

The ACORN

Vol. 4

Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL

April 2025



April 13 Palm Sunday

Worship at 9 am and 10:30 am

Join us as we begin Holy Week

April 17 Holy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 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.

April 18 Good Friday

9 am—6 pm

Trinity Sanctuary will be open for private time of prayer and reflection. Rev. Stephen and Christine Hoffman will be leading a prayer vigil from noon until 3pm. Everyone invited to participate any time during this time.

Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage, 7:15 am Downtown (details on page 3)

Easter Sunday April 20

9 am - Connect Communion Service - bring the kids

10 am - Easter Egg Hunt in Courtyard

10:30 am - Traditional Easter Worship Service

**9:30 am – noon Easter Brunch in Haley.
Sign-up Sheet in Courtyard or call church office**



EASTER BRUNCH
Served in Haley Hall
Easter Morning
9:30 am until noon

Egg Hunt 10 AM Bring a Basket



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.

Good Friday



Good Friday Centering Prayer Vigil “Love is my meaning.”

Noon until 3 PM

In the Sanctuary

(come and go as you are able)

**Our prayer in silence will be shaped around
The Seven Last Words of Christ
With Reflections by Julian of Norwich**

(If you would like to participate by reading a word,
Please contact Rev Stephen Hoffman,
941-773-7008.

We need readers for the Seven Words.
You do not need to be present the entire time.)

Sarasota’s Historic Good Friday Pilgrimage

This Good Friday, April 18 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.

Everyone is invited to *Walk Your Faith* this Holy Week by experiencing “The Way” or “STATIONS of the Cross” on Good Friday. Twenty-seven Ministers of fourteen Denominations will take part in this event including our Pastor Linda. The procession will stop for worship and prayer at each of the 14 STATIONS.

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.



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, Nancy Harter, Jean Henry, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Elle Lyons, Dottie Morris, Bev Packer, Marie Piraino, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Rhonda Puhaly, Mary Raymond, Jan Robertson, Ken Smith, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Joan Utter, Kara Voyles, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

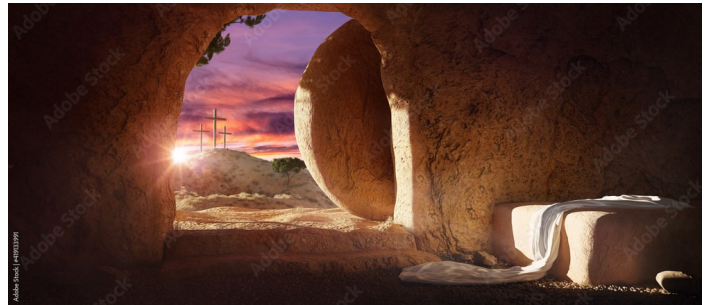
A Life Celebration Service for Lucy Athas will be held at Trinity on Sunday, April 6th after worship service. Reception to follow.

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!

From Pastor Linda

As we approach Easter, we are reminded of the incredible hope we have in Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is more than just a historical event—it is the foundation of our faith, the victory over sin and death, and the promise of new life.



In a world that often feels burdened by darkness and uncertainty, Easter calls us to look to the empty tomb and remember that God's love is greater than any challenge we face.

Sometimes it is too easy to focus on what is wrong in our life. We only see what is missing rather than look for the new possibility a change may bring. If all we see is an empty tomb, we miss the hope of resurrection! Christ's resurrection is an invitation to new vision, renewal and change. Where in your life is your focus on emptiness? Or you are missing rather than what you have? Do dead ends (empty caves) obscure a clear vision to new possibilities?

I pray that all of us can see beyond the cave to the powerful way Jesus makes all things new and resurrection fills emptiness with hope and joy.

Easter is Coming!
Linda

United Women of Faith News

Thanks to everyone who supported our "Guess Who's Coming to Lunch/Dinner" Event March 22 - 28. The Hosts all provided lovely meals, and all who attended enjoyed getting to know the host and those that attended with them.

Special thanks to our hosts: Evelyn Miller, Beatty Shipley, Joy Jones, Mariana Ehrmke, Carol & Phil Harris, Kay Korty, Lisa Hatfield, Pam Pierce and Sandy Thayer.
We realized \$655 that will be used for our mission to women, children and youth!

Community Connections and UWF will do together a "Diaper Derby" for the month of April as our Church-wide outreach to Safe Children Coalition. This foster care organization is in desperate need of diapers for the families they serve. They need all sizes - Newborn, size 2,3,4,regular diapers and they get many requests for Pull ups (training diapers) in sizes 4,5,6,7. They need Baby wipes too.

So during April, purchase a package or two of diapers and/or baby wipes and bring to the special table in Haley Hall. Walmart has small packages of both that can be purchased inexpensively or if you are able to buy big quantities...all will be welcomed.



Let's see that Haley table fill up to be given to help some of our littlest children! We will bless the donations on May 3rd - the actual Kentucky Derby Day...which is where we got the idea of "Diaper Derby!"



UWF circles will meet April 14/15/or as TBA. Check with Circle Leaders for exact times and places. All women are always welcome at Circle meetings! Call Unit co-Presidents Beatty Shipley (410-370-4514) or Evelyn Miller (941-586-7660) for more information about United Women in Faith.



UWF team members are planning and will host Easter Breakfast/Brunch in Haley Hall on Easter April 20 from 9:30 am - noon. Egg casseroles and beverages will be provided and rest is potluck. See the sign up sheet on Sundays starting March 30 or in the church office during the week. Please let us know if you & family or friends will attend and what you would be willing to bring for the buffet. Suggestions are on the sign up sheets.

UWF LADIES SAVE THE DATE!! SATURDAY MAY 3RD NOON Combined Circle members and At Large members invited to Haley for Lunch. We'll gather to celebrate what we have accomplished January - May 2025. There will be beautiful decorations, delicious food, special favors, fun and more! You don't want to miss it! Mark your calendar now!! More information will be given in April Circle meetings and sent to At Large members.

April Mission Moment



Our Mission Moment for the month of April is a “Diaper Derby: - collecting packages of diapers. Safe Children Coalition in Sarasota is running very low on diapers and wipes.

They need all sizes—Newborn, size 2, 3, 4, regular diapers and they get many requests for Pull Ups (training diapers) in sizes 4, 5, 6, 7. The need Baby wipes too.

On Saturday May 3rd (Kentucky Derby Day) we’ll bless the donations and deliver them to the Safe Children’s Coalition. Bring your donations to Haley Hall anytime during the month of April and place on designated table.



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

Mammoth Halves are 1-pound bags @ a reduced price of \$12 per bag. Chocolate covered or cinnamon glazed are in a lovely gift bag at \$12 each. Thanks for supporting our Community Connection Ministry. Get yours on Sundays or in the Church office during the week.

Community Connections



Our Mission Moment for Lent was Fill The Table 2.0 in Memory of Ray Garriott and Wendall Pritchett. Two stalwart Food Drive Volunteers for the past 4 years. The response was wonderful. In February we sent almost 550 lbs. of food items to Church of the Palms. In March there was 307pounds of food and personal hygiene items for Remnant Café. April promises to be even better !



All packed up and ready to go to Food Pantry

Creation Ministry



April 22, 2025

For 55 years, Earth Day has led the world in raising awareness and taking action on critically important environmental issues. We advocate for the health of the planet, for our air, oceans, soil, eco-systems, wildlife, and human health.

On April 22nd, 2025, Earth Day will turn 55, with 192 countries and over one billion people around the globe expected to participate. This demonstrates how the diverse Earth Day movement remains as dedicated today as it was back in 1970 to bringing everyone together for a better future.

Grassroots people-power has always been at the heart of Earth Day and it is the catalyst for paradigm-shifting change because when individuals unite with a common purpose, they can overcome even the most entrenched systems and industries.

As we approach this milestone, we celebrate a transformative reality: we already possess the solutions we need to create clean, inexpensive, and unlimited energy for the entire planet through renewable solar, wind and other technologies.

This Earth Day 2025, let us commit to harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for us all.

—earthday.org

Gulf Coast Community Choir



25th Anniversary Concert

GCCC is a multicultural group of Manasota volunteer singers supporting our community through benefit concerts with an eclectic program of choral music enjoyed by everyone.

Sunday, April 27, 2025

4:00 pm

Refreshments to follow

Trinity United Methodist Church

Sanctuary

Tickets \$20.00

Age 12 and under \$10

See Evelyn Miller, Clare Davis, or Dave Korty.

Trinity friends and members are invited to attend the FREE rehearsal on Saturday, April 26th, 1pm.

Music Ministry

Want to be Celebrated with a Hearty Greeting whenever You Show Up!... Then Join the Chancel Choir!

One of the perks of being a Traditional Choir Director is when someone approaches you and earnestly expresses a desire to add their voice to the committed voices of the Chancel Choir! That's roughly the equivalent of a younger relative who has been chasing unfulfilling worldly passions suddenly saying: "I've seen the "Light" and I'm coming home. Will ya' let me come in?"

The answer, as outlined in the parable of the Prodigal Son, is always..."YES"!

That isn't to say, of course, that everyone joining the choir is a prodigal. Nevertheless, it is quite gratifying to observe someone who has been sitting on the fence suddenly come forth and state, emphatically, "I'd like to be part of this small group!"

I've observed this group from near and far and they truly love and appreciate each other to the point of celebrating each other when one walks in the door during rehearsals!

The current activities for the choir are to attend rehearsals and sing on Sundays for just the first 2-weeks of a month, except for high holy day celebrations like Christmas and Easter when the choir will take on an extra week or two of duties.

It's the best of both worlds.... A minimum amount of commitment with a maximum amount of camaraderie and fellowship!

Do I hear someone jumping off of the fence?? Praise The Lord!!!

LaTerry Butler
choir-director/organist



Julian Workshop for Women's History Month



"You shall not be overcome" and "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well" are two of the affirmations revealed to Julian of Norwich. Thanks to the faithfulness and courage of this almost anonymous woman who lived in the 14th Century we have the gift of the first book written in English by a woman. Julian wrote in a time of multiple plagues, religious strife, political repression, and social unrest. When she wrote, people who were caught reading the Bible in English were burned alive. That her book survived at all is a miracle due to the courage of this woman of faith and others who believed in her vision of God's universal love..

We learned about Julian and her book Revelations of Divine Love at a Workshop on Saturday 22 March. We are grateful to the twelve folks who gathered. We had friends from Tampa, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch, Venice and North Port as well as the home team from Trinity.

Part of our Good Friday Prayer Vigil will include excerpts from Julian's writings.

-Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Bread for the World



In worship on Sunday 23 March we dedicated the 30 Letters our congregation has written asking our elected representatives to support the Nourish Our Future Campaign by Bread for the World. Thank you to Pastor Linda for her enthusiasm. Thank you to the Church Council for their endorsement of this Social Justice Ministry. Thank you to Brenda Moore and Pam Pierce for assisting folks in writing letters on 16 March. Thank you to Brenda Moore for composing the Prayer of Dedication. Thank you to Alexa Hammel for leading us in prayer during worship.

Bread for the World is an ecumenical, non-partisan Justice ministry that advocates for policies and legislation to end hunger. Bread for the World is recognized by the United Methodist Church and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

Locally, Trinity United Methodist is joining with St Paul Lutheran, Pine Shores Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran, St Andrews UCC, Church of the Palms, and First Congregational UCC. So far, we have 430 Letters that will be hand delivered to the local office of Representative Greg Steube. We are planning to deliver them on Tuesday 22 April so there is still time to write a letter. The letters to our two senators and Representative Buchanan will be mailed.

Bread for the World has a very informative web site at www.bread.org. We will do our best to keep you informed of legislative progress. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This is the prayer written by Brenda Moore: A Blessing for Our Offering of Letters

Oh Lord, Our beloved,
Creator of all, Leader of angel armies,

Thank you for Your love and mercy and the abundant blessings You have bestowed upon us. Today, we are also grateful for this opportunity to help nourish the futures of others by working in partnership with Bread for the World to address and prevent hunger.

We know that too many in the United States, and across the globe, go to bed hungry. As Christians, we seek to change that through our Offerings of Letters to those in leadership.

We ask that you bless these letters, and the many Offerings of Letters from other churches. Let this blessing and inspiration flow through all the letters to our Representatives and others in positions to make change.

You gave us Your precious Son Jesus Christ who told us to 'love our neighbors as ourselves' and that what we do for 'the least of our brothers and sisters,' we do for you. Through our words and actions of mercy and justice we show the love of Christ for those who are hungry and in need.

So, let us carry Your Light out into the world.

During this sacred time of Lent, help us reflect, repent, and go forward with joy and a willing spirit into true transformation. Inspire each of us today and let the Holy Spirit dwell in us as we do the work You would have us do as individuals and as a church.

- Rev. Stephen Hoffman

First Annual Magic Show

Each first Thursday of the month, 10 to 20 magicians meet in Haley Hall to practice and grow their skills. They love meeting at Trinity and are grateful for our hospitality. Each year they will put on a magic show as a fund raiser for the church Budget as a show of appreciation. Amazement and great fun was had by all! Watch for the 2nd Annual Show in



Beatty Shipley and Star Newman



Danny and Tom Vorjohan



Andy Remfrey and Laurence Francis



Waverly and Dick Stevens



Woody Woodward

Finance and Stewardship

Stewardship as a Lenten Journey

Lent is a sacred season of reflection, sacrifice, and renewal. It is a time when we prepare our hearts to fully embrace the gift of Christ's resurrection, seeking to align our lives with His will. As stewards of the resources God entrusts to us, Lent also serves as a reminder that everything we have—our time, talents, and treasures—belong to Him.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Lent invites us to examine not just what we give, but why we give. It is a season to ask ourselves: Are we using what God has entrusted to us in ways that reflect His Love, grace, and generosity?

Paul also encourages us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Lent is not just about giving up; it is about giving over—releasing control of our resources, worries, and desires into God's hands so that He may shape them for His kingdom.

As we journey through this season, may we reflect on our role as stewards. May we cultivate hearts that are generous, not just with our finances, but with our time, our presence, and our compassion. And may we trust that when we give in faith, God multiplies our offering in ways beyond what we can imagine.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

Florida United Methodist Foundation

Leadership Council

Leadership Council will meet on Tuesday, April 22, 5:30pm in Haley Hall

Board of Trustees

Spring is here and one quarter of 2025 has come and gone already! I am happy to report to you that everything is under control on campus as our Trustees, staff, and volunteers continue to meet the challenges that come along on our campus.

We have finally gotten most of Hurricane Milton's damage repaired. Soffits, fascia boards, fences, and lights all have been fixed. Service industry demand, as you can imagine, was intense, so it has been a long journey. Tree work remains and will be done as soon as possible. As I've mentioned before, we have been truly blessed in that our damage was minimal compared to others. However, the downside is that we paid for all repairs, etc. because deductibles prohibited any insurance awards. By the way, not one shingle was disturbed on any of the five roofs we had replaced after Hurricane Ian. Kudos to our roofing company, "Roofs for Life"!

For those who don't know, the glass in the front door of Haley Hall has, at long last, been replaced. The election day accident happened when a voter stumbled and broke the glass with his head. We had to follow Sarasota County's lengthy payment process in order for them to pay for the repairs. The glass company had some setbacks too and contributed to the delay.

Recently, we had an electrician perform almost a dozen jobs around campus to bring us up to date in that area.

There are several smaller and larger projects we are addressing currently. The cracking and shifting of the concrete in our courtyard is of great concern to us and we are addressing our options on how to resolve this issue. A small area has been marked with red tape to warn everyone of a raised portion of concrete that could cause someone to trip. Please use caution.

I will look forward to updating you again in the near future.

In Christ's Service,
Dave Masterson, Trustee Chair

Memorial Fund



We are thankful for the donation made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Dawn Sutton by her husband, Bob.

The Memorial Fund is used for needs to enhance worship in the Sanctuary. Donations can be made in memory of anyone. We are grateful to remember Dawn in this manner

Garden of Hope



Anyone can order a Memorial or Brick 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.

Any questions, see Carroll Hatfield or call church office.

March Birthdays

Marilyn Tranbarger 4/3
Carroll Hatfield 4/5
Stephen Cook 4/6
Ginny Lints 4/8
Roy Cowles 4/10
Sandy Thayer 4/10
Pam Pierce 4/13
Tom Thayer 4/13
Leon Milner 4/17
James Martin 4/19
Nancy Smith 4/19
Marilyn Williams 4/19
Jim Martin 4/19
Jan Robertson 4/22
Brenda Moore 4/23
Stephen Hoffman 4/25
Addisyn Schweid 4/27
Henry Lee 4/27



Anniversaries



Trent & Pam Rader 4/2
Don & Janet Waldron 4/12

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



Trinity – Sarasota
a United Methodist Church

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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