

The ACORN

Vol. 3 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL March 2025



Lent begins with Ash Wed March 5th.

- Drive thru Ashes – Wednesday from 8-10am in the parking lot by the Church entrance. Receive a prayer and imposition of ashes on forehead or hands by Pastor Linda.
- Worship at 6:30p in Sanctuary. We begin with our struggle with temptation.
- Lent Sermon Series – Wilderness to Glory – Grow in our understanding of Jesus through his stories in the Gospels.

Group opportunities to discuss our church Lent Book – *From Wilderness to Glory* by NT Wright. For more information on the following classes, contact the church office.

- Sunday at 9:00 - Faithful Followers class in Wesley Room
- Tuesdays at 1:00 - at Arietta
- Wednesdays at 11:00 in Haley Hall with Disciple leaders
- Thursdays at 2:00 - Flourishing Friends an online class
- Thursday at 6:30p – Pastor Linda in the church office.



**Time Change Sunday, March 9th –
Daylight Savings Begins**



You can meet our ZOE Blessing Kenya group without leaving your home! On March 11th at 9:00am, you can join a Zoom gathering. Meet and talk with our kids. Be inspired by these amazing youth. To receive the Zoom link, contact Pastor Linda or Karen.

Bread for the World

Expanding Our Embrace With “Offering of Letters”

Since 2020 Trinity UMC has held a monthly food drive to support the Food Pantry at Church of the Palms and Remnant Café. Our congregation along with many neighbors have been consistently generous with donations of food, clothing, and money.

This Lent the Church Council unanimously agreed to expand our embrace by partnering with other churches in our community and nationally in participating in the ‘Offering of Letters’ organized by Bread for the World (www.bread.org). This is new for Trinity.

Bread for the World is an ecumenical, non-partisan Justice Ministry. Just as our monthly food drive shows mercy to others, advocacy and justice ministry is an important part of our Christian witness as followers of Jesus. The ‘Offering of Letters’ is an opportunity for us to write letters to our local Representatives and Senators who have the power to impact policies and programs that can end hunger.

This year “Nourish Our Future” is our Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. We will provide information and sample letters about the legislative priorities we will pursue. There will be an opportunity after worship on Sunday 16 March to write personal letters. You may also write letters on your own. The next Sunday 23 March we will dedicate those letters as part of morning worship. Our letters will be combined with letters from other churches in our community and will be hand delivered to the local offices of our Representatives and mailed to our Senators. We have set a community goal of 500 letters.

We hope you will join us. For more information, please ask Rev Stephen Hoffman, Brenda Moore, or Pam Pierce. Bread for the World has a very informative website at www.bread.org.



breadfor**theworld**
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Worship Lent 2025

The Lent sermons are based on scripture readings in the Lent book From Wilderness to Glory as we grow in understanding of Jesus through scripture.

Lent 2025

Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Mt 4:1-11, Luke 2: 1-13

Message – Temptation

3-9-25 Lent Series From Wilderness to Glory

Scripture – Mark 2:1-12

Sermon – Jesus Heals Us

3/16

Scripture – John 17:9-19

Sermon – Jesus Prayer for Us

3/23

Scripture: John 11:1-46 (38-46)

Sermon: Jesus Likes Us

3/30

Scripture – Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon – Jesus Teaches Us

4/6

Scripture – Luke 19:41-48

Sermon – Jesus Cries For Us

4/13 – Palm Sunday

Scripture – Luke 22:39-53

Sermon – Jesus Takes Our Place

4/17 – Maundy Thursday

4/20 – Easter

Scripture – Mt 28:1-10

Sermon – Glory of Jesus



UMCOR SUNDAY

Bishop Berlin has designated **March 30th as UMCOR Sunday.**



The United Methodist Committee on Relief supports communities in times of crisis; such as fires, hurricanes, and famine. UMCOR Sunday collection is for the administrative costs of this vital organization so that donations in time of crisis will go 200% to those specific emergency needs. Designate your gifts for UMCOR. Thank you for your generosity

Pastor's Page

Have you seen the signs of spring renewal all around? This week I had three days of robins in the yard as they passed through. I love robins and look for them every year, as they are my sign of hope for spring. I also see new growth beginning on the trees (sorry allergy sufferers). Another sure sign is my dog shedding his winter coat. As I brush and brush out handfuls of brown fur, I think about how nature works together so well. I know that many of the bird nests around the parsonage are full of discarded brown fur safely cradling new eggs or baby birds!

Spring is also the time of Lent, a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th and ends on Holy Saturday before Easter April 19th. Just as creation around us is preparing for spring and summer, Lent is a time in which we prepare our hearts and spiritual souls for a renewal with Jesus at Easter. Any focus each of us may make on intentional steps of getting our heart and mind in a closer walk with our Lord makes the Easter celebration more joyous! We realize the need for Jesus in our life and that the resurrection is the true symbol of new life for us all.

So I urge each of you to think about something you can do from now until Easter to draw closer in your relationship with Jesus. Do you abstain from something that pulls you away from Jesus time (less TV, computer, phone time, gossip, spending); do you add something to encourage new habits beyond Easter (prayer time, reading scripture daily, devotion reading of a new book, a prayer walk outdoors); do you practice Jesus' kindness toward others with more intention and thought? (see note on this page I asked Evelyn to share). Or maybe your Lent practice is giving up something like chocolate or soda as a daily reminder to think about Jesus during the day (when you feel the urge you think about Jesus' gift of hope for you).

My Lent sermon series will be From Wilderness to Glory as I look at the stories and words of Jesus through his ministry. It is my prayer for all of us that we are open to renewal and new life through Jesus in the coming weeks of Lent!

Lenten Blessings,
Linda

Lenten Musings

Last week it occurred to me, "Oh goodness! Lent is just around the corner. What am I going to do to make it more meaningful to me?" A new book— No, we're doing a Churchwide Lenten study. Find a little booklet of Lenten devotions? No, that's gonna keep me sitting in a chair and I do enough of that? Maybe I should "give up something for Lent" as the custom often is? Chocolate? Coffee? No! Housework, well maybe... But I do want to do something to keep Jesus' sacrifice in the front of my thoughts that will spread His love to others. And here is... spread a little extra kindness. Each day, I am going to do a little kind deed for someone, a stranger or a friend. A phone call, a fresh baked muffin, holding the door for a stranger, a smile or "good morning" to someone who appears to need... This makes me excited to think of the possibilities. And how are you going to make Lent meaningful to you?

Lent Mission Moment

In Memory of Ray Garriott & Wendall Pritchett

During Lent please bring your contributions for the Church of the Palms Food Bank & Remnant Cafe to church each Sunday! This is a wonderful way to honor the memory of two stalwart Food Drive volunteers Ray Garriott & Wendall Pritchett.



Protein rich, individually packaged non-perishables are the most requested items for the Food Bank.

Remnant Cafe is always in need of individually sized personal hygiene items and socks.

What: Fill the Table 2.0 Food Drive
When: Sundays During Lent & 3rd Saturdays Year Round
Where: Trinity UMC
4150 S. Shade Ave., Sarasota FL 34231

Pecans

Pecans still available. This fundraiser supports our Community Connection Events and needs everyone's help: sell to your friends, family, and neighbors.

Mammoth Halves (1 lb bags) and Pieces (1 lb bags) are \$15 per bag.
Chocolate covered or cinnamon glazed in a gift bag are \$12.

Get yours on Sundays or in the Church office during the week.



Julian of Norwich Workshop



In Observance of Women's History Month
"Inhabit the Garden" Centering Prayer Group
and
Trinity United Methodist Church
4150 S Shade Ave, Sarasota 34231
Invite You to a Workshop on

Julian of Norwich – Medieval Mystic
"You shall not be overcome."

Saturday, 22 March
from 9 AM until Noon in Haley Hall

Julian authored "Revelations of Divine Love," the first book we have written in English by a woman.

She lived through an era of multiple plagues, political violence, religious turmoil. Her book describes 16 visions revealing an all-loving, all-merciful God who reveals that "all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

We will learn the amazing story of how her book was re-discovered and its significance today. We will experience her words amidst contemplative silence, chants, and lectio reading.

Please register with Stephen and Christine Hoffman at Stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net or 941-773-7008. Stephen is a retired United Methodist Clergy and has been a Companion of Julian of Norwich since 2018. Christine is a retired Professor of Religious Studies. They love the LORD.

**"Christ Jesus, who does good over evil,
Is our true Mother ...
As truly as God is our Father,
Just as truly is God our Mother."
-from Chapter 59 RDL**

The Inhabit the Garden CP Group would like to thank everyone who supported the Howard Thurman Workshop on 22 February. There were 22 in attendance with folks from Venice, Bradenton, and Tampa as well as many from the "home team." Several expressed appreciation for the "spiritual substance" and being exposed to the rich legacy of our Florida mystic.

The personal sharing touched us deeply and one person remarked "it was just what my spirit needed." We learned some about our resources here in Sarasota as well as Daytona Beach. Perhaps we have begun a new tradition here at Trinity. After all, "Black History is truly our history."

United Women of Faith

Trinity's United Women in Faith News:

January was our Unit pledge drive where our generous UWF members pledged to support our mission to Women, Children and youth in 2025.

Did you know that a team of UWF members make sure Haley Hall is decorated for each season? Notice especially the beautiful bulletin board above the UWF table! Thanks to Joy & Joy production (Joy Jones and Joy Voyles)

At our February Executive Board meeting, we voted to give a gift of \$300 to the UMCOR advance special for California Fires Relief. We are trying to connect with the UWF Units in the 2 churches that were destroyed in California (Altadena UMC and Palisades UMC) to see how we can offer some support to them.

February 23 Strawberries and Sandwiches was a wonderful event to bring our church family and some neighbors together at this annual event collecting donations for Residing Hope (Florida Children's home). Last year we raised \$720 and our treasurer, Nancy Masterson is happy to report that we surpassed that amount this year! We raised \$938! Well worth all the work that went into this event. Thanks to all for your support and hard work.

Coming up in March, Guess Who's Coming to Lunch or Dinner. Please see details on the flyer in this Acorn.



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.



Evelyn Miller and Carol Harris visited Phillippi Shores Elementary School. UWF purchased 28 books from the teacher's wishlists and spent all of the \$300 budget. They had fun and had some conversation with the volunteers and staff. Trinity is known by our neighbors for the 5K water stop, Valentine flowers, classroom books and fun events for children.

United Women in Faith Event



Fellowship Event in March

United Women in Faith are hosting a great fellowship event March 22 – 28th. All church members, UWF members, friends, and neighbors are invited to gather for lunch or dinner, either in Haley Hall or in some members' homes. Hosts provide the complete meal for a specific number of guests.

The date, address and general menu of each host are listed below. You can sign up at a special table starting on Sundays March 2, 9, 16 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 UWF treasury to be used for their mission to women, children and youth.

You may attend as many lunches/dinners as you wish! Sign up soon as places will fill quickly. Enjoy a lunch or dinner with the hosts and those attending. A great way to meet others you may not know and at same time support UWF's mission!

Questions: Contact Event Coordinator, Sherrill Carr srcmusic@verizon.net or call 941-376-0720

Complete Directions to Homes will be on the sign up sheets.

Saturday March 22 Poetry Lovers Luncheon at Noon

for 9 people - \$10 per person **Bring a poem to share or just listening ears
Host: Evelyn Miller's Home: 4444 Rum Cay Circle in Centergate (has 2 cats)
Menu: Variety of heavy Hors d'oeuvres

Sunday March 23 Sunday Dinner at 1 pm

for 8 people: \$15 per person
Host: Beatty Shipley's Home 8633 Sundance Loop in Sunrise Preserve (has a dog)
Menu: Ham Dinner

Tuesday March 25 Lunch at noon

for 12 people \$10 per person
Hosts: Sherrill Carr & Jan Robertson, in Haley Hall
Menu: Hot Ham and Swiss Cheese Sliders and Salad

Wednesday March 26 Lunch at 11:30 am

for 12 people: \$10 per person
Hosts: Joy Jones & Marianna in Haley Hall
Menu: Chicken and Biscuits & Salad

Wednesday March 26 Dinner at 5:30 pm

for 6 people: \$15 per person
Hosts: Carol & Phil Harris' Home 6590 Blue Grosbeak Cir In Lakewood Ranch
Menu: Steak and Potatoes

Thursday March 27 Lunch at noon

for 8 people: \$10 per person
Hosts: Kay Korty & Lisa Hatfield in Haley Hall
Menu: Pasta Salad with Tuna; Oriental Chicken Salad

Friday March 28 Lunch at noon

for 6 people: \$10 per person
Hosts: Pam Pierce & Sandy Thayer in Haley Hall
Menu: Chicken Divan with Broccoli and Salad

Be A Ble\$\$ing



Sunday, March 9th, at noon in Haley Hall, Mr. Curt Eskew, CLU, CLTU, and Pastor Linda will provide a presentation on arranging your finances to benefit (bless) yourself, your family, and others.

One of the most loving things you can do for your family is to be organized in your affairs. We will explore ways to make sure your wishes are carried out and ways to minimize confusion and anxiety at a very difficult time for your family members.

A light lunch will be served and attendance is free.

Curt is a member of Trinity and is a nationally respected financial planner.

UWF Circle Meetings


UWF Executive Board Meeting: Monday March 3, 1pm in Haley Hall

Hannah Circle Monday, March 10, 1pm at Jan Robertson's home

Ruth Circle Tuesday, March 11, 10:30am in Haley Hall

Persis Circle TBA

Day of Hope

 **Day of Hope, formerly known as Day on Campus,** is coming to the Enterprise campus on March 8th.

They've really raised the bar for this event with an opening and closing program in the gym, double the educational breakout sessions, and new activities for our younger guests. Returning to the event is the box lunch under the big tent and campus tours throughout the day. RSVP required: <https://residinghope.org/day-on-campus/>

March 30th is a 5th Sunday and Trinity will make available special offering envelopes for your gifts to Rising Hope (formerly known as Florida United Methodist Children's Home).

Magicians Talent Show

Magic Show Coming!

Who: International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 81

When: Saturday, March 22, 6:30 pm

Where: Heritage Hall

Cost: \$10, 12 and under free

What: A fundraiser for Trinity's general budget

Why: Offering of appreciation for monthly meeting space at Trinity

Let's have fun together! Watch for ticket sales coming soon. Invite your friends!



Prayers

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 Prayer Team, please let the Church office know.

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Becki Creighton, Barb Ellsworth, Karyn Eubanks, David Hardenburgh, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Elle Lyons, Bev Packer, Marie Piraino, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Rhonda Puhaly, Mary Raymond, Jan Robertson, Ken Smith, Dorothy Summers, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Joan Utter, Kara Voyles, Christy Wilhelm, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our Prayers are with Bill Athas on the death of his wife, Lucy Athas on February 10, 2025

Also please pray for our military family: 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.

Did you know?

Every Sunday a group meets at 10:10 to pray for prayer requests, for the church, for our country. The 10:10 prayer time is a vital undergirding of all ministry at this church. Anyone can be part of this prayer time on Sunday mornings. If you would like prayer for yourself or a loved one come share in this prayer time. If you feel strongly about God at work in this community through the ministries of Trinity, come pray for God's continued guidance. Meet in the courtyard outside the side sanctuary door. All welcome!

Celebration of her Life

The family of Dawn Sutton invites the members and friends of Trinity, to a luncheon reception to honor Dawn on Thursday, March 27 at 11am at the Palm Aire Country Club. A Memorial Service was held in Annapolis at the church where Dawn grew up and she married her husband, Bob.

RSVP is required as a lunch will be served. Please contact Church Office 941/924-7756 and leave a message if you are planning to attend. A table will be reserved for Trinity attendees.

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can
- John Wesley*

Calling All Snowbirds!

Calling All Snowbirds! You are invited to dinner (Dutch-treat) with Pastor Linda on Sunday March 16th at 5:00p. Sonny's BBQ (3926 S Tamiami Trail)

Sign up after church or call the church office to reserve your seat!

Thank you Note

Hurricane Helene deposited 3-1/2 feet of sea water in to my home of 26 years last summer. After 5 months of being "homeless" and deciding (with the help of the county building permit rules), I have now sold that house and moved in to a new home!

Couldn't have done it without the love, support, and caring of my Trinity family. Especially grateful to Pastor Linda, Margie, Ingrid, and the rest of the staff for covering for me during this time.

I hope I have personally thanked everyone for their gifts and words of encouragement but if I missed you, please know I am humbly grateful and love you all.

- Karen Remfrey

Save the Date

Gulf Coast Community Choir

Annual benefit concert

Sunday, April 27, 4pm

Trinity Sanctuary

Details on tickets



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
- Rebecca Milner 3/21
- Kay Anthofer 3/23
- Andrea Zahn 3/24
- Cyrus Kuhn 3/28

Anniversaries

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

**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
Director of Children/Youth Ministry: Russell Towery
Sound/Projections Board: Sebastian Girstl

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

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