

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Ryan Gephart, pastor

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Trinity United Methodist Church
434 E. Main St.
Roaring Spring, PA 16673



Trinity Tidings

Roaring Spring, PA 16673

February/March 2024

Grace & Peace to you from our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ:

“One of the greatest myths about leadership is that bigger is better. I predict that future societies will recognize the fallacy of this myth and that the three mantras for the society will be these:

- Live more with less.
- Make little large
- Upscale by downsizing”

From *I Am A Follower: The Way, Truth and Life of Following Jesus* by Leonard Sweet

When Leonard Sweet wrote those words in 2012, I wonder if he could foresee how prophetic his message would end up describing many of our current mindsets. I love receiving gifts, like most of us. Yet, as I age, I truly appreciate moments, experiences, and time with others over material possessions. Do not get me wrong, I have items that bring back wonderful reflections of family and friends. However, one thing I know I do not need in my life is “stuff.”

As we celebrate 125 years in ministry at this Church facility of Trinity United Methodist Church (and almost 200 years of Methodism in the Cove) and when I read your history, I see a tapestry not of items but of people. Souls that have been touched by Jesus Christ, His saving grace, and the ministry of Trinity UMC. From food to fellowship to classes to missions to ministry and so much more, your history is not one of collecting possessions but of welcoming people in the name of Jesus Christ.

In honor of our 125th Anniversary, I will be preaching for the first five Sundays in Lent on topics from Leonard Sweet’s book referenced above. The sermon titles come from sections of that my own. Not only will I be referencing Sweet’s book and my normal

commentaries, but also John f. Kavanaugh's book *Following Christ in a Consumer Society*.

Lent is a time when we reflect. It is a time to look back on our life of following Christ and to look forward to our continued journey of being a follower. In 1942, the pastor of Trinity UMC, the Rev. McCloskey, stated "Our church stands in a strategic place in the leadership of community life. We are therefore, happy to cooperate with other community agencies to make our town grow." This Lent, my prayer is that Trinity, the church that "stands in a strategic place," continues to use our past of following Christ to propel us forward in helping others to follow our Savior and Lord in our community.

For over 125 years, we have been a people ready to cooperate and follow a different type of call and authority. A call and authority not to say it is just us and no other. No, a call to be open to receive all who need human love and fellowship. A call to work with all who want to see the love of Jesus Christ spread through teaching and service that puts others, puts community in Christ first. When we put community in Christ first, then it is not about our possessions or items, it is about following Christ. For over 125 years in this physical space and for almost 200 years in the Cove, Trinity UMC has been a place of connecting people and community to the love of Christ.

May it forever be so!
In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

Anniversaries:

February

8. Barry & Connie Musselman

March

No Anniversaries

Birthdates:

February

4. Dave Wineland

10. Don Knisely

18. Ionne Hammaker

29 Luke Knisely (Leap Year)

March

2. Michael Weicht

4. Jalen Goins

5. Eli Muthler

7. Jane Smith

14. Fred Hetrick

16. LaRue Holt, Scott Muthler

19. Misty Gephart

21. JoEllen Mingle

23. Sarah Hetrick

24. Jim Hetrick

26. Donna Pote

31. Linda Felton



OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS: Sandy Anderson family, Linda Acker, Judy Bowers, Roger and Kay Bowser, Lorie Davis, Bud Evans, Doris Ferry family, Glenda Fowler, Mike Galbraith, Ken & Pam Garlick, Ione Hammaker, Jeff Hetrick, Wade Heuston, Norm Hostetter, Ruth Imler, Sylvia Korona family, Pastor Evie Madison, Barbara Mingle, Bob & Doris Musselman, Barry & Connie Musselman, Dee Rodland, Gary Shank, Katlyn Wren Somogyi, Bob & Dorothy VanNatta, Claudia Weise

A Time for the Young at Heart Presenter in Worship Feb. & March Schedule

Feb. 4: Doug Mingle
Feb. 11: Rev. Dr. Britton Shafer (125th Anniversary Celebration)
Feb. 18: Kate Muthler
Feb. 25: Pastor Ryan
Mar. 3: Doug Mingle
Mar. 10: Pastor Ryan
Mar. 17: Kate Muthler
Mar. 24: Pastor Ryan (Palm Sunday)
Mar. 31: Misty Gephart (Easter)



Confirmation Class 2023-2024 – Once a Month Sundays @ 5pm January to April 2024:

Third Sunday of Each of those four months

May 2024: First Sunday of that last month of classes

Schedule February to May, 2024

Sunday, February 18th, 2024 from 5pm to 7pm

Sunday, March 17th, 2024 from 5pm to 7pm

Sunday, April 21st, 2024 with possibly families for picnic (time TBD)

Sunday, May 5th, 2024 from 5pm to 7pm

UNTO Feeding Ministry Roaring Spring, PA Ministerium Event

All Day April 6th, 2024 ~ The ARCH Facility will be used to accommodate 180 people; 3 sessions during the day to pack 45,000 meals to feed people everywhere. A Friday Night, April 5th, 2024 event will be held to coach people in the process.

UMCOR Continues to Support Partners in Ukraine

Ekaterina* and her two young daughters fled the Donetsk region in 2022 a month after Russian forces invaded the region in March. She and her community were helping displaced neighbors from Volnovakha city, who arrived daily after fleeing Russian troops and fierce violence that overwhelmed their city.

Receiving news that the same troops were advancing and would soon reach her town, Ekaterina packed whatever she could and left with her children, her elder relatives, a brother and sister and their families. They reached Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth largest city, west of Donetsk, not knowing what would come next.



Ekaterina (facing away from the camera) and her two daughters pick up food at the Dnipro Center for Displaced Ukrainians in Dnipro, Ukraine. (Photo: IOCC Ukraine).

“We were not even going to Dnipro; we were going nowhere,” Ekaterina explained. “We left late, and when we arrived [in Dnipro region], it was already curfew. We turned to the first military personnel in the village; they put us up in a hotel for free and we stayed for three days. Thank you to the residents – they welcomed us very well.”



Thursday, February 1st: *In the AM Pastor @ Cluster*; **6:30pm Choir Practice for 125th Anniversary**

Sunday, February 4th: Scout Sunday

Tuesday, February 6th: 6pm Women's Fellowship; 6pm Worship Team Meeting; 7pm Floor Buffing

Wednesday, February 7th: *Pastor Away @ DCOM*; **6pm 125th Anniversary Meeting**

Thursday, February 8th: **6:30pm Choir Practice for 125th Anniversary**

Saturday, February 10th: **NO Manna on Main Street Meal (Due to Sun. Meal & Shrove Tues.)**; *Pastor @ BOOM Interviews*

Sunday, February 11th: **125th Anniversary Celebration & Transfiguration Sunday with Bishop, DS, previous pastors, ministerial sons/daughters, and Meal after worship (No Sunday School)**

Tuesday, February 13th: **5pm to 6:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (This replaces Manna on Main Street Meal & Men's/Family Fellowship for February)**

Wednesday, February 14th: **Ash Wednesday; 6:30am-9am Ashes to Go and 7pm Worship Service**

Sunday, February 18th: 1st Sunday in Lent; 5pm-7pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 21st: 9:30am Ladies' Coffee @ The Vault; *Pastor @ BOOM*

Saturday, February 24th: Scout's Blue & Gold Banquet

Sunday, February 25th: 2nd Sunday in Lent & **New Member Sunday**

Sunday afternoon, February 25th to Wednesday afternoon, February 28th: *Pastor @ GBCS Seminar in D.C.*

Monday, February 26th: Noon Manna on Monday Meal

Tuesday, February 27th: 7pm Ad Council



***** NO Bible Study in February; Bible Study Resumes March 6 @ 10:30am and continues all Wednesdays of March, April & May except for the 3rd & 5th Wednesdays (3/20, 4/17, 5/15, & 5/29)**

March

Sunday, March 3rd: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Monday, March 4th to Tuesday, March 5th: *Pastor @ BOOM Interviews*

Tuesday, March 5th: 6pm Women's Fellowship

Wednesday, March 6th: 10:30am Bible Study

Thursday, March 7th: *In the AM Pastor @ Cluster*

Saturday, March 9th: 5pm Manna on Main Street Meal

Sunday, March 10th: 4th Sunday in Lent & **UMCOR Sunday with United Methodist Committee on Relief Offering**

Tuesday, March 12th: 6pm Men's/Family Fellowship

Wednesday, March 13th: 9:30am *Pastor @ Roaring Spring Ministerium*; 10:30am Bible Study

Sunday, March 17th: 5th Sunday in Lent; 3pm Security Team Meeting; 5pm-7pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 20th: *Pastor @ BOOM in the AM*; 9:30am Ladies' Coffee @ Restored Grounds



Holy Week March 2024

Sunday, March 24th: **Palm Sunday (No Children & Youth Sunday School returns April 7th)**

Monday, March 25th: Noon Manna on Monday Meal

Tuesday, March 26th: 7pm Ad Council

Wednesday, March 27th: 10:30am Bible Study

Thursday, March 28th: **Maundy Thursday; 7pm Worship Service**

Friday, March 29th: **Good Friday; 7pm Worship Service with St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Pastor Ryan & Pastor Amanda (Trinity UMC's turn to host the Service this year at our church)**

Sunday, March 31st: **Easter Sunday; 6:45am Sunrise Service @ Greenlawn Cemetery with St. Luke's Lutheran Church Pastor Amanda & Pastor Ryan (St. Luke's Lutheran Church's turn to host the Service this year at the cemetery); 9:30am Regular Easter Resurrection Service (No Children & Youth Sunday School returns April 7th)**

Ekaterina found help at the center for displaced persons, supported by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) with funding from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and run by IOCC's local Orthodox Church partner, Eleos-Ukraine.

Your gifts on [UMCOR Sunday](#) helps support the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere.

At the center, she received a humanitarian kit, which included food and nonfood items, plus psychosocial and legal support services. Individual sessions with psychologists helped her learn how to better manage the stress she experienced during the war, while meetings with lawyers showed her how to get the documentation she needed to register for the state Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) support program.



Reconstructed house in Ukraine – IOCC rebuilding program with ELEOS-Ukraine and UMCOR. (Photo: Courtesy of IOCC).

Instead of moving on, Ekaterina's family decided to resettle in Dnipro. The adults found work and rented housing, and the children entered school.

February & March 2024 Sermon Topics & Scriptures

Scout Sunday ~ Sunday, February 4: “A Scout/ A Christian is . . .” (Isaiah 40:21-31 & Mark 1:29-39)

125th Anniversary Celebration & Transfiguration Sunday with Bishop, DS, previous pastors, ministerial sons/daughters, and Meal after worship ~ Sunday, February 11th: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball's Message ~ “Changed” (2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6 with UMH 783 responses, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, & Mark 9:2-9)

Ash Wednesday ~ Wednesday, February 14th @ 7pm: “Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes” (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17 with UMH 785 responses, 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

First Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, February 18th: I Am A Follower Lenten Sermon Series ~ “Being A First Follower” (Genesis 9:8-17 & Mark 1:9-15)

Second Sunday in Lent & New Member Sunday ~ Sunday, February 25th: I Am A Follower Lenten Sermon Series ~ “A Breed Apart” (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 & Mark 8:31-38)

Third Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 3th: I Am A Follower Lenten Sermon Series ~ “The Law Is Not the Savior” (Exodus 20:1-17 & John 2:13-22)

Fourth Sunday in Lent & UMCOR Sunday with United Methodist Committee on Relief Offering ~ Sunday, March 10th: I Am A Follower Lenten Sermon Series ~ “From ‘Take Me to Your Leader’ to ‘Follow Me to the Cross’” (Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-21)

Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 17th: I Am A Follower Lenten Sermon Series ~ “The Life of Following Interactives” (Jeremiah 31:31-34 & John 12:20-33)

*****Holy Week (March 24th to 31st, 2024) Palm Sunday to Easter Sermon Topics & Scriptures To Be Determined*****

Six Special Offerings for 2024

Sunday, January 28th: Souper Bowl of Caring with Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering

Sunday, March 10th: UMCOR Sunday with United Methodist Committee on Relief Offering

Thursday, March 28th: Maundy Thursday with Holy Thursday Communion Offering split with Annual Conference Designations

Sunday, May 26th: Peace with Justice Sunday with Peace with Justice Offering

Sunday, October 6th: World Communion Sunday with World Communion Offering

Sunday, November 24th: United Methodist Student Day with UM Student Offering



**Bible Study will resume on
Wednesday, March 6th at 10:30 AM**

Children's Sunday School Class

Misty Gephart is looking for help with the children each Sunday from 10:45 to 11:45. You do not have to teach or commit to every Sunday. She has a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Sign your name beside the date that you are available.

Later, Ekaterina learned that on April 1, exactly one day after they'd left, their hometown had been bombed. According to her, 600 people of the original 8,000 residents remain. Ekaterina is not sure there is anything left for her and her family in the Donetsk region. As a way of giving back, her family volunteers at the IOCC center that first welcomed them.

With UMCOR's support, IOCC has also reconstructed and strengthened permanent shelters for displaced families. UMCOR's support has likely reached an estimated 73,000 people with emergency supplies, food, water and shelter, as well as legal and psychosocial help as they adjust to life while their country is at war.

Since the beginning of the war, The United Methodist Church in Ukraine has stretched its resources and grown in its expertise in caring for IDP populations. In various localities – where this small church of a few congregations has connections – pastors, congregants and volunteers have welcomed, fed, sheltered and aided displaced people in many ways. United Methodists from the wider connection of congregations around the world have partnered directly with the Ukrainian UMC and through UMCOR to increase its capacity to serve many neighbors.

Names changed to protect identity. Excerpt from a story by **Christie R. House, consultant writer and editor, Global Ministries and UMCOR.*

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, [UMCOR Sunday](#) calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere. The special offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

When you give generously on UMCOR Sunday, you make a difference in the lives of people who hurt. **Trinity UMC, Roaring Spring, PA's UMCOR Sunday Special Offering will be Sunday, March 10, 2024. Please prepare to give your special gift to UMCOR on that day.**

Trinity United Methodist Church
Roaring Spring to celebrate 125 years

On Sunday morning February 11, the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church of Roaring Spring will celebrate 125 years in their current building.

The congregation's origin dates back to 1830 in Rodman and in 1867 built a new structure on North Main Street which it used for 31 years until it was sold to the Roaring Spring Mennonite Church.

The church's present location at 434 East Main Street was dedicated on November 29, 1898.

The Anniversary Sunday Celebration will take place with worship at 9:30am, being led by Pastor Ryan Gephart of Trinity United Methodist Church. He will be joined by several former pastors and also a number of sons and daughters of the church who entered into ministry. Altoona District Conference Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Joleen Willis will also assist in the service.

The morning message will be given by special guest, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The people at Trinity are looking forward to a time of reminiscing and celebrating their past, and joyously looking toward their future ministry. Trinity UMC is well known in this area for the many free meals it serves to locals, and for hosting a free summer lunch program for children during the months when school is out of session.

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