# THE COMPASS NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A PLACE TO... BELONG. BELIEVE. BECOME. TRINITY UMC MISSION – TO LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST


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## WORSHIP TIMES

**Saturday Service - 5:30pm**
**Sunday Service - 9:30am**

*Sunday Livestream on *Facebook* & *Youtube*

## CONTACT US


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TRINITY UMC
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### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

**Mon-Fri** 9:00am-1:00pm

**Website**: trinityumcfd.org
**Facebook**: Trinity UMC Fort Dodge
**YouTube**: trinityumcfd
**Iowa Conference**: iaumc.org



# Church Basement Flooding & Boiler Update

Earlier this fall, our church experienced significant flooding when the basement sump pump and its battery backup failed, likely due to age. Before the problem was discovered, approximately 3½ feet of water had accumulated in the basement, damaging our main electrical panels and leaving the church without power for three weeks.

Thanks to Marty Smith, who provided a generator and purchased a small pump, approximately **12,000 gallons of water** were pumped out of the basement. His generator also kept our refrigerators and freezers running, preventing food from spoiling. Several dedicated volunteers worked around the clock for those three weeks, keeping the generators fueled until power could be restored.

The flooding destroyed two electrical panels, which have since been replaced with one new panel. Our insurance company has provided $5,000 toward the damage, a mere percentage of what will be needed.

We are now addressing the damage to our boilers. Initial assessments indicate that the electrical components, internal insulation, and firebrick will need to be replaced or rebuilt. The boiler recirculating pump will also need replacing. Three contractors are currently preparing estimates, and we hope to have two additional contractors evaluate the situation.

We are also requesting estimates to explore the possibility of relocating the boilers upstairs, ensuring future operation and maintenance will be easier.

**A heartfelt thank-you to Marty Smith and everyone** who gave their time and energy during this unexpected challenge. Your dedication and willingness to help have been a tremendous blessing to our church. We will continue to share updates as plans and repairs move forward.

## OCTOBER Birthdays

1 Lori Cassady
3 Amanda Pratt
4 Joanne Astor
4 Rhonda L Olson
5 Janelle Chada
7 Sharon Perkins
7 Madi Smith
9 Martha Mericle
9 Diana Thompson
14 Rita Fleener
14 Linda Sessler
19 Deanne Ebelsheiser
19 Chris Johnson
19 Diane Larson
21 Sandra Valvoda
25 Jana Nelson
26 Glenn Yenger
27 Matilda Breeser
27 Matthew Tolle
30 Stacey Stuhrenberg

## OCTOBER Anniversaries

1 Jerry & Linda Beck
20 Bruce & Dee Murman
27 Lawrence & Leanne Hartley




Missions Committee News

# Serving Others with Grateful Hearts

### Thank You for Supporting Ingathering!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items or monetary gifts for our Ingathering kits, and a special thank you to the talented ladies who sewed bags for the Student Kits! On September 24, volunteers gathered to sort donations, assemble kits, and pack boxes for Ingathering Day. After their hard work, everyone enjoyed pizza and fellowship together. We are grateful for all the helping hands that make this ministry possible!

### Beacon of Hope Meal – Thank You!

On October 11, Trinity volunteers prepared and served an evening meal for approximately 40 men at Beacon of Hope. Pastor Bobbie invited members of our youth group to prepare a delicious fruit bowl, and they also helped serve the meal! It was a wonderful evening filled with fellowship and gratitude. The men expressed their appreciation again and again. Thank you to everyone who donated, prepared food, and helped serve!

### Ingathering Day – Saturday, November 7

Trinity UMC will once again host Ingathering Day on Saturday morning, November 7! We will welcome volunteers from other churches as they bring their Ingathering kits to be loaded onto a Midwest Mission truck. Guests will be invited inside to register, enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and breakfast treats, visit charitable displays, and participate in meal packing.

Many helping hands are needed! Volunteers can sign up for **7:30–9:30am** or **9:30–11:30am**. Please contact the church office or sign up on the sheets in the hallway. Let's work together to make this special morning a success!

### Upcoming Missions Projects

During November and December, watch for our **Heifer International Project** display, along with the return of our quarter tubes!

We will also be collecting **winter items for children at Cooper and Duncombe schools**. Watch for more information about how you can help keep local children warm this winter.

### Mat Weaving Updates

A big thank you to Glenn Yenger for repairing our weaving loom! All of our weavers appreciate his time and talents, and we're excited to put the repaired loom to good use!

Regular mat weaving continues on **Mondays and Fridays from 10:00–11:00am**, with an additional session on **Saturday, November 21, from 10:00am–12:00pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Trinity's missions through donations, volunteering, and prayer. Together, we are making a difference in our community and beyond!





# All-Church Election Day Bake Sale on November 3

Get those mixing bowls ready! Trinity's All-Church Election Day Bake Sale is **Tuesday, November 3, beginning at 7:00 a.m.** and continuing until the goodies are gone! Our halls will be filled with delicious treats—from cookies and cakes to breads, pies, popcorn balls, Chex Mix, candies, and more!

How can you help? Donate your favorite treats, help with set-up on November 2, or volunteer at the bake sale. Baked goods aren't needed until Monday, November 2, so there's plenty of time to bake ahead and freeze your goodies.

Not a baker? Stop by on Election Day and support Trinity by purchasing some tasty treats!

Sign-up sheets are available in the church office and outside the Gathering Room, or contact Norma Hughett (515-408-0766), Ruth Babbitt (515-302-4127), or Val Wehde (515-571-0585).




# An Evening of Christmas Music & Giving

Make **Saturday, December 5**, a special evening of Christmas music! Following **Trinity's Christmas Cantata**, head to the Historic Phillips Auditorium for **BELIEVE: A Christmas Wish at 7:30pm**!

Brady O'Brien, joined by Malaney Butrick, Lindey Krug, Kelli Glasgo, and Brayden Schmieder, will share an evening of beautiful music, laughter, and Christmas cheer.

All donations will benefit The Christmas Wish Project, helping local families in need with gifts, clothing, groceries, and other necessities.

Brady will also debut his new Christmas album, BELIEVE: A Christmas Wish, with all proceeds supporting the project.

🎄 Saturday, December 5 | 7:30pm
📍 Historic Phillips Auditorium, 1015 5th Ave N, Fort Dodge

For more information, family wish nominations, and parking updates, visit www.bradyobrienlive.com.

Continue the joy of Trinity's Christmas Cantata with an evening of music that makes Christmas brighter for others!

## NOVEMBER Birthdays

1 Nicole Smith
2 Annalisa Laird
3 Mike Mericle
4 Abbi Caruth
4 Sandra Wills
7 Kathy Messerly
8 Kourtney Marks
9 Hadley Asche
11 Chris Ulrich
11 Zeyllin Van Alstine
14 Lucas Kuhn
15 Teagan Loots
15 Mark Marner
17 Brielle Alexander
17 Hanna Marks
18 Nancy Bundy
18 Alice Galindez
19 Ellie Piton
19 Jake Shelton
20 Elijah Kiplinger
20 Tony Totten
21 Marlee Richman
22 Craig Stewart
25 Linda Pingel
26 Beth Lind
26 Calvin McIntyre
30 Brad McIntyre

## NOVEMBER Anniversaries

18 Charlie & Karen Schelle
28 Richard & Bert Zahrobsky

# Children's Ministry News

Power Believers
## PBupdates
Sundays 9:45am - 10:30am K-3rd Grade

**Power Believers** is off to a great start! In September and October, we learned about Creation. We learned what a book, chapter, and verse are when finding Scriptures. We learned how God was intentional about the order in which He created things, what was created on each day, and added artwork to our Creation Books.

The Power Believers class is so much fun! We can go from having a deep conversation about God to something funny that happened at home, to the sea doesn't have enough layers in our Creation book within a 10-minute time span. It's awesome! I love their love for God, their creativity, and learning about their lives.

I have taken music out of our schedule. There just isn't enough time. We are spending our entire time together on our lessons and projects, which is amazing!

### What's Happening in November

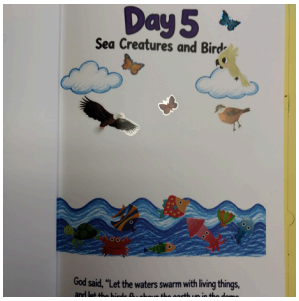
📖 **Deep Dive into God's Word:** Adam & Eve and Abraham & Sarah
⚓ **Anchor Points:** Everything that God has made is supremely good and God promises to be with us.
🎨 **Art:** Adam & Eve Garden Weaving and God Keeps His Promises
🔬 **Science:** Can You Undo It? and Can You Count the Stars?
💌 **Missions:** Reason to Smile Cards

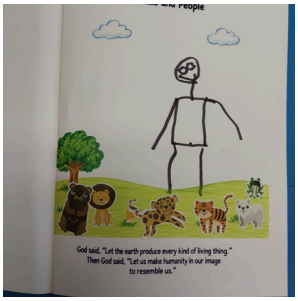
## PB POWER BELIEVERS









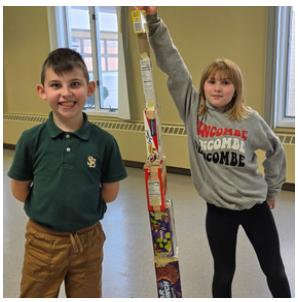




## JAM JESUS AND ME









Jesus And Me
# JAMupdates
Wednesdays 3:30pm – 5:00pm K–5th Grade

**In September:** We had a Super time learning how God gives us HOPE through the Beatitudes! Jesus said a bunch of things in the Beatitudes that seemed kind of backwards. He said that the poor, the hopeless, the hungry, and the people who are sad are the ones who are really blessed – that they will come out ahead in God's kingdom. To show this we had a race in which the winner was the LAST one to cross the finish line! Let's just say some of the children showed they can move super slow when they want to!

In our Bible story, Jesus taught us that we can find blessing and hope in some surprising places. We did a science experiment to represent something surprising. We poked a sharp pencil through a plastic bag full of water. We found that the water stayed in the bag, even though we poked it with something sharp.

In the mission journals each child wrote down two ways they could show hope to someone. They were encouraged to go do show hope during the week and report back.

**In October:** We learned God's heroes have HEART and PEACE through the Bible stories of Samuel Anoints David and Abigail Saves the Day!!

We acted out the story of Samuel Anoints David (1 Samuel 16:1-12). In the story, God reminded Samuel that, while people tend to focus on outside appearances, God looks at what's on the inside – at the heart. Having a good heart is one way to be of God's heroes!

All the donated boxes were used to build Hero Towers. Lots of superheroes live and work in big cities near tall buildings. Each team worked to build a tall building. The purpose was to remind us that while our buildings looked different on the outside, they were all built with heart through kindness, sharing, and cooperation.

One of our crafts was thinking about what is one special thing God sees in each of our hearts. Our hearts had kindness, wisdom, love, and braveness in them.

In science we used the soda cans people donated to do an experiment that revealed an example from everyday life of how appearances don't tell the whole story! We put each can of soda into a tub of water. They all looked the same on the outside, but some of them sank and some of them floated. The ones with sugar sank and the ones without sugar floated.

The JAM kids sang during the worship service on October 25th with the Praise Band. It was so nice for the congregation to see the children who come to JAM, meet their families, and the children sang beautifully! It was fun having the JAM group join us for Power Believers, too!

**In November:** We will continue learning about Abigail (1 Samuel 25) and how God's Heroes have PEACE. We will also learn about the story Jesus Goes to the Temple (Luke 2:41-52) and how God's heroes have WISDOM. Christmas program preparation will begin!!

On November 11th there will be a "Falling for Jesus" event from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. It will be held inside. The event will be pumpkin, Fall, and Jesus themed with games, activities, tattoos, prizes, and FUN!! Adults are welcome to join their children for the FUN!!

## What's Happening in November & December

🍂 **November 11:** Falling for Jesus | 3:45–4:45pm
🦃 **November 25:** No JAM
🌟 **December 13:** Christmas Program | 9:30am
🎄 **December 16:** JAM Christmas Party
🎁 **December 20:** PB Christmas Party
❄️ **December 23:** No JAM
⛄ **December 30:** No JAM



# Youth Ministry News

## Wednesday Nights: Faith, Fun, and a Little Holy Chaos!

What do the parting of the Red Sea, a start-up church in Lydia's living room, a Samaritan and a Jew, and a nursery rhyme about rings and roses have in common?

They've all found their way into our Wednesday night Youth Bible studies!

We've been traveling through Scripture, asking questions, discovering surprising connections, and learning that the stories of faith are anything but boring. Along the way, we've also managed to squeeze in pumpkin painting, s'mores, serving meals on Consecration Sunday, and a truly ridiculous amount of ping-pong. (We're still deciding whether ping-pong qualifies as a spiritual discipline.)

And we're just getting started!

### Here's what's coming up:

**October 28:** Baking with a Mission! We're whipping up goodies for the church's Election Day bake sale. And yes, our legendary Puppy Chow will be making an appearance. We happen to think ours is unbeatable!

**November 4:** Abigail Saves the Day! We're joining our JAM friends to bring the story of Abigail (1 Samuel 25) to life in a little skit we're calling Abigail Saves the Day! Some of our youth will also be weaving mats with the missions team, while others tackle the missions room. Have you SEEN how many bags we've collected? It's time for a little holy housekeeping!

**November 11:** Rake and Run! Weather permitting, we'll grab our rakes and put our faith into action, helping our neighbors one pile of leaves at a time.

**November 18:** Destination Bible Study! We're taking Bible study beyond our usual gathering place. Stay tuned for the adventure! November 25 – Thanksgiving Break! No youth group this week. Enjoy the holiday, eat something wonderful, and remember to count your blessings!

Through it all, we're discovering that faith isn't something we simply study. It's something we live—in our friendships, our service, our questions, our laughter, and even in the occasional flying ping-pong ball.

**There's always room for one more at the table. Come join us!**











# Sunday Youth: Adventures, Friendship, and Finding God Along the Way

If there's one thing we've learned about Sunday youth group, it's that flexibility is a gift of the Holy Spirit! Between busy schedules, church meetings, and everything else competing for a place on the calendar, our plans sometimes look a little like a game of musical chairs.

But we're not letting that stop us from having fun, building friendships, and discovering God in unexpected places!

## Here's our November lineup:

**Sunday, November 1:** Potluck and Crazy Games! Following worship and our church potluck, we'll gather from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for some delightfully crazy games. Come hungry, bring your competitive spirit, and be prepared to laugh!

**Sunday, November 8:** No Youth Group. Our 4-H friends have a meeting, so we'll take the evening off.

**Sunday, November 15:** Hide in the Cleft and Seek God! We're heading to Kennedy Park from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for an adventure with a name that's almost as much fun as the activity itself! What does it mean to seek God, and where might we discover God's presence? Come find out!

**Sunday, November 22:** Thanksgiving Break! No youth group. Enjoy time with family and friends!

**Sunday, November 29:** To Be Determined! We're leaving this one open for now. Sometimes the best adventures begin with a little mystery!

Our Sunday gatherings may not always follow a perfectly predictable schedule, but our purpose remains the same: creating a place where young people are welcomed, valued, encouraged, and free to be themselves as they grow in faith.

After all, church isn't just a place we go. It's a community we build together.

**And we're having a pretty wonderful time building it!**













## Church FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Ed & Joanne Becker
Terry Lee
Linda Pingel
Steve Roe
Bill Cunningham
(brother of Jean Warg)
Joann Whittington
Gary Winkler
Cliff & Sharon Perkins
Martina Hanselman
Ryan Bernie
Jim Ainslie
Kay Lomicka
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 desire inclusion.

## HOW CAN we Pray FOR YOU?






# Classifieds

### HELP WANTED: SOUPERBOWL COORDINATOR

Wanted: One person willing to take charge of soup without actually having to make all the soup.

Our annual SouperBowl Competition is Sunday, February 14, 2027, immediately following worship. You'll assemble a merry band of volunteers to publicize the event, register contestants, handle event logistics, and help us turn soup into support for Trinity Youth Ministry.

Qualifications: Ability to organize people who own crockpots. Football knowledge entirely optional.

### 5•2 FOOD MINISTRY: MIRACLE WORKERS NEEDED

We're not asking you to multiply loaves and fishes. We have grocery stores.

But you can help multiply community, hospitality, nourishment, and belonging by joining the planning, preparation, and serving of food at Trinity. And 5•2 is about more than Wednesday night meals. Wherever food can bring people together, there's an opportunity for ministry. Come help us fill bellies, pull up chairs, and make room at the table.

Taste-Testing absolutely allowed.

### WANTED: PANCAKE SUPPER KITCHEN BOSS

No, it isn't Ash Wednesday. Yet.

But February will arrive approximately twelve minutes from now, and our Pancake Supper is Wednesday, February 10, 2027.
We already have cooks. Supplies will be purchased. What we need is someone to run the kitchen and keep the whole operation moving. Qualifications: Organization, calm under pressure, and the ability to say, "Those pancakes go THERE," with appropriate authority.

Syrup-related experience preferred but not required.

**See something that sounds like you? You don't have to do everything. Just pick one thing. Because ministry doesn't happen because a few people do everything. It happens when a whole lot of people offer what they can—and discover that God can do quite a lot with it.**

# November

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1<br>**9:30am All Saints Worship**<br>9:45am PB Power Believers<br>**10:45am Potluck**<br>11:30am Youth Group | 2<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom<br>1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness | 3<br>Election<br>**7:00am Trinity All Church Election Day Bake Sale**<br>9:00am Trinity Quilters<br>**5:00pm Missions Committee Meeting** | 4<br>9:30am Meal Prep for Stop & Go Supper<br>10:00am Coffee with Friends<br>**10:00am Women's Circle Fall Planning Meeting**<br>3:30pm JAM<br>4:00pm Youth Bible Study (Early)<br>5:00pm Stop & Go Supper<br>5:30pm Youth Bible Study (Late)<br>6:30pm Choir | 5<br>8:30am Trinity Bible Study<br>9:30am Community Bible Study<br>10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group<br>1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness<br>**5:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting** | 6<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom | 7<br>**8:00am Ingathering Day**<br>**5:30pm Worship** |
| 8<br>**9:30am Worship**<br>9:45am PB Power Believers<br>10:45am Adult Sunday School<br>**6:00pm 4H Meeting** | 9<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom<br>1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness | 10<br>9:00am Trinity Quilters<br>**5:45pm Finance Committee Meeting**<br>6:00pm FD Quilters Guild<br>**6:30pm Ad Council Meeting** | 11<br>9:30am Meal Prep for Stop & Go Supper<br>10:00am Coffee with Friends<br>**3:45pm JAM's Falling for Jesus Event**<br>4:00pm Youth Bible Study (Early)<br>5:00pm Stop & Go Supper<br>5:30pm Youth Bible Study (Late)<br>6:30pm Choir | 12<br>8:30am Trinity Bible Study<br>9:30am Community Bible Study<br>10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group<br>1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness | 13<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom | 14<br>**5:30pm Worship** |
| 15<br>**9:30am Worship**<br>9:45am PB Power Believers<br>10:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:45am CA Confirm/Affirm Youth Sunday School Class<br>5:30pm Youth Group | 16<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>**9:30am Webster County Retired School Personnel Meeting**<br>10:00am Missions Loom<br>1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness | 17<br>9:00am Trinity Quilters | 18<br>**9:15am Ruth Circle**<br>9:30am Meal Prep for Stop & Go Supper<br>10:00am Coffee with Friends<br>3:30pm JAM<br>4:00pm Youth Bible Study (Early)<br>5:00pm Stop & Go Supper<br>5:30pm Youth Bible Study (Late)<br>6:30pm Choir | 19<br>8:30am Trinity Bible Study<br>9:30am Community Bible Study<br>10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group<br>1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness | 20<br>**Newsletter Articles DUE**<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom | 21<br>**10:00am Mat Weaving Session**<br>**5:30pm Worship** |
| 22<br>**9:30am Worship**<br>9:45am PB Power Believers<br>10:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:45am CA Confirm/Affirm Youth Sunday School Class | 23<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom<br>1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness | 24<br>9:00am Trinity Quilters | 25<br>**Office Closed**<br>10:00am Coffee with Friends | 26<br>**Office Closed** | 27<br>**Office Closed** | 28<br>**5:30pm Worship** |
| 29<br>**9:30am Worship**<br>9:45am PB Power Believers<br>10:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:45am CA Confirm/Affirm Youth Sunday School Class<br>5:30pm Youth Group | 30<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom<br>1:00pm RSVP BASE Fitness | 1<br>9:00am Trinity Quilters<br>**5:00pm Missions Committee Meeting** | 2<br>9:30am Meal Prep for Stop & Go Supper<br>10:00am Coffee with Friends<br>**3:30pm JAM 1/2 Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant**<br>4:00pm Youth Bible Study (Early)<br>5:00pm Stop & Go Supper<br>5:30pm Youth Bible Study (Late)<br>6:30pm Choir | 3<br>8:30am Trinity Bible Study<br>10:25am Teen Parent Connection Group<br>1:00pm RSVP Base Fitness<br>**5:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting** | 4<br>9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness<br>10:00am Missions Loom | 5<br>**9:30am Women's Circle Christmas Brunch**<br>**5:30pm Christmas Cantata** |

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# October & November 2026 Newsletter

