



THE AFFINITY

Saturday Worship 5:30p
Sunday Worship 9:30a
Sunday Livestream on
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A PUBLICATION OF
TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF FORT DODGE

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

Fasting During Lent

By Ryan Rippentrop

In 2017, Pope Francis released these thoughts for Lent. I have them laminated on my desk and try to fast from them year-round.

“Do you want to fast this Lent?”

- ◆ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ◆ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ◆ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ◆ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ◆ Fast from worries and trust in God.
- ◆ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ◆ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ◆ Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- ◆ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ◆ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ◆ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.”



By Melanie Fierke, Executive Director

We need cleaning supplies and personal items (cleaning wipes, dish soap, laundry pods, shampoo, body wash, and deodorant). If you have travel size shampoo, conditioner, or soap, we take them, too!

In 2022, we gave emergency food to over 10,000 people—double the number served in the past! The need is greater now than during the pandemic.

Thank you for supporting The Lord's Cupboard and our community! We are truly blessed and could not help others without having such a fantastic community behind us.

We receive donations M-F, 8a-4:30p (closed for lunch 12-1p). Use the First United Methodist Church office doors off the east parking lot. Our staff is part-time or volunteers. If you need help with your donations, please call 515-227-3337 to plan a delivery time.

Inside

Prayer List 2

Lenten Challenge 2

Youth News 3

Milestones 4

Committee News 4-6

Winter Weather 6

Calendar 7

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Lent 2023 Daily Challenge

The United Methodist Church created a Lenten devotional called "Photo-a-Day Challenge." Here's our take on it.

Select the word of the day from the next column >>. Pause and reflect throughout the day; see how the word inspires or shows up in your life. Share your thoughts by posting a picture on your social media pages. No explanation needed; after all, a picture is worth a thousand words. Tag #TrinityUMCFD on your Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, or Twitter.

Not on social media? Journal your experience. Write a poem. Be creative and open to letting the Holy Spirit speak to you!

This project is about paying attention and being intentional. Let's start this 40-day journey together, sharing glimpses of our lives with one another.

PAUSE for a few minutes each day to remember and reflect on God's word.

The scriptures used to inspire the words of the day are:

- ◆ February 23-25 > Matthew 4:1-11
- ◆ February 26-March 4 > Matthew 17:1-9
- ◆ March 5-11 > John 4:5-42
- ◆ March 12-18 > John 9: 1-41
- ◆ March 19-25 > John 11:1-45
- ◆ March 26-April 1 > Matthew 21:1-11
- ◆ April 2-8 > John 20:1-18
- ◆ April 9 is Easter Sunday! Celebrate!

Daily Challenge Inspiration Words

February:

- 22- Consume
- 23- Wilderness
- 24- Test
- 25- Worship
- 26- Celebrate (Sunday)
- 27- Shone
- 28- Dazzling

March:

- 1- Beloved
- 2- Overcome
- 3- Alone
- 4- Vision
- 5- Celebrate (Sunday)
- 6- Deep
- 7- Spring
- 8- Chosen
- 9- Complete
- 10- Sows
- 11- Believed
- 12- Celebrate (Sunday)
- 13- Revealed
- 14- Works
- 15- Opened
- 16- Astonishing
- 17- See
- 18- Remains
- 19- Celebrate (Sunday)
- 20- Message
- 21- Love
- 22- Believe
- 23- Give
- 24- Live
- 25- Loud
- 26- Celebrate (Sunday)
- 27- Disciples
- 28- Needs
- 29- Follow
- 30- Humble
- 31- Blessed

April:

- 1- Turmoil
- 2- Celebrate (Palm Sunday)
- 3- Early
- 4- Removed
- 5- Serve
- 6- Hold
- 7- Carried
- 8- Announced
- 9- Celebrate (Easter Sunday)

PRAYER list

Jim & Sheryl Ainslie
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
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.

Soups, Prayers & Treasures!

By Laura Stover

The recent “SOUPer” Bowl lunch was a big success. Thank you, church family, for supporting the Youth trip fundraiser. More than \$800 was raised! We had nine soups and seven “sweet” desserts to sample. Fan favorites were Chief’s chili (Pingel family), Cheeseburger Catch (Tolle family), and Taco Touchdown (Lilly Johnson)! The favorite dessert was apple crisp. Recipes are available upon request!



Currently, 16 youths and 3 adults have registered for the July “BOLD” United Methodist Youth Conference in Daytona Beach, FL! We are planning additional fundraisers in the coming months.

The most important one that needs YOUR help is a church-wide garage sale. The date is not set yet, but if you have treasures & stuff, please save them for the youth.

The JAM and Confirmation students completed their study on the Lord’s Prayer. The meaning of this most popular prayer became clearer through games, snacks, Bible stories, and several surprise activities.

Have you ever wondered what heaven tastes like? JAM kids voted for cotton candy!



The final action was to create a one-word prayer from “The Lord’s Prayer.” Check out the posters on display in Fellowship Hall.



MARCH YOUTH HAPPENINGS

- ⇒ **JAM, Confirmation, and High School Bible Study** will meet on Wed, March 1, 8, 22 & 29.
- ⇒ **SPRING BREAK** for Fort Dodge schools is March 15–20. St. Ed’s is 13–20. NO Youth Activities that week!
- ⇒ **Youth Group** March 5 & 26!
- ⇒ **Children’s Church** March 12 during Sunday worship for children age 3–5th grade.



SAVE THE DATE — WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th

Trinity children and youth invite you to walk where Jesus did during his last week of life. “A Walk Through Holy Week” will be enacted that evening throughout the church as students portray Holy Week scenes. Plan now to attend and invite your family and friends.



Special Lenten Worship in March!

Enjoy a tasty meal with your church friends and family on a Wednesday night, and a short worship service called **PAUSE**, 6:05 – 6:25p in Fellowship Hall.

Each Wednesday (except March 15th—spring break), **PAUSE** will focus on one word about being a disciple through music, scripture, and prayer. All ages are welcome to attend!

You're
Amazing!

Mission Project Updates

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

Thanks to all who contributed food, money, or time to serve the Manna Meal on the blizzard-like evening of January 28. Guests enjoyed the warm meal and played bingo. We distributed leftover food and bingo prizes to Beacon of Hope, The Lord's Cupboard, and our church.

The offering collection for the Blankets of Hope (Christian World Service [CWS]) continued until the end of February. Your contributions provide comfort and warmth to people in need worldwide. Please visit the blanket display near the Gathering Room, which will stay until March 6.

On the last three weekends of April (15/16, 22/23, and 29/30), there will be a new display and envelopes for "Tools of Home" offering. Used for building and gardening, CWS distributes the tools worldwide. Please write "Tools of Home" on your donation.

At our next meeting on March 7, 5p, we will discuss which kits to collect for November's Ingathering and the May/June collection for The Lord's Cupboard.

Thanks

Delivering Prayers with Peanuts

By Katrina O'Brien, chair Outreach Committee

In February, we delivered another treat to all FD Senior High, Middle, Cooper, and Duncombe schools' staff and the Cares & Pride Group. The personalized cards were attached to a package of honey-roasted peanuts with a note, "School employees BEE like honey...good for the soul! We are NUTS for you! Your friends at Trinity United Methodist Church."

Our next project will be sending care packages to college students. If you have a college student who would like a care package, text their name and address to Katrina O'Brien (515-571-8864).

Lent and Holy Week Planning Begins

By Jared Feddersen, chair Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met on January 31 and had a very productive meeting! We discussed the "Great Day of Music" services, held the last weekend of February, and the Lenten activities beginning on Ash Wednesday. Other items addressed were maintenance of the Sanctuary piano and Sanctuary lighting issues.

Holy Week will be here before we know it! We've put together a rough outline for services that week and look forward to other ideas that Pastor Jena and Laura will be presenting us with that week as well!

 **MARCH**
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

- 1 Kathy Becker
- 1 Miriam Hoskins
- 4 Ben Pingel
- 4 Charles Schelle
- 7 Steve Becker
- 7 Travis Filloon
- 9 Christine Cornwell
- 10 Richard Zahrobsky
- 13 Emma Alstott
- 13 Patricia Nielson
- 14 Daniel Cassady
- 17 Don Sampson
- 18 Carol Etzel
- 18 Nancy Ropte
- 18 Colette Salmon
- 21 Josh Smith
- 22 Richard Sessler
- 24 Mary Auten
- 24 Steve Roe
- 30 Mollyann Laird

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 3 Steve & Debby Roe
- 7 Mark & Jan Wilkens
- 15 Jim & Deb Harvey
- 19 Ed & JoAnn Becker
- 27 Nick & Colette Salmon

Condolences

Betty Schneider
Feb 10, 1930 to
Jan 27, 2023

Baptism

On February 25, we welcomed Leonard Bradley Netz and Stetson Robert Netz (cousins) into the fellowship of Christ.

Circles Resume for Spring

By Skip Campney, Trinity Women's Missions Treasurer

It is hard to believe March is already here, spring is just around the corner, and Easter is less than six weeks away!

Join us for the General Planning Meeting for spring/summer events on **Tuesday, March 7, at 10a**. All are welcome, but we need a few representatives from each circle!

We invite all women to attend a circle:

- ♦ Wednesday, March 15, at 5p—Mary Circle
Now 2nd Wednesday of month
- ♦ Wednesday, March 22, at 9:15a—Ruth Circle
- ♦ Wednesday, March 22, at 5p—Rachel Circle

We hope to have you join us. If you have any questions, call Deloris Soppeland (515-545-4653) or Skip Campney (515-570-1101).

College Scholarships Applications

By Patsy Pukacz, chair Memorial Committee

The school year is flying by, and it's time for seniors to start thinking about graduation. If college is in your plans, don't forget that Trinity scholarships are available. If you are interested in applying for one, contact the office for the application you need. Enjoy these last High School days! Deadline is March 1.

Photo Directory Progresses

By Peggy Barkhaus

The proof of our Church Directory has arrived! There will be opportunities for you to do a final review of your name and address information. The committee will then complete a final review.

We don't want to rush, but we may be on track for distributing around Easter. Thank you for your patience and support.

Finances Slow As

New Year Starts

By Kraig Barber, Finance Committee chair



In January, the general offerings were \$17,252.12, while the general operating expenses were \$26,586.62.

Snow removal was four times the amount from last year. Utility bills were also higher, likely due to mechanical system issues.

The Gladys Long Estate Fund disbursed \$2,689.38, designated for the Trustees' discretion. Furnaces in the "new" addition might "burn up" that money quickly as they are hanging on by a thread.

A special charge conference on Feb. 23, accepted an estate gift of \$11,237.67 for the general fund.

We're still blessed to have our ministry of programs continue and now look forward to celebrating the Lenten season.

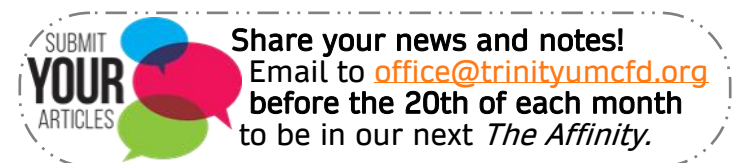
Leadership Updates

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

Lay Leader Peggy Barkhaus



SPRING FORWARD
SUNDAY,
MARCH 12!



THANK YOU!

Winter Weather Policy Considerations

February gave us a glimpse that spring is coming. Then it showed us winter in Iowa is not over yet.

Trinity's weather policy follows Fort Dodge Community School's decision. When school is:

- ◆ Canceled—no church activities.
- ◆ Early out—no afternoon or evening church activities.
- ◆ Late start—morning activities should be delayed or canceled.

"Why?" you ask. "We're adults," you say.

First, it's a safety issue. Church activities are fun, and seeing friends is nice, but is it worth risking a fall or fender bender? The church and your insurance carriers will be happier if we can prevent those.

While they try, our snow service doesn't always make it here immediately. Frigid temps impact adults and children alike. Also, being on the streets can hamper road crews. It also poses risks and challenges for our staff as they travel to/from church.

Another idea that could be explored—with our ability to Livestream, worship could be pre-recorded and shared during severe weather events. We must consider the numerous pros and cons of such a plan.

We need to investigate how best to communicate schedule changes to everyone. Our current system can't handle the task, but it may be worth checking out alternatives.

Exercise Program Growing Pains

On Monday and Friday mornings, intrepid volunteers and participants descend upon Trinity to enjoy an exercise program designed especially for seniors. Anyone can participate to the best of their abilities.

Recently the class has grown by leaps and bounds. They've started discussing an afternoon program at Trinity or a second group at another church in Fort Dodge. Stay tuned for developments.

Trustee Times

Later this year, parts of Trinity will turn 65. What a milestone! We are grateful to have this building here, still serving God today. However, as with all older structures, issues arise as things wear out. We must continue to be good stewards of our building and other resources.

This heating season has been a challenge. The furnaces in the 27-year-old addition are failing. We've had multiple service calls, and the issue continues. We should consider upgrading the units. There may be energy savings to gain.

The company that installed our boiler control system just evaluated it. It's functional, but they found several bad thermostats that kept the heat running. We are replacing those t-stats, so hopefully, we'll notice more even temps throughout the building.

The Fellowship Hall floor takes a beating with all our activities, so we're looking into buffing, stripping, and re-waxing it.

Additionally, we are handling several lighting issues in offices, hallways, and the Sanctuary. We address every item brought to our attention.

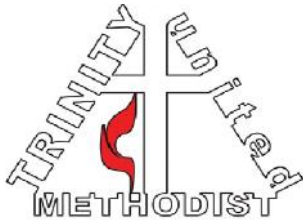
With long-range planning and accessibility in mind, we've started discussing the restrooms near the kitchen, the north narthex entry, and adding handicapped parking on the north lawn. These major projects will require much time and finances to complete. So, we're only raising the ideas now. We will navigate the many steps before proceeding.

Please let Ryan or Pastor Jena know if you spot broken items or other things needing attention. They will communicate them to us as quickly as possible. Thank you for helping maintain our church so it can serve the many ministries of God's kingdom here in Fort Dodge.

Trustees next meet Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30p.

Trinity United Methodist Church | March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 2:00pm Strengthening Families ISU Class	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 6:05pm PAUSE Lenten Worship 6:30pm 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 2:00pm Strengthening Families ISU Class 6:00pm Youth Group	6 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	7 9:00am Trinity Quilters 10:00am Women's Missions Planning Meeting 11:00am Teen Parents Group 5:00pm Missions Committee 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	8 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:05pm PAUSE Lenten Worship 6:30pm 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 Children's Church 2:00pm Strengthening Families ISU Class 	13 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	14 9:00am Trinity Quilters 5:30pm FD Quilters Guild	15 9:00am Accountant 10:00am Coffee with Friends 5:00pm Mary Circle *new 3rd week of month*	16 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study	17 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 	18 5:30pm Worship - Casual
Spring Break: St. Ed's 13-20 Fort Dodge 15-20						
19 9:30am Worship - Blended / Livestream 2:00pm Strengthening Families ISU Class	20 Newsletter Articles DUE 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness 9:30am ISRSP Board Meeting <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Spring Break Ends </div>	21 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group 5:30pm Finance Committee 6:45pm Admin. Council	22 9:15am Ruth Circle 10:00am Coffee with Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Rachel Circle 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:05pm PAUSE Lenten Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 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 Strengthening Families ISU Class 6:00pm Youth Group	27 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	28 9:00am Trinity Quilters 11:00am Teen Parents Group	29 10:00am Coffee Friends 3:30pm JAM - Jesus & Me 5:00pm Stop & Go Supper 6:05pm PAUSE Lenten Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir 8:10pm Sr. High Bible Study	30 8:30am Trinity Bible Study 9:30am Community Bible Study 6:30pm-Doors 7:30p-Show "Be A Light" Brady O'Brien Live	31 9:00am RSVP BASE Fitness	1 5:30pm Worship - Casual



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THANK YOU FOR READING
OUR NEWSLETTER!

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PAUSE

WEDNESDAY, 6:05 - 6:25P
FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Weekly (not March 15 for spring break), **PAUSE** will focus on one word about being a disciple through music, scripture, and prayer. Based on "Lent 2023 Daily Challenge" page 2.

First, enjoy Stop & Go Supper 5-6p!

All ages welcome!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Doors Open — 6:30 pm

Show Starts — 7:30 pm

Free will donation!

Light. Spirit. Music. Right here at Trinity United Methodist Church, Brady O'Brien Live presents "Be A Light" and we want you there!

This show will be an immersive concert experience! There will be a VIP room for Grand and Concert Grand Sponsors, become a sponsor at bradyobrienlive.com.