



The Carillon - February 2026, Vol. 98 Issue 2- Trinity United Methodist Church

Mustard Seeds and Moments

I was going through some things the other day and I rediscovered a picture of one of my children holding a birthday gift for me. It was a small Dixie cup with about a tablespoon full of mustard seeds inside - no doubt a memento from Sunday School, a precious thing given to me for my special day.

As I looked at this picture from the past, I remembered the parable that Jesus told. Such tiny seeds, yet each one can grow into one of the largest shrubs, so big that the birds come and nest in it. Seeds, like moments, are tiny, seemingly insignificant, yet each one holds the potential to be of immense importance.

The moment we take our first step, the moment we have our first kiss, the moment we learn of a friend or a relative's death, these moments stay with us all of our lives. Yet other moments can stay with us too: the moment we pass along gossip, the moment we use words to demean another person, the moment we forgive someone, the moment we smile at the stranger, or choose to be a patient driver.

Now, as I move through my day, I wonder what sort of seeds I'm planting. How will they grow, and what kind of fruit will they bear? I'm trying to notice the small moments of my life, attempting to make good choices in those tiny spaces of time. Jesus says that the birds will come and nest in the mustard shrubs. I hope that the seeds I plant in the moments of my life will grow into a nice place for everyone to live too.

February is Black History Month and just as the birds of the air need their place to nest, we need the lessons that can come from an emphasis on this 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,

David



OUR MISSION:

CELEBRATE God's love.

NURTURE relationships with God and one another.

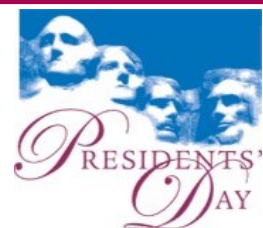
SERVE our community and world, as we share the light of Christ.

Trinity is a Reconciling Congregation of The United Methodist Church.



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Trinity's office and building will be closed on President's Day Monday, February 16, 2026!

VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.trinityspringfield.org





Please Pray for:

Bridget B, James B, Janet B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Pat D, David F, Mark F, Donna G, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, the M family, Holly Joy P, Les P, Rev. Dr. Bob P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Carl S, Lynn T, Allie W, the Z family, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.



Sympathy

We offer our Christian sympathy to our long distance Trinity member, Janet B, upon the passing of her husband, Rev. Ed B. Please keep the B family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Congratulations

Trinity member, Haley S gave birth to her first child on Christmas night at 6:46 p.m. A little girl named Ivy T S weighed in at 6 lbs.3 oz. & 18 ¹/₂ in. long. Ivy is also the granddaughter of Trinity member, Nancy H.



Thank You Notes

A prayerful thank you to Trinity UMC for the cards, notes, phone calls and continued prayers during Bing's illness, death, and my after-days. Life is a new path for me and I look forward to being present among you.

Grace and Peace,
Sue S

A very big thank you to my church family for always looking out for my students. In November, with Thanksgiving coming, the government decided to freeze SNAP benefits across the board. With 89% of my school deemed "low income", a vast majority of my families lost benefits. Hearing of this, the Parkside Pantry and Erica Weida both jumped into action. Because of their very generous donations, 30 families at my school were able to afford a beautiful Thanksgiving meal. I am so grateful as were the families. Trinity is truly doing God's work. Thank you!

Lisa B

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Regular Birthdays Wedding Anniversaries (*Italics*) S - Staff

2/1 Joel J
2/2 Austin L
2/3 Ellen A, 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
2/7 Steven E, Marilyn 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
2/13 Don E
2/14 Francis S, *Paul B & Susan C-B*
2/15 Brian C, Dominick E, Brenda S, Maura S
2/16 Xena E, Brennan W
2/18 Matthew A, Alan H
2/19 Drew B, Pinkney S, Jr.
2/20 Nii Lante B
2/21 Robin H, Ashby P, Cynthia T
2/22 Stella C, Ellen L
2/23 Susan M-M, Daniel M, Benjamin T, Scott W
2/24 Borys B
2/26 Princess A
2/27 James S
2/28 Blake M, Greta R
2/28 Kimberly L



Milestone Birthdays 75/Every 5 After & 90 & Over

2/22 Kathryn C



Milestone Anniversaries Every 5 yrs.

There are no milestone anniversaries this month.



2026 Boar's Head Festival

Congratulations are extended to all who participated and contributed to the Boar's Head Festival this year. It is incredible to think about the enormous amount of time and energy needed to produce an event of this magnitude. It took the efforts of every single person involved including our patrons, cast, support crew and the cooperation of the Trinity Church staff. Please know that you all deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. It has been a pleasure to participate with you in this wonderful event.

Blessings on behalf of the BHF Executive Committee,

Scott Woodward

Production Manager



Trinity Community Gallery February Exhibit

Trish Pilon is a Springfield visual artist. Her work explores non-objective and semi-abstract compositions using a variety of colors, shapes, lines, textures and multiple perspectives to create playful, imaginative and dreamlike pieces. She is owner of Creative Roots Studio.

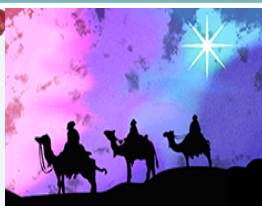
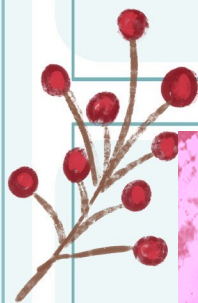
2025 ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS



2025 Giving Statements

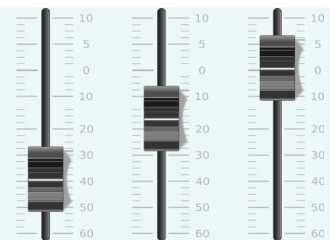
Hope Lewis, our church administrator, is emailing all 2025 Giving Statements. If you have a new email please let the church office know.

If you need a paper copy instead, please email Hope at administrator@trinityspringfield.org.



2026 Boar's Head Festival Merchandise on Sale

Sunday, February 1 buy a shirt, mug, calendar and more from the Boar's Head Festival cart in Asbury Hall during coffee hour. Cash and credit card accepted. Thank you.



Would You Like to Join the Trinity Tech Team?

Do you consider 'muting yourself on Zoom' a spiritual gift? Then the Trinity Tech Team is for you! We handle the church's livestream each Sunday and keep the audio and PA system running smoothly. Don't worry if you're not a pro. If you can move a computer mouse and want to serve, we'll train you. We ask for just a once-a-month commitment, and anyone age 13 and up is welcome to join. Interested? Reach out to us at trinitytechteam@trinityspringfield.org.



Children and Youth Ministries Resume on February 1, 2026

LIGHT@9

9 AM

6 pM

Youth Fellowship

Chapel Kids
(Feb 8)

During
Worship

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP
AUGUST 10-15

SIGN-UPS WILL BEGIN MARCH 1.
TRIP DETAILS WILL BE SHARED AT
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY.



Youth Fellowship (YF) Dinner Sign-ups

Support Trinity Youth by signing up to provide a dinner at Sunday Night Youth Fellowship [here](#). Thank you!



Join us for an Eclectic Evening of Music with Archguitarist Peter Blanchette and Québécois Guitarist and Singer Yann Falquet!

A guitarist, composer, arranger, and conductor, Peter is known around the world as the inventor of the 11-string arch guitar. His extraordinary repertoire of internationally acclaimed arrangements spans from Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music to world music, and his own original pieces.

This program will feature a blend of early music, Bach, and contemporary and Celtic music. He will be joined by Québécois guitarist and singer Yann Falquet, whose vibrant traditional repertoire and warm vocals expand the duo's sound. Together they will present an uplifting mix of early music, original works, and Québécois songs to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Saturday, February 14, 7:30 p.m., in the Trinity Community Gallery

\$20 at the door (cash only please)

Advance tickets available thru Eventbrite

Bing Productions continues the mission of the former Bing Arts Center & is a project of the "X" Main St Corporation.



February Rose Window

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

February 6 - Anonymous

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

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

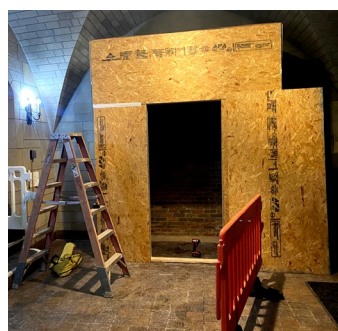
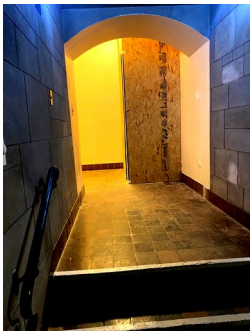
Trustees Update: Accessibility Project

Things are progressing pretty much on schedule and on budget. We've saved money in some areas which has helped to offset unexpected costs that have come up. We seem to still be on schedule for project completion (except possibly some exterior painting, etc.) by Easter Sunday (April 5).

After a slow couple of weeks due to Christmas, New Years, and the Boar's Head Festival the crews are back working full force this week. There is work going on in several areas of the building, most of it very dusty and noisy. Some of the highlights are:

- The lift has been decommissioned (state permit issued on 1/12/26) and removed on 1/13/26. The Hallway between the Sanctuary and Asbury Hall is passable again.
- The three stained glass windows in the chapel narthex have been carefully removed and boxed for a future undetermined use.
- The plaster has been stripped from the walls where the new opening will be cut – some more asbestos was discovered buried in the wall. Springfield Abatement was removed on 1/14 at a cost of \$2400.
- The wall openings were cut by Witch Equipment – all groups using the building have been notified of the noise.
- Once the walls have been opened and the rubble removed, the glass enclosures will be installed.
- The electricians have been busy running conduit throughout the spaces where they will be installing new power.
- The plumbers are working on removing and reinstalling the parts of the heating system that need relocating.
- The alarm system people have been working around the building installing the upgrades necessary – we will need to set up scaffolding again, this time in the chapel. Alan is coordinating with them.
- The elevator machine room has been essentially completed.
- The lift was ordered in early December with an expected delivery date of 10 -12 weeks. We're hoping for mid-February for delivery – installation should only take a day or two. We then have to wait for state inspectors to approve the install before use.
- The elevator is scheduled for delivery this week and will go to the Otis facility in Agawam for the time being. When we're ready (shaft fully complete, electrical installed and inspected) they will deliver to the church and begin installation which should take 4-6 weeks to complete (it will also need to be state inspected before use).
- We are waiting for new options from the electrical engineer for the pathway lighting since the originals that were proposed exceeded our budget projections. We're hoping to have something to look at before our next construction meeting.
- The new interior doors are at the church and installation will begin when deemed appropriate by AJ Crane.
- We still need to make a decision on deleting the second (inside) door on the new parking lot vestibule – it's still on the plan but we can save money by eliminating it. We should discuss at our meeting.
- Early on we talked about eliminating the existing floor grates in the sanctuary (currently covered by mats) – this never reached the project specs so it would be an add on if we want to address it now. We should get an estimate and discuss.

Trinity's webpage is tracking the progress on this project. It is updated regularly as the construction progresses. You can find more pictures [here](#).





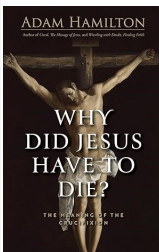
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 Ashes—9 a.m. -12 noon & Evening Service at 7 p.m. Both Service are in Grace Chapel

From 9 a.m. - 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. At 7:00 p.m. we invite you to join together with others from Trinity Church in Grace Chapel for a 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.



Friday Lenten Mid-Day Services

Join us in Grace Chapel on Fridays for mid-day Lenten services from 12 -12:30 p.m. February 20 - Good Friday, April 3.



Join Rev. Calhoun for a New Lenten Study ~ When Words Fall Short, the Cross Still Speaks

Join Rev. Calhoun for an enriching journey through Adam Hamilton's latest release, "Why did Jesus Have to Die?" I have excerpted the following section for your review. "Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?"

The study begins on Monday, February 23 - noon to 1:30 p.m. in the café and runs every Monday through March 23. Join us as we walk this Lenten journey together and explore new ways to grow in your relationship with God. You can order the book on Amazon or wherever you like. Please email Doreen in the office to sign-up.

LentenSimple Meal



A Simple Meal - Good Friday, April 3 Only - On Good Friday **only**, we will have a simple meal following the noon service of soup and bread. More details to follow.

More Lenten details to come in future Thursday Thoughts and the next Carillon.

Theme Reflection: A Season of Contemplation and Discernment

We are bombarded in the news and social media with horrific images and shocking events. We can quickly become disheartened and jaded, seeing the world and those around us in a negative light. We can end up taking bull-headed stances that leave no room for compassion and healing. We may take actions tainted in self-righteousness that lead to suffering, or we may sit in inaction for fear of being manipulated. This is clearly a time for contemplation and discernment.



In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 it says, "But test everything; hold fast to what is good." We know in our hearts what is good. By spending time reflecting on what we experience in this world and weighing it against the heart, we can improve our discernment and build up strength in our spirits. We can speak and act with the wisdom of Christ, instead of being swayed and influenced by the darkness around us. We can become beacons of hope and lead with compassion. As we enter Lent at the end of this month, the Worship Committee asks you to take time each day to reflect on your life, your family, your community, and the world; we ask you to become masters of discernment, using your hearts as guides. "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." – Philippians 1: 9-10



The Carillon

*Trinity United Methodist Church
361 Sumner Avenue
Springfield, MA 01108
413-737-5311*

*www.trinityspringfield.org
info@trinityspringfield.org*

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.