



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ROOTED IN CHRIST † GROWING IN FAITH
440 Maxwell Road • Eugene, Oregon 97404

February 2016 Tidings



Grace Notes

*“When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized...
Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the
Spirit into the wilderness.”*
~ Luke 3: 21, 4: 1

The season of Lent begins early this year! Lent (literally ‘springtime’) worship at Trinity begins with our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm on February 10. As a community, we begin our Lenten journey by remembering that we are mortal and God is God as the ashes are placed on our foreheads. The ashes are burnt palm leaves from our previous Palm Sunday worship. We are reminded throughout the season of Lent that our lives of faith are a continual journey as we become whole (holy) in Christ. That journey though takes us through wilderness places where we experience letting go of that which keeps us claiming our identity as God’s beloved.

Our worship theme this Lent is **“Come to the Waters...Claiming our Baptismal Identity.** During Lent we are invited to do some spring cleaning as we wash, cleanse, renew and remind ourselves that it is in the baptismal waters that our covenant with Christ begins. The faith walk begins at the baptismal font, proceeds into wilderness places towards the shadow of the cross to the empty tomb. It is a continual cycle of life, death and new life that we are called to over and over again as we follow in the way of Christ. So often in our ordinary lives we forget who we are and whose we are. Claiming our baptismal identity is reminding ourselves that we all beloved who are claimed by the grace of God so that we can ‘be-love’ for the world. .

Our lives of faith are dynamic, not static. This Lent we will open ourselves to claim our baptismal identity and live securely in our belovedness. Our weekly worship themes are: return, repent, claimed, covenant, community, relationship, threshold and service. This following prayer is the foundation for our Lenten journey:

*We come to the waters,
To renew our commitments
In each other’s presence
To Christ who has raised us,
And The Spirit who has birthed us,
And the Creator who is making all things new.*

I invite you to engage in one of the three traditional Lenten spiritual practices this year which are; 1) Prayer, 2) Fasting and 3) Giving our gifts. Be sure to check out the Lent resource where you can pick up several calendars that will guide you into these spiritual practices. Make a commitment to attend Sunday morning worship regularly this season so that when Easter morning dawns, you will truly be renewed to new life. Come to the Waters and experience how the Creator is making all things new!

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Roberta



I want to start by saying thank you for all the kind words I received following my installation as lay pastor on January 24th. It is great to be part of such a loving and caring community. I am proud to be your Associate Pastor and I look forward to working with all of you to extend that loving and caring spirit out into our community.

Part of being in community with each other means that we provide a safe place for each other to grow and be vulnerable together. One of the ways we accomplish this is through our Safe Sanctuaries Policy. This policy is more than just a procedural document to protect us in a law suit; rather, it's a way for us to prevent any abuse from happening within our church and a way to protect the survivors of abuse.

I know this isn't a pleasant topic to discuss, but in Christian community we don't shy away from the tough topics. In fact those topics are often some of the most important things we could be talking about. On Saturday, Jan. 30th Trinity UMC hosted a training on the Safe Sanctuaries Policy which was moderated by our conference Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator, Warren Light and the students and board members of the Wesley Center.

Along with the discussion over policy implementation we discussed bystander intervention and primary prevention. During the bystander intervention discussion we got to see situations acted out by UO and LCC students and learned how to intervene if we see something that doesn't seem right.

The most impactful segment of the training for me was the discussion on primary prevention with two professionals who work with survivors of abuse. Enacting primary prevention measures means that we change our intuitional, societal, and cultural norms that perpetuate cycles of abuse. It's a tall order, but as I have said in the past a God sized mission comes with God sized responsibility. Sexual abuse is an issue that we must confront if we are to be a truly safe community for all, especially the most vulnerable among us.

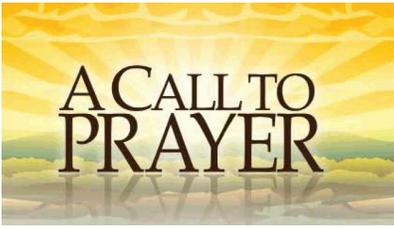
Changing cultural and societal norms sound like a big ask and it is, but there things we can do each and every day to shift our culture to a culture of love and equity. Here's a list of the things we can do starting right now.

- Promote healthy sexuality (through teaching and fostering open conversation)
- Teach and normalize consent
- Interrupt oppressive comments and behaviors
- Support, empower, and believe survivors of abuse, promote recovery options
- Use the scripture and our United Methodist Social Principles as a foundation for institutional change within the Church.

It is my prayer that we can have this conversation as a community and begin to make progress that has large impact.

In Peace,

Pastor Ryan



Trinity Call to Prayer

During two weeks in May, United Methodists from around the world will gather in Portland, Oregon for General Conference that occurs every four years. In the lead up to this momentous gathering in our state, the chapel at Trinity will be open for a time of prayer on **Sunday mornings at 10:00 am beginning on the first Sunday of Lent, February 14th**. In addition, there will opportunities to gather with other United Methodists in Eugene to dialogue and pray for the legislation that will be debated at General Conference. Those dates will be announced.

Rev. Brian Shimer shares this call to prayer: At a baptism and communion worship service back in 1727 in Herrnhutt, Germany, the Holy Spirit moved on the gathered people, differences dissolved, love and forgiveness flowed and as they would say, "Christ became central in their thinking." They decided to start praying, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week and that ongoing prayer meeting lasted for 100 years! Through the Moravian missionaries the Gospel traveled the world, even reaching John Wesley. All this happened through prayer, so, **pray that that same Spirit, Love, Unity, and centrality of Christ be true for all delegates, all volunteers in all the experiences at the 2016 General Conference.**



Town Hall Conversation February 14th following Worship

Be sure to stay after church for our quarterly Town Hall Conversation led by the Trinity Leadership Team. *There will be Chocolate!* You will receive an update on the soon to be completed consultation prescriptions, plans for a renewal leave this summer for Pastor Roberta, and whatever you have on your mind regarding the Trinity UMC community. Did we mention . . . *there will be chocolate.* See you there.

February Worship

February 7 th	<i>Scouting Sunday and Trinity Women Recognition</i>		Pastor Ryan
February 10 th	RETURN	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm</i>	
February 14 th	REPENT	<i>Luke 4: 10-13</i>	Pastor Roberta
February 21 st	CLAIMED	<i>Luke 13: 31-35</i>	Pastor Roberta
February 28 th	COVENANT	<i>Luke 13: 1-9</i>	Pastor Roberta



February Messy Church at Trinity UMC will be held Saturday, February 20th 4pm-6pm. Join us for fun activities, family crafts, celebration and dinner. It's fun for the entire family! The theme this month is **Sense God's Goodness** and we'll be making Bread Hearts, Good Scents Bags, Goodness Goggles and Portraits of Goodness. Pizza is on the menu for dinner but **please bring a salad or side dish to share.** If you've never been to Messy Church we invite you to come by and meet this wonderful group of families. Come check out what Messy Church is all about!



Trinity Ukulele Band Practice is held the first and third Sunday of each month following worship. It's never too late to join! Need a Ukulele? No problem! We have them to loan out to you. This is a beginning band so even if you've never played before this is the perfect place for you to learn. Call the church office with questions.

March Tidings Deadline is February 25th

We welcome your news and articles for upcoming newsletters. Please submit articles to Jennifer Williams in person or by email office@trinityumceugene.org. Thank you!



The Winter Activity Fair was great success! Many of you signed up for one or more events – thank you! If you missed the fair and would still like to join an event, the sign up sheets will be located on the bulletin board in the narthex until the end of February (unless the event has already taken place). Email Dave at dave97404chavez@yahoo.com with questions or call the church office.

Upcoming Activity Fair Events

Super Soul Monday with Rabbi Zaslow, February 8th @ 6:30pm. Join Pastor Roberta, who will also be attending this event at Temple Beth Israel. Rabbi Zaslow will conduct a mini seminar based on his award winning book, "Jesus: First Century Rabbi." \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

Join a group from Trinity UMC to see our own Ely Cleland star in **Churchill's production of Little Shop of Horrors on Friday, February 12th.** Meet in the Trinity parking lot at 6pm and carpool over to the school. Tickets will be purchased in advance so please sign up and pay Kathy Cleland before February 7th. \$10 per ticket.

Inspirational Sounds Dessert Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 13th 2pm at Northwood Christian Church. Enjoy gospel music by Inspirational Sounds and guest choir Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene. Door prizes and raffles prizes. Buy a piece a pie or take a whole one home!

Adult Coloring Class with Jennifer Williams will be held Saturday, Feb. 27th 11am-1pm in the Fireside Room. Bring your favorite pencils, markers or crayons and enjoy some good conversation while we relax and color. Coloring sheets will be provided but feel free to bring your own book.

Tape Worms Movie Night and Potluck for Adults is held the 2nd Friday of each month at the home of Mike and Jan Peterson. Bring a dish to share with others at 7pm and then watch a movie together with friends.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group is held every Thursday at 1pm at the home of Lorraine Robinson. Please bring a dish to share with others. Don't knit? No problem! We invite you to come by and enjoy some great food and conversation. Call the church office for Lorraine's address.

Ukulele Band Practce is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month after worship. We are a beginners band so all levels of experience are welcome. Need a uke? No problem! Call the church office and we will get you one to use at no charge.



Lane Blood Center will be holding a Blood Drive at River Road Park on Saturday, February 9th 2:30pm-5:30pm. Each single donation can help up to three Lane County patients. Contact Lane Blood Center to schedule an appointment. You must be 16 years of age to donate and weight at least 110 pounds and be in good physical condition. Save a life – donate blood!



Trinity UMC Movie Night will be held Friday, March 4th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we will be showing *The Lorax*. Bring a snack to share with others and a comfy chair – please feel free to invite a few friends to join us! Movie Nights at Trinity UMC are always fun!



Couples Classis Run or Walk – Join others in the community for the 39th Annual Couples Classic walk and road run on Saturday, February 13th at 9:30am at River Road Park. This classic foot race features a flat, fast 5k course through the neighborhoods surrounding the park and Trinity UMC. There is also a non-competitive fitness walk available. Lots of prize drawings, Mo's Clam chowder for participants and T-shirts. Register before Feb. 11th by dropping by the park office. Cost is \$15-\$25 depending on the package you choose.

Financial Corner

Condensed Statement

As of 12/31/215

Income:	<u>YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET YTD</u>
Pledges & Plate	\$137,698.00	\$144,800.00
Rental Income	\$37,359.00	\$36,668.00
Other Income	\$12,394.00	\$6,652.00
Total Income	\$187,451.00	\$188,120.00
Total Expenses	\$189,198.00	\$202,066.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$-1,747.00	\$ -13,946.00

February Thank Offering will go to Boy & Girl Scouts

Trinity UMC contributed **\$5468.00** to
Shared Ministries in 2015

We collected enough items to **assemble 57 UMCOR Health Kits** and we **raised \$233.00** to cover shipping and toothpaste – **Thank you!!**

We have raised \$13,301.45 for the Fellowship Hall Roofing Project - Our Goal is \$20,000

Thank You!

February Birthdays 4th Gary Wildish, 8th Easton Stephens, 9th Bill Walker, 10th Louise Smith, 17th Kristyn Stephens, 25th Scotty Parson, 28th Caelyn Wooldridge. **Happy Birthday!!!**
Aniversaries: 22nd Jeff & Pat Rankin **Congratulations!!**

Don't forget to join the Birthday Club! Make a donation equal to your age & we'll honor you with a "cupcake" in the Fellowship Hall. Donations help the church pay for monthly operating expenses.



Don't' Forget – Valentines Day is Sunday, February 14th.

1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us.*



Trinity United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Tuesday- Thursday 10am-2pm **Closed Monday, Friday & Holidays**

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Sense God's Goodness

Saturday, February 20th

4pm-6pm



- * Make Bread Hearts**
- * Good Scents Bags**
- * Goodness Goggles**
- * Portrait of Goodness**
- * Pizza for Dinner**



Please Bring a Potluck Side Dish to Share



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