

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH: PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 24



During worship on May 24, we will observe Pentecost! On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

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Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

-John 20: 21-22 (CEB)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

...continued from page 1

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

The color red is historical connected to Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). Join the celebration by wearing red to worship on May 24 as we say, "Happy Birthday, Church!"

DISCIPLESHIP

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS GROUP MEETS MONDAYS

The Spiritual Friends small group continues to meet on Mondays at 11 a.m. and welcomes new participants. Led by Pastor Suzanne, the group reads and reflects on scripture together to deepen our relationships with God and each other.

Our current focus is how the resurrection hope of Easter propels us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously amid our fractured world.

If you have questions about Spiritual Friends or would like to learn more, reach out to Pastor Suzanne at suzanne@trinitylafayette.org.

Photo caption: Participants of Trinity's Spiritual Friends small group gather in the Great Room during Lent for study and discussion.



MISSIONS & JUSTICE

MAY MISSION & JUSTICE FOCUS



May 17, 2026

Miracle Sunday!

Support the Endowment for Theological Education Outside the United States!

On Sunday, May 17, United Methodists from all around the world are joining together to take a special, one-time Miracle Sunday offering to help raise up 500 new pastors across the Central Conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

In some of these areas, less than 5% of clergy have theological degrees, and this offering will help close that gap by funding theological education. The goal is to support 500 clergy for a year. When we unite our prayers, our generosity, and our hearts, God works miracles. Trinity's participation will not only bless those far beyond our local community — it will also deepen our connection with the worldwide body of Christ. You can give to this special offering from now to May 17 by marking your special giving "Miracle Sunday offering."

PRAYER VIGILS FOR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

Did you know that our Indiana Conference has been holding occasional prayer vigils to support our immigrant neighbors at our local detention facilities? One of the sites of these prayer vigils is the Miami Correctional Facility near Bunker Hill. These are coordinated by Indiana clergy and all leaders and people of faith from around the state are welcome to attend. If you are interested in more information, contact Pastor Suzanne.



Photo caption: Indiana UMC clergy lead a prayer vigil outside of the Miami Correctional Facility.

MISSIONS & JUSTICE

THE HOUSING CRISIS AND LOCAL HOMELESSNES

By Pastor Suzanne

Although I spend time at Lafayette Urban Ministry every week and stay abreast of opportunities for Trinity to make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable neighbors, I'm always learning new things. Here are highlights from the April 19 event about homelessness in our community held at First Christian Church, featuring Wes Tillet from LUM and Jennifer Layton from Lafayette Transitional Housing Center (LTHC).

- The rate of homelessness has tripled in our community the past couple of years due to the housing crisis – there are simply not enough homes to house everyone, and those who are vulnerable end up suffering the most.
- The largest growing homeless demographic are older women with disabilities.
- People aren't homeless because they are lazy or just don't want to work. They have suffered a crisis, i.e. job loss, relationship loss, medical emergency, disability, mental illness.
- When people are homeless, every day is the worst day of their life, and they have no home to go to at the end of the day to relieve their stress. How would that feel?
- People sleeping on the sidewalks in Lafayette have been yelled out, urinated on, and physically attacked. The stigma is real.
- A one-bedroom in our community rents for around \$1,100 a month. People on a fixed income or making \$14 an hour can't afford that.
- If you've been evicted, you are blacklisted and it is almost impossible to find housing.
- At LTHC, people who are unhoused can get support at their day center and take a shower, get a meal, and get on a wait-list for housing support, based on their vulnerability. They can get support for finding work and landlords.
- LTHC maintains about 400 housing units, but it's just not enough to meet the demand.
- LTHC has four medical respite beds for people who need medical attention.
- Criminalizing homelessness does not help solve the housing crisis.
- LUM is expanding their emergency shelter to add 30 beds to help get people off the streets.
- Continuing the "Beyond the Bridge" initiative, a housing specialist from Milwaukee will visit Greater Lafayette in June to lead a meeting on creating local solutions.
- Tillet & Layton: We need the will to find a solution to the housing crisis here – Who will step up and help?

TRINITY UMC
Parents'
Night Out

**FRIDAY, MAY 8
FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

**Need a night out? We've got you covered!
Pastor Mack and other Trinity volunteers will
have food, games, and activities for your kids in
Trinity's Great Room!**



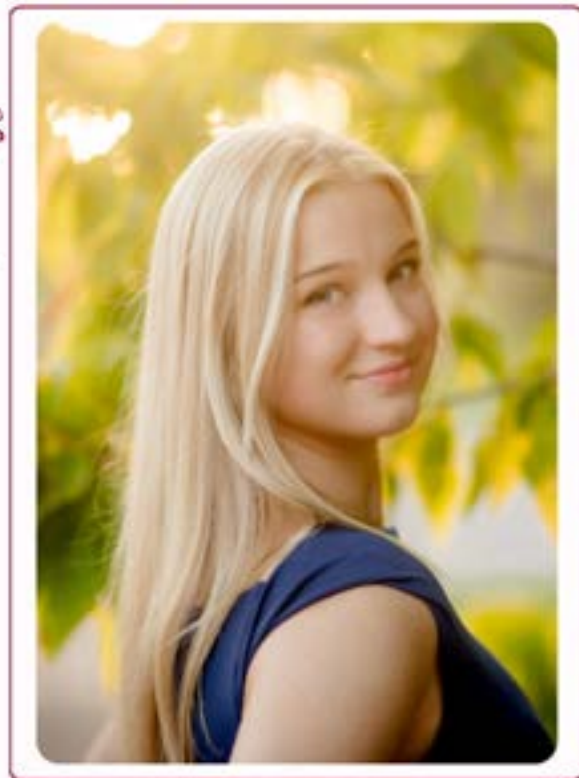
**Register by texting or emailing Pastor Mack:
Phone: 765-603-9339
Email: mack@trinitylafayette.org**

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 GRADUATES: GRADUATION SUNDAY IS MAY 10

On Sunday, May 10, Trinity will be celebrating our 2026 graduates with our annual Graduation Sunday. If you or a member of your family is graduating from any level of education in 2026, reach out to Pastor Mack Owings via email (mack@trinitylafayette.org) as soon as possible so that we can acknowledge that achievement on May 10.

Juliet Shaeffer, who has been serving as our sound board technician for the last couple years, is a 2026 graduate. Juliet and her family have invited Trinity to celebrate her at her graduation party. See the invitation below and join us in praying for Juliet as she embarks on a new journey at Purdue this fall!



Juliet Shaeffer Graduation Party



From 1:30 to 3:30 pm



Saturday, May 23rd



Trinity UMC- 509 North St,
Lafayette IN



GOOD FRIDAY RECAP

SEE PHOTOS FROM OUR 2026 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

On April 3, we observed Good Friday with interactive prayer stations designed by Pastor Mack before Pastor Ben led us in a traditional Tenebrae service. The prayer stations allow participants of all ages to engage multiple senses as they explore the Passion story in a new way. Participants move through the stations in any order and at their own pace. Scripture passages, brief reflections, and artwork are incorporated to deepen the theological meaning as well. Check out the pictures below to see some of the stations in action!



Mel and Jan Shoaf at the Hand and Foot Washing station.



Weng Chew and Chew Chin Phua imagine a better world at the Righteous Anger station.



Micah Cassidy grieves that which causes suffering at the Crucifixion station.



Kristi Turcich flipping a table at the Righteous Anger station.



Kristi and Chris Turcich and Matt Carpenter smelling scents at the Anointed station.



Kay Frascoviak and Norma Jean Singley praying in color at the Triumphal Entry station.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

NEW PLANTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

Over the last two weekends we mulched the entire garden (located on the south side of the church) and planted onions, lettuce, carrots, peas, kale, broccoli, pak choi, Swiss chard, collard greens, brussle sprouts, arugula, rutabaga, and cabbage. This year we have the areas with plants marked off to reduce soil compaction. We also have new signs with instructions for the compost pile.

Everyone is welcome to harvest from the garden in the coming season and they are ESPECIALLY welcome to pull weeds whenever they see them.

If you have questions about our community garden, want to learn more, or would like to know how you can help, reach out to Trinity's garden coordinator Chris Barron (cnb101@bellsouth.net). We can always use extra help tending to our garden!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: WHAT TO KNOW & WHAT TO DO - MAY 5

On Tuesday, May 5 at 6: 30 p.m. We All Belong: Greater Lafayette will be hosting an event to learn about the impact of Christian Nationalism on Indiana, the nation, and our local communities. Rev. Dr. Steven Ivy a respected pastor, professor, and member of Religious Freedom Indiana and Christians Against Christian Nationalism will be speaking and audience questions are welcomed. This event will be held at First United Methodist Church at 1700 Mitch Daniels Boulevard in West Lafayette.

BIRTHDAYS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Monica McDougal	05/05
Jim Wells	05/05
Tammy Poor Schick	05/06
Bruce Delaplane	05/07
Kathy Manwaring	05/11
Mark Longfellow	05/17
Teddy Cassidy	05/21
Pam Delaplane	05/23
Reagan Jewell	05/23
Mike Riley	05/26
Cheryl Ruffner	05/26
Ben Cassidy	05/28
Judy Robbins	05/29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Is your birthday missing? We're sorry about that! Reach out to the church office, so we can update our records.



HOSPITALITY TEAMS:

BUILDING OPENERS

5/3: Mack Owings
5/10: Ben Cassidy
5/17: Nate Yoran
5/24: Chris Barron
5/31: Ryan Wynkoop

USHERS:

5/3: Chris Erwin
5/10: Chris Turcich
5/17: Matt Carpenter
5/24: Claudia Alenduff
5/31: Ryan Wynkoop

GREETERS:

5/3: Norma Jean Singley & Kay Franscoviak
5/10: Dinah Dalder
5/17: Norma Jean Singley & Kay Franscoviak
5/24: Jenny Taylor
5/31: Chris Erwin

FIND US ONLINE:



Website:

trinitylafayette.org

Facebook:

@TrinityUMC509

YouTube:

@trinityunitedmethodistchur1208

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9A Sunday School (GR) 10:30A Worship (Sanc)	4 11A Spiritual Friends (GR)	5 6:30P Christian Nationalism Talk (First UMC W. Laf)	6 6P Choir Practice (Choir Room)	7	8 5:30P Parents' Night Out (GR) PLEASE REGISTER W/ MACK	9
10 9A Sunday School (GR) 10:30A Worship (Sanc) NO SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH	11 11A Spiritual Friends (GR)	12 9A Staff Meeting (Office) 11:15A Fowler Study (Fowler Apts)	13 6P Choir Practice (Choir Room)	14	15	16
17 9A Sunday School (GR) 10:30A Worship (Sanc)	18 11A Spiritual Friends (GR)	19	20 6P Choir Practice (Choir Room)	21	22	23 1:30P Juliet Shaeffer Grad Party (GR)
24 9A Sunday School (GR) 10:30A Worship (Sanc) 31 10:30A Worship (Sanc)	25 OFFICE CLOSED: MEMORIAL DAY	26 9A Staff Meeting (Office) 11:15A Fowler Study (Fowler Apts)	27 6P Choir Practice (Choir Room)	28 6:30P Gov. Board (GR)	29	30



CONTACT US:

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

509 North Street
Lafayette, IN 47901
(765) 742-1288
info@trinitylafayette.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WORSHIP WITH US:

Sundays at 10: 30 a.m.

MISSION & VISION:

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision: Embracing all to experience and share God's love.

OUR TEAM:

Ben Cassiday, Senior Pastor

ben@trinitylafayette.org

Suzanne Clemenz, Associate Pastor

suzanne@trinitylafayette.org

Mack Owings, Youth & Families Pastor

mack@trinitylafayette.org

Monica Shaeffer, Music

music@trinitylafayette.org

Monica McDougal, Admin

monica@trinitylafayette.org

Susie Riley, Finance

finance@trinitylafayette.org

Emily Smith, Young Adults

emsheetz10@gmail.com

Chris Barron, Garden

cnb101@bellsouth.net