

THE AFFINITY

A PUBLICATION OF
TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF FORT DODGE

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

Trinity Website Updated

By Ryan Rippentrop

In January, trinityumcfd.org got a new look. Please check it out!

Trinity's website declares our existence to the world and invites people to connect with us. We will need to continue developing other elements to support this work. I will post *The Affinity* for people to read deeper into our congregation's activities.

Developing, implementing, and managing multiple church communication channels requires time and effort. Please volunteer today if you can help! Let me know what you think should be on the website. It will always be a work in progress—but that's good!

We need to create a coordinated communication plan for Trinity. Then use technology so groups can connect their message with visitors and the community.

Remember, trinityumcfd.org belongs to the members of Trinity United Methodist Church. I welcome constructive feedback! Only through open, honest dialogue are positive outcomes possible.

“Follow the Light, You will be Alright!”

“Deep Thoughts” from Laura Stover

As Epiphany people, God invites us to follow the light! During my recent vacation, I experienced Jesus' Light shining bright. The best way to describe this is to borrow a phrase from a former coworker, “here are some deep thoughts.”

Spending time away from the daily routine and responsibilities allowed me to ponder, meditate, and dream new possibilities. I share for your consideration a few excerpts from sermons that caused me to pause and wonder.

- ◆ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declared the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9
- ◆ When you arrive somewhere, what joy is shared when you hear: “You Made it!”
- ◆ The most important thing to do is “SHOW UP!” Every day, BE IN THE MOMENT!

“Deep Thoughts” Page 2

Inside

Prayer List	2
Youth Events	2
Pancake Supper	2
Committee News	3
Trinity Women's Missions	4
Conference Events	4
Calendar	5

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“Deep Thoughts” from page 1

- ♦ Laughter allows in “the Light.” We feel lighter as we empty ourselves of worry and doubt and allow God to fill us up with JOY! Sink into the laughter of God.
- ♦ Praise and thank God in ADVANCE for what you’ve asked God to do.
- ♦ Complete healing is only held back by what “you” believe can happen. There are NO LIMITATIONS on what God can do.
- ♦ “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
Philippians 4:8

Pancake Supper



February 22 - Ash Wednesday Stop & Go Supper
STOP for Trinity youth serving pancakes from 5–6p.
Free-will offering supports trip to “BOLD”
(UMC Youth event in July). **AND GO** to
Ash Wednesday Service at First UMC @ 7p.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

February 1, 8, 15, & 22

- ⇒ 3:30-5p JAM (Jesus & Me) for Elementary children
- ⇒ 5–6p Stop & Go Supper Fellowship Hall. ALL welcome!
- ⇒ 6:15–8p Confirmation Class, Youth Room. 6th-8th graders.
- ⇒ 8:10–9p Senior High School Bible Study

February 5 – Youth Group @ 6p
Love Your Parents/Family Night
Bring your family to youth group!

February 12 – Children’s Church @ 10a & “SOUPER” BOWL Event after worship for ALL!

February 19 – Youth Group @ 6p
“O, What a Night!” TacO, Jell-O, OreO, BunkO, HerO!

February 19–April 2 – ISU’s Strengthening Families Program
Sundays 2–4p at Trinity UMC or
Mondays 5:30–8p at First Presbyterian.

Contact Laura for more information on this 7- week program for 5th & 6th graders and their parents.

[Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14 | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#)

PRAYER list

Jim & Sheryl Ainslie
Bill Becker
Ed & Joanne Becker
Rachel Bell
Dr. Paul Brown
Don & Elaine Cassady
Clif Ellerbeck
Ralph Ewing
Miriam Hoskins
Terry Lee
Betty Lind
Lois Martin
Rick & Karen Nelson
Katrina O’Brien
Phyllis O’Brien
Bill Oberhelman
Cliff & Sharon Perkins
Linda Pingel
Steve Roe
Betty Schneider
James Smith
Ilene Smith
Jean Warg, and brother
Bill Cunningham
Joann Whittington
Gary Winkler



Please let Pastor Jena or 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.

Mission Project Calendar Announced

By Jayne Cassidy & Carol Etzel, co-chairs Mission Committee

Because hundreds of mission projects need funding, the Mission Committee has set a calendar for projects we plan to support in 2023. Use this list as you prayerfully consider how you can support missions this year.

February. We will raise money for “Blankets for Hope” purchased through and distributed by Church World Service. The display near the Gathering Room will have envelopes for your donation. Write “Blankets for Hope” on your check if you mail it to the office.



- **April** - Tools of Hope
- **May & June** - The Lord’s Cupboard
- **July 15-August** - Ingathering money & kits
- **September** - DART Bus passes
- **October** - Cooper & Duncombe schools
- **November & December** - Heifer International, including the quarter tubes

We planned and served the Fort Dodge Community Manna Meal Saturday, January 28, at First UMC. The sign-up sheet for food donations and server volunteers filled quickly.

Sharon Perkins will offer blood pressure checks monthly on the third weekend to support healthy living. An ounce of prevention!

Mark your calendar! On **November 4**, Trinity will host the annual Ingathering collection of kits and monetary donations. We will need many volunteers! It’s a great youth activity!

Finally, we thank all who contributed to Heifer International. With the \$1,492.80 raised, we purchased two pairs of mating alpacas, shares of a cow, and other smaller animals; plus, a funds toward “where most needed.”

Our next meeting is **February 7 at 5p.**

Finances Show Faithful Commitment

By Kraig Barber, chair Finance Committee

Excellent news! For the year ending 2022, Trinity had general operating receipts of \$274,250 and expenses of \$273,017. We met our church operating obligations with a little extra and were under budget.

Outside operations, three 2022 highlights of designated receipts were \$5,529 for memorial funds, \$7,840 for bus passes, and \$9,895 for The Lord’s Cupboard.

We have been truly blessed, but we have ministries to grow and



more that may present themselves. We thank you for your past stewardship and pray for a continued growing future for the church’s mission and ministries.

Apply for College Scholarships Today

By Patsy Pukacz, chair Memorial Committee

Apply before March 1 for both Iowa United Methodist Foundation and Trinity UMC college scholarships. Contact the office to get the Trinity scholarship application. Visit iumf.org/%20scholarships/ for foundation scholarship information and applications.

Photo Directory Progresses

By Peggy Barkhaus

The first draft of our Church Directory has been submitted! If all goes according to plan, we should receive an official proof copy by February 24. Stay tuned as we will meet for a final review.

After returning the edited proof, the printed directories usually arrive within a month. Thank you for your patience and support.

THANK YOU!

Trinity Women's Missions Impact

By Skip Campney

We were delighted and excited to end 2022 with over \$3,500 to donate to local missions that focus their efforts on the well-being of women and children. Your financial support, willing hands and feet serving others, contributions of food, and much, much more made this possible. Great job and thank you for being so dedicated!



April 29, at 11a we will host a Bridal Parade Luncheon. All church women, friends and guests are

invited. Our program focus will be showcasing/modeling bridal attire such as wedding dresses, bridesmaid's dresses, flower girl or ring bearer attire, and more.

No ticket needed; a free-will offering will be taken. Currently in the planning stages, watch for more details as we put our ideas together.

If you have any of the above-mentioned bridal clothing items that you would model or display, please contact: Carol Etzel at 515-571-2288 or Skip Campney at 515-570-1101. Thank you!

Facebook Page Updates

Work is underway to update Trinity's Facebook page. The new page, is under construction, so be kind. Visit, Like & Follow:

facebook.com/people/Trinity-UMC-Fort-Dodge/100087815026790/

Baptism

David Vraj
January 7

David, a former foreign exchange student visiting for the holidays, attended worship as we celebrated Jesus' baptism. Moved by the Holy Spirit, David asked to be baptized before returning to his home in the Czech Republic.

Let us all celebrate David's new found life in Christ! We will send a package and want to include as many cards as we can. Drop them in the office by February 17th.

Conference Events

Basic Lay Servant Training

Sat. Feb. 11, 9a-2:30p, Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church, 127 N 10th St (515-576-7586). \$25 covers registration and noon meal. Registration on Conference website—click on Events section. [CCL District Lay Servant Training February 2023 -Fort Dodge](#)

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai Installation Service

Sun. Feb. 19, 3-4:30p, Ames, Collegiate UMC, 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014. Refreshments and fellowship following.

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

- 2 Ryan Moeller
- 3 Elijah Yates
- 6 Emma Totten
- 7 Eric Pratt
- 8 Gretta Pratt Sabrynn Ulrich
- 10 Lane McIntyre Betty Schneider
- 14 Ellie Doster Joan Feddersen Barbara Smith Joann Whittington
- 15 Donald Herrington Jobina Kirby
- 21 Peggy Barkhaus
- 28 Koen Netz

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 3 Dean & Kandis Fryar

Leadership Updates & Corrections

Please update your copy from *The Affinity* January 2023 p.6.

Finance Committee Vice-Chair Dee Murman

2023 Bible Reading Plan

Pick up a copy at church. Ask and one will be mailed to you. We will include on devotional emails, too.



Share your news and notes! Email to office@trinityumcfd.org before the 20th of each month to be in our next *The Affinity*.

Trinity United Methodist Church | February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 6:00pm Youth Parent FL Trip Meeting 6:30pm Youth Group	30 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	31 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group 7:15pm Worship Committee	1 9:00am Accountant 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	2 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	3 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	4 5:30pm Worship - Casual
5 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 6:00pm Youth Group	6 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	7 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group 5:00pm Missions Committee	8 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	9 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	10 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	11 9:00am Basic Lay Servant Training @ First UMC FD 5:30pm Worship - Casual
12 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 10:00am Children's Church 10:45am "SOUPER" Bowl Event	13 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	14 Valentine's Day 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group 5:30pm FD Quilters Guild	15 9:00am Accountant 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	16 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	17 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	18 5:30pm Worship - Casual
19 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 2:00pm ISU Extension Strengthening Families Course 3:00pm Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai Installation @ Ames Collegiate 6:00pm Youth Group	20 Newsletter Articles DUE Presidents' Day 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 9:30am ISRSP Board Meeting	21 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group 5:30pm Finance Committee 6:45pm Administrative Council	22 Ash Wednesday 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Rachel Circle 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:15pm Confirmation TBD 6:30pm Choir TBD 6:30pm Worship @ First UMC FD 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	23 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	24 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	25 5:30pm Worship - Casual
26 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 2:00pm ISU Extension Strengthening Families Course	27 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	28 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group	1 9:00am Accountant 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	2 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	3 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	4 5:30pm Worship - Casual



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**THANK YOU FOR READING
OUR NEWSLETTER!**

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February 22
6:30p Worship with Ashes
First United Methodist Church
127 N 10th St, Fort Dodge

Joint services with Epworth UMC, First UMC, & Trinity UMC

THE RIVER OF LIFE

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: while most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

From The Newsletter Newsletter Feb. 2023