TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER **JULY 2026**

SUMMER BONFIRE RESCHEDULED: JOIN US JULY 1

All are invited to a summer bonfire on the South Lawn on Wednesday, July 1 beginning at 7 p.m. (weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair and join us for a fun time with friends! If you don't have a lawn chair, you can use one of Trinity's folding chairs! Pastor Mack will be supplying the fixings for hot dogs and s'mores! Questions? Reach out to Pastor Mack via email at mack@trinitylafayette.org.

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Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all.

-James 1:17 (CEB)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Ben

There is power in stories. Stories have influence over us. They help to convey ideas and emotions, lessons and wisdom. They have the power to bring people together as well as drive them apart. Stories stick with us — whether it's a ghost story that was shared around a campfire, a book that we remember reading back in middle school, or that one time when you were a kid that your mom keeps bringing up to everyone around. A good story helps us to learn how to be more compassionate, motivated, forward thinking... more human.

Jesus knew the power of stories and their ability to stick with us. Many of the best stories don't outright tell you the lesson — they make you think, feel, and even intuit your way through them. In the midst of that discovery process, when you do come to the meaning and purpose of the story, it's as though you have integrated it into your very self. Jesus managed to share some real head-scratching stories to his disciples and those that were around him. Whether he was talking about sowing seeds, prodigal sons, or good samaritans, he was sharing these stories that made those around him see themselves in a different light.

Take the story of the Good Samaritan, for instance. As an outsider simply hearing this story, it is easy to be aghast that the priest and the religious Jew simply ignored their fellow man in need. Then for this samaritan to come along and do the right thing — they had heard and even internalized stories that told them that samaritans would never do the right thing! Not only were they being challenged to look past their taught hatred for a whole people group, they were also having to grapple with their own people group not always doing the right thing like they expected them to. They had to have asked theirselves the question, "Well I'm a Jew... but in what ways have I overlooked my fellow sibling?"

At the end of the day, the stories that we tell ourselves help us to define who we believe we are — so if we change the story we tell ourselves, we can help ourselves become the people that God originally intended for us to be. The stories that Jesus shared were, in many cases, hard hitting. At the same time, they give us hope as we realize that our stories are still evolving. Even today, we realize that the story of Jesus is still ongoing, still turning pages, as it connects with the stories of our own lives.

As the summer continues, consider thinking about the story that you have told yourself over the years. Who have you told yourself you are? Have you considered that part of your character is a beloved child of God? What kind of influence has God had on your character arc? How have those around me contributed to my story?

May we be a people who see how God has transformed the stories of our community as well as ourselves and continue in the narrative direction that God has had in mind for us even before those famous words "Once upon a time" arrived on the page.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN THE STREET: JULY 5

In place our our regular worship service, join Trinity and our friends at our neighboring downtown churches St. John's and First Christian for a morning of cooperative worship on Sunday, July 5 on 6th Street at 10 a.m. The entire offering collected that morning will benefit Lafayette Urban Ministry. To give to Trinity specifically, you will need to bring your offering the following Sunday, July 12, mail your offering to the church office, or give online through Vanco.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH IN JULY

Our next Second Sunday Lunch will be after church on Sunday, July 12 in the Great Room.

These lunches are an opportunity to gather together with our church family for connection and fellowship. You are invited to bring a dish to share if you can Not sure what to bring? We can always use more main dishes!

If you cannot contribute a dish, you are still welcome to join us! We hope to see you all there. If you have questions, reach out to the church office.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

LADIES NIGHT OUT

In June, some Trinity women gathered at Tick Tock Tavern for our first Ladies' Night Out off the summer. Check out a photo from the event at right! Join us in July for the next Ladies' Night Out on Tuesday, July 14 at 6 p.m. at Arni's – Market Square (2200 Elmwood Ave. in Lafayette).

Call Lisa Brown at 765-426-3839 if you can join us or email Monica M. in the church office (monica@trinitylafayette.org) by Sunday, July 12. To request assistance with the meal, reach out to Pastor Suzanne by calling or texting her at 765-430-4648 by no later than Sunday evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE

SUMMER VACATION DATES FOR OUR STAFF

Please take note of the following vacation dates and who the on-call pastor is during those times:

- **June 28 thru July 3:** Pastor Ben out, Pastors-on-Call: Suzanne and Mack
- **July 10 thru July 17:** Pastor Ben out, Pastors-on-Call: Suzanne and Mack
- **July 18 thru July 25:** Pastor Mack and Monica M. out, Pastor-on-Call: Ben
- **July 20 thru July 27:** Pastor Suzanne out, Pastor-on-Call: Ben

While Pastor Mack and Monica M. are out on vacation, the office hours will be different. The office will be open Monday, July 20 and Thursday, July 23 from 9 a.m. to noon but closed on Tuesday, July 21.

DISCIPLESHIP

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS: SUMMER CONNECTION

Trinity's Spiritual Friends group, which meets on scheduled Mondays at 11am through the summer, welcomes everyone who would like to join us (regularly or on occasion) for coffee, fellowship, prayer, and thoughtful reflection on scripture. In July, the group will meet only on July 6 and July 13.

EVENTS

TRINITY CELEBRATES OUR SENIORS

Trinity honored our esteemed seniors on Saturday, June 21 at our annual senior luncheon, an event that also highlighted the 250th anniversary of our nation. The 13 seniors who were present represented 963 years of wisdom! We enjoyed a picnic-style meal of pulled-pork sandwiches, coleslaw, mac'n cheese, green bean casserole, baked beans, and potato salad -- topped off with homemade brownies and cookies and ice cream sundaes. Evana Shaeffer entertained with her beautiful voice and guitar playing (and a duet with mom Monica). Trinity's esteemed seniors are truly one of our greatest treasures! Check out pictures from the luncheon below.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SAVE-THE-DATE: CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES THIS FALL

Trinity's choir takes a bit of a break from rehearsing in the summer, but fret not! If you love to sing and would like to join our choir for periodic performances, regular choir practice will resume after labor day with the first practice back being on Wednesday, September 8 at 6 p.m. in the choir room on the 2nd floor. In the meantime, learn more about music ministry at Trinity by reaching out to our music director, Monica Shaeffer, music@trinitylafayette.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: RUNNING THE SOUND BOARD DURING SERVICES THIS FALL

We could use your help operating the sound board during church services this fall. This is a fairly simple job that really helps our staff out during worship. If you would like to learn more or would like to sign-up for a Sunday, reach out to Monica Shaeffer via email, music@trinitylafayette.org.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

TRINITY'S ONGOING STAINED GLASS RESTORATION PROJECT

The restoration of our elegant stained glass windows continues, with sponsorship by Sacred Places of Indiana and generous donations from our congregation. Phase 3 of the project included restoration of all of the windows of the east wall of the sanctuary and two windows of the Great Room. We have submitted our final report on Phase 3 to Sacred Places, so they can replenish much of the cost of this part of the project in our Window Restoration Fund. We have applied for another grant from Sacred Places to support Phase 4 of the project, which will include restoration of the windows on the southwest wall of the church, which faces the garden on the south lawn plus another two windows in the Great Room. That work will be done in 2027, if the grant is approved. We are thankful to the congregation for their support of this project. Saving these works of art by artist Edna Browning Ruby is important to our church, the Centennial Historic District, and to the Greater Lafayette community.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Claudia Alenduff	**07/02**
Kristi Turcich	**07/09**
Quinn Clemenz	**07/10**
Lynn Stewart	**07/10**
Becky Newell	**07/12**
George Newell	**07/16**
Juliet Shaeffer	**07/23**
Elaine Cuppy	**07/27**
Wanda Fisher	**07/27**

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
7/5: Worship in the Street
7/12: Ben Cassiday
7/19: Nate Yoran
7/26: Chris Barron

USHERS:
7/5: Worship in the Street
7/12: Chris Turcich
7/19: Matt Carpenter
7/26: Claudia Alenduff

GREETERS:
7/5: Worship in the Street
7/12: Chris Erwin
7/19: Dinah Dalder
7/26: Jeff Caster

Volunteer for our hospitality teams by reaching out to the church office!

FIND US ONLINE:

Website:
trinitylafayette.org

Facebook:
@TrinityUMC509

YouTube:
@trinityunitedmethodistchur1208

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 **7P** Bonfire (Lawn)	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 **10A** Worship in the Street (6th Street)	**6** **11A** Spiritual Friends: Monday Connection (GR)	**7** **11:15A** Fowler Bible Study (Fowler Apts.)	**8** **6:30P** Theology on Tap (9Irish – Lafayette)	**9**	**10**	**11**
12 **9A** Sunday School (GR) **10:30A** Worship (Sanc) **11:30A** 2nd Sun Lunch (GR)	**13** **11A** Spiritual Friends: Monday Connection (GR)	**14** **6P** Ladies' Night Out (Arni's - Market Square)	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
19 **9A** Sunday School (GR) **10:30A** Worship (Sanc)	**20** **OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO NOON**	**21** **OFFICE CLOSED**	**22** **6:30P** Theology on Tap (9Irish – Lafayette)	**23** **OFFICE OPEN 9 AM TO NOON**	**24**	**25**
26 **9A** Sunday School (GR) **10:30A** Worship (Sanc)	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	

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