



JANUARY 2026

# 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.



## PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

Be on the lookout for an invitation to complete the **Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)**, an online instrument that will help Trinity's lay leadership gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The insights gained from this assessment will help Trinity UMC leaders make informed decisions about the church's future effectiveness in ministry.

By mid-January, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning January 25, 2026, we ask that you go online by clicking the link provided and sharing your experiences with our church and your priorities for it. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others, as this may influence their answers.

If you need a paper copy, please come to the office, and we will provide one along with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

**If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bobbie Maltas or any one of the CAT Leadership Team listed below.**

Many thanks,

Pastor Bobbie (bobbie.maltas@iaumc.net or 281-793-7558)

Mallory Asche (office@trinityumcfd.org or 515-585-3519)

Ruth Babbitt (rutharlson@hotmail.com or 515-302-4127)

Jeff Nelson (jnel82@gmail.com or 515-571-9159)

Bruce Murman (brucemurman@icloud.com or 515-570-0342)

### Worship with us:

Saturday Worship– **5:30p**

Sunday Worship– **9:30a**

Sunday Livestream on

Facebook & YouTube

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

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## INSIDE

Prayer List, Birthdays,  
Anniversaries,  
Lay Leadership  
Orientation 2

2026 Nominations & Lay  
Leadership Report 3

Youth News 4

Missions Committee,  
New District Lay Leader 5

Covenant Renewal 6

Calendar 7

# Church FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Elaine Cassady  
Ed & Joanne Becker  
Ralph Ewing  
Terry Lee  
Lois Martin  
Linda Pingel  
Steve Roe  
Bill Cunningham (brother  
of Jean Warg)  
Joann Whittington  
Gary Winkler  
Sharon Perkins  
Martina Hanselman  
Ryan Bernie  
Jim Ainslie  
Kay Lomika  
Judy Clearwater  
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

## HOW CAN we Pray FOR YOU?



## JANUARY Birthdays

3 Lawrence Hartley  
3 Jenni Yenger  
4 Tillie Barber  
6 Jason Laird  
9 Charlotte Breeser  
11 Tabitha Johnson  
11 Karen Hilpipre  
13 Kathy Arends  
14 Brian Murman  
15 Rhonda Olson  
15 Grant Barber  
15 Amelia Pratt  
17 Andrew Arends  
18 Norma Hughett  
22 Karen Nelson  
23 Bob Menzel  
24 Lynette Nielson  
25 Charles Shelton  
25 Travis Thompson  
25 Marie Feddersen  
26 Earl Herndon  
26 Ralph Ewing  
27 Bobbie Maltas  
28 Terry Lee  
28 Keith Hanselman  
28 Jayne Cassidy  
29 Staci Laird  
30 Kennedy Jo Kuhn  
30 Dean Bundy  
30 Ralph Bryan  
30 Bob Ropte  
31 DJ Campney

## JANUARY Anniversaries

10 Dave & Elaine Kilian  
21 Adam & Kimberly McCrady

## from the PASTOR

### Lay Leadership Orientation

**Save the Date:**  
**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
for all lay leadership

**9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
for Board of Trustees and SPPRC

Our lay leadership kicked off 2025 with a leadership orientation, and the reviews were excellent. The less helpful elements have been removed for 2026, and we're ready to begin the new year with enthusiasm and commitment.

After light refreshments, we'll begin the orientation with our keynote speaker, a review of ministry resources, and the distribution of the Guidelines for Ministry. At 11:00, committees are excused, while the Board of Trustees and SPPRC will stay for about 30 minutes to elect their chairpersons, recording secretaries, and set meeting dates for 2026.

The orientation is for all committee/board chairpersons *and* their members. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email ([bobbie.maltas@iaumc.net](mailto:bobbie.maltas@iaumc.net)) or by phone or text (281-793-7558) to let me know whether you will or will not be participating in the event. Friends, we are privileged to lead Trinity United Methodist Church into the future God has provided for us. The work of ministry is substantial, and with everyone doing their part, we will make a significant impact on the lives of our parishioners and the community at large.

**Thank you for serving Christ through the church's ministries. I'm excited to work with you as pastor.**

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Bobbie Maltas

# 2026 Nominations & Lay Leadership Report



Please pray for our leaders, that God will grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in service to Christ through the church.

## Ad Council Chairperson

Ruth Babbitt

## Vice Chair

Bruce Murman

## Lay Leader

Open

## Lay Member to Annual Conference

Gary Astor

## Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference

Open

## Recording Secretary

Interim Carol Etzel

## Membership Secretary

Deb Shelton

## Nominations & Lay Leadership Committee

### Chair

Pastor Bobbie Maltas

Mark Marner  
RaeAnne Marner  
Amanda Pratt

## Memorial Committee

### Chairperson

Kathy Arends

Donna Bryan  
Mary Larson  
Carol Etzel  
Cheryl Barber  
Shari Netz  
Patsy Pukacz  
Dick Girman

If your name is on this list, please look at the "From the Pastor" note on page 2 about Lay Leadership Orientation.

## Christian Education

Deb Shelton  
Amanda Pratt

## Finance Committee

### Chair

Kraig Barber

### Vice-Chair

Dee Murman

### Finance Secretaries

Patsy Pukacz  
Diane Larson

### Ad Council Chair

Ruth Babbitt

### Recording Secretary

Brooke Barber

### SPRC Chair or Designee

TBD by SPR Committee

### Trustee Chair or Designee

TBD by Board of Trustees

### At-Large Members

Renee Maulsby  
Karen Hilpiper  
Brad Arens  
Bonnie Yoder  
Pastor Bobbie Maltas

## Worship Committee

### Chairperson

Jared Feddersen

Kate Stewart  
Colette Salmon  
Katrina O'Brien  
Laura Stover  
Roger Netz

## Outreach Committee

Mark Babbitt  
Val Wehde  
Brooke Barber

## Board of Trustees

### Chairperson

Elected by the board at the first meeting of the year

Mike Shelton  
Nick Salmon  
Brad McIntyre  
Zelda Farmer  
Mark Babbitt  
Glenn Yenger  
Lynette Nielson  
Casey Nielson

## Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee

### Chairperson

Elected by the Committee at the first meeting of the year

Val Wehde  
Jenni Yenger  
Vickey Messerly  
Jeff Nelson

## Missions Committee

### Co-Chairpersons

Jayne Cassidy  
Carol Etzel

Ruth Babbitt  
Jana Nelson  
Patti Bower  
Julie Nail



## **THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE**

### **JANUARY 2026 Highlights from Laura :)**

What might God be preparing for us in the year ahead? As I reflect on this past year, I find joy in celebrating the highlights, learning from the challenges, and prayerfully imagining what comes next. And when I look back on 2025 at Trinity UMC, there is so much to give thanks for. My heart is especially drawn to the incredible growth and energy among our children, youth, and families.

This year alone, **SIXTEEN NEW FRIENDS** joined our Wednesday after-school programs! Our high school youth continue to amaze me as they invite their own friends to Bible study each week. One visitor even shared that they had never read the story of Jesus' birth. Before the night ended, they left with a Bible in hand and knew exactly where to find the story for themselves. Moments like these remind me: I'm not the one reaching out—our young disciples are. And I am truly humbled, inspired, and in awe.

These new friendships grow because of you—our faithful volunteers and church members—who teach, welcome, and serve, creating a place where God's love is felt and shared. Thank you for helping Trinity shine as a community where all can feel at home and experience the love of Christ. A special shout out to Deb Shelton and all the kitchen crew

Ultimately we found ourselves at the manger, after following the star, to meet the Light of the World: Jesus. The eighth grade girls sang "Light of the World" and the finale was the entire group joyfully singing, "This Little Light of Mine" with glow sticks shining brightly. Oh what a wondrous night!

### **SURPRISE RAKE AND RUN**

Finally, after waiting three extra weeks for the leaves to fall and the snow to melt, the middle school youth group was able to complete a "rake and run" project for our church member, Zelda. She was very surprised and grateful to see what this group could do in just one hour. She even worked along with us. God's timing is perfect. We bagged up the leaves and took them with us. The very next day we got the 2nd snowstorm of the season.



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of Wednesday children & youth activities plus the Stop & Go suppers will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> running through April 29, 2026. There will not be any activities on March 11<sup>th</sup> due to Spring break. If you have any questions, contact Laura.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

**Middle School Youth Group** will meet on Jan .11th at 12 (noon) for an afternoon of adventures.

**High School Youth Group** will meet later that afternoon. The time will be determined later.

**Youth Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday nights at 6: 15pm January 7, 14 & 28th.



for making Wednesdays happen! -Laura  
How sweet it was to experience the JAM, More JAM & confirmation students working together to perform the Christmas Light Show program on December 17th. Pictured are Tess as Mary and Eli as Joseph. With just a walk through practice, the 1st through 8th graders shared a variety of lights in our lives.

## Missions Committee:

In December, we collected kids snow pants and boots, as well as cash donations, to take to local schools. Thank you so much to everyone who gave to these kids-in-need! Now these school kids can stay warm this winter!

Please remember to bring your change for the Heifer International Project. We have three quarter tubes waiting to be filled with all kinds of coins (not just quarters). Check your pockets, couch cushions, and cars for coins that may be hiding. There are cash envelopes available on the display table as well as free Heifer pencils and pens.



Our next Missions meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 6th** at 5 pm.

And don't forget to join us for weaving on **Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** from 10 to noon, and **Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** from 5 to 7 pm.

*Jayne Cassidy*

## Welcome our New District Lay Leader:

Dear Northwest District Family, it is a joy and a great honor to introduce to you our new District Lay Leader, Phyllis Warren. Phyllis will start her leadership as the District Lay Leader **on January 1, 2026**. She brings experience in serving the United Methodist Church at various levels, including local church, District and Conference.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Phyllis Warren as our new District Lay Leader.

-Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, DS



I am Phyllis Warren. I live in Humboldt, Iowa and am a proud member of Faith UMC. Faith UMC has worship centers in Humboldt, Gilmore City and Livemore. I am an RN with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa. I have been in some type of Health care for fifty plus years. My nursing career, helping and serving others, my family and my church have made me who I am. I was raised in Gilmore City and was baptized, confirmed and married in the United Methodist church. My faith journey started when I was very young with my grandmother taking me to church and women's society meetings with her. My faith has grown throughout my adulthood. I completed the School for Lay Ministry in 2007. It was an amazing, spirit-filled journey. I have had the honor of serving on many of my church's ministry teams and committees. I am presently chairperson of the SPRC committee and serve as Lay Leader and on the Mission committee.

I have attended Annual conference as the Lay leader or an equalization member for several years. I have served the conference Equitable Compensation Committee, the conference nomination committee and several district committees including the District Committee on Ministry. I am a certified Lay speaker.

I am looking forward to serving and working with all of you and to see where the spirit is leading us and the United Methodist Church.

## COVENANT RENEWAL FOR A NEW YEAR

John Wesley believed that Methodists and all Christians should reaffirm their covenant with God annually, so he created a service in which an individual renews his or her covenant with God. In 1755, Wesley held his first covenant service using words written earlier by Richard Allen. Wesley published this service in a pamphlet in 1780, and this form was used without alteration for nearly a century in England. It has been modified somewhat in more recent years. It's called a Covenant Renewal Service. As you begin 2026, create a sacred space where you can reflect and commit yourself to God.

**Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

### COVENANT PRAYER

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.**

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

**Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

**Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.**

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

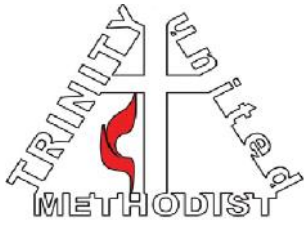
**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

May God bless and consecrate your commitment, drawing you ever closer to His grace now and forever. Amen.

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVF BASE Fitness	<b>30</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10:00am Coffee with Friends	<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Worship
<b>4</b> Potluck 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>5</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVF BASE Fitness	<b>6</b> 9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:00pm Missions Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>9:00am Accountant Here</b> 10:00am Coffee with Friends	<b>8</b> 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group 1:00pm RSVF Base Fitness	<b>9</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	<b>10</b> 9:00am Lay Leadership Orientation 5:30pm Worship
<b>11</b> 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVF BASE Fitness	<b>13</b> 9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:45pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:00pm FD Quilters Guild 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00am Coffee with Friends	<b>15</b> 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group 1:00pm RSVF Base Fitness	<b>16</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	<b>17</b> 10:00am Mat Weaving Session 5:30pm Worship
<b>18</b> 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVF BASE Fitness	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 9:00am Trinity Quilters	<b>21</b> <b>9:00am Accountant Here</b> 10:00am Coffee with Friends	<b>22</b> 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group 1:00pm RSVF Base Fitness	<b>23</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Worship
<b>25</b> 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation Class	<b>26</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom 1:00pm RSVF BASE Fitness	<b>27</b> 9:00am Trinity Quilters	<b>28</b> 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:20pm JAM 3:45pm Middle School Bible Study 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 5:45pm Middle School Bible Study 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study	<b>29</b> 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group 1:00pm RSVF Base Fitness 5:00pm Mat Weaving Session	<b>30</b> 9:00am RSVF BASE Fitness 10:00am Missions Loom	<b>31</b> 5:30pm Worship





838 N 25TH ST  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# January

