



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

March 2016 Tidings

Grace Notes



“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they **may all be one**. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
~John 17: 20-21

In this passage from John’s gospel, Jesus is giving some final prayers and instruction for those who follow in his way prior to heading out to the Garden of Gethsemane where he was arrested in what we know as “Holy Week”. Several weeks ago, at a lecture at Temple Beth Israel here in Eugene, Rabbi David Zaslow, author of *Jesus the First-Century Rabbi*, shared his understanding that our goal when we engage in inter-faith dialogue is not to “be one” but to be of “One Purpose”. The audience at that lecture consisted of approximately 60 % who followed the Jewish tradition and 40% who followed the Christian tradition and in our evening of laughing, chanting and listening, we became bonded together with ‘one purpose’.

I have continued to reflect on the difference between becoming ‘one’ and becoming of ‘one purpose’ not only in conversation with multi-religions but also within the Christian tradition and in our specific context at Trinity UMC. **How do we live into becoming ‘one purpose’ at Trinity UMC?**

Essentially that is the work that we have been completing through the completion of the prescriptions that we were given following our consultation weekend back in October 2015. I want to thank all who have worked so hard completing the exhaustive review prior to the consultation, who attended the weekend and who has worked on various task forces to complete the work of the prescriptions.

In March, the Executive leadership team plans to complete the work of developing a plan to fully align all of our ministries with our clarified mission statement. Be being clear and focused on our mission, we can live into being of ‘one purpose’.

This has not been an easy and short process, it has been hard work and messy. We have learned along the way! We have also learned that there is more work that needs to be done as we live more fully into **our mission to reach out to single and dual parent families in the river road area to form relationships and share the transforming love of Jesus**. We are all in need of deepening our relationship with God, with others and with the world—that is where we are transformed in love! When we rub shoulders with others who have a different world view we are challenged and transformed ourselves.

As Lent concludes this month and we take the journey through Holy Week, my prayer is that we will be of one purpose. Let us ground ourselves in God’s love as we live out our lives of faith following in the way of Jesus. Let us gather around the table and remember that it is Jesus who leads us and calls us to open our table wide at Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday, let us courageously face the cross and let go of our judgement and our need to be in control. During Holy Saturday, let us rest in the liminal space of death and new life. Let us join together at Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning to proclaim that through Jesus the Christ, we are given a liberated life! Let us be of one purpose – to gather, grow and go out to be the hope for a shattered world.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Roberta



“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very same Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the spirit, because the spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”
-Romans 8:26-27

This year during Lent I did not give up any one thing. I have been keeping the fast through our fasting and giving calendars, but this year I have also made a commitment to renew my prayer habits because they were, well, habits. I don't want my relationship with God to be a habitual or routine part of my day.

Prior to the Lenten season my evenings often began with me reading a little scripture before I brushed my teeth and recited the Lord's Prayer as I dozed off to sleep. If I was really tired I, sometimes, wouldn't even make it through the whole prayer before I succumbed to the comfort of my pillow and lure of a good night's rest. There's something to be said for ritual, for the comfort it provides. But, I began to realize that this bedtime ritual of mine wasn't really doing much to deepen my relationship with God. I was doing it because that's what I've been doing all my life.

Lent this year provided me an opportunity to shake up my prayer habits. I have been spending my evenings intentionally praying. I light a candle, grab my prayer shawl, put on some calming music, and make my roommate feel awkward as I pray like a monk in our living room. This is a large departure from my typical way of praying. In the beginning I wasn't sure what to pray. I prayed all the usual things. I prayed for the church, for the people in my life, for our community and world, for my loved ones, I prayed for many of you.

After I made it through the litany of my usual prayers I didn't call it a night like I normally would. Instead, I stayed and sat there in the quiet as I watched the flame of the candle dance about, then the scripture from Romans 8 came to mind. The line: *“We do not know how to pray as we ought...”* has always captivated me. It was a glaring reminder that sometimes I don't need to say anything. I took the scripture to heart, and now when I sit down to pray I do it knowing that I don't really know what I'm doing. I just let myself “be.” I listen and wait for the sighs of the spirit. For, our relationship with God is too deep for mere words. Our God is beyond our language and understanding. Sometimes all we can do is sit and listen.

So, I invite you, as we move towards the cross to sit and “be” with God, to listen to the sighs of the Spirit that are just too deep for words. May the peace of our Lord, Jesus the Christ be with each and every one of you!

In Peace,

Pastor Ryan

March Worship

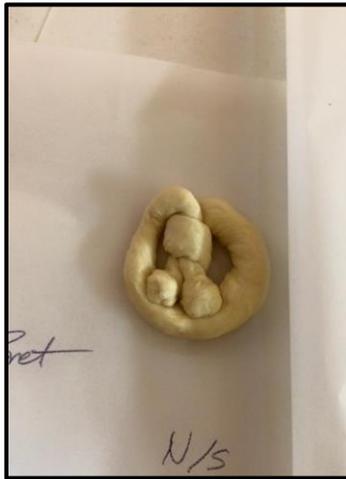
March 6th	COMMUNITY	Psalm 32, Luke 15: 103, 11b-32
March 12th	RELATIONSHIP	Isaiah 43: 16-21, Psalm 126, Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
March 20th	THRESHOLD	Palm Sunday Luke 19: 28-40, Philippians 2: 5-11
March 24th	SERVICE	Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00pm
March 26th	EASTER VIGIL	Worship Service 7:00pm
March 27th	EASTER	10:00am Coffee, 10:30am Worship, 12:00pm Egg Hunt

I ♥ MEETINGS

March Meetings at Trinity – Worship Design Team will meet with Pastor Roberta on Thursday, March 10th at 11:30am in the church office. There will be a **Church Staff Meeting** on Sunday March 13th immediately following worship in the Fireside Room. The **Executive Leadership Team** will meet on Monday, March 14th at 11:30am in Pastor Roberta’s office. The **Facilities Team** will meet in the church office on Monday, March 21st at 7pm.



March Messy Church at Trinity UMC will be held Saturday, March 19th 4pm-6pm. Join us for fun activities, family crafts, celebration and dinner. It’s fun for the entire family! If you’ve never been to Messy Church we invite you to come by and meet this wonderful group of families




We’d Love to See Your Picture *Here!* Join Us for Messy Church

April Tidings Deadline is March 24th

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



Family Movie Night at Trinity UMC will be held Friday, March 4th at 6:30pm. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday by showing *The Lorax*. Please bring a snack to share with others and we invite you to bring a comfy camping chair, sleeping bag or whatever else will make your movie viewing experience more comfortable. Feel free to invite some friends!



Easter Sunday is March 27th – Join us for coffee and sweet treats at 10am followed by worship at 10:30am. Then after worship the kids will be invited to decorate Easter bags and then it's time for the Messy Church Egg Hunt! All children ages 0-5th grade are invited to participate. Feel free to invite your family and friends!



Donations are Needed – We need individually wrapped candy for the Easter egg hunt. Please drop off your bags of candy to the church office no later than March 22nd. We usually stuff 150-200 eggs so we need lots of candy - Thank you!

Upcoming Activity Fair Events

Spencer Butte Hike with Pastor Ryan Scott and the Youth Group will be held on Sunday, April 10th at 3pm. Meet at Trinity and then carpool to the park. Dress for weather, bring a water bottle and wear good walking shoes.



Women's Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 23rd 10am-3pm. A fun day of activity, prayer and friendship. More information and registration forms will be available soon. Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch.

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.



Sewing Group with Pam Bray is held every Tuesday afternoon at 1pm in the ABC classroom. Bring a project to work on and feel free to ask for help.

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 Practice 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.



Concerts at First UMC – Sunday, March 6th 4pm – Join us for an afternoon of music with Evynee Hollens & Nathan Alef. Suggested donation \$10.

Sunday, April 17, 4pm Platypus Clarinet Orchestra returns for a concert showcasing Robert Schumann's romantic masterpiece, his Fourth Symphony. Suggested donation \$10.



General Conference News – It's not too late to volunteer! Be part of the excitement of General Conference and join hundreds of other volunteers to help welcome guests from around the world. For more information on volunteering and registration forms, go to <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/gc2016/>

You are invited to take part in worship at General Conference and experience the love and presence of God with people from around the globe. There will be choirs, musicians and leaders from all over the world and it will be something you won't want to miss. Opening worship will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at 2pm. This service is the longest and will last about 90 minutes. On Saturday morning, May 14th at 8am there will be a unique service featuring youth from Oregon and around the world. A hip-hop dance ensemble from the Philippines will perform as well as the intergenerational marimba ensemble from Tigard UMC. Worship will take place every day of the Conference. Visit the website to find out information about speakers, performances and times.

If you aren't able to attend General Conference as a visitor you can watch live streaming of the event at www.umc.org/gc2016.



Youth 'N Fusion! We all want to stand out in this world as amazing and important people but Jesus taught us that to be a good leader, we must first learn to follow. How can we be good Jesus followers? Come and learn more about how standing behind Jesus help you stand out in a crowd. Join 6th-12th graders on **March 4th-6th** from all across Oregon at Ebbert UMC in Springfield to discover more about how to follow our leader everyday. Interested in attending? Email Ryan Scott with questions ryanjscott213@gmail.com.



Now is the Time to Apply for Scholarships - The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's 2016 Fall scholarship application period opened January 4, 2016. Visit <http://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships> for more information!

There are also scholarships available from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference for general undergraduate education, graduate school, women pursuing education for a church-related vocation and persons in seminary. See www.umi.org/scholarships for more information. Applications for the Undergraduate Leadership Award, Ethnic Minority Leadership Award and Conference Merit Award for the 2016-17 academic year are on the website now. They are due no later than April 4, 2016



It's Time to Register for Spring and Summer Camps! - Camp and Retreat Ministries has rolled out a brand new registration system. Online registration for all of your favorite camps is now open. They welcome feedback on your registration experience. So head on over and try it out. An added bonus - Registering early gives you a discount. Visit www.gocamping.org to register for camp or to find out more information.

Financial Corner
Condensed Statement
As of 01/31/2016

Income:	YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges & Plate	\$12,610	\$11,542
Rental Income	\$4,492.00	\$3,415.00
Other Income	\$213.00	\$158.00
Total Income	\$17,315.00	\$15,115.00
Total Expenses	\$17,481.00	\$15,386.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$-166.00	\$ -271.00

March Thank Offering
One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Bring Your Coins for Lent to Church on Sunday
to Add to the Trinity Community Jar

Thank You!



Don't forget to bring your FISH food pantry donations to church on Sunday morning. They are in need of canned meats, soups, pasta sauces, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and fruit. Spring break is just around the corner and kids will be home and hungry. FISH accepts cash donations as well and you can drop them in the offering plate (marked FISH) or bring to the church office. Thank you for helping to feed hungry families in our neighborhood!



Did You Know We're On Facebook? Visit our Facebook page for Mission Mondays, Theology Tuesdays, Throwback Thursdays and Funny Fridays. We also post information about upcoming events, services and prayer requests. Be sure to LIKE our page when you visit that Trinity UMC shows up on your newsfeed. - www.facebook.com/440maxwell/



Have you signed up for Online Giving? It's fast, easy and secure! To sign up online, go to our website www.trinityumceugene.org and click the ONLINE GIVING tab. Click the link and you're ready to go! If you'd like help signing up please go in to the church office and Jennifer will be happy to set you up. You can use online giving for



March Birthday: 1st Shirley Carpenter, 9th Pearl Shorey, 17th Terry Robinson, 20th Linda Robinson, 27th Toni Cleland, 29th Lynn Egli. No Anniversaries for March.

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.

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

440 Maxwell Road Eugene, OR 97401

Email: office@trinityumceugene.org

Phone 541-688- 3269

Web: trinityumceugene.org