



February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month, the annual observance of the history of the African diaspora. It has been observed in the month of February in the United States and Canada since 1976. It was begun as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926 with the goal of educating the American people about

African American history. It concentrates on the cultural backgrounds and achievements of African Americans.

Someone asked me a few years ago: "Why is there a black history month?" There are many reasons. There are serious gaps in recorded black history. I can remember from my educational experiences in high school, college, and graduate school that any reference to black history was a brief reference. What I know of black history, I learned on my own, outside the framework of formal education.

Not only was there no simple factual and cultural history, there was no history of specific incidences of repression, rebellion, or inhuman practices within the culture of slavery. There are many reasons for this. One is that history was written and published by white people. Since education for slaves was discouraged, even forbidden by law, the slaves would not have had access to their own history even if it had been fairly and accurately recorded. Black history was transmitted almost entirely by oral tradition – by legends and storytelling. Even after the slaves were freed, there was for many years, no provision for education. When black people were admitted into the arena of public education, it was separate from white people, but certainly not equal.

There was history we never heard. Both white and black people were, and are, the poorer for the history about which we never knew. It is important to have an emphasis on Black History to remind us of the history we so easily forget or never knew to begin with.

We need to teach our children about the past. They need to know what happened lest it happen again. This is not to embitter or perpetuate hate. Our children will never understand who they are or the roots of their own heritage, unless we recite the stories of the past to them.

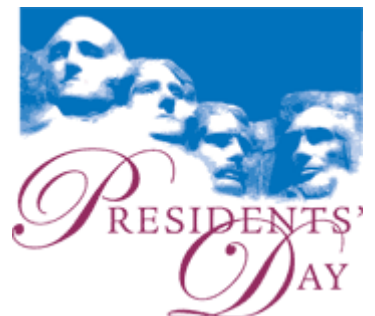
There is a sense in which the meaning of this month relates, not only to African-Americans, but also to non-African Americans. Our history and our future are inextricably woven together. We need the lessons that can come from an emphasis on Black History month to help us recognize our own biases and prejudices and attempt not to place them on others. We can in fact, honor each other's culture, race, life experience, belief system, class, age and gender. Perhaps then, we can do our best to acknowledge, and validate the feelings of others. Remember it was Jesus who said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you."

Your minister,
Dr. David Calhoun



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Trinity's office & building will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day!

VISIT US ONLINE:
trinityspringfield.org



Please Pray for These Members/Friends:

Mary A, Lisa B, Borys B, Jeannette B, Pat B, James B, Jennifer C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C, Greg D, Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Lisa F, Courtney H, Blair J, Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, John & Ann M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Kathy S (Jane's sister-in-law), Lynn T, Mary (T) G, Alison (Allie) W, Curt W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

We Offer Our Sympathy & Prayers:



To Rev. Janet S-R upon the death of her husband, Robert R, 2024. Janet previously served as Trinity's

Associate Pastor.

To Lori C and family, upon the death of her mother, longtime Trinity member Marilyn C.

Please keep both these families in your prayers during this very difficult time.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who supported Angel Tree this Christmas season. With your generosity, prayers and love, we were able to purchase and deliver Christmas gifts to 70 children who have an incarcerated parent. The children and families were so thankful and happy for this ministry.

Blessings, *Kristina Stone & Ginny Blake*

To my Trinity friends,

Thank you so much for the cards and gifts I received for my birthday. It is a blessing to work at a place where people are so thoughtful and caring. I thank God for all of you.

Blessings, *Doreen*

FEBRUARY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Regular Birthdays
Wedding Anniversaries (Italics)
S - Staff

- 2/1 Joel J
- 2/2 Austin L
- 2/3 Ellen A, Audra H, Evan V, Spencer V
- 2/4 Cheryl P, Zachary S, Tracy W
- 2/5 Beverly R, Israel T, Larry T, Aisla V
- 2/6 Joshua W
- 2/8 Hope L
- 2/9 Shannon F, *Nicole & Michael S*
- 2/11 Teri D
- 2/12 Felix E
- 2/12 Robert M, Rachel M
- 2/14 Francis S
- 2/15 Brian C, Dominick E, Brenda S, Maura S
- 2/16 Xena E, Brennan W
- 2/18 Matthew A, Alan H, *Tom & Julie L*
- 2/19 Drew B, Pinkney S, Jr.
- 2/20 Nii Lante B
- 2/21 Robin H, Cynthia T
- 2/22 Kathryn C, Stella C, John D, Ellen L
- 2/23 Susan M-M, Daniel M, Scott W
- 2/24 Borys B
- 2/25 Lorrin B
- 2/26 Princess A
- 2/27 James S
- 2/28 Blake M, Greta
- 2/29 Barbara D, Kimberly L

Milestone Birthdays 75 & Every 5 yrs. After & Over 90



- 2/13 Don E
- 2/29 Leap Year Barbara D

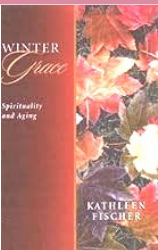
Lay Pastoral Care



Ministry

Lay Pastoral Care Training for New Candidates to start in 2024

Have you ever thought that you might like to be involved in Lay Pastoral Care (LPC)? Maybe you're not sure what it entails. Well, our Mission Statement is the following: "Caring is a Cornerstone of Trinity's Faith and Work." The bottom line is that we have existed for almost 20 years to try to help our minister(s) reach those members of our congregation who are unable to attend church on a regular basis and want to stay connected." If you would like to know more about this ministry, we will have an informational meeting in the near future, followed by a multi week training session. If you are interested in attending, please notify Doreen in the church office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org or (413) 737-5311 as soon as possible, then we will set a date for the meeting. Thanks.



Spirituality and Aging Study

Don't miss your opportunity for a new small group study on "Spirituality and Aging" that begins Monday, February 5, 2024. It will be held weekly on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. This time accommodates people who are working and also gets people home for dinner! The book is Winter Grace by Kathleen Fischer and can be ordered on-line [here](https://www.amazon.com/Winter-Grace-Kathleen-Fischer/dp/1606081110). A couple of copies will be available at the first class. This book has been called a "spiritual feast" and draws from the rich traditions of theology, literature, and social sciences to create an exploration of spirituality in the later years. It is certainly appropriate to be shared across generations. Please email the church office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org or call the office at (413) 737-5311 to register for the class. It is a perfect time of year for reflection and renewal. Come and join us! Please sign up. See Dr. Calhoun for more information.

"Quote"

"If you can be the best, then why not try to be the best?" - Garrett Morgan



February Rose Window

February 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy & Paula

February 6 - Anonymous

February 10 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his mom, Barbara

February 27 - In loving memory of Ted & Jane C, from Ted & Judy



tacklehunger.org

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11, our middle school class will be collecting your change for the "Souper Bowl of Caring," a national program that encourages youth to collect money for local hunger relief and engage in acts of service around the time of the Super Bowl. Class members with soup kettles will be stationed at the three exits of the sanctuary. All the money collected will go to our own Parkside Pantry.

Trinity Garden Committee Update



On behalf of the Trinity Garden Committee, this bird feeder was placed (made by a friend of Borys and Devon) on a pole in the garden of 3 crosses outside of the Vincent Hall entrance. The colors of the bird house are the colors of the flag of Ukraine, in honor of Borys! The bird feeder is in honor of our dear friends the Bakum family!



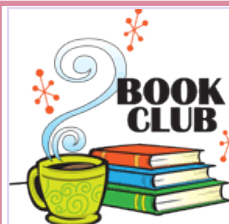
A Message of Thanksgiving

Wow, we have much to be thankful for! The Stewardship and Finance Committee of Trinity United Methodist Church asked the members and friends of the congregation to participate in the Fall Stewardship Campaign, and did they ever! As of January 23rd, our pledge total for 2024 is \$438,279, 14.5% above our pledge total for 2023. This is the highest pledge number for our church since 2017. We received pledges from 125 families and individuals this year, up from 112 for 2023. This also represents twenty-plus new pledges.

The initial "request" this year was formidable at 20% over last year's pledge total. Frankly, as a committee we knew it would be challenging to achieve this goal, so reaching 93.2% is truly a blessing. However, we had faith that all things are possible through God. Your prayerful considerations and love of Trinity Church and its many programs proved to us that Trinity United Methodist remains a strong presence in all our lives.

A warm thanks to all of those who not only pledged, but prayed for Trinity during this pledge drive. The Finance Committee is grateful for every pledge we received. May God bless our endeavor!

The Committee on Stewardship and Finance



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet by Zoom on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss *Old Babes in the Wood*, a collection of short stories by Margaret Atwood, author of *The Handmaid's Tale*.

"This collection of fifteen extraordinary stories—some of which have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine*—explore the full warp and weft of experience, speaking to our unique times with Atwood's characteristic insight, wit and intellect." (Amazon)

All women are welcome. If you have any questions or need to receive the link, contact Jane S.

Save the Date!! United Women in Faith Event



Our Advent dinner featuring the lovely Regina Krawiec was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next event is likely to delight you as well. Please join us for tea and sweets on **Sunday, March 10th from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Asbury Hall.**

Featured program to be announced. You can reach us through email at UWF@trinityspringfield.org



2024 Boar's Head Festival (BHF) Photos

The first of the BHF 2024 photos have been processed and shared on Trinity's website and Photo Blog. These cover the dress rehearsal. More will be processed in the coming weeks and shared on the website and photo blog so check back periodically to see if new photos have been added. The website link is:

<https://www.trinityspringfield.org/events/bhf-2024-photos/>

If anyone would like a high resolution image of any of the pictures, please send a note to Jim Sharrard at publicity@trinityspringfield.org.



February Gallery Exhibit:

The February exhibit in the Trinity Community Gallery features the art of students from Boland Elementary School where our own Lisa Bakowski is principal.



FEBRUARY 4 AT
5:00PM

CHAPEL KIDS AT NIGHT

THIS MONTH WE'LL BE LEARNING ALL
ABOUT COMMUNION!

GRACE
CHAPEL

Friday

Lenten Worship

Come reflect and worship at simple services every
Friday of Lent at noon in Grace Chapel.

The Poetry of Lent

Reflecting Together

Sundays at 12:15 during Lent

Come enjoy a time of reflection with
Trinity friends as we explore the
poetry of Mary Oliver as provided by
our Lenten devotional. This casual
discussion we be led weekly by Rob
and will happen in Grace Chapel.



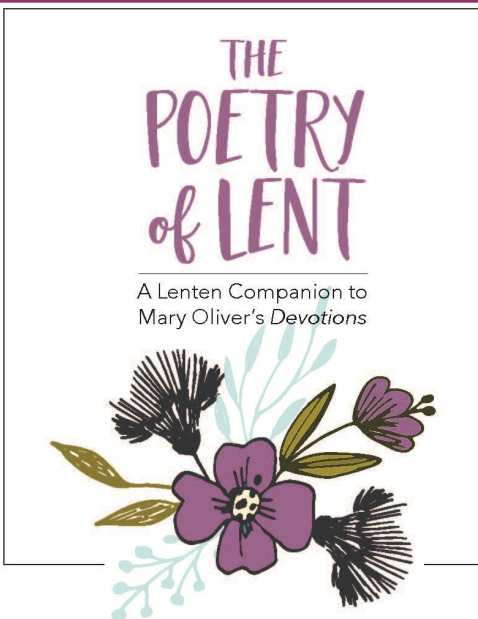
PARKSIDE Cafe



COME HANGOUT, REST, MEET OR MAKE A FRIEND, AND
ENJOY A CUP OF COFFEE AT THE PARKSIDE CAFE DURING
LENT.

THURSDAYS OF LENT: 3-7

FRIDAYS OF LENT: 11-2



Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

Mary Oliver, "Sometimes," Devotions

Our devotional booklet for Lent will use both the words of scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver as our guides. The introduction from our resource, **The Poetry of Lent**, published by the Salt Project tells us "[Lent] is... about broadening our hearts and preparing the way, making room for careful attention to what matters most." The devotional booklet begins with Ash Wednesday, continues with weekly readings and includes the days of Holy Week. Scripture, poetry and practices will encourage us to reflect and go deeper.

The digital version of The Poetry of Lent is available [here](#). There will be hard copies placed at the entrances to the sanctuary as we get closer to Lent. May The Poetry of Lent enrich your journey to Easter.

REFLECTIONS

Our theme for 2023-24
Guiding Scripture:
***As water reflects the face,
so one's life
reflects the heart.***

Proverbs 27:19

In our Lenten devotional book, "The Poetry of Lent", we're asked to read "Storage" by Mary Oliver. "More room in your heart for love, for the trees!" she writes. Reflect on how you might make more room in your heart during Lent.



Chapel Ash Wednesday Service - Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. we invite you to join together with others from Trinity Church in the Sanctuary for this service which marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. There will be a special message and music. We will offer the imposition of ashes for all those who would like to receive them. Also, from 9 a.m., to noon Rev. Dr. David Calhoun will offer ashes in Grace Chapel. This is a beautiful way to enter into this reflective season and important time of year in the life of the church.



Friday Lenten Services

Be sure to include our Friday mid-day Lenten services on your calendar as we journey through this sacred season. The services are Feb. 16 - March 29, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. in Grace Chapel. We will have another wonderful group of worship leaders and soloists this year. Come and hear what each person has to offer as we give encouragement to each other during this season.

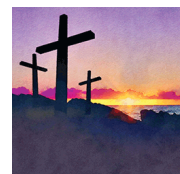
Friday Lenten Reflections & Music

Feb 16- Rev. Dr. David Calhoun will be the leader
February 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22- TBD
Good Friday, March 29 - Rev. Dr. David Calhoun will be the leader.



Good Friday Lenten Lunch

On Good Friday only we will have a simply meal following the noon service. More details to follow.



Holy Week

There will also be a Maundy Thursday, March 28 service in Asbury Hall and a Good Friday Service, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary with more details follow.



A Note from Our Minister...What Path Will We Follow?

At our last Charge Conference, our District Superintendent Megan Stowe asked the question of those gathered, "What do you see for Trinity United Methodist in the year 2024 and beyond? I have been thinking about that question, and well, there are many possibilities for the church.

First our church could be a closed community of "true believers." A few of these churches already exist. The faithful gather, build a wall around them, and protect themselves from the dangers of the outside. They decide on the content of the "true faith," the right ideas –and everybody on the inside holds them. There is no question of these ideas and no challenge to them; and people become very comfortable. The closed community of true believers' chief characteristic is that they want to go back to the sure things of the past.

Now, these closed communities may be denominationally independent, they may be Roman Catholic, they may be Presbyterian, they may be Methodist, or they may be anything. But most likely, they see some point in history as the time when we had "truth", and they must defend that truth against attack, that is one possibility for the church of the future; and an unchanging entrenched minority that works to preserve the sacred past.

Another model for the future would be a church very much like Trinity. A church with a wide spectrum of members; a wide spread politically, economically, socially, and theologically. It is a church where there is room to disagree, where there can be controversy and sometimes conflict, because people honestly do not agree, but where there are common commitments that bind them together as a church.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement in America, called this the "catholic spirit," by which he meant an "openness to other people." I believe this means that if people are to be confronted, it is done openly and in a spirit of respect and Christian love. This is very hard to do. It means recognizing that people of "good will" and even some people of "not so good will" can have a different view that may be valid. It means taking a moment to find out what is going on in the other person's life, if they want to reveal that. It means that we are prepared to listen. The reward is priceless: it means we are constantly fed and excited by the mystery of life.

Against this backdrop, where is our denomination? What we are committed to is the fact that people called "United Methodist" can believe a variety of things and still live together as Christians and as church people. In the United Methodist church, we welcome people of faith into our churches, and people who are searching for answers to life's tough questions, because we know what it's like to feel alone and unsure . . . to need a welcoming place with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We answer the call of making disciples for Jesus Christ, and we live the promise the day we joined the United Methodist Church, the promise of our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our witness.

As we enter into a new year together, I look forward to serving as your pastor. May John Wesley's Covenant Prayer be the words that lead and sustain us each day: "I am no longer my own but Thine. Put me to what Thou wilt . . ." Would you like to discuss this more sometime? Please give me a call . . . I look forward to our future together at Trinity United Methodist Church!

Your minister,

Dr. David Calhoun






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 413-737-5311
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STAMP



Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church, welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



Minister:
Director of Music Ministries:
Church Administrator:
Director of Family Ministries and Connections:
Administrative Assistant:
Head Sexton:

TRINITY STAFF

Rev. Dr. David Calhoun
 Dr. Michael Carney (x210)
 Jeff Bennett (x202)
 Rob Powell (x201)
 Doreen B. Bessey (x204)
 Carlos Manning (x207)

E-MAIL

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directorfmanc@trinityspringfield.org
doreen@trinityspringfield.org
sextons@trinityspringfield.org 413-777-5460

Acolyte Coordinator:
Administrative Council Chair:
Board of Trustees Treasurer:
Christian Education & Spiritual Formation
Investment Committee Chair:
Lay Leader:
Membership & Evangelism Chair:
Missions Chair:
Publicity/Communications Chairs:
Staff-Parish Relations Chair:
Stewardship & Finance Chair:
Trustees Chair & Vice Chair
Worship Committee Chairs:

2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tina Warren
 Nate Olin
 Erica Weida
 Brian Crawford
 Russ Moore
 Sandra Collins & Mike Rust
 Wendy Regan
 Diane Mackie
 Jim & Clara Lee Sharrard
 Sara McKeown
 Chad Thompson
 Alan Harwood & Jim Mackie
 Kelly Henry & Cathy MacGovern

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worship@trinityspringfield.org