



The Carillon - March 2026, Vol. 98 Issue 3- Trinity United Methodist Church

A Message From Our Minister

By the time this reaches you, we will have settled into the quiet rhythms of Lent, a focused time to realign your heart with your faith and to let go of distractions. Have we lost hope or compassion? Have we lost our integrity? Have we lost respect for ourselves or others? Have we lost our capacity to understand? Have we lost all feeling for someone dear to us? Have we lost even the desire to pray? The Gospels chronicle Jesus' mission to restore the fractured pieces of the human experience. He gave sight to the blind, health to the sick, forgiveness to the penitent, hope to the hopeless, life to the dead, and love to all. In this sacred season of prayer and sacrifice, may we unearth the hidden treasures of a heart fully turned toward God. Let this season of prayer, repentance and fasting be a time for us to seek the lost treasures of our faith which only God can give and whose love never falters.

As we make the transition from the Lenten journey into Holy Week, we are called to reflect upon the passion of Christ. The Gospel writers underline the importance of the story of Jesus' passion by devoting space in their accounts, far out of proportion to the number of days they are describing. The passion story takes place in one week but Matthew gives a quarter of his Gospel to the passion. Mark gives a third, Luke a fifth, and John almost one half. Biblical scholars have said it was to tell the story of Jesus' suffering and death, that each evangelist wrote their Gospel with their own respective introduction to it. They tell us that this was a voluntary death, a carefully defined death. Jesus did not have to go to Jerusalem. He went of his own volition. We learn his death was sacrificial, meaning he accepted death so that others might receive life. Jesus explicitly defined his death as sacrificial when he instituted the Eucharist: "This is the blood of the covenant which is poured out for many." We also learn Jesus' death is finally defined through the resurrection. His death is a means to life, a means to salvation, for all who believe.

Please make special note of the Trinity United Methodist Holy Week events, and Easter celebrations advertised in this newsletter. We possess a wealth of ways to anchor our identity in the narrative of God's saving work, and I encourage you to do so wholeheartedly. Enter into the details of Jesus' passion and locate yourself in the narrative. Seek out which character or reaction in the Passion narrative best reflects your spiritual state. Walk with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Join the crowd at his trail. Weep at the foot of the cross. What kind of disciple are you willing to be now? These are crucial questions for all disciples of Christ to revisit again and again, and Holy Week is a great time to do so.

May God bless you on your journey,
Rev. Dr. David Calhoun



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.



INSIDE this issue

Minister's Message	1
Prayers, Thanks, Birthdays, etc.	2
Concert and Poem Reading @Trinity	3
Church Committee Updates	4
Gallery, Book Club, Special Meeting	5
Children/Youth News & a Retreat	6
Lent, Holy Week & Rose Window	7
Back/Leadership Page	8

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Mar 29 - 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship
April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service
April 3 - Noon, Good Friday Mid-Day Service followed by a simple meal of bread & soup.
7 p.m. Good Friday Evening Service
April 5 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service
See page 7 for more details.



VISIT US ONLINE: trinityspringfield.org



Please Pray for These Members/Friends:

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 LI, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Les P, Rev. Dr. Bob P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Carl S, Lynn T Allie W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.



Thank You Notes

Our Parkside Pantry guests were very thankful for Trinity's Mitten Tree donations of warm gloves, hats and scarves. Your generosity made a difference for those experiencing a very cold winter. One mother of eight children was able to pick out outerwear for her family! Thank you very much for your donations helping our neighbors stay warm.

Thank you,
Susan M

Dear Trinity Church friends,

Thank you so much for the gift of the beautifully colorful floral arrangement for my birthday! I felt truly blessed to receive them and enjoyed them for a bit before passing them on to a Trinity friend just returning home from rehab. Once again, thank you one and all!

The altar flowers are "twice blessed." First as they bring beauty to our church service and then as they are gifted to our home by our church family.

Beu R



New Member Orientation

Are you new to the church and interested in learning more? Have you been attending Trinity UMC and would like to learn about its work in the community and/or about becoming a member of this dynamic congregation? We will be having a New Member Orientation on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. -12 noon in Trinity's Parkside Café. We will have a continental breakfast and answer any questions you have. If you decide to join, fill out the papers from the packet you will receive and you will be received into church membership on Sunday, April 26 during the worship service. If you are interested in membership, please email the church office at: info@trinityspringfield.org.



2026 Graduates

Are you or is someone in your family graduating this year? If you have a 2026 high school or college graduate-to-be, please let Lisa Bakowski know by emailing: graduates@trinityspringfield.org. We want to make sure that all of our graduates are recognized.



MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays
Italics = Wedding Anniversaries
S = Staff

- 3/1 Brenda L
- 3/2 Shannon C, Phoebe O
- 3/3 Hannah C, Lynette V
- 3/5 Evelyn D
- 3/6 Nicole G, Caroline M, Christopher R, Jesse S
- 3/7 Jason M, Tyler T
- 3/8 Natania I, Kamyille S
- 3/9 Rebecca O, Kevin S
- 3/10 Brian C, Sheila W
- 3/11 Jackie O
- 3/12 Claire H, Ruth H, Scott O
- 3/13 *Estuardo & Erin R*
- 3/14 Debbie D, Carol K
- 3/15 Richard C, Mason M, Grace R
- 3/16 Jeremy S
- 3/17 Dr. Bruce G (S), Robert M
- 3/18 Jacob G, Jonathan S, *Debra & Doug J*
- 3/19 Judy C, Lamis J, Eme R, Jeffrey Z, *Steve & Kathy C*
- 3/20 Debra R, Sheila S, Clara Lee S
- 3/21 Andrew G, Jennifer Johnston-M
- 3/22 Kean J, Daniel M
- 3/23 Jacob B
- 3/24 Mary A
- 3/25 Reagan A
- 3/27 Kiara D, Brendan L, Beryl N
- 3/28 Samantha G
- 3/29 Zoe C, Jay S, *Charlotte & Daniel W*
- 3/30 Faraday S
- 3/31 A.J. C, Jeffrey S, Alison (Allie) W



Please Join us in Celebrating These 75 & Every 5 years after Milestone Birthdays & Every 5 year Anniversaries.

- 3/1 Brenda L
- 3/7 Heyda M and Nancy W
- 3/14 Diane F
- 3/29 Vera B 85

Milestone Anniversaries
3/12 *Nicole & Ryan H*



Exsultet! Invites You to Their Spring Concert

“The Door is Always Open,”

Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m. in Asbury Hall

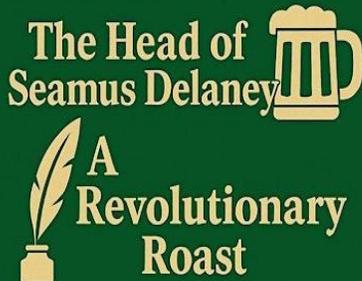
From timeless favorites like *Feed the Birds* and *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, to songs of peace and harmony including *Shalom* and *Crowded Table*, our program celebrates connection and belonging. At Exsultet!, every voice belongs—because the door is always open.

General admission tickets are \$20; students and seniors (65+) are \$15; and children 12 and under are free. Performances are not suitable for children under age 6. **Tickets can be purchased beginning February 28 through their website (www.exsultet.us), or at the door prior to the performance.** You can also view more information on their website above.

Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an auditioned women's ensemble based in Holliston, MA since 2013. Our concerts are not only filled with beautiful pieces but are thematic and tell a story from the music selections to the spoken poetry and readings we use throughout the concert. Our mission is to empower women's voices and foster a safe and inclusive community exploring the joy and wonder of singing together.

Richard A.A. Larraga, Artistic Director and Conductor

He and his wife, Loretta, are proud parents of their daughter, KC, and even prouder grandparents of Angelo and Cecily. In addition to being a choral conductor, he is a lawyer, a web designer, and a hat collector. He majored in Musicology and Voice at Boston University, studied for several years at the Vienna Conservatory in Austria, and received his Master's in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory under Simon Carrington. He is the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church, Holliston.



A Reading of Two Comic Plays by Ben Scanton

Join us on **Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Trinity's Community Art Gallery** for a play reading of two comic one-act plays by local award-winning playwright and actor, Ben Scanton. Experience the malarkey of Irish storytelling in *The Head of Seamus Delaney*. When two bar buddies create a bet to see who has the biggest head in the city, scheming and convoluted word play abound as they race toward a surprising conclusion.

PBS has scheduled a celebrity roast of John Adams with Thomas Jefferson as host and Abigail Adams as the stage manager. With sarcastic barbs flying politically left and right, they can't get through a rehearsal. All is unsettled. Will they resolve their differences before they die? Celebrate America at 250 with *A Revolutionary Roast*.

Ben Scanton's plays have been produced and received readings across the country. For seven seasons he was a member of the resident acting company at StageWest in Springfield, and has appeared at Hartford Stage. Ben is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, and Actors' Equity Association.

The play readings are presented by Bing Productions in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church. Featuring Trinity member, David Belew, Lynda Blair Vernalia, Gabe Levey, Wally Marzano-Lesnevich, and Moe McElligott.

The play is free (donations welcome).



"Quote"

*"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones.
Let me find you again." ~ Henri Nouwen*

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Notes from Trinity's Committee Chairs

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Are You Aware of Our SPRC?

In the Methodist tradition, a Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is a group of congregants whose main role is to care for and support the pastor and church staff. We are also responsible for strengthening the relationship between the congregation and the leadership. We are, in basic terms, the human resource and pastoral support committee. Because of the sensitivity of our work, we are a group that maintains strict confidentiality. Our current members are: Vera Baker, Shonali Bhajjan, Holly Blair (co-lay leader), Jo Anne Evans, Ellen Lutz, Sara McKeown, Donna Miller, Mike Rust (co-lay leader), Karen Sheffield and Chair, Lisa Bakowski.

Missions Committee Update

Missions had a very successful Angel Tree project with 64 children receiving Christmas gifts. We are supporting the shower project in partnership with Wesley's Warming Shelter. You will be hearing soon about the Revitalize CDC Green 'N Fit project slated for the end of April.



Publicity Committee Update

The Publicity and Communications Committee updates the website and Trinity's Facebook page to share programs and activities with the congregation as well as with potential members. Please check the website www.trinityspringfield.org to stay abreast of what's happening. If you follow Trinity on Facebook, please like and share our posts since those actions direct the posts to a larger audience. We also provide the slideshow that precedes the livestream of the service on Sunday mornings and plays on the television in the foyer.

Theme Reflection: A Season of Contemplation and Discernment, from Our Worship Committee



Jesus was not a guppy (no offense to guppies). Yes, he was the Prince of Peace bringing people to God through love, but he was not passive. His love was ferocious. He took on some of the most powerful people of the time. He stood against those who were abusing their positions of authority, and he was publicly holding people accountable for their actions. This is what led to his death, but it is also what makes him our King. His disciples followed in his footsteps, continuing his work while actively being hunted, targeted, and killed. Being a Christian is not for the weak. God calls us to use our discernment to recognize who to battle and when.

In Ephesians 6:12, we are told that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (KJV). This is as true today as it was in the past. We need the same spiritual awareness. And the same courage! Ephesians 6:14-18 advises us to

"stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (NIV). As we contemplate the ways that we can be warriors for our King, let's continue to discern where the true battle lies and pray accordingly.



March Gallery Exhibit:

The March exhibit in the Trinity Community Gallery is "Vision and Verse". It will feature the art of three siblings: Nicole Baker, a mixed media artist; Lynette Varnon, a poet; and Lorrin Baker, a photographer.

Be sure to stop in the gallery before or after the Sunday worship service or during the week between 10 am and 2 pm.

There will be a reception in the gallery on Sunday, March 8 immediately following worship.



Special Announcement

On Sunday, March 22, immediately following worship, we will have a special charge conference in Asbury Hall. We have three items to discuss:

1. Acceptance of a bequest
2. Finance and Budget update
3. Financial improvement task force update

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Administrative Council

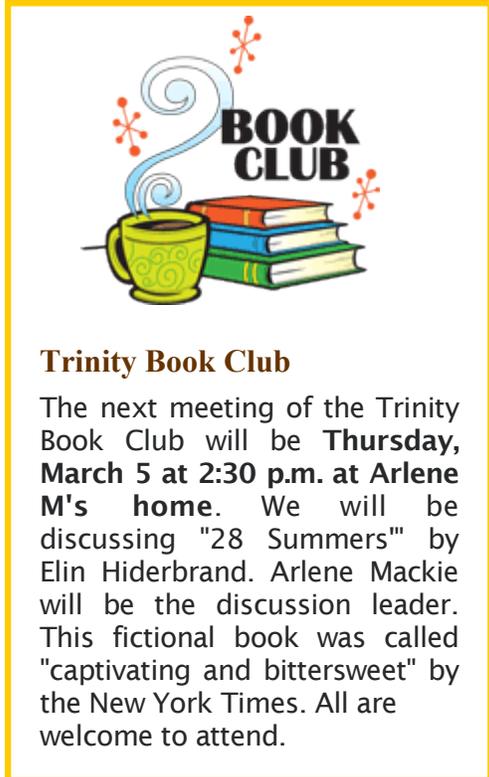


Administrative Council

Our purpose is to serve and represent the congregation in an administrative capacity, to support the mission and initiatives of Trinity United Methodist Church, the Pastor, staff and our various ministries. We meet monthly and welcome any feedback/input that you would like to share.

Your Administrative Council - 2026

- Fred Lewis - Chair
- Rev. David Calhoun - Pastor
- Alan Harwood - Chair, Board of Trustees
- Debra Rogers - Chair, Stewardship and Finance
- Lisa Bakowski - Chair, Staff Parish Relations
- Diane Mackie - Chair, Missions
- Lisa Everett - Chair, Worship Committee
- Brian Crawford - Chair, Christian Education and Spiritual Formation
- Nate Olin - Chair, Membership and Evangelism
- Scott Woodward - Chair, Boar's Head Festival
- Hope Lewis/Holly Blair - Co-Chairs, United Women in Faith
- Clara Lee Sharrard/Jim Sharrard - Co-Chairs, Communications and Publicity
- Deb Marden - Lay Member Annual Conference
- Michael Rust - Lay Leader
- Holly Blair - Lay Leader
- Russell Moore - Chair, Endowment Committee
- Rob Powell - Director of Family Ministries & Connections
- Dr. Bruce Glenny - Director of Music Ministries
- Hope Lewis - Church Administrator



Trinity Book Club

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **Thursday, March 5 at 2:30 p.m. at Arlene M's home.** We will be discussing "28 Summers" by Elin Hiderbrand. Arlene Mackie will be the discussion leader. This fictional book was called "captivating and bittersweet" by the New York Times. All are welcome to attend.





Pizza, Palms, and Prince of Egypt



Join us for a fun night as we eat pizza, make palm crosses, and watch the Prince of Egypt! Bring a sweet treat to share!

Saturday, March 28
6:00pm
Asbury Hall



Friday, March 20, 2026



Don't forget to Spring forward on Saturday night, March 7 before bed!

A TIME FOR SILENCE

STEP AWAY TO LISTEN FOR THE STILL SMALL VOICE WHICH CALLS YOU BELOVED.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

4-6PM

GRACE CHAPEL AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REGISTER BY EMAILING ROB AT

DIRECTORFMANDC@TRINITYSPRINGFIELD.ORG



EASTER EGG HUNT

April 4, 2026

10:00am: Easter Crafts and Activities

11:00am: Easter Egg Hunt

Trinity United Methodist Church
361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA



Friday Lenten Mid-Day Services

Join us as we continue our cherished tradition of midday Lenten services every Friday through Good Friday, April 3 from 12:00-12:30 p.m. These simple services are opportunities to quiet your mind and set your heart on God, all in fellowship with your church family. Our worship leaders use the theme "A Healing Faith". The services will also include music. Below is the list for this year.

March 6 - Worship Leader: Lisa Everett
Music: Caroline Mazzarella, alto

March 13 - Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Calhoun
Music: David Belew, bass

March 20 - Worship Leader: Erica Weida
Music: Janet Dixon-Metcalf, flute

March 27 - Worship Leader: TBD
Music: Noreen Acconcio, soprano

Good Friday,
April 3 - Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Calhoun
Music: Teri LaFleur, soprano



March Rose Window

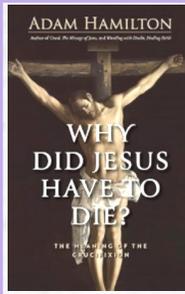
March 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy and Paula.

March 10 - Anonymous

March 11 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his mom, Barbara.

March 15 - In honor of her granddaughter, Grace, on her birthday, with much love from Deb M. (aka Gigi).

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



New Lenten Study with Rev. Dr. Calhoun in the Art Gallery & Café

The book can be ordered on Amazon. Please email Doreen in the office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org to let her know you will be attending. Thank you.

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, March 2 - noon to 1:30 p.m. in the café and runs through Monday, March 23.** Join us as we walk this Lenten journey together and explore new ways to grow in your relationship with God.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 29

10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

Traditional Palm Sunday service with palms, palm crosses, beautiful music, Dance/Movement Choir and message of the day.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Service - Grace Chapel

Reflection of Christ's sacrifice through prayer, music, and a celebration of communion.

Good Friday, April 3

After the Lenten Mid-Day Service

A simple lunch of bread & soup - Asbury Hall

7:00 p.m. Evening Service Bear witness to Christ's sacrifice with reverence, hope, and awe - Sanctuary

Holy Saturday, April 4

10:00 a.m. Easter crafts and activities

11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

4:00-6:00 p.m. A Time for Silence - Chapel

Step away to listen for the still small voice which calls you beloved. To register, email Rob at directorfmandc@trinityspringfield.org.

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:30 a.m. Grand Easter Celebration in person & live stream, special music, message and Dance/Movement Choir - Sanctuary



The Carillon
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 361 Sumner Avenue
 Springfield, MA 01108
 413-737-5311
www.trinityspringfield.org
info@trinityspringfield.org



NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SPRINGFIELD, MA
 PERMIT # 37

 *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.*

 **March**

