



Trinity In Touch

January 2026

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Mission

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

Vision

**We strive 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
1100 Lake Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.456.7168
office@grtumc.org**

Behind the Worship: Rituals and Relevance

A new calendar hangs on the wall. A fresh page waits to be filled. The turning of a year slows us down long enough to notice time moving forward. The year has changed, but we are still here.

The writer of Lamentations offers a simple and powerful truth. God's mercy is new every morning. Not new once a year. Not new when we finally get it right. New every morning. Each day begins wrapped in grace before we do a single thing to earn it. New Year's observances help us remember that truth. They invite us to pause and take stock. Not to judge ourselves. Not to rehearse regrets. But to notice where we have been and where God has already met us along the way.

January is often framed around resolutions. Do better. Try harder. Fix what is broken. While intention has its place, faith offers something deeper. This season invites reimagining instead of self-improvement. Reimagining our lives through the lens of grace. Reimagining our faith as something lived, not perfected.

Reimagining asks different questions. Not, "How do I improve myself?" Instead, "Where has God been faithful?" Not, "What should I change?" Instead, "What is God already doing?" Not, "Who should I become?" Instead, "Who am I becoming as I walk with God?"

The turn of the year is not meant to erase the past. But it does give us space to name it honestly. Joy and grief. Growth and mistakes. Hopes met and dreams deferred. None of it is wasted. None of it disqualifies us. God stays present through it all.

Grace did not expire on December 31. Mercy did not run out overnight. God did not step away when the calendar changed. The same faithfulness that carried us through last year greets us at the start of this one.

January invites us to begin again in a quieter way. Not with pressure. Not with performance. But with truth. It invites us to stand where we are, look at our lives with clarity, and trust that God meets us there. Beginning again does not mean starting over. It means choosing to keep going. It means trusting that grace still holds us. It means believing that God keeps working with real people in real lives.

This is a season to listen more closely. To pay attention to what God is stirring in quiet ways. To notice moments of kindness, courage, and connection. To practice gratitude without ignoring reality. To hold hope without pretending everything is easy.

Faith does not demand dramatic transformation overnight. It asks for daily attention. A willingness to show up. An openness to grace. A trust that God meets us morning by morning.

As this year begins, you are invited to worship. To pray. To wonder. To bring your whole self. The confident parts and the uncertain ones. The hopeful parts and the tired ones.

God's mercy will greet you each morning of this new year. It will meet you in every moment. It will carry us forward together. May you wake up each new day knowing that it is a new day.

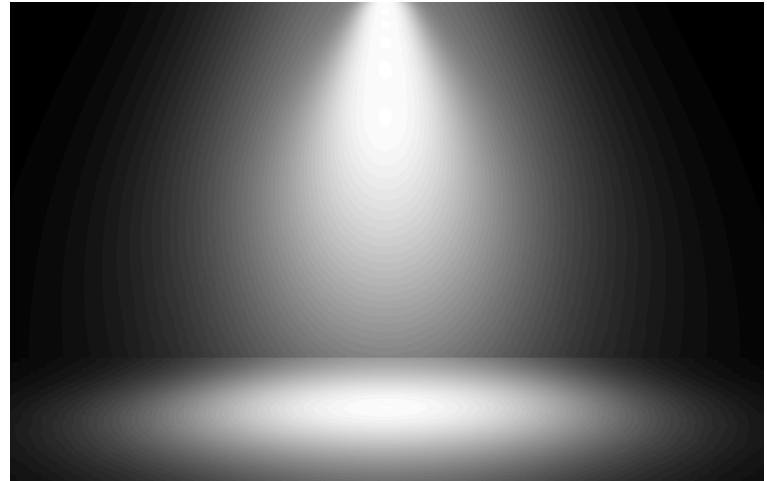
Grace and peace,



Ministry Spotlight

At Trinity, there are so many ways to get involved and share your love of neighbor—and our Ministry Spotlight is one way we're helping make those connections easier.

Through these spotlights, we'll be highlighting different ministries at Trinity and the people who make them happen. It's a chance to learn what's going on, see where help is needed, and discover opportunities that might be a good fit for you—whether that's jumping in hands-on, helping behind the scenes, or simply learning more.



Each ministry is a way we live out our faith by caring for one another and serving our wider community. Big or small, every act of service helps strengthen our church and the relationships we share.

We'll continue featuring ministries throughout 2026, so keep an eye out for ways you can connect, serve, and be part of what's happening at Trinity.

If something catches your interest, we'd love for you to reach out and get involved!

UWF (United Women in Faith)



Missions

Starting in January Missions will be expanding its focus on peace and justice advocacy. We will be merging the Missions and Church & Society work areas into one larger work area that we are renaming Outreach and Advocacy. Our broadened goals include:

- Understand and address root causes of injustice and conflict happening now.
- Learn how to effect constructive change through policy advocacy and grassroots organizing
- Communicate and offer effective and meaningful ways that Trinity can act.

Watch for more information as we connect and renew our call to live faithfully, seek justice, and pursue peace.





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.



Intention Word

Our intention word for January is Launch. Not sure what an intention word is? Pastor Mike wrote an introduction to this concept in September 2022's Newsletter. Check it out online at: <https://bit.ly/Sep2022Newsletter>

Church Family

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 4: OPEN

January 11: Jeanenne Morton in honor of their great-granddaughter's birthdays. (Nelly Pilipow and Maizie Perschbacher)

January 18: Bruce Barnhart in memory of Nancy Barnhart.

January 25: Stephanie Wiltse in honor of the Trinity Care team.

PRAYERS AND CARE

Prayers for health and healing for Dave Waskiewicz during preventative chemotherapy treatments after successful bladder tumor removal.

djw552@gmail.com

Prayers requested for Tricia Ophoff as she recovers from back surgery, asking for healing, relief from pain, and a smooth recovery.

Ophoff23@gmail.com

CONDOLENCES

Please extend heartfelt condolences to Todd and Susan Dickinson on the passing of Todd's brother, Tim Dickinson, after an extended illness.

trdickinson@outlook.com (Todd)

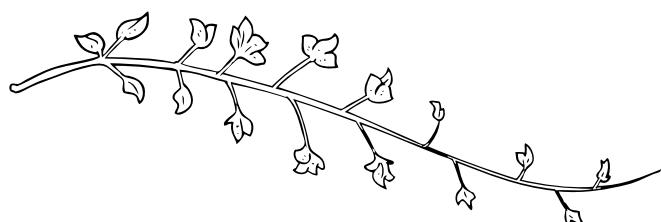
Susan49508@gmail.com (Susan)

1307 Van Auken SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

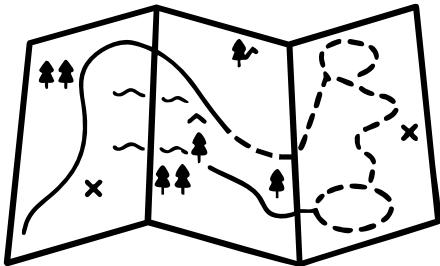
Please extend heartfelt condolences to Rick Nelson on the passing of his uncle, Reverend Phil Anderson, in Baraboo, WI.

Rnelson2@comcast.net

3367 Woodwind Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525



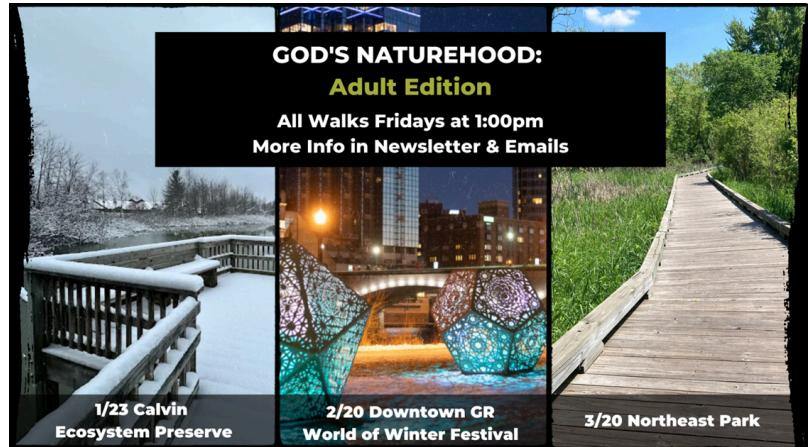
Opportunities to Engage



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 January to March meet-ups are below:

Friday, January 23 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Calvin Ecosystem Preserve at 1750 E Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.
Park in the lot for the Bunker Center and gather near the path.



Friday, February 20 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 1 mile south to Ah-Nab-Awen Park and back with a short coffee & warm-up break part way.

Friday, March 20 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Northeast Park at 1900 Middleground Dr SE, Grand Rapids, 49546
Park in the main parking lot near the picnic pavilion.

RSVPs are requested but not required. Contact Laura Johns at ljohns@grtumc.org.



Winter 2026 Update

Join a small group exploring the many writings of Father Richard Rohr together!

Deeper, Better, Clearer (DBC)

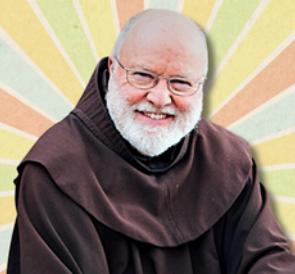
Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm
Fireside Room | Book: [The Tears of Things](#)

Everything Belongs (EvB)

Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm
Library | Book: [The Naked Now](#)

FoRT:

Friends of Rohr at Trinity



FoRT (Friends of Rohr at Trinity) is a group of over 40 folks who enjoy studying Father Richard Rohr's writings. Together we desire to integrate action and contemplation in our lives. As we gather each week to discuss our reading and enjoy fellowship together, we find we are "growing Deeper, loving Better, seeing God more Clearly." You're invited to join us!

DBC meets on Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm in the Fireside Room. On January 4, we'll be watching a short video and on January 11 we'll be starting [The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage](#). Everything Belongs (EvB) gathers in the upstairs Library on Thursdays starting January 8 from 6:15pm-7:30pm and is discussing [The Naked Now](#).

Questions about any of these acronyms or the amazing groups of people they represent? Contact Laura Johns at ljohns@grtumc.org or other members of the FoRT Leadership Team: Merrita Tumonong, Penny Murray & Steve Murray.



Popcorn Party Time

Trinity's All-Ages Movie & Game Nights

Popcorn Party Time is on hiatus in January for Faith at the Movies but will be back on Friday nights at 6:30pm from February to April 2026. Save these dates in your calendar now!

February 13 – Game Night with Valentine's Extras

March 6 – Movie Night featuring How to Train Your Dragon (PG | 2025)

April 17 – Game Night

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.

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtumc.org.

Great news! You don't have to find out "just how far you'll go" to escape your Winter Break blues. You can do it at Trinity. That's right, friends, Winter Break Family Night is back in 2026!

Celebrate the end of your long winter break with us on Friday, January 2 from 4:30pm-8:30pm!

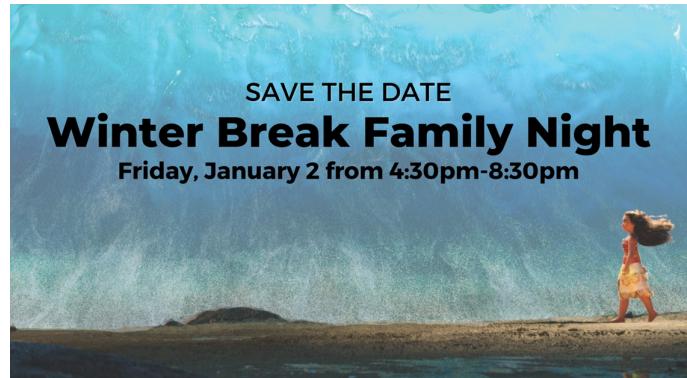
Don't miss "Moana" themed crafts, gym time, dinner, dessert & an epic glow dance party. Plus, we'll join our church-family for the Faith at the Movies film screening!

What can we say except, "You're Welcome!" Seriously, you are welcome at this event. Regardless of your age, whether you have kids, whether you are a demi-god of the wind & sea, or whether you can sing all the words to all the Moana songs – you are welcome and have a place here with us!

In order to plan supplies and food appropriately, we need folks to RSVP. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person; maximum \$35 per family to help offset food & supply costs. That said, we never want price to prevent participation, so you're always welcome to select the subsidized options on our online form.

Get all the details and register at: <https://tinyurl.com/TUMC-WBFN26>.

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtumc.org.



Faith at the Movies is back this January and the line-up is exciting!

Join us in worship each Sunday at 10:00am for messages featuring costumes, props & more.

On Friday evenings at 6:00pm, come on out for movies screenings with your Trinity family & special guests from St. Paul's United Methodist. Popcorn and drinks will be provided and you're welcome to pack your own picnic dinner. We cannot wait to screen all these amazing films together!

January 2nd & 4th: Moana (PG | 2016)

January 9th & 11th: National Treasure (PG | 2004)

January 16th & 18th: The Sandlot (PG | 1993)

January 23rd & 25th: Come From Away (PG-13 | 2021)

Questions? Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org.

Adult Small Groups

Spiritalk Book Club

United Women in Faith

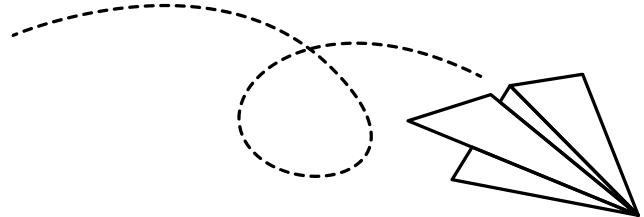
Join us as we discuss & dissect a new book each month!

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

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|---|--|---|--|---|
| January 13 Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury | February 10 The Small and The Mighty Sharon McMahon | March 10 The Demon of Unrest Erik Larson | April 14 My Friends Fredrik Backman | May 12 Everything is Tuberculosis John Green |
|---|--|---|--|---|

Spring 2026





Gophers

Tuesdays from 9:15am-10:00am

Most Tuesdays from October 7, 2025 thru May 5, 2026

Join a fun group of older adults for a weekly exercise class featuring tai chi, strength training, balance work, and more.

This low impact opportunity is great for all ability levels.

Stick around after class for Coffee & Conversation!

Monthly Mahjong

First & Third Wednesday of Each Month at 1:00pm

Gather in Fireside on the first & third Wednesday of each month for an opportunity to practice your mahjong skills or learn new ones.

All ages & abilities are welcome - beginner to expert!
Contact the Office for more information.

Now Twice a Month!





Sacred Justice Book Club



Join us as we dive into a variety of different non-fiction justice titles!

Meetings are every three months on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.
Come for deep conversation, meaningful action, and dessert!

August 5, 2025
Jesus Feminist
Sarah Bessey

November 4, 2025
How to Be an Antiracist
Ibram X. Kendi

February 3, 2026
The Story of More
Hope Jahren

May 5, 2026
Queer & Christian
Brandan Robertson



Spring 2026

Pints with the Pastor

Select Sundays at 6:00pm at Taco Borracho

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| Jan. 25 | Feb. 22 | March 22 | April 26 | May 17 |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------|

You're invited to join us this winter & spring for Pints with the Pastor. This gathering is an opportunity for all of us to get a drink, get a taco, and get to know each other better. Meet up at Taco Borracho at 755 Michigan St NE anytime between 6:00pm-7:30pm. No RSVP required.

Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org with questions.

Adult Faith Formation

Join us in January & February for a variety of engaging Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation offerings...



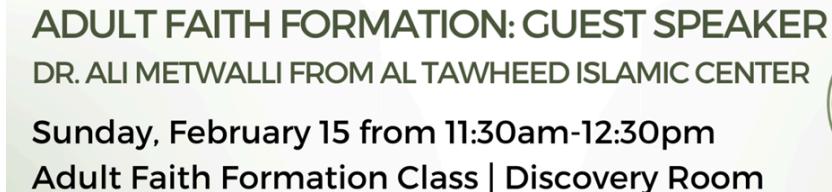
UNAFRAID
Sundays, January 11 to February 8
Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room

UNAFRAID
LIVING WITH
COURAGE AND HOPE IN
UNCERTAIN TIMES
ADAM HAMILTON

Sundays January 11 - February 8 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Unafraid: Living with Courage & Hope in Uncertain Times

Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Adam Hamilton uses a mixture of facts and faith to help readers understand anxiety, counter fear, and find practical solutions. Books are available now but you do not have to read to participate. Video previews will be played each week.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION: GUEST SPEAKER
DR. ALI METWALLI FROM AL TAWHEED ISLAMIC CENTER
Sunday, February 15 from 11:30am-12:30pm
Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room



Sunday February 15 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ali Metwalli from Al Tawheed Islamic Center

Join the Outreach & Advocacy Committee in welcoming Dr. Ali Metwalli, the founding board member of the Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute in Grand Rapids. Dr. Metwalli will discuss the history & mission of the Al Tawheed Islamic Center and an overview of the Muslim community in West Michigan.



MIGRATION
EXPERIENCING GOD'S
CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Sundays, February 22 to March 29 from 11:30am-12:30pm
Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room

Sundays February 22 - March 29 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Migration: Experiencing God's Care for Immigrants

This interactive Bible study invites us to explore how the movement of people reflects God's love, purpose, and call in our lives. Through a diverse mix of Scripture, essays, spoken word, visual art, and personal testimonies, Migration offers a spiritually rich experience designed to deepen our connection with God and foster compassion for others.

Questions about what's upcoming? Contact Laura Johns at ljohns@grtumc.org or check out our updated program flyers online at: <https://www.grtumc.org/newsletter-more/>.

TNT: Thursday Nights at Trinity

Thursday nights are a **BLAST!** Join us for good food, great fellowship, and fantastic music.

Thursdays from 5:15pm-7:30pm

Dinner RSVPs due by Tuesday 12:00pm each week.
Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/TNTSpring2026>

Thank you to everyone who participated in TNT (Thursday Nights at Trinity) this autumn! We've had an amazing few months of good food, great fellowship, amazing small groups, and fantastic music.

We will kick off 2025 on Thursday, January 8! You can sign up for the full Spring season or week by week at <https://tinyurl.com/TNTSpring2026>

And remember, even if you're not participating in any other Thursday night programming, God loves you and invites you to join us for dinner!



AGING WORKSHOP

Resources for anyone who plans to get older or loves someone who is.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026
10:00AM-1:30PM AT TRINITY UMC

Returning for a fourth year, this workshop is for seniors, caregivers, family & friends. Together we will explore topics related to aging. There will be multiple sessions with expert speakers, refreshments and a light lunch.

More info coming soon!

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at 616-456-7168 or L.Johns@grtumc.org.



Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00pm
A Mardi Gras Celebration for All Ages

SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE



Trinity Calendar

Have you seen the new January & February Calendar of Events? Don't miss out on all these exciting offerings. More information throughout this newsletter and on the website.



Trinity Calendar of Events January 2026 - February 2026



Friday, January 2 from 4:30pm-8:30pm
Winter Break Family Night: Moana with Faith at the Movies Screening at 6:00pm

Sunday, January 4 at 11:30am
United Women in Faith: Soup Cook-Off

Thursday, January 8 at 5:15pm
TNT Returns: Thursday Nights at Trinity (Weekly)

Friday, January 9 at 6:00pm
Faith at the Movies Screening: National Treasure

Friday, January 16 at 6:00pm
Faith at the Movies Screening: The Sandlot

Friday, January 23 at 1:00pm
God's Naturehood - Adults at Calvin Ecopreserve

Friday, January 23 at 6:00pm
Faith at the Movies Screening: Come from Away

Sunday, January 25 at 6:00pm
Pints with the Pastor at Taco Borracho

Saturday, January 31 at TBD Time
Youth Winter Adventure: Craig's Cruisers

Sunday, February 1 at 7:00pm
Revery Concert

Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00pm
Sacred Justice Book Club: The Story of More

Saturday, February 7 at 10:00am
Aging Workshop featuring Community Experts

Friday, February 13 at 6:30pm
Popcorn Party Time: Valentine's Game Night

Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00pm
Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

Friday, February 20 at 1:00pm
God's Naturehood - Adults at World of Winter

Sunday, February 22 at 6:00pm
Pints with the Pastor at Taco Borracho

Saturday, February 28 at TBD Time
United Women in Faith: Soul Care Retreat

Trinity United Methodist Church | 1100 Lake Drive SE, 49506 | grtumc.org



YEAR ROUND OPPORTUNITIES THAT CONTINUE THIS WINTER:

Sundays from 10:15am-11:15am
Children & Worship and Kids Connect (2nd-5th Sundays Starting Jan. 11)

Sundays from 11:30am-12:30pm
All Ages Faith Formation (Weekly Starting Jan. 11)

Sundays at 5:00pm
DBC Small Group (Weekly Starting Jan. 4)

Mondays at 9:30am
Kids Food Basket Volunteering (Third Monday Starting Feb. 16)

Tuesdays at 9:15am
Gophers Exercise Class (Weekly)

Tuesdays at 10:00am
Coffee & Conversation (Weekly)

Tuesdays at 7:00pm
Spiritalk Book Group (Second Tuesday of the Month)

Wednesdays at 1:00pm
Mahjong for Adults (First & Third Weds. of the Month)

Wednesdays at 5:00pm
Community Ministries Program (Weekly Starting Jan. 7)

Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Ping Pong for Adults (Weekly)

Thursdays from 5:15pm-7:30pm
TNT: Thursday Nights at Trinity (Weekly Starting Jan. 8)

Thursdays at 6:15pm
Everything Belongs Small Group (Weekly Starting Jan. 8)

Paper copies of the Calendar are available in the Narthex & Parlor. Check out all our updated program flyers online at: <https://www.grtumc.org/newsletter-more/>

The Youth Connection Corner

YOUTH EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF

JANUARY

Happy New Year Trinity Friends and Family!

I hope that your holiday season was filled with laughs, love and lots and lots of sweets! As we jump head first into 2026, our youth are also jumping right back into What's YOUR Story? starting on **Sunday, January 11th** with the first topic of 2026: **Relationships, Identity and Life Questions**. Together we'll explore these tough but important topics through thoughtful discussion, a few laughs, some guest speakers and hopefully some "aha!" moments.

January has some fun programming planned that is filled with faith and fellowship! Check it out below.

Winter Break Family Night (Moana) on January 2nd

See page 5 for all the details. And make sure to stop into the gym for some amazing Moana themed games with me!

Faith at the Movies Screenings

See page 5 for all the details. The film line up this year is:

Moana (PG | 2016) – Screening: Jan 2nd | Service: Jan 4th

National Treasure (PG | 2004) – Screening: Jan 9th | Service: Jan 11th

**The Sandlot (PG | 1993) – Screening: Jan 16th | Service: Jan 18th

Come From Away (PG-13 | 2021) – Screening Jan 23rd | Service: Jan 25th

** Please note that the Youth have been asked to help with this Faith at the Movies Day (The Sandlot) for set up, hosting and tear down. Annie will send out more information via email but if you have any questions reach out to her at a.slabaugh@grtumc.org.

Save the Date - Youth Winter Adventure - Craig's Cruisers Extravaganza

Friends! It's time to let you know about our next Youth Adventure! Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 31st for our winter adventure - Craig's Cruisers Extravaganza! More information is coming soon about this exciting winter event for our amazing youth so keep an eye out on your emails youth grown ups! You won't want to miss out on go karts, laser tag & more! Reach out to me with any questions or concerns you might have in the meantime.



As we kick off this brand new year, my hope is that our youth feel encouraged, supported and loved as they explore these big questions and more. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for trusting me to journey alongside your youth—it's been a joy to watch them grow, question, reflect and shine. I can't wait for what else is coming our way as we go into 2026 with curiosity, laughter and inspiring stories.

Annie Slabaugh, Youth Director - a.slabaugh@grtumc.org

Community Ministries



I'm Not Looking Forward to the New Year!

Why look forward when you can look back...is not usually something you will ever hear come out of my mouth. I believe in dreaming and visioning about the future of our programming, how we can be creative and innovative and establishing a vision for how the church can continue to serve the community. But...in this case these last few months, we have been doing amazing things that have helped both serve and build stronger communities. Let's take a look back at what the Community Ministries Program at Trinity UMC has been up to since Oct.

Start of the Community Ministries Program (Oct)

We started the CM Program this year with a waitlist for the first time and the largest number of students started the year that we have had in the last 10 years in both the Kids Club and Transitions Program. Great start to the CM Program Year!



My Life in Pieces – Exploring Grief (Oct)

This intimate discussion around tough topics like grief by people sharing their story gives a rare insight into a struggle and finding hope through the ability to share with others about difficult topics. This talk explored grief through the lens of losing a child and caretaking of a spouse through a journey of cancer. Beautiful and heartbreaking, this program attendees always say how meaningful and impactful the experience is. We will do this program again in the Spring of 2026.

Art in the Parlor – Brad Goff (CM Parent & Faith on the Fly Member) (Sept/Oct)

We welcomed in Art Prize Artist, Brad Goff, to display his art in the Parlor for Sept/October. His beautiful art was on display for Trinity and community members during this time for all to enjoy. Brad is the parent of a student in our CM Program and is a very active member in our Faith on the Fly Program as well.



Fall Salmon Fly Fishing Outing on the Muskegon River

We took two youth and two Faith on the Fly adult members on a guided Salmon Fishing Trip and absolutely had a blast on the river while catching some nice fish too. Time spent on the river is a great teacher not only fly fishing but about enjoying nature and the reasons why we work so hard in our everyday, busy lives. This was a great experience for all involved.

“A Night to Remember” Community Ministries Program Dinner (Nov)

This is a night of stories, music and food that never disappoints as we hear from community members about how the Community Ministries Program and Trinity UMC are making an impact in the community. Never been? Unfortunately, you have missed out on some amazing evenings but there's always the potential to attend next year.



Murphy's Ride” Horse Program at legacy Stables (Nov)

As a way to honor Murphy Ainsworth, a former Trinity Member and CM Program Volunteer, and his family, we take the kids every year on an adventure to ride horses at Legacy Farms. They learn about the horses, feed them, lead them around and even brush them before getting to ride them in the indoor arena. Many children have never been on horses or have limited experiences with animals so large. This is a great way to create experiential learning opportunities.

Congress Elementary Winter Concert at Trinity UMC (Dec)

Every Winter and Spring we welcome Congress Elementary School students and families into our sanctuary for these seasonal concerts with an amazing reception following the program in Fellowship Hall. It's an amazing evening with a full house and we love watching the kids and parents' smiling faces, including a few families that have joined Trinity from Congress as well. Beautiful night of community coming together to celebrate these amazing children and families.



Chaperone with Congress at Museum School (Dec)

A few volunteers from our Community Ministries Program have helped out when Congress Elementary School spent a week having classes at the Grand Rapids Museum during the week they were there. It is a great opportunity for these kids to experience something new, and we are honored that they ask some of our volunteers to help make it possible.

Congress Teachers Team Building night at Trinity UMC (Dec)

Part of how we support the Congress Elementary School is by supporting the staff and teachers at the school so that they can do the important work of educating our community's children. We do this by helping create opportunities for support and team building away from the schools and teachers always comment on how they feel the love from Trinity UMC.



Arts in Motion Studios Holiday Show (Dec)

One of my favorite things that we do at Trinity is host the Arts in Motion Studios Holiday show. Arts in Motion is a community partner that serves our special needs and the disability community through art and dance. The participants and their families are all amazing and we are so happy that they choose Trinity to do their show every year.

Community Ministries Program Family Christmas Party

This is a great evening that brings together CM Program families and students for a wonderful meal and program while getting to spend time together. The evening is capped off with a giant opening of Christmas presents at one time that is very exciting for all the children and families in attendance. Such a great night of community building.



Faith on the Fly Christmas Party (Dec)

This year we decided that we would come together to celebrate our year of programming and spending time together. For the first annual FOTF Christmas Party we met at Harmony Brewing in Eastown and had a wonderful evening of building relationships and community that went way further than fly fishing...but we talked about that too!

These are just some of our bigger events in addition to our regular weekly programming, donor thank you cards (still in progress), Christmas Support for Congress families, benevolent support and so much more! So now we rest between the holidays to help fill our tanks for the months of impactful ministry ahead. Then we will look forward and envision all the possibilities that lie ahead and bring that same energy to help make the world a brighter place! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Matt Witkowski CM Program Director/FOTF Founder