



JANUARY 2025

# THE COMPASS

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FORT DODGE

TRINITY UMC MISSION – TO SEEK & TO SAVE THE LOST. JOHN 10:11

A PLACE TO... BELONG. BELIEVE. BECOME.

## Lay Leader

December 3, 2024, the Circuit Meeting was held in Manson, Iowa. Pastor Luke led the meeting. Over 50 flood clean-up buckets were completed in response to last month's challenge, with some churches have yet to report. They were delivered to Midwest Missions. We discussed what went well and opportunities for improvement. I appreciated Pastor's willingness to support the challenge with not one, but two ice bucket dumps over her head! Trinity supplied eight (8) buckets, with the help of a grant that our Mission team acquired. Like Trinity, our circuit churches have been very busy with Mission work. Attendees also shared how they were preparing for Advent and Christmas children programs, cantatas, caroling, etc. Our next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>, in Humboldt. Future meetings will be February 25<sup>th</sup>, at First UMC; and March 25<sup>th</sup> at Farnhamville. All members of our church are invited to these meetings. Please contact Pastor or Peggy for more information.

Laity weekend was wonderful and we are blessed with a gifted, dedicated congregation. Again, thank you for your faithfulness to participate in the ministries at Trinity; for your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service. Peggy will be covering services for Pastor December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The above info was submitted to Admin Council on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Trinity UMC has so much to look forward to in 2025, with God's blessings! With His Love, always, **Peggy Barkhaus**

## Lay Leadership Orientation: Saturday, January 11, 9 AM – Noon

The orientation is for all members and leaders of Trinity UMC boards and committees. Please notify the church office if you plan to attend.  
(515-573-3519)

This is our agenda:

**9:00 AM** Refreshments in the Gathering Room

**9:15 AM** Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call of Committees and Boards

Opening Address from Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, Camp Clear Lake Superintendent

**9:45 AM** Orientation: Information on communication/marketing, room scheduling, budget management, leadership resources, and role responsibilities.

**10:30 AM** First Meetings of 2025 (Rooms will be assigned.)

**11:30 AM** Dismissal with Holy Communion

## New Year, New Small Group

In alignment with our January sermon series, Pastor Bobbie will lead two small groups aimed at providing valuable insights for anyone, including members, who come from faith traditions other than the United Methodist Church. We will explore the meaning of membership in The United Methodist Church, as well as the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion.

*What's so great about being United Methodist?*

*When and why should I be baptized? And if I'm already baptized, should I do so again?*

*Who is allowed to partake in holy communion? Why do we have communion?*

These are just a few of the questions we'll address in our small groups. Join us for one or all of the meetings to learn, connect with others, and deepen your faith.

**Sundays, January 5, 12, and 19 at 11:15 AM** (After our potluck and after-worship coffee time.)

**Wednesdays, January 8, 15, and 22 at 5:30 PM** (Bring food if you want!)

Everyone is invited to participate in any or all small group meetings held in the Gathering Area. No registration is required.

Saturday Worship– **5:30p**

Sunday Worship– **9:30a**

Sunday Livestream on

[Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

Visit [trinityumcfd.org](http://trinityumcfd.org)

**Published monthly by:**

Trinity United Methodist

Church of Fort Dodge

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## INSIDE

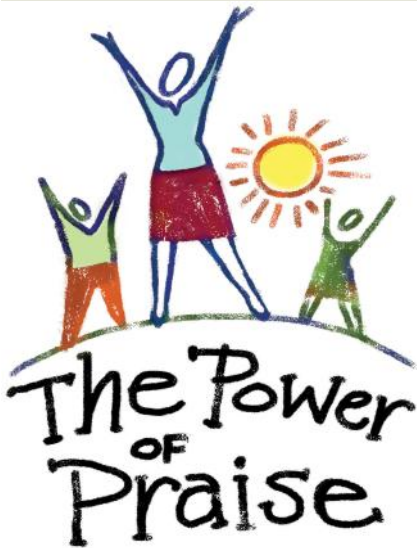
Prayer List, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Finance, TW Missions	2
Youth News	3
Message from Pastor Bobbie, Missions	4
Calendar	5
New Sermon Series	6

# PRAYER LIST

Don & Elaine Cassady  
 Ralph Ewing  
 Terry Lee  
 Lois Martin  
 Katrina O'Brien  
 Linda Pingel  
 Steve Roe  
 Ilene Smith  
 Bill Cunningham brother of  
 Jean Warg  
 Joann Whittington  
 Gary Winkler

Sharon Perkins  
 Martina Hanselman  
 Bill Messerly  
 Norma Hughett  
 Ryan Bernie  
 Ernie & Cathy Jones

Please let the office know if you want to be added or removed from this prayer list. We want to respect your privacy, but let our prayer warriors know that you desire inclusion.



## Finance



As a reminder for yearend giving, any amount that is given to the church needs to be in the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup> for your 2024 Giving Statement unless it is mailed and then it must be post marked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> even if it is received at the church in January. If you can't make it to the church office or one of the services before December 31<sup>st</sup>, please feel free to stick any giving in the mail on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Yearend Giving Statements should be mailed out around the middle of January. Happy New Year!

# January Birthdays

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Ted Dubois        | 18 Alan Lacina          |
| 3 Lawrence Hartley  | 19 Mallory Smith        |
| 3 Jenni Yenger      | 20 Amberly Habhab       |
| 4 Dave Anderson     | 22 Karen Nelson         |
| 4 Tillie Barber     | 23 Darin Larson         |
| 4 Ray Martin        | 23 Bob Menzel           |
| 5 Roberta Seil      | 24 Lorelei Miller       |
| 6 Jesse Dopita      | 24 Lynette Nielson      |
| 6 Jason Laird       | 25 Marie Feddersen      |
| 7 Pat Lohmeier      | 25 Charles Shelton      |
| 8 Lincoln Kiplinger | 25 Taylor Siems         |
| 9 Charlotte Breaser | 25 Travis Thompson      |
| 9 Linda Lasher      | 26 Ralph Ewing          |
| 10 Deb Andersen     | 26 Earl Herndon         |
| 10 Ryan Rippentrop  | 27 Pastor Bobbie Maltas |
| 11 Karen Hilpipre   | 27 Alyssa Faiferlick    |
| 11 Jamie Hynes      | 27 Scott Kehrberg       |
| 11 Tabitha Johnson  | 28 Jayne Cassidy        |
| 11 Keagan Swenson   | 28 Keith Hanselman      |
| 12 Lisa Moeller     | 28 Terry Lee            |
| 13 Kathy Arends     | 28 Matthew Oberhelman   |
| 14 Brian Murman     | 29 Robert Jasper        |
| 15 Grant Barber     | 29 Alexander Kitterman  |
| 15 Bob Irwin        | 29 Staci Laird          |
| 15 Rhonda Olson     | 30 Ralph Bryan          |
| 15 Amelia Pratt     | 30 Kennedy Jo Kuhn      |
| 17 Drew Arends      | 30 Bob Ropte            |
| 18 Norma Hughett    | 31 DJ Campney           |

# January Anniversaries

- 10 David & Elaine Kilian  
 21 Adam & Kimberly McCrady



## Trinity Women's Missions

Trinity Women's Missions thanks everyone who provided food and attended the annual Christmas Brunch. This year, attendees enjoyed a fun gift exchange, hot cocoa, singing carols accompanied by Reese Pedersen, an inspiring devotional led by Pastor Bobbie, some amazing food provided by circle members and an opportunity to help raise funds for our quilting ministry. It was a very nice brunch. Thanks to all who attended



## The Ministry of United Methodist Apportionments

The main way we support the church ministries is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. For United Methodists, this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition.

Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district, or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, and each congregation gives a fair share of the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts, and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

Contributions for apportionments is often misunderstood, simply because people don't know where the funds are allocated. So each newsletter will include a description of the apportionment programs. Let's start with three of the 13 Conference Apportionment Ministries:

**Board of Ordained Ministries** provides for the recruitment and credentialing of individuals who believe they have been called and have special gifts for ministry. Through a process of interviewing and mentoring, the Board recommends individuals to become and ordained elder or deacon and to receive licensing as local pastors. The Board provides educational opportunities for all clergy through loans, grants and continuing education programs.

**Board of Trustees** funds are used to provide support for the Conference Center located at 2301 Rittenhouse Street in Des Moines, property and casualty insurance for the Conference, and maintenance of properties owned by the Conference.

**Commission on Equitable Compensation** sets the minimum compensation for a full-time clergy and provides grants to local congregations who, for missional reasons, need a full-time pastor, but do not have the resources to pay the required salary.

Check back in February for more information!



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2024!



The next time you drive your car think on this. There's a reason the rear-view mirror is so small and the wind-shield is so big. **Where you're headed is much more important than what you've left behind.** I agree! It is helpful to look back and learn from the past so as to better prepare and plan with God's guidance for the new year. **Thank you, God for answered prayers!**

**JANUARY** found me grateful for time away to reconnect with precious family and friends living in warmer places. **Thank you, God, for faith filled friendships and times of refreshment.**



**APRIL** announced a NEW grandson, Talan Edward Mericle, named for his grandpas. He was welcomed into the Stover family with arms open wide especially his 2 big sisters. We are all crazy in love with him. **Thank you, God for the joy of new life.**

**JULY** offered two impactful mission trips. Early in July, Trinity's first middle school mission trip found 8



students serving the homeless, hungry, and working poor families in Omaha. A service weekend called Urban Plunge encouraged them to become God's hands and feet sharing His love! At the end of the month nine high school youth journeyed to Denver to participate in Urban Immersion.

Through education and training each youth's faith grew through learning to more effectively communicate God's love and grace, in words and actions, to those living on the streets. It was a powerful week of self-discovery, along with great wonder and reverence for God's creation. **Thank you, God for experiences that draw us closer to You!**

**AUGUST** marked my 40<sup>th</sup> year in full time Christian ministry. The BEST decision I made was going back to college after nursing school to earn a BA in Religious Education. The 5 churches I've served, the hundreds of children, youth and families I've journeyed with,



and the sacrifices my own family made so I could follow God's call is so rewarding & humbling. *"Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your*

*mighty acts to all who are to come."* My purpose is to continue to pass on a faith legacy. **Thank you, God for all who impact our faith.**

**DECEMBER** began with a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for my mom, Julia! Her strength, character, and faithfulness continue to guide and influence me every day. There are no words to adequately express how blessed I am! **Thank you, God for my amazing mother.** Laura

## MAY OUR FAITH THRIVE IN '25!

January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

While we take a one-month break from Wednesday night children and youth activities why not stop in for worship on the weekends. Saturday night service starts at 5:30pm. Sunday morning service is at 9:30am. Come as you are! All are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>** - JAM, confirmation class, youth Bible study and Stop & Go Supper resume.

- JAM will celebrate Jesus' birthday and our own with balloons, games, cake and ...
- Confirmation class will be offered only **at 3:45pm beginning Jan. 22.** Pastor Bobbie will be leading an exciting Bible study adventure.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26** - Youth Group resumes!

Reminders will be sent by text, email and FB posts.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bobbie or Laura Stover.

## Dear Beloveds,

One unique quality of The United Methodist Church is its emphasis on co-leadership between the laity and clergy. It's a team effort to create and maintain effective ministry.

We offer various levels of focused training for laity who are called to enhance their knowledge and understanding of church leadership.

Because the titles are very similar, it can be confusing.

At Trinity UMC, we are blessed with two Certified Lay Servants, Peggy Barkhaus and Roger Netz. In addition to being a certified lay servant, Peggy is also our congregation's Lay Leader. All three of us are available for a conversation if you happen to be interested in learning more about the Lay Servant Ministries. Here are some helpful descriptions.

A **Certified Lay Servant** is a professing member of a local church or charge or a baptized participant of a United Methodist Church or other UMC setting (like a campus ministry, for example) who desires to serve the church. Certified Lay Servants have a good working knowledge of scripture, United Methodist doctrine and polity, our heritage and organization. This person receives training for witnessing, leading, and providing congregational care. Through their leadership, Lay Servants inspire others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship.

Lay Servants fulfill their calling through any number of ministries: teaching, committee leadership, preaching and leading worship, and mentoring other disciples. In order to maintain their certification, they do continuing education, actively attend their own spiritual growth, and serve in a local congregation or through another United Methodist setting.

**Certified Lay Speakers** complete the requirements for Lay Servants and complete additional advanced courses. Certified Lay Speakers have focused training in worship, prayer, preaching, United Methodist heritage and polity, and spiritual gifts.

A **Certified Lay Minister** is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson. A certified lay minister may be assigned to a local church or other United Methodist setting by a district superintendent.

The **Lay Leader** at a local church functions as the primary representative and role model of Christian discipleship and faith lived out in the church and daily life. The lay leader works with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation.

The responsibilities of a Lay Leader differ at different congregations but they can include any or all of the following:

- The lay leader represents the laypeople in the congregation in working with the pastor for the mission and vision of the congregation.
- The lay leader engages in spiritual practices that build a relationship of attentiveness to God's will and direction.
- The lay leader represents the laypeople in the congregation and serves as a role model of Christian discipleship for the congregation.
- The lay leader works with the pastor and other leaders to launch or strengthen ministries that build discipleship.
- The lay leader assists in advising the church council about opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective lay ministry of the church in the community.
- The lay leader plans with other leaders in the congregation to celebrate the ministry of laypeople throughout the year, especially on Laity Sunday.
- The lay leader meets regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the opportunities for ministry to advance the mission and ministry of the congregation in the community.
- The lay leader actively pursues further study and training to deepen their understanding of the church's purpose and the types of ministry that can most effectively achieve its mission. This ongoing learning also enhances the lay leader's own work.
- The lay leader informs the laity of training opportunities provided by the annual conference.
- Lay leaders are encouraged to become certified lay servants.
- The lay leader is a member of the charge conference, the church council, the pastor-parish or staff-parish relations committee, the finance committee, and the nominations and leadership development committee.

Lay leaders are voting members of all the aforementioned committees. Each of these committees has specific responsibilities, but the lay leader represents the laity in each situation and serves as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general church. To be better equipped to comply with this responsibility, it is recommended that a lay leader also serves as a lay member of annual conference.

Please take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all the laity (including you!) who faithfully serve The United Methodist Church in so many ways!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Bobbie Maltas*

## Missions Committee

Thank you to everyone who gave money and winter clothing for the children at Duncombe and Cooper Schools. The school nurses were very grateful when Carol Etzel delivered the hats, mittens, gloves, and snow boots to them.

We gave two woven plastic mats to the SALT center at 1st Baptist Church downtown. The center will use the mats for extra padding on their sleeping cots to make them more comfortable to rest on.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the quarter tubes and display for the Heifer Project, which were set up throughout December.

A "silver tree" is set up in the church hallway, adorned with paper ornaments. Each ornament represents a clothing item to be donated to the men at the Beason of Hope. Needed items include sweatpants, plain T-shirts, socks, underwear, and more. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by the men.

Weaving sessions will continue on Monday and Friday mornings with two additional sessions on Thursday January 9th from 5-7 PM and Saturday January 18th from 10 AM—Noon.

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> Office Closed	2 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 1:00pm RSVP Base	3 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	4 5:30pm Worship - Casual
5 Potluck 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 11:15am Small Group	6 <b>Epiphany</b> 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness	7 9:00am Trinity Quilters	8 Accountant Here 10:00am Coffee with Friends 5:30pm Small Group	9 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study 1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness 5:00pm Missions Loom 6:30pm Bible Study	10 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	11 9:00am Lay Leadership Orientation 5:30pm Worship - Casual
12 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 11:15am Small Group	13 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness	14 9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:30pm FD Quilters Guild	15 10:00am Coffee with Friends 5:30pm Small Group	16 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study 1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	17 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	18 10:00am Missions Loom 5:30pm Worship - Casual
19 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 11:15am Small Group	20 <b>Newsletter Articles DUE</b> 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness	21 9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:45pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:45pm Administrative Council	22 Accountant Here 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JMW 3:45pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 5:30pm Small Group 6:30pm High School Bible Study	23 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study 1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	24 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	25 5:30pm Worship - Casual
26 Youth Group 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream	27 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness	28 9:00am Trinity Quilters	29 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JMW 3:45pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:30pm High School Bible Study	30 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study 1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness 6:30pm Bible Study	31 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	1 5:30pm Worship - Casual



838 N 25TH ST  
FORT DODGE IA 50501-2849  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# JANUARY

## **New Year, New Sermon Series!**

### **3 Powerful Gifts: The Church and its Sacraments**

**January 4/5:** Why does the church exist? What does Jesus do in it and through us?

**January 11/12:** Baptism is not only a celebration or symbol!  
What is God doing inside us?

**January 18/19:** Communion began with a meal among friends.  
What does communion convey to us now?

Kickstart your year by unlocking the profound gifts from God. Embrace your power, discover your purpose, and realize your true potential.