



Trinity In Touch

FEBRUARY 2024

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MISSION

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

VISION

Striving to be an inclusive faith community that extends 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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www.grtumc.org

Hello Friends,

The last time I was back in the U.P. with Bri and the girls was for my grandma Nancy's funeral last March. While we were there, my family went for lunch at the Irish Pub in town. The place was nearly empty. Shortly after we ordered, a young man and his girlfriend (I assumed) came walking in. He looked really familiar. Apparently I looked familiar to him too, because he came over to shake my hand and say "hello".

I hate it when that happens - someone remembers me but I don't remember them. However, it was my home town. This guy could have been a high school friend's kid brother or something. So I asked him to remind of his name. It was no help, I still couldn't place him. Finally from the context of the conversation - and him referring to my dad as his uncle, I finally figured out it was my cousin Kyle. I, obviously, hadn't seen him in a long time. The last time I had seen him he was still playing high school football. It felt awkward. I felt terrible. But he was very gracious, and we had a nice conversation.

I could have simply pretended to know who he was - kept things general and not bothered to get his name. I'm glad that I didn't, because not only did I get a good story, but I got to connect with another family member I hadn't seen in years.

I have had some similar conversations with some of you. Not about me being unable to remember a name (though it happens) but because sometimes, at church, it's hard to tell who the visitors are.

Over the last 30 or 40 years, regular church attendance has gone from being 3-4 times a month to only once or twice a month. And so it is possible for people to be attending the same church together for years and not have met each other, even in a congregation like Trinity.

The conversations I have had with folks have been about being scared to approach someone they think might be visiting, because they might have been attending here for years without crossing paths. That interaction could be awkward and uncomfortable. I totally get that.

I want to try to take away that discomfort a bit simply by naming it as a reality of our life together as a church. You are going to see people that you think are new, and you are going to approach them to welcome them - and they are going to want to welcome you because they think *you* are new. I want to encourage you, in moments like that, to laugh about it and say, "Pastor Mike said that might happen." It is far better to err on the side of hospitality than to avoid people over the possibility of awkwardness.

So take a risk. Say "hello", introduce yourself to someone you don't know at church this week. It might be the start of a new friendship, or it could be my cousin Kyle.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mike

Our intention word for February is *Endure*.



To view the complete February calendar, click right...



HOSPITALITY STATEMENT



Trinity UMC celebrates the beautiful diversity of the human community. We affirm the sacred worth of each person as a recipient of God's love and grace. As followers of Christ, we are an open and inclusive congregation. We live this out by welcoming 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

AGING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, FEB. 3- 0:00AM-1:30PM

Join us Saturday, February 3, from 10:00am-1:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church for a three session workshop. Expert speakers will help participants explore topics like Alzheimer's and dementia, the cost realities of aging in place, fraud prevention, legacy and personal history, and more!

This experience is designed for everyone - seniors, caregivers, friends and family. If you plan to get older or love someone who is, there will be something for you here.

SCHEDULE:

9:45am | Registration Opens, Coffee & Snacks, Resource Tables
10:00am | Greeting & Workshop Introduction
10:15am-11:00am | Session #1 (Concurrent Sessions)
11:00am-11:15am | Break
11:15am-12:00pm | Session #2 (Concurrent Sessions)
12:00pm-12:45pm | Lunch
12:45pm-1:30pm | Session #3

COST:

There is no cost to participate in the workshop. Lunch and morning refreshments provided; \$10 suggested donation per person helps offset the cost of food. Donations can be made online ahead of time using the form linked below or via cash/check the day of the event. That said, we never want price to prevent participation, so you're welcome to join us for refreshments and lunch regardless of donation.

RVSP & MORE INFO:

Details on all the speakers and panels can be found on our online form at tinyurl.com/AgingWorkshop2024. You can also use it to RSVP as well as donate for refreshments/lunch. RSVP's and questions can also be sent to Laura Johns, Director of Discipleship, at ljohns@grtunc.org.



FAITH AT THE MOVIES

Join us Jan. 26 & 28 for our last presentation of Faith at the Movies. On Friday evening at 6:00pm, join us for a movie screening with your Trinity family and special guests from St. Paul's United Methodist. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. On Sunday, Jan. 28, Pastor Mike's message will feature insights from this special movie.

January 26th & 28th: Into The Woods



MORE... OPPORTUNITES TO ENGAGE

POPCORN PARTY TIME

FRIDAY, FEB. 9- 6:30PM-8:30PM

Popcorn Party Time is back! Don't miss our first Popcorn Party Time of 2024 on February 9 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. This month is a game night so bring your favorites from home or play one from the Trinity collection.

Not sure what Popcorn Party Time is? It's our monthly movie or game nights! We're calling these special all-ages evenings Popcorn Party Time because that's what they'll be. A monthly party with lots and lots of popcorn! Not just for kids, not just for grown-ups – Popcorn Party Time is a chance for the whole Trinity family to get together for fellowship and fun.

Other upcoming nights include:

March 8- Movie Night featuring The Lego Movie (PG | 2014)

April 12- Game Night

May 10- Movie Night featuring Mary Poppins (G | 1964)

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at ljohns@grtumc.org.



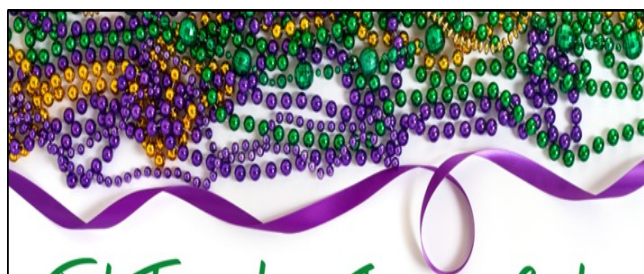
FAT TUESDAY JAZZ & EATS TUESDAY, FEB. 13- 6:00PM

Join your Trinity family in the Fellowship Hall on Fat Tuesday, February 13, 6:00pm for hot jazz, hot food, and amazing company! Bring the whole family and don't forget your party hat and dancing shoes!

There is a suggested donation of \$20 per adult for this event. Kids 12 & under are FREE! That said, we never want price to prevent participation, so you're welcome to join us regardless of donation or to choose the pay-what-you-can option. A gluten-free and seafood-free gumbo option will be available.

RSVP and donate online using the form link below or bring cash/check the night of the party. RVSPs can also be communicated to the Trinity office at office@grtumc.org; 616.456.7168.

tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2024



Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00pm

A Mardi Gras Celebration for All Ages

SOUL CARE RETREAT SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 9:00AM- PARLOR

You are invited to United Women in Faith's Soul Care Day Retreat Saturday, Feb. 24, beginning with a 9:00am Café.

Subject matter includes "Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life" by Joyce Rupp.

Enjoy relaxing meditation, table discussions and great fellowship! An allergy friendly lunch is included as well as retreat materials. Events ends at 3:00pm

The Soul Care Retreat is intended as a time for us to center ourselves and restore our soul to be about the justice work needed in our community and world. Join us for this time of renewal. All are welcome!

More details and online RSVP at:

<http://tinyurl.com/SoulCare2024>.

Or email Betsy at office@grtumc.org, or

Nichea at orangecelt00@aol.com.

Your \$15 donation covers materials, refreshments, and meal.

YOU'RE INVITED TO UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S

Soul Care Retreat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
9:00AM-3:00PM

Enjoy relaxing meditation, table discussions & fellowship inspired by *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life* by Joyce Rupp.

The Soul Care Retreat is intended as a time for us to center ourselves & restore our soul to be about the justice work needed in our community & world.

Suggested donation of \$15 covers allergy friendly lunch, refreshments, and retreat materials.

RSVP: Online at <https://tinyurl.com/SoulCare2024> or email office@grtumc.org or orangecelt00@aol.com.



MORE... OPPORTUNITES TO ENGAGE

GOD'S NATUREHOOD

FRIDAY, FEB. 23- 1:00PM-3:00PM
CANAL PARK

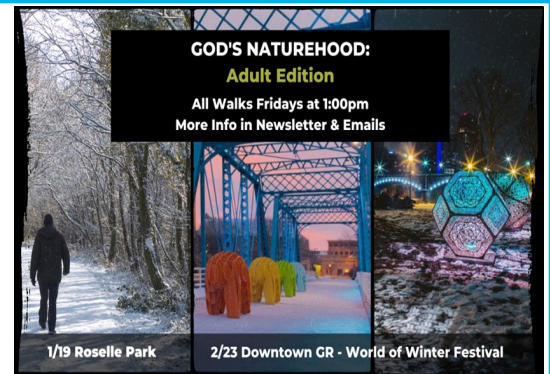
Designed for Trinity families & friends ages 18 & up, God's Naturehood: Adult Edition is a great opportunity to visit a new park, get to know members of your Trinity family better, and get your daily steps in. The details of our February meet-up are below:

Friday, February 23, from 1:00pm-3:00pm
Downtown "World of Winter Festival" Tour

Did you know GR hosts the largest winter festival in the US with 30 art installations, events, and more? While some exhibits are better seen at night, we'll check out what we can during two daylight hours.

The meet-up location is Canal Park at 941 Monroe Ave NW, 49503. There is a small parking lot at Canal Park as well as meter parking along Monroe Ave NW. Gather near the Canal Park Playground just south of the lot. We'll walk about one mile south to Ah-Nab-Awen Park and back with a short coffee and warm-up break part way.

RSVP to Laura Johns so you get the pre-event email with maps and more! l.johns@grtunc.org.



Spiritalk Book Club

Join us as we discuss & dissect a new book each month!

Meeting are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Trinity.
Contact Joy Murphy for more info at joymurphy@grtunc.org.

January 9	February 20	March 12	April 9	May 14
<u>Daughters of Nantucket</u>	<u>Remarkably Bright Creatures</u>	<u>The Undertaker's Assistant</u>	<u>This Is How It Always Is</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Julie Gerstenblatt	Shelby Van Pelt	A. Skenandore	Laurie Frankel	Amy Bonnaffons



Spring 2024

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

THE CHOSEN

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 28- MARCH 24- 11:30AM

From Sunday, January 28 to Sunday, March 24, our Adult Faith Formation Hour (11:30am-12:30pm) offering is screenings of *The Chosen: Season Three*. Join us as we continue watching this unique show about the life of Jesus of Nazareth. *The Chosen* takes us deeper into the gospel stories by retelling and expounding on the character and intentions of Jesus and those who knew Him.

Calendar Note: There will be no class on Sunday, March 3. Questions? Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtunc.org.



The Chosen: Season Three

Sundays January 28 - March 24 from 11:30am-12:30pm
Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room

SIGN UP TODAY

We know there's a lot going on at Trinity and sometimes it gets tricky to keep all the things straight. So here's a list of important registration and sign-up links for the next few months. Not sure what something is? Check the rest of the newsletter or contact your Trinity Staff. We're happy to answer questions!



ACOLYTE SIGN UP (JANUARY-MAY)

Is your child interested in helping to light the candles at Trinity during worship on Sunday mornings? Here's your chance to sign them up!

tinyurl.com/TUMC-AcolyteSpring2024

TRINITYKIDS FELLOWSHIP LEADERS (JANUARY-MAY)

Volunteering with TrinityKids is a great opportunity to build relationships with other adults while facilitating fun activities for our PreK to 5th grade kids. No long term commitments; pick your Sundays!

tinyurl.com/TrinityKidsSpring2024

WEEKLY TNT DINNER RESERVATIONS (JANUARY-MAY)

Sign up for Thursday night meals each week using this online form. Can be submitted multiple times!

tinyurl.com/TNTDinnersSpring2024

AGING WORKSHOP (FEB 3)

Get more info and RSVP for our Aging Worship on February 3rd using this website.

tinyurl.com/AgingWorkshop2024

FAT TUESDAY: JAZZ & EATS (FEB 13)

RSVP for our February 13th Mardi Gras celebration for all ages using this online form.

tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2024

UWF SOUL CARE RETREAT (FEB 24)

Get more info and RSVP for our United Women in Faith Soul Care Retreat on February 24th using this form.

tinyurl.com/SoulCare2024

IT'S ALL HERE!

Want to know what's going on at Trinity this winter and spring? Check out the updated program flyers on the website for the latest information on faith formation, fellowship, music, ministries, and more!



<https://www.grtumc.org/newsletters/>

[Winter 2024 Program Flyer – Calendar](#)

[Winter 2024 Program Flyer - Trinity Children's Ministries](#)

[Winter 2024 Program Flyer - Trinity Youth Ministries](#)

[Winter 2024 Program Flyer - Trinity Adult Ministries](#)

[Winter 2024 Program Flyer - TNT: Thursday Nights at Trinity](#)

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



THE MINISTRY OF TIME...

Starting a new year in January your mind races to what's next. This year, my mind has really gone to the simple fact of time as ministry. In my time here at Trinity I've been blessed to make some amazing memories and meet phenomenal people who I've come to regard as true friends. Some are wonderful supporters of the Community Ministries Program and are thankful for the work we do at Trinity. I've come to really appreciate the conversations with those people and that investment of the time getting to know them and their story. It truly means a lot to me.

Throughout our school year, Kids Club and Transitions Program volunteers and the families spend a lot of time with each other. These hours spent together build a unique bond and both volunteers from inside the church and outside share a special bond. THAT time spent is ministry, and there is nothing quite like it. It's a true intergenerational ministry that has individuals of all ages joining together. What most churches aspire to do with intergenerational ministry, we are doing now each week from October through April.

You can never go wrong investing in people- investing in relationships that help shape us and deepen our faith.



Another wonderful example of this is a new ministry that gets people from the full spectrum of ages from both inside the church and people from the community. They have been meeting here at the church once a month for over a year, have left the building and gone on adventures together, have brought in experts to teach them about topics of interest, and have provided fathers and sons time to spend together with activities to do together they didn't previously have. Grandparents have also been able to spend time with grandsons sharing opportunities they have never previously had! This group has continued to grow through word of mouth and members can be found talking about Trinity and this program to people in the community who have been intrigued by it as well. This group isn't just for fathers, sons, and grandpas. Upon hearing about this program from an article that was promoted around the state of Michigan, we had three

women pastors from other UMC churches join and have a blast. They will be continuing to meet once a month through the spring all while sharing this important time together. Finally, some of our younger members of the group have had an opportunity to have unique "firsts" that could possibly be one of those defining moments of their youth with even pictures to commemorate the moment!

What is this great ministry? You probably guessed it! Faith on the Fly! The unique thing about this program is that it's creating opportunities to spend time together, to be engaged in ministry that matters. Talk to a dad in our program, or a grandpa or anyone- it's been a fun adventure! Fishing is just the thing we do, but the people spending time together- that's the good stuff. That's the intergenerational ministry churches all want, that's what they read books about "how to," but it's already happening here.

That's why I get excited about ministry. It's about spending time together, building relationships and growing in your faith. So remember, it's not about the fishing, *but instead about the ministry of time!*



Questions about Trinity's Community Ministries Program may be directed to Matt Witkowski, Director, at m.witkowski@grtumcorg.

TRINITY MISSIONS

MISSIONS IMPACT UPDATE

UNITED CHRISTIAN CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

\$1,000 was given to [United Christian Campus Fellowship's](#) program to address food insecurity of students at GVSU, GRCC, and Ferris State through this collaborative effort of the UMC, ELCA, PCUSA, and the Episcopal Church.



THANKSGIVING FOOD INGATHERING

\$300 and 35 bags of food were given for our Thanksgiving Food Ingathering for the food pantries of [South End Community Ministries \(SECOM\)](#), [North End Community Ministry \(NECM\)](#), and the [Al-Tawheed Islamic Center](#).

READERS TO LEADERS FOR CHILDREN IN LIBERIA AND MICHIGAN

\$561 from members who earmarked for Missions in their stewardship giving was given to the Michigan Conference's [Readers to Leaders](#) scholarship program in Liberia and Freedom Schools in Detroit and Flint.

GROWING THE UMC IN CAMEROON

The UMC in Cameroon is working toward the goal of becoming a Provisional Conference by 2027. To support required church growth the following has been given \$625 for [United Women in Faith Cameroon](#) to empower rural women in the conflict zone of the South West and North West Region; \$625 for the [Ebenezer Community Church](#) building project in Younde Cameroon; and \$250 to seed new members in the cities of Tiko, Mbalmayo, and Tombel.

Thank you, Trinity, for your generous example of sharing to transform people's lives locally and globally!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SAVE THE DATES!



GUEST PREACHER & HAM DINNER SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Join the United Women in Faith Sunday, March 3, in worship as we celebrate Women's History Month. Our guest preacher will be Dr. Anne Hillman, Deaconess. Anne grew up at Trinity and pursued her education in religion at St. Olaf College, Union Theological and Boston University, and is currently on staff at Central UMC in Detroit. Following worship we will offer a ham dinner with cheesy potatoes, vegetables, garden salad, breads, and delicious dessert. Your \$12 donation will help support the social justice mission work of UWF here and around the world. Watch for registration opportunities.

COME TO THE TABLE MONDAY, MARCH 11 - 6:00-7:30PM

Our next "Come to the Table" sponsored by United Women in Faith will be held Monday, March 11, 6:00-7:30pm. Our topic will be around the impact that systems fostering School to Prison bias have on girls of color. Join us for a panel discussion, including Judge Sara Smolenski, educator Jane Van Hof, a law enforcement voices. A light dinner will be offered for free beginning at 6:00pm. The Trinity faith community and our greater Grand Rapids neighbors are always welcome. Registration details to come.



SAVE THE DATE...

SAVE THE DATE



From Hosanna to Hallelujah: Exploring Holy Week Together
Tuesday, March 26 from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Follow Jesus through his last week - reading scripture & stories, reflecting through crafts & activities, celebrating communion, walking the labyrinth, and much more!

All Ages | Open House Style | Free

Beloved by kids & grown-ups in 2023. You don't want to miss this multi-sensory experience.

CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER & CARE

Nancy Barnhart, hospice care
babarnhart@varnumlaw.com (husband Bruce)
3825 Cook Valley Blvd.
Apt. 124
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Don Miller, hospice care
carolynjmiller43@gmail.com (daughter Carolyn)
810 Lenore Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

ALTAR FLOWERS

FEBRUARY 4- Carolyn Miller is loving memory of the one year anniversary of her mom, Evie Miller's passing.

WE LOVE OUR CLARK RESIDENTS!

FAMILY CAMP 2024

Save the Date | May 24-27



More info & online sign-up coming soon!

Maybe you have been attending Trinity Family Camp for 40 years? Maybe you've just heard the stories? Either way, this is your year to join us! Come experience the magic of the West Michigan lakeshore with your Trinity family this Memorial Day Weekend.

Save the Date: May 24-27
Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center
5807 Ridge Rd, Pentwater, MI 49449

Registration form with all the details is coming to your email box soon!
Questions in the meantime? Contact Laura at LJohns@grtunc.org.

