

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting People to God and One Another

**March 2026
NEWSLETTER
Pastor Lisa Gilbert
608-297-2326**

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MARCH

- Word Worms
- Ruby's Pantry
- Holy Week Services
 - Palm Sunday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday

REGULAR FEATURES

- Calendar
- Church Finances
- Prayer concerns
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Mission News



Sunday March 29 Palm Sunday Service 10:00 AM

**Thursday April 2 Maundy Thursday
Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00 PM
Service 7:00 PM**

Friday April 3 Good Friday Service 2:00 PM

Sunday April 5 Easter Sunday Service 10:00 AM

This year Holy Week is March 29 through April 5. There are several opportunities for us to come together for worship and fellowship during that important week in the life of the church. We will walk with Jesus from his entrance to Jerusalem through his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please invite your friends and family to join us that week.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Work will soon be beginning to prepare the shop for the upcoming summer season – new displays, new items.



We will start accepting donations on Monday mornings in April. We ask that all things be gently used and clean. We will then open the shop the first weekend in May for sales.

TRUSTEES REPORT

The trustees have been collecting donations to replace the flooring in the narthex and the fellowship hall. We finally have enough money to begin the project. The contracts have been signed and the project is scheduled to begin.

- March 19. All the things in the fellowship hall and the narthex will be moved out on that day. This is a big job, if you would like to help please let Kurt Kruger trustee chair know.
- Friday March 20 carpet removal will be done.
- Monday thru Thursday March 23 – 26 the epoxy flooring the fellowship hall will be done – there will be no walking on the floor those 4 days.
- Friday March 27 the carpet in the narthex will be put down.

A HUGE thank you to all who have donated and helped make this happen.





Every year when Lent begins, many Christians choose to give something up. For some, it is chocolate or sweets. For others, it is social media, television, or unnecessary spending. And every once in a while, some brave people give up that caffeinated elixir of life otherwise known as coffee.

This year, I am one of those people.

I made the decision to give up coffee almost haphazardly, believing that it wouldn't be too hard. And then the first morning arrived. It turns out that I had not fully appreciated just how faithfully coffee has accompanied my life — early mornings, sermon writing, long meetings, the quiet moments before the day begins, and anytime I feel chilly. And honestly, trying to replace coffee with tea just doesn't do it for me. The first few days of Lent have revealed something important: I may have relied on coffee a bit more than I realized. But that realization is precisely the point. Lent is not about proving our willpower. It is not meant to make us miserable for forty days. At its heart, Lent is about making room.

On Ash Wednesday, we were reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. The ashes tell the truth about our humanity. They remind us that we are not self-sufficient, not invincible, not meant to live disconnected from God. They invite us to humility. They invite us to return. When we give something up for Lent, we are practicing that same “returning to God” in a very tangible way. So much of our lives is filled with noise and distraction. Our days are crowded with responsibilities, notifications, entertainment, and endless to-do lists. None of these things are necessarily bad. But they can quietly consume the space where prayer, reflection, and attentiveness to God might otherwise grow. Giving something up creates a

small emptiness in our routine. And that emptiness is intentional.

Each time I walk past the coffee maker and feel the tug of habit, I am given a choice. I can grumble (and I will admit, there have been moments) or I can turn that moment into prayer. I can let the twitchy absence of caffeine remind me why I made the commitment in the first place. And in those moments, I can whisper, “Lord, I want You more.”

And perhaps that is what Lent does best. It reveals our attachments - even the small, ordinary ones - and gently asks us to consider what holds our hearts. In that way, what we give up becomes less important than what we gain. We gain awareness of how easily we are distracted. We gain clarity about what truly satisfies. We gain space to listen. We gain room for God.

Lent is a season of preparation. Just as we prepare our homes before welcoming a guest, Lent invites us to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter. We clear out what clutters. We lay down what competes for our attention. We loosen our grip on small comforts so that we can hold more tightly to Christ. The goal is not perfection. The goal is presence.

So if you notice me pausing just a little longer before I speak on Sunday morning, you will know why. I pray that this season will find all of us pausing more intentionally, making space, setting aside what distracts, and allowing God to fill the room we have opened in our hearts. And may whatever we give up this Lent lead us not toward emptiness, but toward deeper fullness, the fullness that comes from a heart reordered, refocused, and resting in Christ.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,
Pastor Lisa

Welcome
Spring



George & Linda Tanner
Lori Sveum
Jon Ebert
Marilyn Merrill

Jim, Shirley's son-in-law
Sam, friend of Bette Werdin
Vickie, friend of Cheryl Eilert
Elizabeth's grandchildren

WORD WORMS



The March book is My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry by Fredrick Backman. Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal.

When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

Please join us for some great conversation and a cup of coffee.



EASTER FLOWERS

We will be selling beautiful Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths, Mums and Daffodils to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. These 6.5" pots are \$10.00 each.

Please place your order on Sundays when the sheets are passed around. If you miss the sheets, please call the church office to place your order.



The March distribution for Ruby's Pantry will be Saturday March 28

from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. Please share with all your neighbors, this is a great opportunity to supplement their food stocks at the low price of \$25.00. Volunteers are always welcome to help. For more information, talk to Melissa.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Balance 12/31/25	12014.75
Receipts	20253.51
Paid Outs	<u>29163.57</u>
Checking Balance 1/31/26	3104.59



April
Newsletter
Deadline
March 18

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Do you have a hard time remembering your giving envelope each Sunday? Would you like to not have to write a check to the church each week? Then electronic giving might be for you. You can have funds transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church account – it can be done bi-monthly, monthly or quarterly.

Only regular offering to the general fund can be done electronically all special giving must be done manually. Its safe secure and easy just ask someone who already does it. If you are interested ask Vikki for a form to fill out.

GIVING ON LINE

You can now manage your giving online! Giving on line is easy and allows you to make a onetime donation or to set up recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at montellotumc.org .
2. Click on the Giving Tab
3. Click on the link
4. Follow the on screen directions to create an online profile and to schedule your giving.

DONATE FROM YOUR SMART PHONE

A mobile version of our online giving page is available to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the QR code you see here or in the Sunday bulletins using your smart phone's QR reader and locate the online giving page.



For questions on any of our electronic giving options please talk to Vikki in the church office

MISSION NEWS

We continue to collect our Noisy Cans on the second Sunday of the month. This month we will be collecting for Hope House, a facility to help women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. Save your change.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Kamryn Beaudry
- 22 Andy Zellmer
- 35 Mary Reiche
- 25 Jim Mack



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Cathy Crawford
Celebrating 17 years
March 6

Gene & Susan Hutchings
Celebrating 33 years
March 13

Dennis & Linda Daniels
Celebrating 55 years
March 19

Todd & Beth Turner
Celebrating 44 years
March 20

Wayne & Marcy Janssen
Celebrating 61 years
March 27

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

ROOSTER — The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn" (Mark 13:35, NIV).



March 2026

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 Worship 10 AM	2 AA 6 PM	3	4 Tops 2 PM	5 Al-Anon 5 PM	6 AA 7 PM	7																																																																																																		
8 Worship 10 AM	9 AA 6 PM	10 Quilt Group 8 AM	11 Tops 2 PM	12 Al-Anon 5 PM Kwik Trip 8 AM - Noon	13 AA 7 PM Word Worms 10 AM	14																																																																																																		
15 Worship 10 AM	16 AA 6 PM	17	18 Finance/Ad Council 6 PM Tops 2 PM	19 Al-Anon 5 PM	20 AA 7 PM	21																																																																																																		
				New Flooring Work																																																																																																				
22 Worship 10 AM	23 AA 6 PM	24	25 Tops 2 PM	26 Al-Anon 5 PM	27 AA 7 PM	28 Ruby's Pantry																																																																																																		
		New Flooring Work																																																																																																						
29 Worship 10 AM	30 AA 6 PM	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2026</th> <th colspan="7">Apr 2026</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Feb 2026							Apr 2026							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25								26	27	28	29	30		
Feb 2026							Apr 2026																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																											
							26	27	28	29	30																																																																																													