

Saturday Morning Breakfast Café: Trinity Emmanuel 2022 Congregational Vitality Grant Report

The original project was to provide a free breakfast for church and community two times a month. We chose the first and last Saturdays of the month. However, we now serve three Saturdays (the 1st, 2nd and last Saturday of the month). This means we serve three Saturdays in a row which helps us use our grocery items more effectively.

Our attendance varies significantly and the winter weather is definitely effecting our community attendees. Most of them walk to Café. When Café began, there were more church attendees than community attendees, but over time that changed and now it is three quarters community and one quarter church. However, there are some evolving dynamics happening with church members. They come to Café to visit and socialize with their church friends. Most members don't live in the church neighborhood, so Saturday Café is an affordable welcoming place to meet and socialize.

There is a Women's VFW that uses Café as an outing destination—most of them are church members. The deacons come for breakfast prior to their preparations for Communion Sunday. The neighborhood mail postal carrier and the barber down the street, check on each other and sometimes take the other one a to-go container. Three or four friends from an apartment complex come together and meet up with church member friends. There are 5 or so single males who come faithfully and really count on our Saturday free breakfast. They often eat double meals and may ask for a to-go container as well.

The third type of community forming is that with Trinity Emmanuel and other Presbyterian churches. Pittsford and Penfield, each volunteer one Saturday a month and they provide the main dish served at Café when it is their week to volunteer.

Sometimes Pittsford is able to bring supplies from their food cupboard and if they have an oversupply of one item, they may even bring those for patrons to take home. We at Trinity Emmanuel have made some wonderful new friends through these connections. Gates and Irondequoit have expressed an interest but that has not materialized. There is some informal volunteering from Third and definitely former Laurelton congregations are represented.

One more collaboration is with Temple B'rith Kodesh's "Sisterhood Bagel Brigade". They provide free day-old bagels that I pick up at their Temple on the first and last Saturday of each month.

This writer feels that Saturday Café also offers some bragging rights to Trinity Emmanuel. They seem proud to be hosting and involved in this very busy and successful "**Matthew 25**" project. It's also interesting to note that other than three greeter positions and one brand new deacon and myself, the remaining Trinity Emmanuel volunteers are ones that are not actively involved in other church committees and activities. In other words, Café has sparked some "new life" among members.



This past week, a community leader (head of the Neighborhood Association) son died out of state. Immediately it was suggested that a meal be delivered from Café to her. When Saturday Café has food left over, we have on three Saturday's, boxed the food up and placed in the refrigerator and given to church member on Sunday morning. It seems to be as joyfully received on Sunday as it was on Saturday.



This project reflects God's love in many ways. One of the subtle ways is to watch patrons emerge from week to week. They often enter, somber, head down not making eye contact. Then when they sit at a table, they sit alone and they "occupy" a small space. As they return, they begin speaking, making eye contact, and looking for staff and others they know. Now when they sit, they often join others and definitely spread out at the table!



There have been many comments about Café that illustrate its value: *"this is a true blessing; you all are certainly doing God's work."* One new patron made it known that he did not like Café. One of our regulars told him, *"Don't come back man, this place is ours."* One week a girl of about 7 yrs. old came with two adults and when she finished her meal, she handed one of the wait staff a quarter and told her it was to help with breakfast.



Some of the lessons learned include: **keep the faith** and **maintain a positive attitude**. Lastly, the time commitment of Saturday morning is about half of the commitment. The behind the scenes of procuring and bringing food supplies, the procurement of all of the paper supplies, plasticware, dish detergent, gloves, etc. is mind boggling. The coordination of churches and volunteers and the writing of reports all involve way more time than I suspected.

The budget has been an evolving one. When Café started, I was paying \$1.69 to \$2.00 for a dozen of eggs. Now I have been paying \$5.00 plus. In the beginning, I only purchased food. Café used paper supplies and other supplies from the church. We began purchasing everything in December. We also changed from counting patrons to counting meals served. This is more accurate because many eat double and still take a to-go container.

In the report, please find the proposed yearly budget and actual numbers from December to date.

Café DATE	EXPENSES	MEALS SERVED	*DONATIONS
December 31	149.08 food 120.71 paper prod.	34	10.00
January 7	67.88 food 215.30 paper prod.	47	29.00
January 14	45.30 paper prod.	26	1.00
January 28	185.02 food & paper	32	10.00
February 4		28	40.00
February 11	87.15 food	60	105.48 +.25
February 25	151.30 food 58.18 supplies	24	-
March 4	30.95 food	33	20.00
March 11	10.98 food 149.95 paper	22	-

**Donations do not include those from Pittsford or Penfield Church. These donations actually came from Café attendees.*

The Café will continue as the **Matthew 25** mission—it is vital to the community. We have eager volunteers, Trinity Emmanuel support and some financial backing in place. We will need to subsidize this project again as we go forward.

Thank you for allowing us the support to “**birth**” Saturday Morning Café at Trinity Emmanuel.”

Respectfully submitted:

Elder Donna Gipner



**Church & Community – Breakfast Café
BUDGET 2023**

Breakfast Cost Approx. \$200 per week

Last Saturday of Month:

Trinity - 100% responsible

Trinity cost: \$200 per week x 12 months = **\$2,400.00**

1st Saturday of Month:

Pittsford Contributes - \$100 per month

Trinity cost: (\$100 x 12months) **\$1,200.00**

2nd Saturday of the Month:

Penfield - committed to 100% x 3 months

(I don't know what will happen after March)

Trinity cost: (\$200 x 9 months) **\$1,800.00**

\$5,400.00

Church & Community – Breakfast Café ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Breakfast Café - Year in Review

The proposal for Saturday Breakfast Café was brought to session in February of 2022. The purpose of the Café was to begin practicing as a **Matthew 25** church.

- Free breakfast Saturday for neighbors and friends
- Safe welcoming location for eating and socializing
- Demonstrate Christians in action
- Once a month for three months
- Collaboration with other churches or service organizations

We submitted an application for the **2022 Congregational Vitality Grant** on June 22, 2022.

In March, I met with Elder Susan Orr regarding the grant. She suggested I join the Racial Justice Committee of Presbytery and present the breakfast proposal. This was done. Approval was given by TEPC to pay for the breakfast in April and May since the grant was not yet approved. Our first breakfast had 27 guests – (18 from the community and 9 church members).

There was a meeting of the TEPC Congregational Life Ministry Committee to discuss the Saturday Breakfast Café – the wrong committee – but a great meeting! The following were decisions from that meeting:

- Café two times a month (first and last) Saturday to make food purchasing more efficient
- Sandwich board for advertising
- Self-serve cereal bar

These changes were implemented in June. Currently, we are serving approximately 65 meals a week (2/3 of the meals are from the community and 1/3 from TEPC members and friends. We have collaborative relationships with Pittsford and Penfield Presbyterian churches and 2 members from Third work at least once a month.

The Café provides a warm welcoming community for those in attendance. Most participants are repeat customers but there are still new people coming each week.

This report is purely a guesstimate:

- Serving 65 meals or \$2.70 per person (\$3.00 per person with paper)
- Food per Café \$180.00
- Paper Products \$ 15.00
- Expense per week \$200.00 approx.

Staff:

6 per Saturday is good

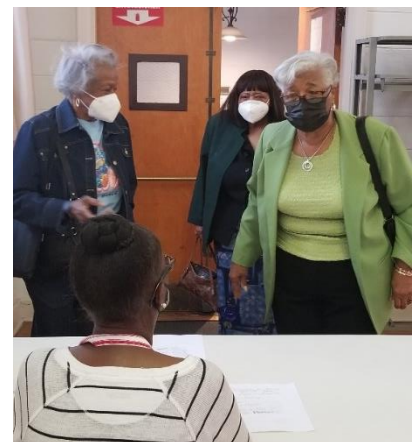
7 per Saturday is ideal

Penfield got approval from their session to come once a month for three months – beginning in January. Each time they will bring the food and provide a full staff.

Pittsford has also committed to coming once a month and they will provide \$100.00 a month and a staff of three to four and donations from the food cupboard when possible.

Third – two staff (Steve and Karen K.)

Trinity – 4 teams of greeters plus 9 that rotate through the kitchen and wait staff.



Fellowship Hall:

The venue is used by church members and the community—so, if we increase Café we decrease availability.

So, we have the finances and the staff to serve breakfast three times a month. One way we could combat the issue with our venue is to make the hall available every week. If the event falls on a Café week, we put a sign on the door and only do take-out. We would not use the stove past 10 a.m. and would use warmers only.

Respectfully submitted:

Elder Donna Gipner

Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
9 Shelter Street, Rochester, NY 14611-3796
Rev. Dr. Ernest F. Krug, Pastor
585-235-5967
trinityemmanuel@frontiernet.net