

NOVEMBER
2025

Trinity Topics



Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

Wonderment at the glory of the waning year

By Anthea Brandon

*In memory of
Anthea's
beautiful words
and
presence.*



Spirit of the wheeling seasons!
Why must the downward turn
Be so heartbreakingly lovely?
Everywhere we look,
We see a riot of colour,
Each stand of trees
A rich tapestry,
Trying to outdo each other,
With such a profusion
Of gloriously intermingling shades
That almost all one can do is
Stop and gaze.

Did you plan it thus, O Spirit?
Do you know that the descent
Into winter's dark beauty
Plants a chill seed
Into the depths of our being?
Does the soul-deep image
Of the festival of glory
Sustain us during
The sombre times?
And as each one of us
Feels the gentle, inexorable motion
Of the wheel of life,
As it edges, second by second,
Towards the ultimate end,
Does the accumulation
Of Spirit-Led beauty
Ease the transition of glory to glory?

Co-creating through Partnership

By Rev. Dr. Wayne Menard

We sometimes wish that God would simply take charge.

Fix what is broken, heal what is hurting, and guide our lives along a clear and certain path. Yet, the God revealed in Jesus does not control or coerce. Instead, God invites. God calls us into partnership, trusting that love can do what power never could.

When Jesus walked among people, he did not force belief or obedience. He invited fishermen to follow, welcomed the outcast to the table, and offered forgiveness before it was even asked for. His way was never about control—it was about relationship, compassion, and trust. He showed us that the Reign of God is not imposed from above but nurtured among us when we act with love, justice, and mercy.

In every act of kindness, every stand for fairness, every choice to forgive or include, we are accepting God's invitation to co-create a more compassionate world. God's Spirit moves not as a puppeteer but as a breath of inspiration, whispering courage and calling us toward hope.

So we live not as passive recipients of divine control, but as partners in God's dream. The work is unfinished, and the way is uncertain—but in Jesus, we glimpse what love can accomplish when freely chosen and faithfully lived.

Wayne



Stained Glass Next Steps

By Chris Humphrey

Council has authorized another pair of stained glass windows for the Sanctuary. Volunteers to assist needed!

Around twenty volunteers assisted in the previous stained glass venture twelve years ago, but this time around we don't have Beth Jenkin to prepare the designs. I do have some basic notions which I am currently transferring to draft mock-ups. However, there will be some—no—a lot of work in preparing the full scale artwork.

When it comes to cutting and grinding glass again, I feel sure several members of the congregation will be willing to lend a hand. But in the meantime, I'm hoping there are a few individuals out there who would be willing to spend a few hours pencilling in the lines of the new stained glass panels. You don't need to be a professional artist to do this, though there will be the opportunity to have some artistic input.

If you're interested, please contact me.



DINNER AND DISCUSSION

Exploring Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

You are invited to join our minister for a thoughtful and compassionate study session on this sensitive and complex topic. Together, we will explore the United Church of Canada's position on MAID, reflect on the theological and ethical questions it raises, and consider how other Christian denominations in Canada—and even churches abroad, such as in Switzerland—have approached this issue.

This gathering will offer a respectful and caring space for open discussion, learning, and mutual understanding as we seek to deepen our faith and compassion in the face of life's most profound questions.

The date and time of this session will be announced soon.



Outreach for Winter Warmth

WHAT: Warm items for The Caldwell Family Centre.

HOW: Looking for donations from our congregation.

WHEN: Now and through our cold months.

ITEMS: Socks (greatest need), mitts, scarves, winter hats, used winter coats.

Your Outreach Committee Thanks You

Trinity Memorial Fund

By Jennifer Grant

Please consider making the Trinity Memorial Fund the charity of choice for memorial donations.

The memorial fund supports a wide variety of projects that further the life and work of the congregation. And please advise your family of your support of the Trinity Memorial Fund when doing your own estate planning.

Donations should be made out to: **Trinity Memorial Fund** and a tax receipt will be issued.

Memorial Fund Projects

It looks like there will be enough money in the Trinity Memorial Fund this year to accept applications for projects. The exact amount won't be determined until November 1, however I would encourage anyone who has ideas for projects to get their information together in the meantime. No projects that require multi-year funding can be considered. Projects are to be lead by the applicants themselves.



Sing into the Season

Trinity Christmas Cantata

"I Hear the Prophet Callin'"

by Pepper Choplin

Sunday, December 7, 2025

during the service

Join in!

Practices take place on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm., and all singers, both from within and outside of Trinity, are welcome.

Please speak with Donna for more information.



Trinity United Church

Christmas

Bazaar

Saturday, November 15

1099 MAITLAND AVE, OTTAWA ON

TIME :

9AM-1PM

Books, toys and jigsaw puzzles in the
Friendship Room and Lobby.

The Ark Café, baked goods, jams and jellies,
handmade crafts, jewellery
and Harold's Boutique in Tait Hall.

A great opportunity for Christmas shopping!

For information, contact [Rosemary Gibb](#).

A Spark of Light on the Path

By Arlene Smith

marcescence: (in trees and plants) the "holding-on" of dead leaves through the winter months.

From the Latin *marcescere*, to wither, languish.

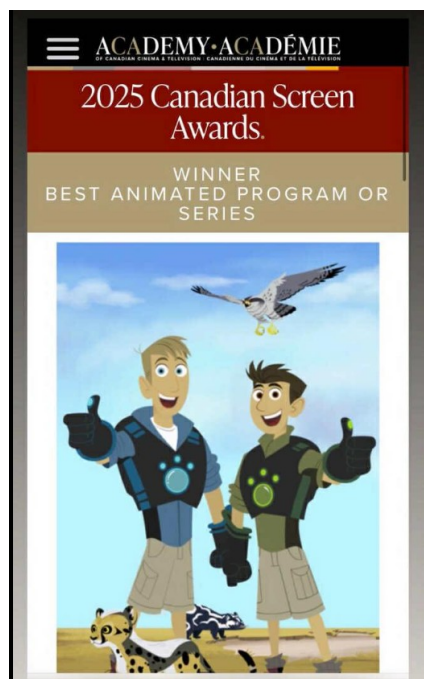
A "marcescent" leaf, or figuratively a person, is one that has wilted but not fallen.

The picture to the right is from the woods near my home. Beside a path, among evergreens and deciduous trees that have already dropped leaves, stands this small tree. White leaves flutter in a triangular shape like a nature-created Christmas tree.

This small tree is "holding on" through winter. It is protecting its buds against extreme cold and predators. It is keeping leaves to better absorb nutrients until it drops them in the spring to create a nutrient-rich mulch. The leaves on the tree will provide shelter for birds and insects in winter.

The other benefit? It provides a spark of light on my path.

If we walk mindfully, we can perceive these little boosts to the Spirit. They remind us that when it feels as if we're withering, maybe we're just holding on.



Did You Know?

The fabulous **Ryan Hobbs** is part of the team of animators for the Wild Kratts Adventures series.

For the second year in a row, the show received **Best Animated Series at the 2025 Canadian Screen Awards**. Congratulations to Ryan and the team for their talent, creativity, and hard work!

If you want to see his work, you can find the show on TVOKids, Knowledge Network, and Crave.

Times of Anxiety

By Pam Sheehan

In my work with seniors in the hospital, in conversations with senior friends, and in my own life as a senior, I am finding an underlying anxiety about the state of the world.

Every day we witness through media the wars and suffering, droughts and floods, and economic challenges. We have had a sudden and alarming change in our relationship with our neighbour to the south.

Worry, poor sleep and appetite, and a sense of isolation result. Many of us also feel guilt that our lives just go along while others live through hardship and loss. Some people, now at the end of their lives, indicate that they have seen dark clouds looming before. When I was a child, for example, we had drills in school where we hid under our wooden desks during the cold war.

Now it's our children, both young and in mid life, who feel it too. We worry for their future and the world that we are leaving them.

As individuals we can't fix these monumental challenges, but we can take steps to alleviate the impact on our health and that of our families. I humbly make some suggestions for steps we can take individually and together:

- **Limit media, especially news.** We do need to witness the suffering, and we can't stick our heads in the sand, but sometimes we do need to do just that for periods of time, to find quiet and peace within ourselves.
- **Find something to be grateful for each day.** Clean water from a tap, access to healthcare, relative safety. Think of our church, our friends, our worship together, beautiful music and the opportunity to work together on small tasks for a better world. Small steps can surmount feelings of helplessness. We never know where the ripples of our small actions flow.
- **Take time for nature.** Watch birds at a feeder, nurture houseplants, tune into a nature show on TV, or walk in forests and green space. God has given us a beautiful garden.
- **Be kind.** Especially to a stranger. The "elbows up" has encouraged us to feel like a team here in our wonderful country. Look a stranger in the eye, connect with them, communicate. Make others feel that they are community.
- **Don't be afraid to talk about your fears and anxieties.** Reach out to friends, family, our minister. Through sharing with others we affirm we are not alone.
- **Care for yourself.** Realize your limitations physically and emotionally. Do what you can for community and family but have compassion for yourself.



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- **And last but not least, pray for our world and each other.** Below is a prayer written by Rev. Daniel Addai Fobi, leader of the God's Beloved group at Kitchissippi United Church in Ottawa, and an advocate for 2SLGBTQIA+.

(Read Daniel's full article "In Memory of Number 12" on the [United Church of Canada website](#).)

May we be a people of peace.

May we be a church of peace.

May we, with trembling and hope,
continue to seek it.

We ask the Spirit to breathe peace into
a world choking on war.

Because peace is not the absence of
fighting.

It is the presence of justice.

It is the memory of laughter in the
streets.

It is the right of children to grow up.

It is God's dream for us.

So let our prayers rise like a wail in the
wilderness.

Let our compassion turn into courage.

Let our tears water the seeds of a
better world.

In honour of every child.

In honour of every innocent life.

In honour of the forgotten.

In memory of Number 12.

May we never again look at war
without trembling.

And may we never again speak of
peace without acting.

Amen

Trinity Receives Caldwell Family Centre Community Support Award

In May, the Caldwell Family Centre held its annual meeting where Trinity was recognized for their years of support to the Centre.

The **Faith in Action Award** was presented to Trinity United Church and Outreach Committee for outstanding contributions and commitment of time, energy and financial support.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help our mission of supporting the Caldwell Family Centre, a great asset to our community.



Trinity Justice Committee

By Pam Sheehan, for TJC

This season always feels like a time of renewal and excitement for what is ahead. No—not just cooler weather! Our enthusiastic justice committee is initiating some new projects, in line with the sustainability reports last spring.

Our objectives as a committee are to learn about social justice issues, to see where we can make a difference, and to encourage Trinity folks to seek justice as we are able in local, national and international affairs.

In the coming weeks and months we hope to investigate and provide support to:

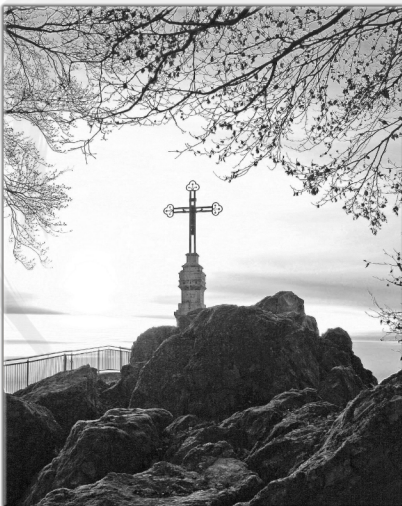
- persons facing disabilities
- asylum seekers in our city and in Canada
- our affiliate Trinity Refugee committee that hopes to bring two refugees to Canada
- the Amnesty International world-wide letter-writing day, to free prisoners of conscience, as we have in previous years.

With the support we have always received from our Trinity people and also those we hope will join our community, **WE KNOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in our world!

On this 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, we continue to focus on why the UCC was formed in 1925 in the first place. We echo the words of the prayer:

"God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we ask for the courage to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and the strength to defend the weak and the poor against the powerful and the rich. May your spirit guide us on the path of peace, honest dialogue, and reconciliation between all peoples, and bring hope and love where it is lost. May we live the gospel with courage, and may justice and equality for every human being be secured through our actions and our prayers."

Amen.



Remembering the Camino at Roncesvalles

By Gloria Sorge

Who lies here in this Charnel House
What scurries here among the bones
Now silent of their ancient groans.

I see your faces swirl—sinners, pilgrims of the old world.
I'll not forget you walked these steps that I now take
Carried your burdens to seek repent
To lay at the cross your sorrows spent.

We remember and cherish

Wendy Knapp Sauve
July 31, 2025

Dorothy Anstee,
August 24, 2025

Anthea Brandon
October 8, 2025



For the next edition

Share your travel photos.
Send us faces, colours, traditions, landscapes
from around the world.
Tell us the story about them.



Articles for Trinity Topics are
gratefully accepted.
The editors reserve the right
to edit all material.

**Deadline for next edition:
Sunday, January 18, 2025**



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