



Trinity In Touch

March 2022

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Mission

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision

Seeking to be an inclusive faith community that compels us to extend God's love in our neighborhood and world.

Core Values

Diversity & Inclusiveness:

Seeking to affirm every person as a child of God.

Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason:

Searching for truth in our faith community.

Peace & Justice:

Striving for positive social change in our neighborhood and world.

Trinity UMC

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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MIKE...

By the time you read this, the season of Lent will be upon us. For many people, Lent doesn't mean much. It's something the pastor might talk about or acknowledge in worship, but aside from knowing that there are a few midweek or non-Sunday services planned, it doesn't really register. Advent we do better acknowledging. (I think it has to do with those wonderful countdown calendars with the little pieces of chocolate in them.) Regardless, the season that leads up to Christmas gets a lot more recognition than does the season that leads up to Easter.

And why shouldn't it? It is a far more jovial kind season. It doesn't begin by reminding us of our mortality. We don't ever talk about "giving something up" for advent. No, Lent is the season that asks us to sacrifice. To consider the impermanence of life. To smear ashes on our foreheads and consider the things that burden our souls.

But I have to tell you friends, if I were stranded on a desert island and only allowed one liturgical season (really weird island, I know!), it would be Lent. Not because it would be easier to give things up on a desert island, but because Lent leading up to Easter is probably the greatest amount of contrast we have in the church year. Think about it.

We spend 40 days considering our mortality, the meaning of our lives, what it is we are doing with them. We consider the reality that, someday, this will all end. And then, just when things seem darkest, the stone is rolled away and the curtain is pulled back to reveal that death lost the cosmic struggle. Death has been swallowed up in resurrection. That is why I'd take Lent with me to a desert island, because Lent is a reminder the fullness of life is yet to come.

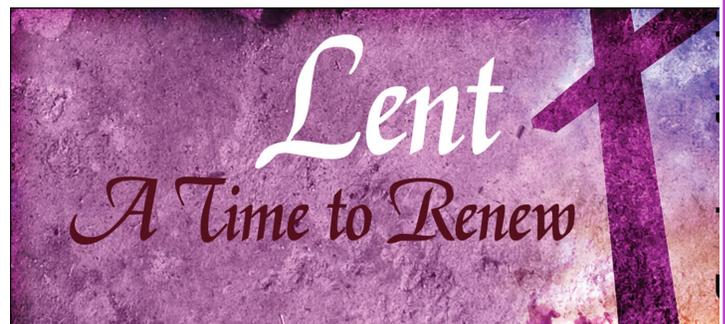
If you are the type of person that makes it to all the Lenten services, I cannot wait to see you there and begin this journey together. If you are the type of person who doesn't usually attend those extra reminders of our mortality, I get it, but I want to encourage you to come out and take part in the entire season. Going through the fullness of Lent makes Easter that much sweeter.

This year we are doing joint services with St. Paul's UMC. All services will be at 7pm. Ash Wednesday will be at St. Paul's on Wednesday, March 2. Maundy Thursday will be hosted at Trinity on Thursday, April, 14, and Good Friday will be back at St. Paul's on April 15. This will be a great opportunity to journey with other Methodists and get to see Pastors Mike and Bri working together.

And don't forget, before all of that kicks off we have our Mardi Gras Celebration at Trinity Tuesday, March 1, at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. I hope to see all of you there and then throughout the Lenten season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike





HOSPITALITY STATEMENT

Trinity UMC celebrates the diversity of the human community and affirms the sacred worth of each person as a recipient of God's love and grace. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we declare ourselves to be an open and inclusive congregation and welcome into full participation all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status or economic condition.

PLUG IN AND ENGAGE!

MARDI GRAS PARTY TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 6PM

Mardi Gras Party at Trinity! Join us March 1, 6pm, in Fellowship Hall for great food, fellowship, and live music. Bring your appetites, your party hats, and maybe even your dancing shoes!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

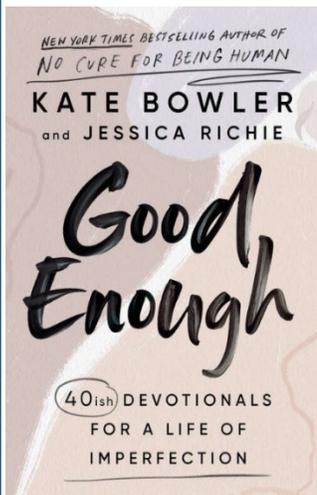
"CAFÉ CHOCOLAT: WHERE WOMEN DELIGHT IN GOD'S GRACE" SATURDAY, MARCH 5- 9AM-3PM

Trinity United Methodist Women invite you to join us for a Spiritual Day Retreat. Register to join this sisterhood of faith for a daytime casual setting in the Parlor. We will have the coffee/tea bar ready for you and a delicious lunch for you to enjoy. And, of course, chocolate!

In order to have enough materials for everyone, please RSVP to office@grtunc.org; 456.7168. Your \$12 donation will help pay for materials and food.

LENTEN JOURNEY READING "GOOD ENOUGH 40ISH DEVOTIONALS FOR A LIFE OF IMPERFECTION"

".....showing how fresh imagination for truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amid the chaos of life...."



Kate Bowler, author of the New York Times bestseller, *Everything Happens for a Reason*, is Associate Professor of the history of Christianity at Duke Divinity School.

Jessica Richie is Executive Director of the *Everything Happens Initiative & Podcast*. Masters of Divinity, Duke Divinity School.

This resource is for use during Lent. Books available in the Parlor.

Discipleship Pathways Ministries



ADULT FAITH FORMATION SUNDAYS, 10:45AM "THE CHOSEN" SEASON 2

This exciting video series of 8 sessions, taking us to the end of March, invites us to look inside Jesus' selection of disciples and followers as He begins his ministry. Join us as we view the clips and discuss.

This series is offered with a live class in Discovery and also via Zoom.

Trinity UMC presents.....



AFTER6

DINNER @ SHESHCO
&
CELEBRATION CINEMA NORTH
MOVIE
WITH PASTOR MIKE




FRIDAY, MARCH 25 @ 6:30PM
CONTACT OFFICE@GRTUMC.ORG TO RSVP



AFTER6
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 6:30PM
DINNER & MOVIE

Enjoy dinner out at Sheshco Mediterranean Grill, located at 2121 Celebration Dr. NE, Suite 700, followed by a movie at Celebration Cinema North. Hosted by Pastor Mike.

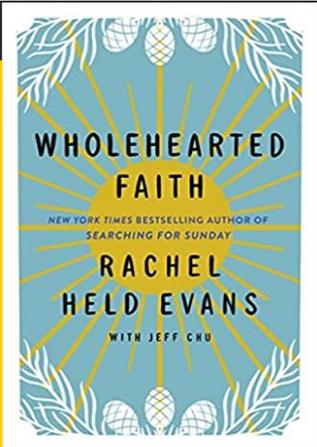
RSVP's appreciated to office@grtunc.org; 456.7168.

REFLECTION CAFÉ
TUESDAYS- 1-1:30PM

Take this lunch-break opportunity to reflect on the writings of Rachel Held Evans as collaborated with Jeff Chu in "Wholehearted Faith."

No need to read ahead or study a lesson.
Simply reflect upon thoughts pulled from her last book.

[Click here](#) to join via Zoom.



TRINITY FAMILY CAMP 2022
MEMORIAL WEEKEND- MAY 27-30
LAKE MICHIGAN CAMP, PENTWATER



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

We need to get our reservations into the camp EARLY, so please clear your calendars to join the Trinity faith community for this tradition.

Campsites, extended platform tents, some cabins available.
Kayaks, bike trails, hiking trails, Lake Michigan beach, campfires, community meals
and the best outdoor experience Michigan has to offer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make your reservation!

Sponsored by Discipleship Pathways Ministry & Family Life Council
Nichea VerVeer Guy

FINANCE NEWS



2021 IN REVIEW FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you for your generous giving in 2021. Following is a snapshot of how your monies were spent:

17% TO DISCIPLESHIP

Educational materials and activities for Faith Formation and Christian Education for children, youth, adults and families. Salaries of the Discipleship & Youth Ministry Directors.

15% TO WORSHIP

Sanctuary and worship design. Music materials for all choirs. Sunday worship Hospitality. Salaries of Director of Music, Organist and Youth Choir Director. Guest preachers/musicians. Audio-visual and livestreaming.

7% TO MISSION & OUTREACH

Global Mission thru Ministry Shares, support for Community Ministries, HAPI and Cameroon Mission. Collaborate with community partners in works of mercy, peace and justice.

19% TO OFFICE SERVICES

Serves as the communication hub of the church. Computer network server, Internet, office equipment, postage, office supplies, records and accounting system. Church Administrator and Treasurer salaries.

20% TO BUILDING FACILITIES

Regular maintenance of building and housekeeping to ensure safe facilities for all. Utilities, property and liability insurance. Outreach to the community through the many groups using our building. Custodian salary.

22% TO PASTORAL SUPPORT

Pastor's compensation package as the spiritual leader and the administrative officer of the church. This amount includes the expenses for Pastor Steve for the first half of the year.

TRINITY MISSIONS

UMCOR SUNDAY- MARCH 27

UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of the UMC providing hope, assistance, meaning, and healing for those suffering & displaced from floods, storms, fire, disease, and conflict. Last year Trinity joined with others to give \$1.9 million to UMCOR Sunday which allowed UMCOR to use 100% of relief and development project gifts for the project and not administrative costs. UMCOR asks us again pro-actively give generously to equip UMCOR to respond in love where there are hurting people throughout the world. You may give online through [Trinity Give](#) or in the offering throughout the month. Thank you!



The **UM VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION** is organizing a trip to Cameroon to meet, learn, and assist church leadership and the people of the emerging UMC on October 15-30, 2022. If you are interested in being a part, contact Kip Smalligan at kipsmalligan@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE has been strengthening our Grand Rapids community for 120 years. Your chance to visit this venerable ministry and see its important role and thoughtful future is coming **SUNDAY, APRIL 3**, when we take a tour for Adult Faith Formation. Details will be in the April newsletter.

For all those who have donated items for refugees, THANK YOU for creating a welcoming community for our newest friends and neighbors.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



ACCESS OF WEST MICHIGAN WALK FOR GOOD FOOD 45TH ANNIVERSARY MAY 1-11

Join us as we walk to help bring awareness to food insecurity issues and the organizations working to make a difference in our community. Walk from home or in person (date tbd) this year and get involved. Invite friends for neighborhood walks May 1-11 and help give back. The Community Ministries Program at Trinity is a recipient organization of funding, and our goal is to have 30+ people actively engaged in this year's walk. Will you help us reach that goal? If interested in participating, sign up on the Community Ministries bulletin board at Trinity, or contact Matt Witkowski, Community Ministries Program Director, at m.witkowski@grtumc.org.



CONGRESS CLASSROOM CLEAN UP JUNE 8-10 1-3:30PM

Help us show appreciation to the teachers and staff at Congress Elementary School as we help them get their classroom cleaned up so they can get out on summer vacation! We are looking for 3-4 people each day to help wipe down tables, stack chairs, box up books and papers, move furniture and other small jobs as needed. This service is so appreciated by Congress teachers and staff. If interested, contact Matt at m.witkowski@grtumc.org, or sign up at the Community Ministries bulletin board, located in the main floor west hallway.



NEW... SERIES 101 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSES- COMING SOON!



Thank you for donating to the February **GRAND RAPIDS PRIDE CENTER COLLECTION DRIVE**. We appreciate your support in helping to make sure all LGBTQIA+ people feel supported and appreciated in our community!

CHRISTIAN PARENTING HELPS

Enjoy these new books that have been put on the Christian Parenting resource table in the Parlor, located on the main floor. Great new tools to help navigate home faith formation with your family!

“THE SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME: THE POWER OF MESSY PRAYERS, LOUD TABLES, AND OPEN DOORS”

Don Everts Intervarsity Press 2020, featuring original research from Barna.

“CALLED TO CARE: OPENING YOUR HEART TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN THROUGH FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION AND OTHER LIFE-GIVING WAYS”

Bill Blacquiere with Kris Faasse, Bethany House/Baker 2019

“ SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN: LISTENING TO GOD TOGETHER”

Lacy Finn Borgo, Intervarsity Press 2020

“ 8 SIMPLE TOOLS FOR RAISING GREAT KIDS” Dr. Todd Cartmell, Moody 2016

“HELP YOUR KIDS LEARN AND LOVE THE BIBLE” Danika Cooley, Bethany House/Baker 2021

“THE 6 NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD: EMPOWERING PARENTS AND KIDS THROUGH THE SCIENCE OF CONNECTION” Amy Elizabeth Olrick & Jeffrey Olrick, Phd, Zondervan 2020

“WONDERING ABOUT THE BIBLE WITH CHILDREN” Elizabeth Caldwell, Abingdon 2020

Parenting
Resources

CHURCH FAMILY



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dick Carlson- Pilgrim Manor

Dorothy French- at home at Clark

APPRECIATION

How grateful I am to everyone who has reached out to me over these last few months. I have felt the warmth of your love and prayers, helping to lift me up through some really rough times. I have so appreciated hearing from so many I knew and loved while working at Trinity. At the moment I'm feeling really good, trying to live a more normal life, and looking forward to spring and being able to spend time outdoors. JoEllen Schneider

CONDOLENCES

Linda Bond & family in the death of her husband, Ron Bond, Feb. 2.

Sara & Paul House in the death of their mother, Deanna House, Feb. 18 in Kalamazoo.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY, MARCH 21- 5-7PM
TRINITY'S PARLOR



United Campus
Christian Fellowship

The Spirit is always moving and at work among us, in our personal lives and in our churches. The Spirit is working with our campus ministry, prompting us into a new way of being in campus ministry.

Our United Methodist campus ministry presence has expanded! After two years of prayerful discussion and planning, the Wesley Fellowship at GVSU is now United Campus Christian Fellowship (UCCF).

Our commitment to social justice, LGBTQ allyship, interfaith cooperation, thoughtful Bible study and spiritual formation remain unchanged.

Becoming United Campus Christian Fellowship brings significant changes to our campus ministry. We are multi campus and multi denominational. Our ministry remains active at GVSU, and we are also now present on the campuses of Grand Rapids Community College and Kendall College of Art and Design. We are still a United Methodist campus ministry and we have the support of the Division of Higher Education, Campus Ministry. And we are also the recognized campus ministry for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). All three denominations are committed to working together and supporting United Campus Christian Fellowship.

As United Campus Christian Fellowship we have one full time and one part time campus minister. Nancy Janisch (formerly the half time Wesley Fellowship director) serves as the full time campus minister. Rev Kate Van Valkenburg, serves as the part time campus minister. Rev. Van Valkenburg is also the pastor of Bread of Life ELCA in Hudsonville.

We are excited about being United Campus Christian Fellowship and we want to share what this means with you. Save the date for our Open House, March 21, from 5-7 pm here at Trinity. More information to come! This will be an opportunity to learn more about UCCF and meet the campus ministers and board members.

To learn what we are doing on campus please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter- @uccfmi. And sign up for our periodic newsletter [using this link](#).



If you have questions about UCCF or are interested in learning more, please contact us. We are grateful for Trinity's past support and we look forward to the future together!

Nancy Janisch nancy@uccfmi.org; 616.710.1605

Kate Van Valkenburg pastorkatev@uccfmi.org; 616.613.6991

MARCH CALENDAR

The Trinity building is opening up again after a long Covid hiatus, and there's a TON going on each day. [Click here](#) for a full calendar view.

For questions or clarification on programming, contact Betsy in the church office at office@grtumc.org; 456.7168.

