

The ACORN

Vol. 3 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL March 2024

March



Stations of the Cross
Details on page 2



March 24 Palm Sunday

Worship at 9 am and 10:30 am
Join us as we begin Holy Week

March 28 Holy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm, Sanctuary
Together walk with Jesus through the Last Supper, his prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and the crucifixion in this special time of worship as we understand what Jesus' death means for us.

March 29 Good Friday

Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage, 7:15 am

9 am—6 pm

Trinity Sanctuary will be open for private time of prayer and reflection

Walk the Stations of The Cross

Sarasota's Historic Good Friday Pilgrimage



This Good Friday, March 29th, is the 23rd year Sarasota will observe the worldwide STATIONS of the Cross tradition. What began in mid-15th century Jerusalem is now observed in over 200 nations, especially on Good Friday of Holy Week.

In past years, the procession was confined to the north sidewalk of Main Street. Since 2011, the Sarasota Police Department escort has facilitated the procession so that pilgrims can now walk down the center of Main Street. In 2023, nearly 1,000 pilgrims participated including our

Pastor Linda speaking at the Eleventh STATION at First United Methodist Church, "Jesus is Nailed to the Cross."

Everyone is invited to Walk Your Faith this Holy Week by experiencing "The Way" or "STATIONS of the Cross" on March 29. Twenty-six Ministers of fourteen Denominations will take part in this event including our Pastor Linda. With six denominational Deans/Principals participating, over 100 congregations are represented. The procession will stop for worship and prayer at each of the 14 STATIONS. The STATIONS of the Cross journey offers an opportunity to reflect on the different moments of Christ's passion journey. A service booklet sharing the acts of worship for each STATION will be distributed to all pilgrims.



The pilgrimage begins to gather at 7 a.m. and starts at 7:20 a.m. in front of the Regal Hollywood movie theater on Main Street. For those who would like to park at the final station (Church of the Redeemer at 222 S. Palm Ave.), Siesta Trolley will transport pilgrims to Regal Hollywood from Redeemer starting at 6 a.m.

Pilgrims will reach the final STATION, Church of the Redeemer, at about 8:30 a.m. At that time, all pilgrims are invited to attend a brief Morning Prayer Service inside the church.

Come observe Christ's passion on the day the world celebrates it.

Chancel Choir

For anyone who likes to sing, knows someone who sings, or has sung in a choir before but cannot take on another long term commitment, here's an offer you can't refuse... For the next 3 weeks the Chancel choir will be preparing an easy and inspirational Easter Week Cantata Glorifying the Risen Christ through music during Thursday evening rehearsals at 6pm in the church sanctuary. The presentation dates will be Palm Sunday, March 24th; Maundy Thursday, March 28th; and Easter Sunday, March 31st! After that, your limited commitment has been fulfilled, unless the choral singing bug has bitten!!! Thank You!
LaTerry Butler, Traditional Music Director

Pastor's Page



Easter is Coming! During Lent we are looking in the direction of Easter, preparing our heart and mind to receive and be changed by the Resurrected Lord. Our belief is the Resurrection is at the core of who we are as Christians. Jesus changes lives. Easter is a celebration not just of one day, but of possibility and hope. I want to urge each of you to think about Easter in a special way this year. How will you celebrate Jesus in your life? What can you do that will symbolize the resurrection in your life on this special day?

I hope you will also consider how you can share Jesus with others this Easter. Who comes to mind as someone you want to invite to Easter Worship? When I have conversations with people about their faith journey, it often starts with an invitation someone extended to worship! Never underestimate the power of invitation. We don't know how God has been working in someone's life getting them ready to say yes to an invitation. You may be part of God's plan in sharing Jesus with someone!

I am looking forward to sharing this Easter celebration with each one of you soon!

Blessings, Linda

EASTER SUNDAY

9 AM– Interactive service in Sanctuary

10 AM– Easter Egg Hunt in church courtyard

10:30 AM – Easter Celebration – Jesus Explosion!



Easter Brunch

Easter Morning

9 am - noon, Haley Hall

Look for sign-up sheet for suggested items to bring to share



Flower the Cross

A lovely tradition of Trinity is the Easter cross of beautiful flowers. Everyone is invited to bring flowers from your yard or favorites from the store to create a flower masterpiece on Easter Sunday morning. Create a wonderful memory as you take a family picture by the cross on Easter Sunday morning.



WOTO and LLL

Women on Their Own joins Ladies' Lunch Lift

Monday, March 18, 2024

Skillets – Sarasota – Oaks Plaza

Some Women on Their Own have expressed an interest in getting together for lunch instead of dinner. The early dark hours makes driving home after dinner a challenge. Since Trinity already offers a ladies lunch group, we have been invited to join the Ladies Lunch Lift when they meet the third Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Currently L3 meets at Skillets at 8635 South Tamiami Trail, Suite 4.

Please contact Tyeann at 941-228-0782 to RSVP. Hope to see you then and there!

Blue Book Case in Haley Hall

Coming in March we will have 10 new books. We will have novels and others in all categories. I have been busy reading them all. Be sure to check out the contributions that occurred when women were preaching. I pray that you will enjoy the selections as much as I enjoyed them. I hope you will give me your feedback and recommendations for any books you feel would be a blessing to us.

Love to you all.

Karyn Eubanks

Community Connections

Our congregation and neighbors donated 302 pounds of nonperishable food for The Palms Food Pantry in February! We had a great crew: Pam Pierce, Brenda Moore, Dave and Kay Korty, Ray Garriott, Karen Remfrey, Wendall and Brad Pritchett, and Carroll Hatfield. Brad and Wendall took the many boxes of donations to The Palms who always express their great gratitude.

We also received toiletries, clothes and 22 pounds of food for Remnant Cafe. Kay and Dave Korty delivered these items to Remnant Cafe. Cash donations totaled \$220.00

Our next Food Drive is Saturday March 16. You can come to the Food Drive to volunteer or drop off items, or donate food for the Palms, or items of clothing or toiletries for Remnant Cafe at anytime in the office or kitchen. You may also donate money with a check made out to TUMC and add "for Food Drive."



Part of our many donations

Our church sends prayers of hope, and blessings to our neighbors in need with our donations.

Remnant Café has let our team know that they very much need the following:

- Razors
- Deodorant
- Blankets
- White Socks—ankle or calf length

United Methodist Women

A very special thanks to everyone who attended our UMW Sandwiches and Strawberry Sundae Event on Sunday Feb. 25. Besides enjoying wonderful Faith, Food and Fellowship, (our UMW theme this year) we collected \$720 for the Florida Children's Home!



Thank you for your donations of purses, toiletries and \$\$ to the UMW & Community Connection February Project.

The UMW Circles will now take care of filling the purses, pray over them, then deliver them in March to two local missions: SPARCC and Selah Freedom who both serve women in crisis. These missions are so appreciative of the filled purses...because handing a purse with basics a woman needs is truly a gift!

We appreciate your help with this outreach! Picture is the overloaded table with your generous donations! We will share a picture of the finished purses in next Acorn.



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Coming in April.....Guess Who's Coming to Lunch or Dinner?

UMWWomen are hosting a great fellowship event during a two week period April 15 - 27. All church members, UMW members, friends, neighbors are invited to gather for lunch or dinner in various members' homes. Hosts provide lunch (at noon) or dinner (at 6 pm) for a specific number of guests.

The fun is that the hosts don't know who is coming until they arrive at their door and those attending get to meet others they may not know.

The date, address and general menu of each host will be publicized. You can make your choice at a special table on Sundays (after Easter) or in the church office during the week. Cost: Lunch: \$10 per person, Dinner: \$15 per person Payment is collected at sign up. All income will go into the UMW treasury be used for their mission to women, children and youth.



Persis Circle once again gathered together and assembled rose bud vases with notes and delivered to the teachers and staff of Phillippi Shores Elementary School on Valentines day. Many appreciations were expressed by the recipients!

Trinity in Mission



Trinity United Methodist Women provided Books for Phillippi Shores Here's a photo of the classroom books purchased using the Sara Kane book fund. One book was given to each teacher who participated by providing a wish list.

On February 10th, we hosted a pot-luck lunch and were blessed by Ann Eppinger who spoke to us about her experiences with Zoe Empowers.

Zoe Empowers has a vision to see a world where all children are given opportunities, not handouts, to reach their full potential. They empower orphans and vulnerable children to move beyond charity becoming fully self-reliant leaders who change entire communities.

The Problem: Over 380 million children worldwide live in extreme poverty. Among this population, orphans and child-led families are especially vulnerable to isolation and exploitation. Zoe Empowers provides them with the tools, resources and training to pull themselves out of poverty - for good.

Over the last year, 14 new churches partnered with Zoe Empowers in the Florida United Methodist Conference, and many other churches have been involved in many different ways.



Centering Prayer Group

Our Centering Prayer Group would like to thank Trinity UMC for hosting us. To this end we have made a donation to the church and had a brick placed in the Garden of Hope. The brick is placed not only where we can see it when we meet to gather in a circle each Friday morning but also to urge any visitors to the garden to inhabit it in prayer.

At the heart of our hour's gathering from 8.30 to 9.30 am each Friday is silent prayer and contemplative reflection on Scripture. This informed the choice of text for our brick: "For God alone my soul waits in silence" (Psalm 62:1). Our group is drawn from six different denominations but what unites us is our quiet drawing of strength from God.

Our group offers thanks to Karen Remfrey for acquiring the brick in such a timely manner and to Carroll Hatfield for his work in placing the brick. We know that when he placed the brick, Carroll prayed over it and over our group and over Trinity UMC. We are thankful to join the names and texts on other bricks in the Garden of Hope.

In rainy weather or if the temperature is below 60, we meet in the Wesley Room. The second photograph shows the brick as our centerpiece on one such occasion before Carroll placed it in the garden for the following Friday.

Though silent for part of the hour, we are a friendly group, and we always welcome newcomers. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Stephen and Christine Hoffman at 941-773-7008.



Garden of Hope walkway Bricks

Anyone can order memorial and Bricks of honor for placement in the Garden of Hope.

The order forms are in Haley Hall. 4" x 8" bricks with printed dedication are \$125.

Complete form and return to church office with payment.

Florida UM Children's Home

DAY ON CAMPUS

Day On Campus is returning for 2024 on Saturday, March 16th! Come and learn the latest news about our ministry and the impact your support is making on young lives. You'll be able to tour the campus, attend special programming and performances featuring our youth, and enjoy a free picnic lunch. **Saturday March 16th** is the Day on Campus for the United Methodist Children's Home. This is a wonderful day of touring the campus so you can see the many exciting aspects of this ministry for children and youth that you support. For more information contact Jacque Ray, our Trinity Representative or Pastor Linda.

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in 1908 to provide a home for orphans and other children that had nowhere else to live. Today it serves as a diverse ministry with two campuses that include residential, therapeutic group, foster and emergency shelter care. The Home also provides independent living assistance and a community child care center.

Easter Sunday, March 31st is also a Fifth Sunday.

A special offering will be taken for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Make checks payable to Trinity and note FLUMCH or online www.iTrinity.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief

March 10th is UMCOR Sunday. This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief. The UMCOR donations underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable. Gifts can be made [online](#), or by check to Trinity UMC and note "UMCOR".

UMCOR, provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms or other crises. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity delivered **\$1.7 million** towards these ministries:

- **International Disaster Response** efforts provide assistance following natural or human-caused disasters outside of the United States. Typical emergency response efforts include the distribution of food, hygiene supplies and facilities, nonfood items, psychosocial support and shelter.
- **U.S. Disaster Response** works with annual conferences in the United States to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories. In partnership with conference level disaster response coordinators, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle.
- **Global Migration** provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, basic necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- **Relief Supplies** UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and affiliate warehouses within the UM Relief Supply Network collect relief supplies that are assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution in the United States and its territories in response to disasters.

UMCOR's goal is to assist vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their nationality, race, religion or status. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity. One of the wonderful aspects of the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. Because of you – UMCOR and its partners serve as witnesses to God's love for all.

Stewardship and Finance

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

We are pleased to report the results of our pledge commitment campaign. We now have 72 households committed to give financially \$266,640 to the operating budget. This is an increase of households pledging from 60 in 2023 to 72 which is exciting! Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Our projected budget for 2024 of \$405,487 has not increased from last year. Each year we have additional income due to unpledged giving and loose plate offerings that we cannot predict. Last year we did have a shortfall in meeting expenses that we were able to overcome due to receiving federal grants. Unfortunately, this year these grants will not be available so we are anticipating a shortfall of approximately \$70,000. We can assure you that the staff and leadership of the church have reduced expenses and spending where possible, yet increases in fixed expenses out of our control such as insurance premiums and utilities have risen.

The ministries of Trinity UMC make a difference in God's Kingdom here in Sarasota. Please prayerfully consider an increase to your pledge or a second mile-offering gift. If you have not pledged yet it is not too late! Each one of you is an important part of God's work as we go forward into the future. We also would ask you to consider making Trinity UMC part of your estate planning or will. Information on how to do this will be coming in the near future.

In God's Service

Carroll Hatfield
Chair, Finance

George Cook
Chair, SPRC

Diane Freestone
Council Chair

Rev. Linda Tice
Pastor



Community Connections Mission Moment

Our mission moment for March will be collecting snacks and other items that our First Responders need. As before, we will assemble large freezer bags with snacks in Haley Hall that they can take with them on a call. **Items needed include small waters, granola or other energy bars, candy, crackers, small bags of nuts or pretzels, or popcorn and beef jerky; basically any kind of snacks.**

Since First Responders also cook in their stations, they expressed a need for **ground coffee, creamer, cooking oil, ketchup, sriracha, condiments.**

It is good that we can help those who work long shifts and must be ready to respond to an emergency at any time. We always include a blessing for our First Responders in each bag given.

PRAYERS....

Thanks to the members of the reorganized Prayer Team. What an honor it is to lift up our church family in prayer. One of the greatest privileges of Christian life is the opportunity to pray. If you would like to be a part of the new Prayer Team, please let Tyeann Tyeann@itrinity.org or Phyllis phyllispritchett@hotmail.com know. If you have a prayer request for the Team, contact either Tyeann or Phyllis.

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Lucy Athas, Roy Cowles, Tyeann Dillon, Barb Ellsworth, John Ellsworth, L.J. Gibbs, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Ellie Lyons, Marg MacLaughlan, Bev Packer, Ethel Paki, Marie Piraino, Phyllis Pritchett, Wendall Pritchett, Rhonda Puhaly, Mary Raymond, Dawn Sutton, Joan Utter, Harry Weaver, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Ron Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Also please pray for our military family: Tanner Holly, Gunnar Kral, Joshua Marsh, Dylan Mitchell, Brandon Oberkamp, Audrey Santana, Craig Scott, Devin Voyles, Dylan Youngblood.

Note: please let us know if any of the above are no longer in the military service.

5-Day Bible Reading Program March

Read the entire Bible, or just the New Testament, in 2024.

This special Bible reading system allows you to read the entire Bible (or just the New Testament) in one year while only reading 5 times a week. Five readings a week gives room to catch up or take a day off to focus on other Bible reading or spiritual disciplines and makes daily Bible reading practical and do-able.

Week 10 Mar 3—9

- Numbers 8-11; Colossians 1
- Numbers 12-14; Psalm 28; Colossians 2
- Numbers 15-18; Psalm 113; Colossians 3
- Numbers 19-21; Colossians 4
- Numbers 22-25; Luke 1

Week 11 Mar 10—16

- Numbers 26-29; Luke 2
- Num 30-33; Psalm 35; Luke 3
- Numbers 34-36; Luke 4
- Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 35; Luke 5
- Deuteronomy 4-5; Luke 6

Week 12 Mar 17-23

- Deuteronomy 6-9; Luke 7
- Deuteronomy 10-14; Ps 5; Luke 8
- Deuteronomy 15-18; Ps 115; Luke 9
- Deuteronomy 19-22; Psalm 6; Luke 10
- Deuteronomy 23-26; Luke 11

Week 13 Mar 24-30

- Deuteronomy 27-31; Luke 12
- Deut 32-34; Psalm 13; Luke 13
- Joshua 1-4; Psalm 143; Luke 14
- Joshua 5-8; Ps 14; Luke 15

Snowbird Dinner

Calling all Snowbirds! Pastor Linda is inviting all 'Snowbirds' to dinner on March 14th at 5:30 pm at Apollonia in the Landings on S. Tamiami Trail. Come have a fun night out with other Trinity snowbirds! Please sign up after church or call the church office so we can reserve a seat for you.

Trinity PreSchool



Congratulations! Our Preschool earned a Class assessment score of 6.16 out of 7 giving us a 5+ Star rating from the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County Stars program.

Warren Willis Summer Camp



Experience a high-energy, life changing week for rising 4th grade through 12th grade students. Make lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories on beautiful Lake Griffin near Leesburg, Florida. Talk with Russ about summer camp scholarships and any questions you may have.

March Birthdays



Ron Schwied	3/5
Goldie Reed	3/5
Alan Meyers	3/7
Bob Sutton	3/7
Emily Beck	3/9
Solita Tay	3/9
Shona Burtner	3/9
Kristen Rall	3/13
Zachary Meyers	3/14
Ruby Ralston	3/15
Phyllis Pritchett	3/16
Phil Harris	3/18
Elizabeth Hicks	3/18
Troy Logan	3/18
Bud Duffey	3/21
Rebecca Milner	3/21
Kay Anthofer	3/23
Andrea Zahn	3/24
Cyrus Kuhn	3/28

March Anniversaries

Carroll & Lisa Hatfield	3/17
Bob & Karen McGuirt	3/20
Dan & Ruth Jackson	3/31

Save the date

Gulf Coast Community Choir Concert on Sunday, April 14th 4 pm at Trinity Sanctuary. Ticket information soon.

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



Trinity – Sarasota
a United Methodist Church

4150 S. Shade Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tel: 941-924-7756

Email: trinity@iTrinity.org

www.iTrinity.org

Join us Sunday at 9:00am or 10:30am for In-Person Worship or Live-streaming
Worship on Facebook.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUMCSarasota/>

Or watch the recording anytime on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ri4OChHWMbbJt3rgfRLg>

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Linda Tice
Traditional Worship Director: LaTerry Butler
Congregational Care Coordinator: Tyeann Dillon
Director of Children/Youth Ministry: Russell Towery
Sound/Light Board: Adria Pike
Projections Board: Sebastian Girstl

Business Administration: Jack Hundley
Secretary: Karen Remfrey
Preschool Director: Brooke Brayton
Preschool Teachers: Glenna Schrock, Wanda Butler;
Abigail Gonzalez

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World