

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**THE MESSENGER**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

**LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK**  
MARCH 29 THRU APRIL 5



Holy Week will be here before we know it! It begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29 and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 5. As has become our tradition, there will be a service and prayer stations on Good Friday, April 3. Pastors Ben and Mack are teaming up again this year to bring us our Good Friday prayer stations and service. This service will be held at 6:30 p.m. The service will begin with Pastor Mack's famous interactive prayer stations designed to engage participants of all ages uses multiple senses. Then, Pastor Ben will lead participants in a traditional  
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***He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven."***

*-Matthew 26: 27-28 (CEB)*

# EASTER AT TRINITY

*...continued from page 1*

Tenebrae service. During the Tenebrae service, Pastor Mack will have a lesson and activities for any kids in attendance. All are welcome to join us as we close out the Lenten season and welcome Easter.

Then, all are welcome to join us on Easter Sunday, April 5, for worship at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary.

## EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

ORDERS DUE SUNDAY, MARCH 15 – CASH OR CHECK ONLY

Tulips will decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase a tulip, please fill out an order form at church and submit payment via cash or check into the offering plate or by dropping off in the office. Order forms will not be accepted later than Sunday, March 15. Each tulip will cost \$10.75.

Please make arrangements to pick up and take home all tulips you order after Easter Sunday worship. If you are buying in someone's honor, make arrangements with them to receive their tulip.

## EASTER OFFERING

BENEFITTING THE WESLEY FOUNDATION

Our friends at the Wesley Foundation, Purdue's United Methodist campus ministry, are in the midst of a capital campaign to help fund the completion of their new home. In 2024, Wesley sold their old property to Purdue in exchange for an amount of money and a parcel of land on which to build a new location. Their new build is coming along nicely (you can see a rendering at right), but they still need to raise additional funds to complete their funding. This Easter, Trinity's offering will support this campaign. More information on how to give will be in your bulletins and e-blasts throughout March!



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC DURING WORSHIP

LAFAYETTE FLUTE CHOIR AND DULCIMER GATHERING

Trinity is thrilled to welcome the Lafayette Flute Choir during worship on Sunday, March 8 and Dulcimer Gathering during worship on Sunday, March 22. Join us to hear their musical gifts as they enliven our worship further!

## SING WITH US THIS EASTER

REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6 P.M.



Do you love to sing? Are you passionate about church music? Want to meet new people or try something new? Monica Shaeffer, Trinity's music director, invites all who love church music to join Trinity's choir for a short-term commitment singing with our Easter choir! Rehearsals are at 6 p.m. in the Choir Room on the second floor. If you are interested, reach out to Monica Shaeffer to learn more at [music@trinitylafayette.org](mailto:music@trinitylafayette.org).

# DISCIPLESHIP

## SPIRITUAL FRIENDS SHARE LIFE & FAITH

In February, Trinity's Spiritual Friends small group spent a few weeks pondering how our expectations of perfection can affect our spiritual lives. On the following page is the poem prayer by Joyce Rupp that we read each week. The Spiritual Friends small group, facilitated by Pastor Suzanne, is looking forward to our special Lenten study in March. *continued on next page...*



# DISCIPLESHIP

...continued from page 3

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO SEE THE FLAWS OF MYSELF  
AND STOP BEING ALARMED  
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO HALT MY DRIVE FOR PERFECTION  
AND TO ACCEPT MY BLEMISHES  
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RECEIVE SLOWLY EVOLVING GROWTH  
THE KIND THAT COMES IN GOD'S OWN GOOD TIME  
AND PAYS NO HEED TO MY PANICKY PUSHING  
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO EMBRACE MY HUMANNESS  
TO LOVE MY INCOMPLETENESS  
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO CHERISH THE UNWANTED  
TO WELCOME THE UNKNOWN  
TO TREASURE THE UNFULFILLED  
IF I WAIT TO BE PERFECT BEFORE I LOVE MYSELF  
I WILL ALWAYS BE UNSATISFIED AND UNGRATEFUL  
IF I WAIT UNTIL ALL THE FLAWS, CHIPS, AND CRACKS DISAPPEAR  
I WILL BE THE CUP THAT STANDS ON THE SHELF AND IS NEVER USED

## MISSIONS & JUSTICE

### TRINITY PROVIDES LUM SHELTER MEAL

On Thursday, February 5, Trinity fired up our kitchen and prepared a meal of chicken pot pie and green beans for the LUM emergency shelter, feeding a full house of 48 neighbors that night. Thanks to all who donated groceries, helped prepare the meal, and went to LUM to serve. The shelter guests were grateful, and we received this note from Shelter Manager Mrs. Lee Blackman: "Thank you to you and your outstanding team for preparing that wonderful meal. Thank you for displaying the character of God."



# MISSIONS & JUSTICE

## NOTES OF THANKS

FROM LUM AND GREATER LAFAYETTE FAMILY SHELTER

Dear friends,

You are a difference maker! Because of the kindness expressed through your financial generosity, Lafayette Urban Ministry is able to be a lifeline of help and hope to people in need in Greater Lafayette. **In 2025, Trinity UMC gave \$16,714.90 to LUM!** Thank you! Your generosity truly restores human dignity and we thank God for YOU! We have so many neighbors who are blessed through the Good Samaritan emergency fund. LUM can only share out of what we have. Thank you for your ongoing support, Trinity UMC!

*~Wes Tillet, Executive Director*

On behalf of everyone at Greater Lafayette Family Shelter, thank you for the extraordinary Christmas offering you chose to share. **Your kindness provided over \$7,000 in support of families experiencing homelessness.** This is a significant gift for any congregation, and we feel the weight of it not only in dollars, but in what it represents: trust, compassion, and a community choosing to stand with children and parents during some of the hardest moments of their lives.

Trinity's care for families is not new. Trinity has been part of this mission from the very beginning, hosting the first meeting of community leaders and volunteers who wanted to do something about families experiencing homelessness. The support continued by gathering volunteers who helped form what became Family Promise in Lafayette, providing meals, and even opening your building so families had a safe place to sleep before we had a shelter of our own. That kind of long-term commitment is rare, and it has shaped the story of shelter and stability for families in our community.

It is that same love and spirit of community that led me to be baptized at Trinity and to remain proud to call Trinity my church, even while living farther away. To see Trinity continue, year after year, live out the Gospel through tangible care for neighbors is deeply moving. Faith and deeds are inseparable and you demonstrate that beautifully.

Your generosity is already helping real families. In 2025, we served 72 people across 22 families, including 45 children and youth. We provided 5,274 bednights of shelter, and the average stay per family was 80 days; a stark reminder of how long it can take to secure safe housing, stabilize income, and rebuild after crisis. Your Christmas offering supports that full journey of safe shelter, basic needs, and the steady, practical help that allows families to move from surviving to stable.

Please know this: when a family arrives at our door frightened, exhausted, and...

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# MISSIONS & JUSTICE

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unsure what comes next, our church is part of the answer they receive. You are part of the welcome, the warmth, the dignity, and the hope.

Thank you for your faithfulness for nearly two decades. Thank you for choosing children and families. Thank you for continuing to show what love looks like in action.

With deep gratitude,  
*Steven Flowers, Executive Director | Greater Lafayette Family Shelter*



## FAT TUESDAY RECAP

On Tuesday, February 17, Trinity kicked off the Lenten season with our annual Fat Tuesday Potluck. Those in attendance brought decadent dishes to share and after our meal, Pastor Ben led us in a brief service with the imposition of ashes.



# FAMILY MINISTRY

## WHAT TRINITY'S KIDS ARE UP TO

BY PASTOR MACK OWINGS

Recently during Children's Church, we learned about Jesus calling the disciples from the Gospel of Matthew. In this story, Jesus says to the disciples, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." As part of our lesson, we worked together in a fishing activity, a picture of which you can see at right.

If you'd like to learn more about Children's Church at Trinity or want to get involved reach out to me via email at [mack@trinitylafayette.org](mailto:mack@trinitylafayette.org).



# FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

## SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AFTER CHURCH



Bring a dish to share and stick around after worship on Sunday, March 8 for our next Second Sunday Lunch. These take place every second Sunday in the Great Room unless otherwise noted. Not sure what to bring? We can always use more main dishes.

All are welcome at this afternoon of food and fellowship!

# BIRTHDAYS

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Brian Dalder	03/02
Jamie Volom	03/02
Chris Jewell	03/04
Jennifer Gray	03/14
Matt Yoran	03/15
George Morgan	03/17
Brook Cederquist Galema	03/24
Chris Lilly	03/28
Donna Pusey	03/28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

HELLO  
SPRING

## HOSPITALITY TEAMS:

### BUILDING OPENERS

3/1: Mack Owings  
3/8: Ben Cassiday  
3/15: Nate Yoran  
3/22: Chris Barron  
3/29: Ryan Wynkoop

### USHERS:

3/1: Chris Erwin  
3/8: Chris Turcich  
3/15: Matt Carpenter  
3/22: Claudia Alenduff  
3/29: Ryan Wynkoop

### GREETERS:

3/1: Claudia Alenduff  
3/8: Jenny Taylor  
3/15: Norma Singley &  
Kay Franscoviak  
3/22: Norma Singley &  
Kay Franscoviak  
3/29: Jeff Caster

## FIND US ONLINE:



### Website:

[trinitylafayette.org](http://trinitylafayette.org)

### Facebook:

@TrinityUMC509

### YouTube:

@trinityunitedmethodistchur1208

# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>9A</b> Sunday School (GR) <b>10:30A</b> Worship (Sanc)	<b>2</b> <b>11A</b> Spiritual Friends (GR)	<b>3</b> <b>9A</b> Staff Meeting (Office) <b>11:15A</b> Fowler Study (Fowler Apts)	<b>4</b> <b>6P</b> Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9A</b> Sunday School (GR) <b>10:30A</b> Worship (Sanc) <b>11:30A</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch (GR)	<b>9</b> <b>11A</b> Spiritual Friends (GR)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6P</b> Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9A</b> Sunday School (GR) <b>10:30A</b> Worship (Sanc)	<b>16</b> <b>11A</b> Spiritual Friends (GR)	<b>17</b> <b>9A</b> Staff Meeting (Office) <b>11:15A</b> Fowler Study (Fowler Apts)	<b>18</b> <b>6P</b> Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9A</b> Sunday School (GR) <b>10:30A</b> Worship (Sanc)	<b>23</b> <b>11A</b> Spiritual Friends (GR)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6P</b> Choir Practice (Choir Room)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>PALM/PASSION SUNDAY</b> <b>9A</b> Sunday School (GR) <b>10:30A</b> Worship (Sanc)	<b>30</b> <b>11A</b> Spiritual Friends (GR)	<b>31</b> <b>9A</b> Staff Meeting (Office) <b>11:15A</b> Fowler Study (Fowler Apts)				



## 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*