**March 1, 2022
​From the Pastor's Desk and your Servant Council: Please Prayerfully Consider.**

***Dear Trinity UMC,
I pray this letter finds you living in the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of this year, as I began praying that 2022 would be a year of growing in our faith, and in our relationships within our community and with one another, I offered two words: intentional and grow. A strange thing happens when we are intentional about growing: that thing is change! As the Holy Spirit works in and through us change happens. Sometimes that change is big and noticeable, while at other times it is so subtle we may not even notice that it’s happened.

Change is not something we always appreciate or enjoy. Change in the church doesn’t come any easier than it does in other places of our lives! But true growth in Christ doesn’t happen without change. Gail Sheehy noted, “If we don’t change, we don’t grow. If we don’t grow, we aren’t really living.”  If we want to grow—as disciples and as a church—then we may have to let go of what we’ve done in the past, and embrace the future with open minds and hearts and a new way.

With that in mind, I want to invite you to attend worship on March 13th, and remain after the service for a conversation about moving from two services to one. Your servant council leadership has been discussing this possibility over the last month. But before a decision is made, we want your input. In addition to this face-to-face gathering, a survey will be sent out for you to complete that will also be available through a link. Please fill it out and send it back at your earliest convenience.

Why is this change being considered?  The Pandemic has been difficult for all of us, personally and as a church.  Attendance has decreased which means we have fewer resources, including both finances and people. This change is intended to be a proactive and positive possibility in this unusual time.  Gathering together to worship as one body can be inspiring and satisfying. It can create new opportunities for us: more possibilities for fellowship and growing closer to one another. It can foster a new spirit of HOPE and offer a breath of fresh air for all of us.

This is not a decision taken lightly.  Your pastor and servant council have been praying and seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance and leading. Your prayers and input are needed, as well.  As always, conversation with me and with the members of our servant council is welcome.  Open, loving, honest exchange will help us make a faithful decision.

Again, please plan to attend worship on the 13th and stay after service at @9:30 or @11:30 to listen and share.
“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 NRSV”

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​                                                                                                   Pastor Kayla Grehl***