

The ACORN

Vol. 5

Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL

May 2025

WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE



Holy Week 2025



Pastor Linda downtown Stations of the Cross Walk on Good Friday



Maundy Thursday service



Easter Sunday Worship



Haley Hall Easter Brunch

Flowering the Cross



Community Connections April Food Drive



Greetings Trinity! Persis Circle recently suggested a Lenten Food Drive in Memory of Wendall Pritchett and Ray Garriott who served as stewards for the Food Pantry and Remnant Café for many years. The Lord asks us to serve and to give, and the donations we received, are serving our community in a tremendous way! We had 424 pounds of food for the Food Pantry, toiletries for Remnant Care, and a big box of blankets! There were even cash donations. A special thanks to all who donated, all who collected the donations, and all who delivered them! This endeavor was such a success that I challenge our church family to continue donating. By just purchasing one additional grocery item, some small toiletry items, or your time each week, we can continue to make a difference in our community! Let's continue to serve together and carry on Wendall and Ray's example of stewardship! Let's bless others as God has blessed us. Thank you again.

- In His love, Vickie Meyers

Next Community Food Drive Thru—Saturday, May 17th, 9am—10:30 am, Trinity Parking Lot. Come by to help sort and pack or drop off nonperishables. You may also drop off donations on Sunday mornings or in Haley Pantry during the week.

United Women in Faith

Trinity's United Women in Faith News:

We have been busy! In April, circles met for their individual spring meetings. Which were their last actual circle times before summer break.

We hosted the April 20th Easter Brunch which was a delicious and festive time in Haley Hall. Over 150 enjoyed the meal over the course of Easter Day. Thanks to many who made and donated delicious items for the buffet and thanks to UWF budget that provided a fruit platter and platter of deviled eggs!

On April 27th, we helped host the reception after the Gulf Coast Community Chorus' annual concert in our Sanctuary. 400 attended (was a packed full sanctuary) and about 200 came through Haley for snacks at the reception afterwards.

During April, we had "Diaper Derby" due to Kentucky Derby being soon. We asked for donations of diapers/baby wipes for Safe Children Coalition which had this urgent need. Wow, did UWF and Church members really come through! The table in Haley was packed high! In early May we'll bless the huge amount of diapers/wipes so children receiving them perhaps can feel our support and prayers. We will deliver them to a very grateful Safe Children Coalition on May 7.

May outreach (UWF and Community Connection Team) is collecting Women's hygiene items for Remnant Homeless Ministry. And we will still collect diapers if you see any on sale, as Safe Children Coalition has ongoing need for them.

Then on Saturday May 3, 40 UWF members and some guests attended the spring luncheon in Haley...a celebration of our successful mission outreach in the first half of 2025. A delicious buffet, door prizes, Flower Bingo fun, honoring a member with special mission recognition pin and just enjoying fellowship with our UWF sisters made it a very special day.

Some special UWF members always are the "worker bees" decorating, preparing, serving, cleaning up at all these events. I am so appreciative of their willingness to help me when asked! I won't try to list all of them, thinking I for sure would miss someone, but you "worker bees" know who you are! Without you, none of these events would happen! You are a blessing!

And the rest of you members also support UWF in soooo many ways....with your giving, support, and prayers. This Unit of 68 women is unique in your outreach of mission to women, children and youth and serving in many ways when needed! You are each so appreciated!

Hope you all have a wonderful summer....we'll resume UWF gatherings again in the fall. As usual we will be in mission AND have fun together as sisters in Faith!

Always,
Sherrill Carr
UWF Unit Events Coordinator



United
Women
in Faith

May Worship

Sermon Series – Where Do I Belong?

Do you sometimes feel out of place? Do you feel like your world is changing around you and you aren't sure where you belong anymore? Pastor Linda will help us unravel the message of Ephesians which reminds us of our shared place in the risen Christ and how we find it even in a spinning world where we just want to shout 'stop let me off!' Join us in May as we stop the dizziness!

May 4 – Communion

Scripture – Ephesians 1:3-14, Romans 8:14-17

Sermon – 'The Family'

May 11 – Mother's Day

Scripture – Ephesians 2:11-22

Sermon - Watch Out For the Aliens!

May 18

Scripture – Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon – Is God Too Small?

May 25

Scripture – Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

Sermon – Grow up!

June 1 – Communion

Scripture – Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Sermon – Live in Love

June 8—Pentecost

Scripture – Ephesians 5:6-14

Sermon – Let Your Light Shine



Pastor Linda will lead a Bible study on Ephesians Thursday nights at 6:30 starting May 8th. Sign up after church or call the church office.

Pastor's Note



We all have cell phones or laptops that sometimes seem to get off track or we just can't get them to work, right? So what is the best solution in those aggravating times? Unplug them or turn them off for a short while and then when they are turned back on often it is working again. We can learn a lot from that!

Sometimes we just need to shut down for a little bit to get everything in order again. This can be a daily shutdown quiet time or sometimes a little more. I have learned I need some get-away time every so often so I can reboot and be productive. The last few years I have taken an after Easter cruise with

some clergy friends which is a wonderful refresher time. Even God took time after creation - and on the 7th day he rested.

I hope all of you find some time this summer to refresh and reboot so you can be productive for Jesus in the work week have ahead of us as God's people here at Trinity.

The Bishop has reappointed me at Trinity for year 5 which I am very happy about! So friends take a reboot break and then let's get started on some amazing ministry for the Lord!

Blessings,
Linda
(From the British Virgin Islands)

Annual Conference—Regional Gathering

Everyone from the local church is welcome to register and attend.

Join us for the [Pre-Annual Conference Regional Gatherings](#) from **May 4–7!** This is your opportunity to connect, engage in meaningful conversations, and hear directly from the bishop. All are welcome to attend these in-person gatherings. The gathering locations are:

- **Sunday, May 4** – Trinity, Gainesville, 4 p.m.
- **Monday, May 5** – First, Lakeland, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 6** – First, Melbourne, 1 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 6** – First, Boca Raton, 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 7** – Harvest, Lakewood Ranch, 6:30 p.m.

We'll be discussing important topics, including the health and vitality of church communities, the Ministry Hub, UMC Regionalization, and other AC updates.

Have questions for the bishop? Submit them in advance when you register here:

<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/BishopsRegionalGatherings2025>

Creation Care Ministry

Buckets of Hope Challenge



Bishop Berlin recently issued a challenge to all Florida Churches to have 5,000

flood buckets made and stored around the conference prior to this Hurricane season. There will be more info soon on how Trinity will help with this conference-wide mission.

Within the info sent regarding the flood buckets, was a "Sustainable Church" Checklist. I'm happy to report that Trinity is able to "check off" many of them:

Events:

- Use real dishes/cups instead of plastic/foam
- Fabric Tablecloths
- Avoid single-use water bottles
- Buy in bulk, sustainable products
- Restrooms use refillable soap dispensers, low-flow toilets.

Church Buildings:

- Energy Audit
- Recycle Bins
- Programmable thermostats
- Light sensors or reminder signs to turn off lights.
- Water fountains to refill water bottles
- Energy efficient appliances
- Solar panels

Church Office:

- Recycle printer cartridges
- Print double-sided
- Lights and a/c off when office is closed

Way to Go Trinity! Every simple action we take to lower the impact on the earth adds up! Being good stewards of God's earth includes protecting and creating habitat for animals, reducing our carbon footprints by living more sustainable, and helping people who are impacted by a changing climate and environmental injustice.

-Karen Remfrey

Stewardship

We enter a time of year when graduations are a big part of celebrations and happenings.

It is also a good time to consider our own generosity in supporting our Church ministries here at Trinity. Perhaps you are able to graduate your attitude of gratitude and rise to the next level of giving.

Thank you to so many of you who voluntarily give your time and share your talents in worship, in grounds care, in music, in kitchen support, in small groups, and all the behind the scenes ministries that make our church family significant. Thank you also to those that step up financially to fuel the flames of faith.

Blessings abound.

Carroll Hatfield, Stewardship Team

Graduates!

Graduates! Trinity wants to honor your accomplishment!

Please email Trinity@iTrinity.org with names of graduating High School, Vo-Tech, GED, and College students and their immediate plans. Send pictures too!

Scholarships are considered for eligible students who are active members of Trinity.

Applications and guidelines are available in the Church office or email Trinity@iTrinity.org. Deadline is May 31st.



Bread for the World



On Thursday 24 April the local churches who participated in this year's Offering of Letters for Bread for the World delivered our letters in person to the local office of Representative Greg Steube. We had a very positive meeting with Mr. Wil Ghoulson, a legislative aide. He was interested to hear about each of the congregations we represented. We were able to speak about the legislative priorities of the Nourish the Future Campaign. He asked many follow-up questions. Part of the delegation was Rev Sarah Soboleski, Executive Pastor of Church of the Palms. She asked me to express gratitude to Trinity United Methodist for so consistently supporting their Food Pantry Ministry. We all agreed that it was a very positive experience to deliver the letters in person. Our hope is that our local coalition can be expanded in the next year. Much gratitude to each of you who took the time to participate in the Offering of Letters in March.

The justice ministry of Bread for the World is ongoing through the year. Their Staff does research on where hunger relief is most needed and what methods are most effective. They use the results to advocate with our leaders in Congress with specific strategies to implement and where resources can most effectively be deployed. The Director of Bread Rev Eugene Cho is hosting a "special strategy briefing" to bring us up to date on current domestic and international policy issues. This will be via Zoom on Monday May 19 at 6:00 PM (ET). Pre-registration is required. If you would like to attend, just let me know (Stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net) and I will forward you the invitation. I find these briefings helpful, and they give specific ways we can be effective advocates for justice in feeding the hungry. Thanks, Rev Stephen Hoffman

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

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!

Memorial Fund

Thank you to Bill Athas for a memorial donation to Trinity in loving memory of his beloved wife, Lucy.

The Memorial Fund is used for needs to enhance worship in the Sanctuary.

Donations can be made for anyone online at www.iTrinity or by check noting "Memorial Fund".



Opportunities to Serve

Traditional Worship Service:

- Greeters: Greet arriving members, friends, and visitors in Courtyard and as they enter Sanctuary.
- Liturgists: Reading pre-written Affirmations.
- Communion Elements: already prepared. Just need someone to set the table and clean up after worship.
- Coffee Hour Hosts: pick a week and sign up in Haley Hall or call Church office.

Thank you notes

From Debbie Utter -

I can't thank you enough for the money sent for hurricane repairs. I was overwhelmed with the love and generosity of Trinity's gift. It has been a difficult time for us, with the hurricanes, Mom and I falling, and with Mom in the hospital and in rehab. Thank you so very, very much for thinking of us; and for your prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards.

May God bless each of you, as He has so wonderfully blessed us through your love.

A note from Phyllis Pritchett -

The Pritchett family wishes to thank the church for honoring Wendall and Ray with the many, many pounds of food donated to feed the hungry thru the Palms Church. We are blessed and are humbled at the generosity.

Thank you so very much.

May Birthdays



Tyeann Dillon	5/1
Jan Noah	5/1
Kevin Tippen	5/2
Joy Moyer	5/7
Nora Kuhn	5/9
David Liller	5/9
Jacque Ray	5/14
Mary Catherine Scott	5/15
Becki Creighton	5/16
James Tay	5/20
Nancy Masterson	5/24
Thomas Hankins	5/25
Chip Anthofer	5/26
Mary Beth Day-Karl	5/26
Bob McGuirt	5/30

Anniversaries

James and Tammy Barnett	5/12
Henry and Mary Lou Schnathmann	5/14
Richard & Diane Ladny	5/15
Mark and Pam Anthofer	5/23

Summer Splash—Save the date



Annual Community Summer Splash

Sunday, June 1st

10 am—2 pm

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



Trinity – Sarasota
a United Methodist Church

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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