

The ACORN

Vol. 3 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL March 2026



March 1st we will celebrate Karen Remfrey who has been Trinity's office administrator for 15 years as she retires.

The good news is Karen will be retiring from a staff position, but will continue to be an active member of Trinity! Karen and her son began attending Trinity in 1998. She was a wonderful youth Sunday School teacher for many different age groups. Volunteering in the church office led to being hired as the Administrative Assistant in 2011 where she has served her Trinity family faithfully and with love. Join us Sunday, March 1st for a reception after church as we say thank you! (A basket will be available for your notes of appreciation.)



Your Staff Parish committee is actively seeking the right person for the office administration position. Until we have found this person, Margie Aukland will be helping in the office some of the time to complete the weekly bulletin, Acorn and other conference tasks.

Volunteers are needed to be in the office to answer the phone and welcome visitors and accept deliveries. Times particularly needed are Mondays noon to 2 and Thursday mornings 9 to noon although other times may be needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the office please talk to Pastor Linda.

Volunteer needs:

- Communion prep and service
- People to be at the welcome table to share church information
- Church greeters on Sunday morning.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
9:00 – 2:00

Pastor's Page

We are now in the middle days of Lent. Ash Wednesday is behind us and it still seems like we have a way to go until Easter. This middle stretch can be hard because there are a lot of distractions. Spiritually, this is where various distractions keep popping up pulling at our resolve to faithful Lent practices.

I think a parable that is a great reminder of the power of Lent is the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). A son took his inheritance early and squandered it. At his lowest point he was broke, hungry, taking care of pigs and realized the pigs ate better than he did. He finally could see clearly what he had done. He decided to swallow his pride and return home to ask for forgiveness and to be hired on to work back at his father's farm. Instead of anger, his father welcomed him home with open arms not as an employee, but as a son.

The meaning of 'repent' is to turn around 180 degrees. To repent is to seek re-alignment. It is turning our faces back toward Christ when we have drifted. It is so easy to drift even now during Lent. During this middle part of Lent we are invited like the prodigal son to come to a place of realization of where we want to be or what we want to be doing. It is a time of honest realignment and intention. Five minutes of quiet prayer, open scripture before open emails, choosing forgiveness toward someone instead of resentment. What small acts will help realign your heart toward Jesus as you journey to Easter?

So if your Lenten discipline has faltered – begin again.
If your prayer life has drifted – begin again.
If you feel spiritually dry – begin again.

Lent is an invitation with your name on it!

Lent Blessings,
Linda



March 29 - Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 6:00
Good Friday
- Stations of the Cross walk through down town Sarasota.
Join 1000 people as we begin Good Friday marching through down town Sarasota praying and reading scripture.
- The Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 9:00 to 6:00
Guided prayer time from noon – 3:00.



Jesus' resurrection is coming!
Easter services at 9:00 and 10:30 on April 5.
Continental breakfast buffet is available that morning.
(sign up to bring something)

Our traditional flower cross will be available in the courtyard.
Bring your flowers to decorate the cross for pictures!



Wednesday Youth Group on a Bowling Adventure.



Spring Break Splash

- Friday, March 20
- 4 pm - 8 pm
- Giant water slides, splash pools, slip n' slides, free food and lots of fun
- Families & kids of all ages welcome to join in on the fun

United Women in Faith



Thank you to all who helped and who attended the Sandwiches and Strawberry Sundaes event hosted by UWF last Sunday! Donations were \$725 and will be sent to Residing Hope..The Methodist Children's home.

Sunday March 1, UWF will host a special reception all morning in Haley Hall honoring our Office Administrator, Karen Remfrey who is retiring that day! Bring cards of thanks and stop in for some special refreshments provided by the UWF Executive Board.

SAVE THE DATE...EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR...SUNDAY APRIL 5

UWF will host an Easter Brunch Pot Luck that day from 9:30 am - Noon in Haley Hall. Egg Casseroles, Deviled Eggs, and Beverages will be provided.

Please Sign up on Sundays or call the office to:

Let us know how many in your party will attend (so we can be sure to have plenty of seating) **and** let us know what you will bring for the Buffet. Suggestions are hard boiled eggs, mini croissants, pastries, donuts, bagels and cream cheese, veggies & dip, Cheese & Crackers, bananas, fruit salad, rice krispy treats (gluten free) or whatever you wish....



An annual outreach of UWF is attending the Book Fair at our neighborhood elementary school- Phillippi Shores - and buying \$300 of books that teachers would like for their Classrooms.

Carol Harris and Evelyn Miller shopped this year and put a small label inside "Donated by Trinity United Women in Faith 2026"

PreSchool Garden



Trinity Campus



We have a new place to sit and enjoy our campus by the picnic tables. Much thanks to Lora Brown for her hard work in clearing the brush and vines from this area and creating this bench area in honor of Pastor Linda. Stop by and enjoy this peaceful addition to our campus.

Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer



It is with gratitude that we gather each Friday morning at 8:30 AM in the Garden of Hope. Each of us brings our own chair. This time of year we can almost form a reasonable circle. When too chilly we gather in the Wesley Room. As summer encroaches we hunker down closer to the walkway outside Haley Hall.

We gather because we have faith that God desires to speak deeply to us and to listen to us, and we believe that God's favorite language is silence. When we consent to God's presence in silence it is a way of saying Yes to God knowing us beyond our pretense and our presumption and all our rationalizations.

In our silence we begin to be aware of our thoughts, the good, the bad, and the ugly, all of them. They are all there. We welcome all of them without analyzing or judging them. We resist no thought, react to no thought, retain no thought, but "ever so gently" we return to our

sacred word. Our sacred word is not magic, and it is not a mantra. It is simply a symbol of our intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

We can have the courage to do this because God's presence is love without limits. This is an ancient and simple way to pray. We are a friendly, little group from a variety of backgrounds. If you have any questions, we love to talk about Centering Prayer. Call or text 941-773-7008. Rev Stephen and Christine Hoffman.

Good Friday Centering Prayer Vigil

April 3, 2026
Good Friday Centering Prayer Vigil
"Love is my meaning."

The "Inhabit the Garden" Centering Prayer Group Will host our seventh annual prayer vigil.

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.)

Lenten Trinity Community Food Drive Starting March 1

During the month of March please bring your contributions to church each Sunday (or the third Saturday of the month) for the Church of the Palms Food Bank and Remnant Cafe

Most requested items for the Food Bank include:

Non -perishables (anything that does not have to be refrigerated)

Boxes of cereal, granola bars, cereal bars, juice boxes, fruit cups, individual small meals like tuna fish, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, shelf-stable milk, cans of food.

Donations for our Partners at Remnant Café:

Travel size shampoo, conditioner, lotions, deodorant, razors, toothpaste
mens boxers (new)

women's small and medium underwear (new)

men's and women's socks (new)

Men's khaki pants or jeans size 32, 34, 36

Men's T-shirts and shirts

When: Sundays During Lent &

3rd Saturdays Year Round

Where:

Trinity UMC

4150S. Shade Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34231



Romans 13:9-10

...Love your neighbor as yourself

Love does no harm to its neighbor.

Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



Time Change



On Sunday, March 8th at 2am. Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour

DVD player?

It seems the DVD Player in Haley Hall, which small groups use for Bible studies, has gone kaput after many years of faithful service.

If you have one in working order that you no longer need, consider donating it to Trinity.

Special Music

Gulf Coast Community Choir will sing at the 10:30 worship service on March 22nd.



Residing Hope

March 29th Fifth Sunday Offering

Residing Hope, formerly The Florida United Methodist Children's Home, is now a diverse ministry that includes therapeutic residential care, foster care, independent living assistance, Montessori education for the community, and counseling services in multiple counties.

The local church is the veritable backbone of everything that happens at Residing Hope beginning in 1906 when local Methodist Churches began collecting Fifth Sunday offerings, leading to the initial founding of the Florida Methodist Orphanage in 1908. Those Fifth Sunday offerings have become part of the fabric of support by the local churches here in Florida and continue to bless our ministry.



Middlers

If you are in your 40's – 60's join us for dinner March 8th at 5:30 at GrillSmith.

Fun was had by all last month and all are invited! Please call the church office to let Pastor Linda know you are coming so she can make reservations.

Snowbird lunch



March 19, Thursday Place TBA

Fill The Table

On the third Saturday of February the Fill The Table team sent 314 pounds of non-perishable food items to our partner Church of The Palms Food Pantry.

A special shout out to Brad Pritchett for being a part of this team as our delivery person. Work obligations prevent him from continuing this ministry, but we SO Appreciate him.

Join us in the courtyard to help sort, count, and pack donated items for the food pantry and for Remnant Café.

The Team: Brenda Moore, Carroll Hatfield, Mary Weaver, Marsha Mayers, Steve Mayers, Dave Korty, Kay Korty, Margie Aukland, Mark Aukland, Pam Pierce, Karen Remfrey.

March Birthdays



Ron Schwied	3/5
Goldie Reed	3/5
Alan Meyers	3/7
Emily Beck	3/9
Solita Tay	3/9
Shona Burtner	3/9
Kristen Rall	3/13
Ruby Ralston	3/15
Phyllis Pritchett	3/16
Phil Harris	3/18
Elizabeth Hicks	3/18
Troy Logan	3/18
Diane Griffin	3/19
Betty Woolverton	3/20
Rebecca Milner	3/21
Kay Anthofer	3/23
Cyrus Kuhn	3/28

Anniversaries

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

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. Send Prayer Requests to Brenda Moore or the Church Office

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Roy Cowles, Becki Creighton, Barb Ellsworth, Karyn Eubanks, Diane Free-stone, Jean Henry, Jim Henry, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Dottie Morris, Bev Pack-er, Marie Piraino, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Steve Puhaly, Rhonda Puhaly, Ann Riviere, Jan Robertson, Tom Robertson, Jerry Ralston, Jim Schindler, Ken Smith, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Debbie Utter, Kara Voyles, Bob Ward, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Marcia Wireman, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our Prayers are with:

the family and friends of Mary Raymond who died on February 4, 2026. A Celebration of her life will be at Trinity on March 2 at 5pm. Reception following.

March Worship

Sermon series – Understand who Jesus said he was and why that matters through His 'I Am' Statements in the gospel of John.

March 1 – I am the Light of the World

March 8 – I am the Door

March 15 – I am the Good Shepherd

March 22 – I am the Resurrection and the Life

March 29 – I am the Way, The Truth and the Life

10:10 Prayers

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

Prayer Keepers / Trinity Caring Partners



Trinity's Caring Partners.

Trinity's Caring Partners (formerly named Prayer Keepers) are available to offer prayerful and confidential visits with Communion, specific assistance during transitions, or on-going support as needed. Brenda Moore is now leading the group and you can contact her at 941-388-7679 for more information or assistance.

Music Ministry

Having done this "Church Choir-music-director/organist" thing, (some would say "calling"), on a mostly consistent basis for more than half a century of working with quite a respectable number of choral groups through a diverse number of "mainline" denominations, there is one type of occurrence that I'm sure most, if not all church music directors would likely delightfully agree upon...

That specific occurrence is when some inspired soul decides to no longer sit on the fence and approach saying, "I would like to join my voice with the others in the choir, however I can fit in!!" I assure you, few things warm a choir director's heart and places welcoming smiles on the faces of regular choir members than such an event as this!

Scripture states at Luke 15:10, that the angels in heaven rejoice specifically when one sinner repents and turns to God. Now that isn't to exactly say that if you join the choir, the angels will have a party in heaven..... But, I'm sure it will get their attention while you and The Lord work out the "repenting and trusting God part"!

As we approach "Passion & Resurrection Week", one of several High Holy Days of the Church calendar year, it is most encouraging and affirming to see so many who will lift their voices in faithful worship as choisters. There is strength in numbers. It is intentional that the choir serves only the first 2 Sundays a month throughout most of the year with the exception of Christmas and Easter Sunday preparations.

This approach avoids "burnout" for choir members, particularly when many choir participants also carry responsibilities in other aspects of the church life and organization. Do you see yourself affirming and being affirmed?? Perhaps now is the opportunity to make a decision!

LaTerry Butler, B.A.; CAGO
choir-director/organist
Trinity UMC, Sarasota

Stewardship

As you complete your taxes and consider tuition, gas, utilities, and refresh your three-prong support of Trinity, we thank you.

Thank you for the times you are the Trinity campus. Thank you for sharing your resources in many ways to make Trinity better. This includes making phone calls, giving rides and bringing your own tools on work day. And thank you for your financial support in planned giving and in responding to unexpected expenses and surprise costs.

God knows of your second-pocket giving and Trinity is blessed. Thank you for making the difference.

Abundant blessings ,
Carroll Hatfield
Stewardship

Free Books

Pastor Linda is downsizing her library and is placing books on a table in Haley for your personal study and reflection. The books there now are those that can be used for Lent, but new books will continue to be added in the next few months so keep checking it.

Zoe Empowers

Zoe Empowers Join a LIVE Zoom "virtual trip" on March 10 at 8 AM. You'll hear directly from the young people who have been in the empowerment group supported by the United Methodist Churches of the South West district. Hear their stories, their testimonies, and their dreams for the future (translation provided) before the group graduates. You'll even have a chance to ask questions and connect with them! Contact church office for link.



**Trinity
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 at 10:30am.

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: Lou Towery

Business Administration: Jack Hundley
Secretary: Karen Remfrey
Preschool :Glenna Shrock, Director
Custodian: Ann Erwin

*The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly,
serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*