



Trinity In Touch

February 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

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105

At Trinity we come from many different faith backgrounds. Some of us have practiced Lent for years, while others have never observed it at all. Wherever you find yourself, this season is an invitation to draw closer to God in a way that fits your journey.

Lent is the forty days before Easter. We use it to slow down, reflect, tell the truth about our lives, and prepare our hearts for the hope of Easter. Lent is good for our souls. But there is something important we do not always remember.

Lent is not a spectator sport.

Faith does not grow simply by watching other people. Faith grows when we take part. When our choices, our habits, and our time join the journey. This year our Lent sermon series will follow the book *The Final Days* by Matt Rawle. The book walks through the last week of Jesus’ life using all four Gospels. It reminds us that the story of Jesus does not invite us to sit back and watch, but to step in and follow.

So here is my challenge for you this Lent: read all four Gospels with us in forty days.

There are 89 chapters in the Gospels. If you read a little each day during Lent, with Sundays off, you will read the whole story of Jesus before Easter morning. You will see how each Gospel tells the story from a different angle, and you will likely notice things you have never seen before.

We have created a simple daily plan for you. Each day has a short reading. Some days are only two or three chapters. Sundays are rest days, so you can catch up if needed.

If you want to deepen the practice, here are a few simple ideas:

- Pray one short prayer before or after your reading.
- Write down one thing you noticed or wondered about.
- Talk with a friend or family member about what you read.
- Choose one verse each week to reflect on more deeply.

These are not big or fancy steps. They are small steps that shape us over time.

Lent is not about proving yourself. It is not about perfection. It is about making space for God to meet us. And when we make space, we begin to notice how God has been at work all along.

I hope you will join me in reading through the Gospels this Lent. I am grateful to share this journey with you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike



Ministry Spotlight

Office volunteers are the friendly voices on the phone, the welcoming faces at the door, and the behind-the-scenes helpers who stuff envelopes, wrangle bulletins, and keep the wheels turning during the week. They help make sure no question goes unanswered and no task gets lost in the shuffle.

And despite popular belief, Dani does not run the office alone. It takes a whole team of generous folks to keep things moving! We're always looking for a few more volunteers to help cover days when Dani is out — like during vacations or staff retreat — so the office can still be a warm, helpful place for anyone who calls or stops by.

Interested in joining the office volunteer team? Contact the church office at office@grtumc.org— we'd love to get you plugged in.



UWF (United Women in Faith)

Soul Care is sacred

United Women in Faith

**United Women in Faith's
Soul Care Day Retreat
Saturday, February 28, 2026
9am- 1pm Trinity Parlor**

Taking the time to care for our soul is key to our health, especially in these times of uncertainty. Join us as we take a few hours to nourish our souls in sacred community.

All are welcome!
**Continental Breakfast Bar begins at 9am
Lite Lunch at Noon**

RSVP to church office@grtumc.org or by contacting Nichea V. Guy orangecelt00@aol.com

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Dinner for 8 Is Back!

Dinner for 8 is an informal dinner in the home of a person or couple in the congregation. It is a fun and enjoyable way to get to know each other in a relaxed setting. The host provides the main dish and the guests provide an appetizer, salad, or dessert. We will have dinners in February, March, and April. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions, please contact Linda Burpee: 616-450-1160 or smoburp@icloud.com, or Dani in the church office.





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.



Our intention word for February is Persist. 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

February 1: Jim & Karen Urquhart in memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

February 8: Jessie Takala in honor of scouting.

January 18: LENT

January 25: LENT

CONDOLENCES

Prayers for Randy Burghart and his family on the passing of his father, Robert Anthony "Bob" Burghart. r.burghart@grtumc.org

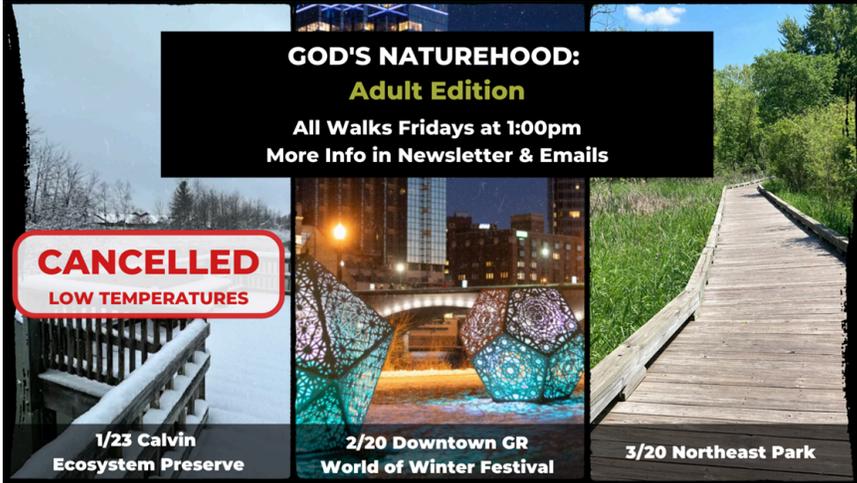
PRAYERS AND CARE

Please pray for Richard Scheil's brother, Henry, as he recently broke his leg and is navigating other health challenges. Prayers for healing and answers are appreciated!

RichardScheil1957@gmail.com



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, 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 l.johns@grtumc.org.



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.

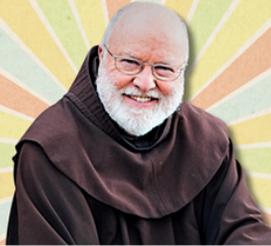
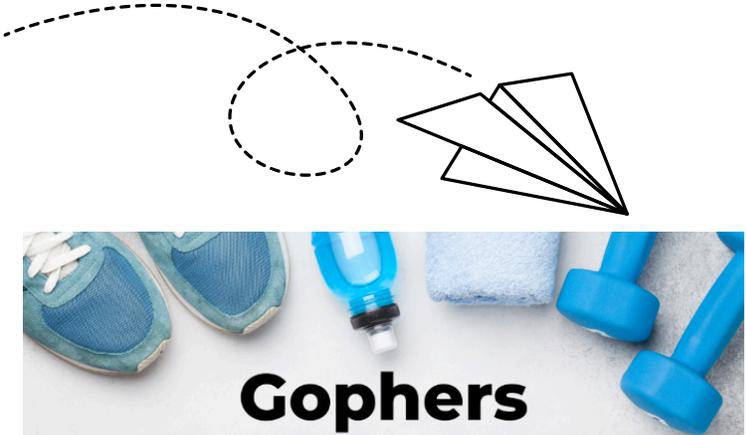
Adult Small Groups

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

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!

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 <u>Jesus Feminist</u> Sarah Bessey	November 4, 2025 <u>How to Be an Antiracist</u> Ibram X. Kendi	February 3, 2026 <u>The Story of More</u> Hope Jahren	May 5, 2026 <u>Queer & Christian</u> Brandan Robertson
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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!



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@grtunc.org.

January 13 <u>Fahrenheit 451</u> Ray Bradbury	February 10 <u>The Small and The Mighty</u> Sharon McMahon	March 10 <u>The Demon of Unrest</u> Erik Larson	April 14 <u>My Friends</u> Fredrik Backman	May 12 <u>Everything is Tuberculosis</u> John Green
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Spring 2026



Pints with the Pastor
 Select Sundays at 6:00pm at Taco Borracho

Spring 2026

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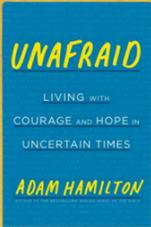


Adult Faith Formation

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



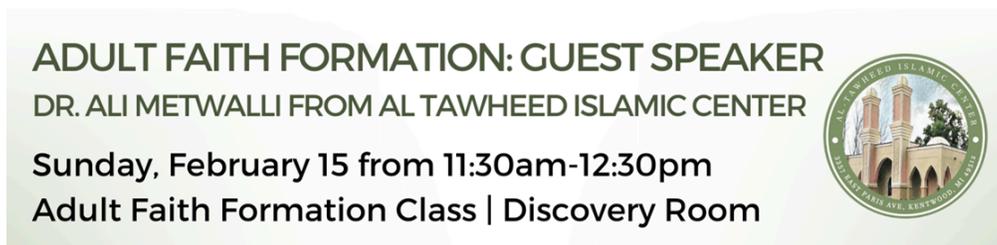
UNA FRAID
Sundays, January 11 to February 8
Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room



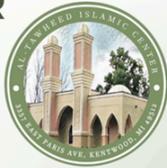
UNA FRAID
LIVING WITH
COURAGE AND HOPE IN
UNCERTAIN TIMES
ADAM HAMILTON

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. Workbooks available now on the counter near the Office and in the Discovery Room on Sunday mornings.

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



Join us Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 10:00am-1:30pm for a three session workshop. Expert speakers will help participants explore topics like emergency preparedness, dementia, aging in the right place, caregiving, hospice, and more!

This experience is designed for everyone - seniors, caregivers, friends & 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

SESSIONS:

Session topics include:

- Peace of Mind: Simple Steps to Prepare for Life's Emergencies (Session #1)
- Caregiving: The Hard Job Done Out of Love (Session #1)
- Aging in the Right Place (Session #2)
- Dementia & Alzheimer's Overview with Caregiver Specific (Session #2)
- When It's Time: Understanding Hospice, Palliative Care, and Your Options (Session #3)

COST:

There is no cost to participate in the workshop. Lunch & morning refreshments provided; \$10 suggested donation per person helps offset the cost of food. Donations can be made online ahead of time using our form 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 & lunch regardless of donation.

MORE INFO & RSVP:

Get more information and RSVP online at tinyurl.com/AgingWorkshop2026.

Share our Facebook event with your friends and help get the word out:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/660819763722728/>

Contact Laura Johns, Director of Discipleship, at ljohns@grtumc.org with questions.



Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00pm

A Mardi Gras Celebration for All Ages

Suggested Donation: \$20 per Adult; 12 & Under Free

RSVP & Info at: tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2026

Join Trinity in the Fellowship Hall on **Fat Tuesday, February 17 at 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 at tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2026.



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:

Friday, May 22 to Monday, May 25, 2026

Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center at 5807 Ridge Rd, Pentwater, MI 49449

Family Camp 101:

Family camp is an inter-generational overnight opportunity for Trinity family & friends. Each family unit has their own lodging but we gather together for shared meals, activities, fellowship, worship, and more!

The Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center is located 90 minutes northwest of Trinity near Pentwater. Situated where the woods meet the sand, the camp features a half mile of pristine Lake Michigan waterfront. Enjoy hiking, biking, mini golfing, volleyball, disc golf, campfires, and so much more! We will provide a full schedule of opportunities available through the camp and through Trinity before you arrive for your stay.

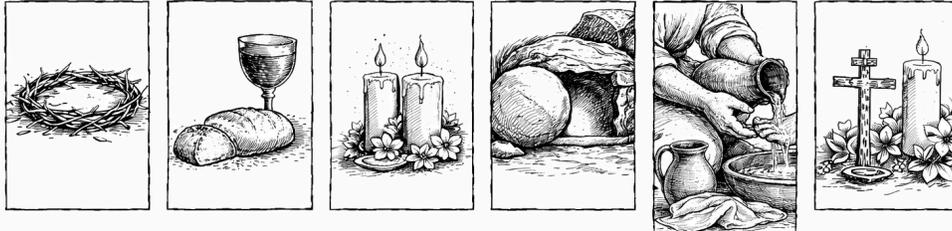
Registration & Questions:

Registration form with all the details is coming to your email box soon! Questions in the meantime? Contact Laura Johns, Director of Discipleship, at ljohns@grtumc.org.

A milestone is a meaningful, memorable moment in the life of an individual, family or community. Here at Trinity, we want to recognize those moments, share them together, and find God's presence in the everyday. We will be lifting up milestones during worship every few months, but we need your help. Let us know if there's a milestone in your life we can celebrate together! Fill out our online form (<https://tinyurl.com/TUMCMilestone02-2026>), email Laura at ljohns@grtumc.org, or put a note on your Connection Card.

Our first Milestone Sunday of 2026 is February 15 and we will be celebrating any milestones from September 2025 to January 2026. Our Milestone Moment will be the welcoming of new members. We will also post select honorees on the screen and do a group blessing for all honorees.

Lent/Easter @ TRINITY



With the end of Faith at the Movies, we have a few short weeks before we start Lent. Make sure these key dates are on your calendars:

Tuesday, February 17 | Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

A Mardi Gras celebration for all ages with hot jazz, hot food, and amazing company!

Wednesday, February 18 | Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ St. Paul's

Lent begins with honesty and hope. We'll be joining our friends at St. Paul's UMC for a shared Ash Wednesday service with music, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. This service invites us to begin the season with intention and reflection as we turn toward the journey of Jesus' final days.

Saturday, March 14 from 9:00am-11:30am | The Easter Expedition

New for 2026, we're combining the best parts of three years of From Hosanna to Hallelujah and two years of The Greatest Advent(ure). Our new Easter Expedition will start with a light breakfast from 9:00am-9:30am. Once you're fortified, you'll have 90 minutes to seek out all the "treasures" buried in the Easter story. Crafts, activities, prayer stations, and more will help you find clues and reveal new understandings. At 11:00am, we will all gather again as a group for a special treat, a time of sharing, and more!



Thursday, April 2 | Maundy Thursday Worship Service @ Trinity

On the night before the cross, Jesus washed feet, shared bread, and gave his disciples a new command to love one another. We'll gather at Trinity for communion and worship as we remember the meal, the mandate, and the love that shapes the church.

Friday, April 3 | Good Friday Worship Service at St. Paul's UMC

We'll gather at St. Paul's for a joint Good Friday service as we hear the passion narrative, sing hymns, and hold space for the depth of Christ's love. The service concludes in silence as we await the dawn of Easter.

Saturday, April 4 | United Women in Faith Lenten Breakfast

A traditional celebration brings good food, warm fellowship, and a delightful message of hope to all guests.

Sunday, April 5 | Easter Sunday Worship Service

On Easter morning we join the church in proclaiming the good news that Christ is risen and love has not been defeated. Our service will feature the Trinity Orchestra, congregational singing, and a joyful celebration of resurrection hope for all ages. A special combined Easter class will be offered for children ages Pre-K to 5th grade during worship (after Children's Moment). We will not have after worship Faith Formation offerings this week.

The Youth Connection Corner

YOUTH EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF

FEBRUARY

Well hi there, Trinity Friends and Family!

One of the many things I love about Trinity is its commitment to living our faith through love, justice and compassion—and for the month of February, our conversations in What's YOUR Story? will lean fully into that commitment! As we explore **Christianity and Social Justice**, the youth will be able to reflect on how Jesus' teachings invite us to care for the marginalized, challenge injustice, and show up for others in meaningful ways. We'll have a heartfelt discussion, check out our Holy Troublemaker, and have a guest speaker as we encourage curiosity, empathy, and help our youth to connect their faith to the real world and their own sense of purpose in it.

In addition to this conversation, February also will have some fun opportunities for our youth and their families alike! Mark your calendars for...

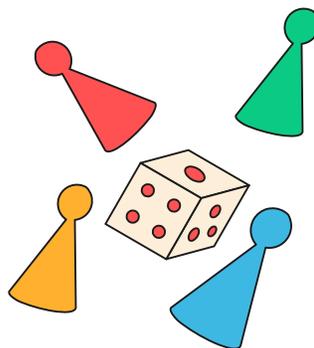
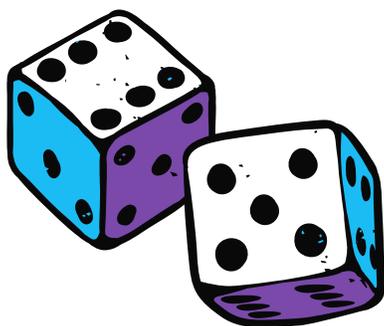


Popcorn Party Time: Game Night!

Join me on **Friday, February 13th at 6:30PM** for an epic game night in the Parlor. I'm talking card games, I'm talking board games, I'm talking all the games! I may or may not also be bringing a youth favorite—Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza! Hope to see you there!

As we journey through February and discuss social justice this month, I hope that our amazing youth will feel empowered to live out their faith with intention, compassion and courage!

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



Community Ministries



One example of this is when you see our Community Ministries Program Volunteers interact with each other. People from inside the church, outside the church, college students etc.. come together and build true relationships where they share about their lives and are genuinely excited to see each other at the start of a program year. We have added a few new volunteers this year and after just a short time it's so fun to see how connected they become so quickly. The same thing happens with the families that we serve and the relationships that develop when we have a child for multiple years in our program. Volunteers see these parents in the community, at different events with Congress, and when having conversations at pick up. We've had volunteers helping with events with cooking, speaking, etc.. because this program has meant so much to them.



When It Means A Little More...

Anyone can do an after-school program, work with community partners and get people ecstatic about fly fishing. That last example could be a stretch but stick with me.

What makes the Community Ministries Program, and yes even Faith on the Fly, special is by focusing on building relationships and creating opportunities to go on adventures together, that's what makes it mean a little more.



Faith on the Fly is another relationship building program that has people connecting who didn't know each other previously in such a cool and inspiring way. During the winter we introduce new people to our program through our Faith on the Fly "Newbie" fly fishing group and Fly Tying 101. Our Fly Tying 201 is for those individuals who have gone through our 101 program and use more advanced techniques. The cool thing is that the 201 group is a very close group that truly enjoy spending time with each other and the guide Matt Kettner, who volunteers his time because he is part of this group now too. No matter how you get connected to the FOTF Program, there is an opportunity to make friends, have fun and belong. This year we had our first Christmas Party where we all went to celebrate together, and it was so much fun to look around the room and just watch people enjoying being together. It was truly a beautiful thing to see.

When it means a little more than just providing the program, we have the potential to change lives. We build communities and connect people to a meaningful group that share a common interest. That's when the good stuff happens and is a spark for more groups, more people and more ideas to bring people together.

Lent 2026 Reading Plan

*Printed copies are available in the Narthex.

Goal: Read all 4 Gospels during Lent

Total chapters: 89

Reading days: 40

Start: Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

End: Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026

Sundays: Rest/reflection days (no readings)

Week 1

Wednesday February 18: Matthew 1–2

Thursday February 19: Matthew 3–4

Friday February 20: Matthew 5–6

Saturday February 21: Matthew 7–8

Monday February 23: Matthew 9–10

Tuesday February 24: Matthew 11–12

Sunday February 22: Rest

Week 2

Wednesday February 25: Matthew 13–14

Thursday February 26: Matthew 15–16

Friday February 27: Matthew 17–18

Saturday February 28: Matthew 19–20

Monday March 2: Matthew 21–22

Tuesday March 3: Matthew 23–24

Sunday March 1: Rest

Week 3

Wednesday March 4: Matthew 25–26

Thursday March 5: Matthew 27–28

Friday March 6: Mark 1–3

Saturday March 7: Mark 4–6

Monday March 9: Mark 7–8

Tuesday March 10: Mark 9–10

Sunday March 8: Rest

Week 4

Wednesday March 11: Mark 11–12

Thursday March 12: Mark 13–14

Friday March 13: Mark 15–16

Saturday March 14: Luke 1–2

Monday March 16: Luke 3–4

Tuesday March 17: Luke 5–6

Sunday March 15: Rest

Week 5

Wednesday March 18: Luke 7–8

Thursday March 19: Luke 9–10

Friday March 20: Luke 11–12

Saturday March 21: Luke 13–14

Monday March 23: Luke 15–16

Tuesday March 24: Luke 17–18

Sunday March 22: Rest

Week 6

Wednesday March 25: Luke 19–20

Thursday March 26: Luke 21–22

Friday March 27: Luke 23–24

Saturday March 28: John 1–2

Monday March 30: John 3–5

Tuesday March 31: John 6–8

Sunday March 29: Rest (Palm Sunday)

Holy Week

Wednesday April 1: John 9–10

Thursday April 2: John 11–13 (Maundy Thursday)

Friday April 3: John 14–18 (Good Friday)

Saturday April 4: John 19–21 (Holy Saturday)

Sunday April 5: Rest (Easter Sunday)

