🔒 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Coffee with Pastor Amanda - 11:45am - 12:45pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bread House Bible Study	**28** 🔒 No Dan TBD Food & Flick | Ray Vander Laan Series 7:30am - 8:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Bulletin Folding Group 1:30pm - 2:30pm Escape Ministries 7:00pm - 9:00pm Worship Life Meeting	**29** 🔒 Updated Greeting + Prayer Reminders 5:30pm - 6:30pm Bread House Set-up 6:30pm - 9:00pm Bread House Family Night	**30** 🔒 No Dan 6:00am - 7:30am Holland Middle Wyldlife 🔒 10:00am - 3:00pm Cleaning	**31** **Reformation Day** Church Building Closed at 8pm



Trinity Consistory

Elders:
Teresa Harrington, *Vice President*
Dee Hubbard
Bob Koning
Tom Lampen
Jan VanAuken

Deacons:
Jay Lynn Wheeler, *Chair*
Neil DeBoer
Rick Fisher
Warren Kooyers, *Treasurer*
Dianne Moker

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Dan Kruithof, *Custodian*	dan@trinityrc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday | 9am to 1pm

After Hours Emergency Contact *Pastor Amanda | 616.402.4671*

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