

The ACORN

Vol. 5 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL May 2026

On May 10th Trinity will be blessed by our SW District Superintendent who will preach in both services. Her message on this Mother's Day will be based on Ruth 1:6-18 entitled The Other Mother. Plan to attend worship and share a warm Trinity welcome with Rev. Debbie Allen!

Rev. Deborah (Debbie) Allen grew up in eastern Hillsborough County, Florida, as a member of the First UMC in Seffner. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from USF, a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Spiritual Direction from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Debbie served local churches of all sizes for 21 years in the Florida conference before joining the Cabinet in 2022. She serves as our District Superintendent and also as the Director of Clergy Excellence for conference. She and her clergy spouse Daryl are parents to three sons: Parker, Wesley and Davis.



Rev. Jennifer Ahrens-Sims
Trinity United Methodist Church 2026 -

Trinity Friends,

April 19th was announcement Sunday in the UMC in which the new appointments were shared. We are pleased to let you know that our new Pastor will be Rev. Jennifer Ahrens-Sims who will start July 1st. She is joined by her husband Eddy, her 15 year old daughter Jaeden and 10 year old son Eli.

Pastor Jennifer sent a letter and video to be shared with you. On page 3, you will find the letter and link to the video.

They are excited to soon call Sarasota and Trinity UMC home! Welcome Ahrens-Sims family!

You can send a note welcoming her to:
Pastor Jennifer Ahrens-Sims
4515 Oak Moss Loop
Middleburg, FL 32068

Pastor's Page

Recently, I was leading a Bible study at Arietta Apartments, and the scripture was one of my favorites—Matthew 14:22–33, the story of Jesus walking on the water in the storm. Earlier that day, Jesus had shown compassion to the crowd by feeding the five thousand. Afterward, he sent the disciples ahead by boat while he went off alone to pray. Later that night, the disciples found themselves caught in a storm. In the midst of it, they saw Jesus walking on the water. Peter called out, asking if he could come to him—and Jesus said, “Come.” Peter stepped out and was fine as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. But when he noticed the wind and waves, he began to sink—until Jesus reached out and lifted him up.

How often do we feel like we are sinking in the chaos around us? Times of transition can feel exactly like that.

I'll admit, my own steady horizons feel like they're shifting right now—remodeling my home in Orlando, packing up the parsonage, working with leadership at Trinity to prepare for Pastor Jennifer's arrival and saying goodbye to good friends here. In the middle of it all, this scripture has been a reminder: keeping my eyes on Jesus is my source of strength and calm in every storm I face. Time and again, Jesus has reached out his hand and lifted me up. And yet, I still catch myself looking away, thinking I can manage on my own—not a great plan.

As we will move through these next two months of transition at Trinity, I invite you to consider: what helps you keep your eyes on Jesus? Where do you see his hand reaching out to you? Take a moment to pause. Breathe. And look for Jesus in the midst of it all!

Blessings,
Linda

Transition time frame:

- June 7 – Pastor Linda's last Sunday.
- June 9 – She leaves for Orlando
- June 10 – 28 – work teams will be at work in the parsonage to paint and make other repairs.

(The trustees will need your help! Let the church know if you are available!)

- June 30 – Moving day in Florida Conference.
- July 5th – Pastor Jennifer's first Sunday.

May Worship

May is here and our time of worship will be blooming with the Holy Spirit

Sermons:

May 3 – Communion Sunday
'Inseparable' - Romans 8:26-39

May 10 – Mother's Day
Sermon by Rev. Debbie Allen
'The Other Mother' - Ruth 1:6-18

May 17
'The Potter's Wheel' – Jeremiah 18:1-6

May 24 – Pentecost Sunday

All are invited to wear RED to worship as we recognize the power of Pentecost.

'Come Holy Spirit' – Acts 2:1-4, 17-21

May 31 – 5th Sunday collection for Residing Hope Children's Home
'Embracing God's Next Chapter' –
Matthew 9:14-17

A Note from Pastor Jennifer

Hello Trinity United Methodist Church of Sarasota.



I am Jennifer, your newly appointed pastor.
This is my family: Eddie, Jaeden and Eli.
I'm excited to make this introduction.
Family is very important to me.



I have been in ministry since 2005.
Prior to that I worked as a Registered Nurse.

I have been a Christian my entire life.
I came to The United Methodist Church as a young adult.



I was ordained in 2018
and have served several churches
in the Oklahoma and Florida Conferences.



I love being a pastor.
I am an engaged pastor who serves alongside other people.
I enjoy serving the church and the community.
Some of the best bonds are made when people serve together.



Ministry is an expression of my creativity.
Through creativity and innovation,
I connect my gifts to my call.



I cannot wait to learn more about you,
including what you enjoy,
what your strengths and passions are,
and how God has called Trinity to partner in mission
to transform the world!



We'll see you on Sunday, July 5th!

Jennifer



Pastor Jennifer sent a video, if you would like to listen to it, please copy and paste link below into your browser.

<https://canva.link/h73l1e7qi45y2wd>

Easter Egg Hunt

Over 20 children were excited and waiting for the command – Go! They poured into the playground area to find 15 eggs each including 5 special golden eggs. It was a great Easter morning! Much thanks to Troy, Colleen and Catherine Logan as well as all the volunteers who helped make this a fun Easter for all!



United Women in Faith— Treasurer

As the Treasurer of the Trinity Unit of United Women in Faith, I would like to give you a brief recap of what the unit has done this year so far.

First of all, let me say that we have a most generous group of women. Generous with their time and also with their resources. Our 65 members pledged a total of \$7500 this year. And not only are our members generous, but our church family is extremely generous as well. We were able to donate \$730 to Residing Hope, formerly the Children's Home, from donations at our Strawberry Sunday event. We also collected almost \$200 at our Easter Brunch, which has been added to our mission outreach.

Now, what do we do with all these gifts?

As you might know, the mission of United Women in Faith is to support women, children, and youth locally, nationally, and around the world. We keep most of our unit donations local, but our donation of \$1250 this year to our national organization supports those needs on a national and international level.

So far this year, we have supported Phillippi Elementary School with \$300 towards their book fair, enabling teachers to purchase books for their classrooms. And our Ruth Circle donated \$100 both last year and this year, directly to children enabling them to purchase their own books that they would have been unable to afford. Our Persis Circle gifted the teachers and staff members with donuts on Valentines Day, which was very much appreciated.

We donated \$200 worth of children's clothes, games, puzzles, etc. to The All-Star Children's Foundation as part of the Trinity Community Connection mission this month. We also donated \$200 toward the Cornerstone Family Ministries Diaper Drive and \$200 to Remote Area Medical.

From noon on 4/14 through noon on 4/15, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County held their Giving Challenge. During this 24 hour period (held every other year), any gifts of up to \$100 to local, registered nonprofits, are matched. Since we always look for opportunities for our giving dollars to be doubled, we participated by donating to 26 local nonprofits that benefit women, children, and youth. For those who are interested, the list of nonprofits is on the following page.

So that's our year so far. We still have some funds designated for needy causes and will continue to look for matching opportunities as they arise. I want to finish by thanking you all for your contribution to this wonderful organization. We do make a difference in so many lives in so many ways. They know we are here. And it's all because of you.

Nancy Masterson

United Women in Faith

Sunday April 5th Easter Brunch Pot Luck we hosted was well attended and all seem to enjoy the food and fellowship on a beautiful Easter Day! Many thanks to the UWF ladies who helped and to everyone who brought such a wonderful array of food to share.

Saturday April 18th we hosted a Spring Tea in Haley Hall. 60 women attended (UWF members and 28 guests). 8 hosts decorated their table with their own beautiful china and served guests seated at theirs.

Traditional afternoon tea food (and tea of course) was served, ladies were dressed in their spring finery and hats, and Tea fun facts were shared. Our speaker was Angela Carey, Executive Director of a Bond of Love adoption agency. Those attending donated gift cards totaling \$375 that were given to help women who choose life and adoption with needs they have. Attendees also donated over \$400 towards UWF missions to women, children and youth.

It was a lovely afternoon and special thanks to the team that helped make this event such a success!

UWF Executive Board:

The Board will not meet in May because in April we finished business necessary before our summer break (June - August). We have had a busy and productive first 1/2 year. Please see Nancy Masterson's article (our Unit Treasurer) for a recap.

May Circle meetings

Circles are deciding when they might meet in May. Please contact these leaders for specific information:

Hannah Circle: Jan Robertson 941- 922-7152

Ruth Circle: Lisa Hatfield 941-228-3350

Persis Circle: Becki Creighton 941-266-6527

Giving Challenge Donations

Non Profit Name	Amount Donated	Non profit Name	Amount Donated
Agape Flights	\$100	Gulf Coast Community Choir	\$100
All Faiths Food Bank	\$100	Healthy Teens Inc.	\$100
All Star Children's Foundation	\$100	Lighthouse Vision Loss Center	\$100
Baby Basics of Sarasota Cty.	\$100	Literacy Council of Sarasota	\$100
Beds for Kids Inc.	\$100	Meals on Wheels Sarasota	\$100
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota Cty.	\$100	Mothers Helping Mothers	\$100
Child Protection Center	\$100	Resurrection House	\$100
Children First Inc.	\$100	Safe Children Coalition Inc.	\$100
Community Haven	\$100	Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center	\$100
Early Learning Coalition of FL	\$100	Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center	\$100
Florida Center for Early Childhood	\$100	Selah Freedom	\$100
Florida Youth Ranches Inc.	\$100	Sisters Sowing Seeds	\$100
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast FL Inc.	\$100	Streets of Paradise	\$100

Food Drive

On a beautiful Spring Day, Brenda, Carroll, Steve, Lora and Karen sorted and delivered 226 pounds of nonperishables to Church of the Palms Food Pantry. Our Haley Hall collection basket was full of new T-shirts, underwear, socks, and toiletries for Remnant Café as well as gently-used jeans and shirts. Cash donated for these two nonprofits was \$300. A post it note was found with some donated items indicating it was given by "Victoria from the neighborhood".

This is such a wonderful Community Connection outreach! We can always use more help on the 3rd Saturdays of each month to sort, count, pack, and deliver donated items to the food pantry. Drop by the courtyard between 9:00 and 10:30 am on May 16 with donations or bring them to Church on Sundays or to Haley Kitchen anytime during the week.

Next Food Drive is:

Saturday

May 16th

9 am - 10:30 am

UMCOR

UMCOR SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING
AT TRINITY on MAY 3rd

UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian relief and recovery.

Hurricanes, floods, tornados, storms, war, earthquakes, etc—UMCOR is there to relieve suffering with needed supplies, food, and support.

100% of all regular donations go to UMCOR's specific mission projects devoted to disaster relief and not Admin costs. However, even non-profits have Administrative 'costs of doing business' including emergency response, overhead, management, communication, and training. UMCOR funds their Admin costs through annual special Sunday offerings at our individual churches.

**** This year Trinity will honor UMCOR with a Special Sunday offering on May 3rd. ****

So let's donate to the Special Sunday offering to help UMCOR continue doing the work of Jesus to help our neighbors in times of disasters.

Daily Devotions

Awaken to Grace daily devotions are available all year long. Clergy from the conference have a daily devotion, prayer time, reflection questions. The devotion has morning, midday and evening prayer times that pull us into a closer walk with Jesus. You can find it daily at the conference webpage flumc.org under Awaken to Grace or download the app at that same site on your phone, iPad or laptop.

Creation Care Ministry



Earth Day is observed on April 22 each year. This is not just a Hallmark holiday but a call to action recognized worldwide. First Earth Day was in 1970 and eventually led

to the creation of the EPA, OSHA, the Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act. Unfortunately, our current government administration doesn't give environmental issues the support that is needed. The United Methodist Book of Discipline is very clear that we are to care for the planet and all the creatures on it. UMW has a division called Climate Change Social Justice. Books are on the blue book shelf.

Plastic pollution is a global issue that destroys environments, diminishes biodiversity, increases global warming, and harbors immense potential to impact human health. Study after study continues to reveal a disturbing prognosis: if current practices continue unabated there will be an increase in hormonal illnesses, cancers, and cardiovascular system damage related to plastic production and consumption. Science and inventors are coming up with more and more ways to substitute plastics with recyclable materials. If we personally look for new ways to eliminate our plastic use, by substituting an ecological alternative in our day-to-day usage, it will help! There's lots of info available on how everyone can help to protect mother earth

Our new textile collection box is an example of Creation Care. Unneeded items don't end up in the landfill but are recycled for good use elsewhere.

Governments, for-profits, and nonprofits need to do more too. Let them know! When I saw the photos of earth that the Astronauts sent back from space, I was encouraged that there's still time to repair the damage already done and make sure we do all we can to protect our planet and it's life-giving inhabitants.

-Submitted by Karen Remfrey

Congratulations, Preschool!

As the Preschool's 2025-26 school year comes to a close, we have great news: the Preschool has been awarded two different grants, one for technology and one for facility maintenance and minor improvements. We are very excited to be able to spruce up our playground and classrooms and purchase some much needed updated computer equipment. Thank you to Glenna for capitalizing on these opportunities.

Registration is now open for the Fall Session of the 2026-27 school year. There are still openings in all three classrooms: 2's, 3's and VPK. Please tell your family members, neighbors and friends what a terrific Preschool we have at Trinity. We are also offering a summer camp on a limited basis, so please ask anyone interested to call the church for additional information and/or a tour.

Thank You!

Hello to you all! Thank you for your warm words of welcome. I appreciate your understanding and patience as I learn your names and faces, as well as all the details involved in being your Administrative Assistant.

I welcome the opportunity to learn and grow within your community. I look forward to the journey ahead in being of service to Trinity and all her members.

In gratitude, Kate

P.S. I am in the office Monday Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Stop by and say hello!

Stewardship

May is a special month. It offers more unique opportunities than one might expect. Honoring mothers on Mother's Day is a special one. High school and college and university graduation ceremonies are thresholds for students that provide honors and opportunities. The month closes with Memorial Day recognizing and remembering fallen service members.

May also presents a special opportunity. It is one month after you have filed your tax return. If you received a refund, consider sharing your good fortune with Trinity, your church. Also, if you won money earlier this month in the Kentucky Derby, consider sharing your gain with Trinity. Our members are faithfully generous.

Thank you,

Carroll Hatfield

Stewardship

May's Community Mission

May Mission Moment

Trinity collects items for Remnant Cafe every month, but in May to honor women we will have a special collection for the homeless women of Remnant Café. We always have to keep in mind these women may live on the streets or have to move from place to place and can only carry limited items. Needs include:

1. New underwear and socks.
2. A variety of toiletries to maintain general hygiene and health:

Toothbrushes, small comb or brush
Travel size toothpaste, deodorant,
sunscreen, soap, shampoo, conditioner,
dental floss, lotion, face wash, tissues,
hand sanitizer, mouthwash, Q-tips

3. Wet Body Wipes
Having these items always on hand is important for health and self-care.

- 4 Sanitary Supplies

Tampons, sanitary pads, pantyliners.

Free Books

Pastor Linda is downsizing her library and is placing books on a table in Haley for your personal study and reflection. New books will continue to be added in all month, so keep checking it.

Help her books find a new home!

Online Worship

Thanks to Lou Towery who has served as our projectionist in worship the past year. We are currently looking to fill this position.

Online worship will not be available for a short time during the hiring process.

Thank you for your patience.

Needed: Welcome Table Hosts

Needed welcome table hosts

On Sunday morning, for the 10:30 service hosts are needed to be at the welcome table outside the sanctuary before worship to welcome visitors and answer questions or provide directions they may have. If you would be available on a rotating basis please contact the office or Pastor Linda to say I can help!

New Office Hours

Monday 9:00 am— 2:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday Closed

May Birthdays



Janet Noah	5/1
Nora Kuhn	5/9
David Liller	5/9
Jacqueline Ray	5/14
Becki Creighton-Bland	5/16
James Tay	5/20
Nancy Masterson	5/24
Thomas Hankins	5/25
Mary Beth Day-Karl	5/26
Bob McGuirt	5/30

Anniversaries



James & Tammy Barnett	5/12
Diane & Richard Ladney	5/15

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, Curt Eskew, Karyn Eubanks, Jean Henry, Jim Henry, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Dottie Morris, Bev Packer, 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, Miriam Williams, Marcia Wireman, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

(Please notify church office to take your name off.)

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.

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



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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: Kate Setear
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.*