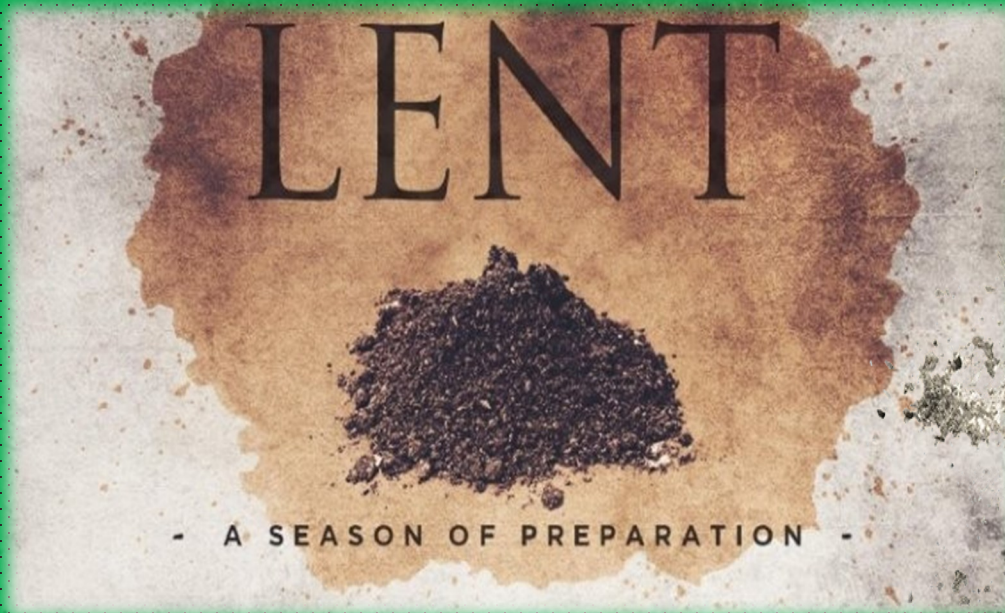


Welcome!

Trinity United Methodist Church

"Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST."



LENT

- A SEASON OF PREPARATION -



FEBRUARY 2024

"Do All the GOOD you can in
ALL the PLACES you can"

- John Wesley

"Serve each other according to
the gift each person has
received, as good managers of
God's diverse gifts"

- 1 Peter 4:10

HAPPY Valentine's Day

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love
of Christ. ☞ Ephesians 3:17-18*



New "Trinity"



"Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God.

I am the Lord your God."

Numbers 10:10 NIV

Blessings Trinity UMC family.

A new year is upon us and there are new things that are happening in the life of our church that excites me. If you can tell from the picture taken from our church gathering, it was a joy filled time. But more than that even was to see new faces. There have been new ideas and ventures our church is seeking in this new year.

One is that our church has signed a contract to house a daycare this year. We are hoping that this will be a good partnership. The owners and some of our church leadership have agreed to partner in the future events that the daycare wants to host. We are also looking into other way of partnering with the daycare to reach out to the families of the daycare.

We are also looking forward to housing a Wesley nurse who will be part of our staff. We have met with the nurse and are making arrangements for her arrival. The district manager is working on the agreement for our approval and is hoping we are able to host the wonderful ministry a Wesley nurse has to offer. Such ministry will be in partnership with our ongoing ministries at Trinity. With our help and support, we hope to bring a variety of new ministries that will benefit our surrounding community and beyond. The services the nurse offers would also be available to anyone in our congregation so if there are any ideas you wish to share please do so. You may contact our church office in relation to your ideas.

In addition, we are exploring new ways of inviting new people to our church family and facilities. We hope to host new events in the future that will call to the interest and or the needs of those in our surrounding community. We hope to continue past events and traditions we have held dear to our church. This includes hosting fellowship events like our upcoming Chili cook-off. I have never been a part of such an event and hopefully like you, I am looking forward to this experience.

We are also exploring on new ways to offer spiritual support, experiences and services for both those who are seeking a relationship with God and those that may not consider what that is but are also seeking. More details on this will be offered in the future. This does not take away from our current service with Sunday morning worship, Sunday school or Bible study. I invite you to either continue to be part of these services or start once more.

I look forward to sharing on the love of God and Jesus through all that our church does in the future of our church. Please be in prayer, presence, and support for all we hope to do, and accomplish with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May God continue to bless you, your families, and this wonderful church family. In Jesus name.

God's servant and yours,
Pastor Fred Pérez

Debbie and Donny Downer or Susie and Sammy Sunshine?

Recently there was a series on a TV news show about "Elevator People." They elevate others but keep them grounded. They are positive and supportive. They make one happy and anxiety-free. I believe that keeping others grounded but elevating them is the key to putting people in reality. Don't tell a person who is 4'11" that he has a very good chance of playing basketball professionally. It's not impossible, but a very good chance? Keep him grounded. On the other hand, being like my father and telling someone before he has even tried, that he will not be able to do something he wants to do, DOES NOT ELEVATE! Yes, some things are a fact, but be careful in stating what is only your opinion as a fact.

One of my favorite songs, recorded by Josh Groban, is entitled "You Raise Me Up." The entire song talks about all the ways one gets encouragement from someone else. If you are not familiar with this song - and even if you are, I encourage you to read the lyrics and take them to heart. Another good song, recorded by Bette Midler, along this line is "Wind Beneath My Wings." The lyrics have a similar sentiment and are just as encouraging. (Did you notice that both of these songs were chosen by Layne Kerley to be used in his Celebration of Life?).

Debbie and Donnie Downers are toxic to us; they turn their backs on God and toward themselves; they have none of the "light of God" in them; they choose to "elevate" themselves. Sylvia Browne referred to them as "dark entities." Most likely what they tell you and everyone is a lie. You will hear how terrible our world is, how awful you are, or how your church is failing at several (maybe all) things, when these accusations are simply their opinions! In Proverbs 6:16-19, it says, "There are seven things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, a mind that thinks up wicked plans, feet that hurry off to do evil, a witness who tells one lie after another, and a man who stirs up trouble among friends." (GNB) Note that lying is listed twice! Without even touching another person, one can tear down, maybe even destroy another's reputation and possibly his spirit! (I consider this another form of murder!). As a friend's mother used to say anytime I heard from someone a comment that irritated me, "Consider the source." Do you really trust the source? Do you really believe that person? Is the comment based on fact, or is it simply someone's opinion? I encourage you to check with other people or other resources. I also encourage you to do as Davy Crockett said, "Be sure that you are right, and then go ahead."

Are you elevating others or putting them down? Is what you say a fact, or did you just make it up? If you can't go about "doing good," at least, don't go about "doing bad." No, I don't believe any of you has "hands that kill innocent people," but God hates some of these other acts just as much. I also realize that none of us is perfect, and that we must continue to work at following God's will every day. I also know that many of you are like me in that we react before stopping to think things through. I try all the time to stop and think first, but it is more likely that I will speak first and then "play back" what I said. Being an "8" (see [The Road Back to You](#) about enneagrams) definitely has its challenges!

I feel I need to add that being a "1" also has its challenges. "1's" are perfectionists. Their biggest challenge is not just trying to be perfect for themselves, but trying to "fix" everyone else, too. Try to remember that your idea of perfection just might not be another person's idea of perfection. Also know that unsolicited advice is rarely received with "open arms."

Always remember that "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." Even if you say something to someone AS A FACT, do your best to say it with love, with the intent of making the person understand that your goal is to help, not to hurt, not to tear down. In the words of Cher, "Words are like weapons; they wound sometimes."

Remember the words of Thumper, "If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all."

As your Lay Leader, I am trying to lead. If any of this "rings true" with you, I hope you will follow it. If it doesn't, I am not offended. You must follow your own heart toward what works for you in your road to Christian perfection.

In Christ's Love,
Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader

Trinity UMC Annual *Chili Cook-Off*

Sunday Feb. 11th

After church service - around 11:15 start time

This is a perfect event to bring your friends and neighbors! Each person can purchase a ticket to vote on their favorite pot of chili.

Chili ticket - \$5

For those that don't want chili - Hot Dog ticket - \$3

Drinks, cornbread, fixings all provided

This is the Sunday of the
BIG FOOTBALL GAME!

Wear your favorite team jersey or colors to church and we will worship, cheer for our teams,

and have a fabulous time of

fellowship!

GO GOD!!!



Contestants:

1 - Make a crockpot of your favorite chili recipe. You will give small samples to everyone, then give a bowl to those that vote for your chili. So... you may want to bring a little more.

Anything goes: with beans, without beans, chicken, etc...

2- Decide on a theme for your chili booth. Prepare decorations for your booth.

Example: "Fire-hot Chili" - decorate with flames, fires, firetrucks, whatever your heart desires. You will have a table and a wall space.

3- Gym will be available Saturday 2/10 at 2:00 to decorate your booth if you want. Gym will also be open around 8:30 Sunday morning.

4- Please bring an extension cord if possible.

Prizes for "theme" and decorations - 1st, 2nd, 3rd - determined by judges.

Prizes for chili - 1st, 2nd, 3rd - determined by the number of people that vote for your chili.

Please contact Julie if you have any questions or concerns:

210-215-9232



Don't miss out

Calling all cooks to our annual "Souper" Bowl Chili cook-off!

Sunday—February 11, 2024, at noon (in the gym).

This is also the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, so we will have our "Fat Feast" at the chili cook off.

Please contact Julie Vincent at 210-215-9232 if you are willing and able to make a pot of chili for the cook-off.

This is a competition with prizes given for the chili and for the theme and decorations of your booth.

Plan to bring friends and family to enjoy and participate in this



What's Happening



Chili Cook Off

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Author: Norman W. Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas"

Our food pantry is running low. We are asking for donations on the following: (Thank you for checking the expiration dates. The church office does not give out expired food items).

- Rice
- Canned (beans, vegetables, and fruits)
- Packaged Cookies
- Canned soups
- Small peanut butter jars, jelly, and jams.
- Ramen instant noodle soups.
- Vienna sausages
- Ready-to-eat macaroni and cheese
- and all other ready-to-eat non-perishable food items.

Please drop off your donations at the church office.

Thank you so much for your usual support and generosity. 😊



FEBRUARY 14, 2024

*Ash
Wednesday*



ARBORIST SERVICES

- Oak Tree Specialist
- Tree Maintenance
- Expert Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding

Jason Conkin
Owner

www.alamotreeservice.com

Since 1996

(210) 663-0397

jason@alamotreecare.com

Join Trinity's Care Package Ministry

Put your faith in action and join us in our care - package ministry. Trinity teams with adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities from the Unicorn Center and the Arc of San Antonio. Together, we make thousands of care packages for people in need throughout the year.

How can I help?

- Come a little early to worship any Sunday and help prepare sack lunch materials in the narthex. These go to:

⇒ Homeless folks downtown at Travis Park UMC

⇒ Low-income patients at Methodist HealthCare clinics.

- Help us with care packages we are preparing for incarcerated moms and their infant children. We have support from the Junior League and the Northside Lions Club on this one. These packages include diapers and hygiene supplies that will be distributed through the Texas Inmate Families Association. Completion by the end of February.

- Help create Easter baskets we'll send to seniors in local senior centers, nursing homes and through Meals on Wheels. Completion by the end of March. Just call the office 210/684-0261, and let them know you are interested, or send a text to Don Ketchum at 210/827-2527.



JOIN THE SEEKERS ('N' FIPS)

THE SEEKERS/FIPS LUNCHEON MEETINGS ARE EVERY SUNDAY (EXCEPT 5TH SUNDAYS) AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE .

1ST SUNDAY — **LUBY'S** (FLOYD CURL AND HUEBNER RD)

2ND SUNDAY — **SEA ISLAND** (5959 NW LOOP 410)

3RD SUNDAY — **JASON'S DELI** (5819 NW LOOP 410)

4TH SUNDAY — **BILL MILLER BBQ** (WURZBACH & BANDERA.)

- *Contact John Reed*

When we joined the church,
we pledged to
uphold it with our prayers.

***Please pray for our
church every day at
noon***



REV. FEDERICO PEREZ, JR.
Pastor
fperez@riotx.org

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.
In the sanctuary -
we encourage you to wear
your mask as you feel
comfortable.

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. is also available
on Facebook Live, &
www.tumcsa.net

Pastor-led Bible Study
5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays
Zoom room

Seekers Faith Meeting
(Sunday School):
- Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
Zoom room
- Sundays, in-person, Null
building at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Meetings:
- Wednesdays via zoom at
2:15 p.m.

Church office phone
210-684-0261
Office hours:
Mondays—Thursdays
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
or call for an appointment

e-mail:
ofcadmin@tumcsa.net
6800 Wurzbach Road,
San Antonio, Texas 78240
www.tumcsa.net

DECEMBER 31, 2023— JANUARY, 2024

ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

December 31	43
January 7	45
January 14	50
January 21	29
January 28	32

FACEBOOK LIVE – VIEWS

December 31	95
January 7	84
January 14	118
January 21	61
January 28	58

TITHES & DONATIONS

(Report taken from ONLY the counters;
NOT including online and text giving).

December 31	\$ 5,089
January 7	\$10,727
January 14	\$ 4,778
January 21	\$ 160
January 28	\$ 1,731

Happy Birthday to:

HENRIETTA CERVANTEZ 1-Feb

MITZI KELLY 9-Feb

DOYLE STAMPS 11-Feb

JOHN REED 16-Feb

TYLER BROWN 18-Feb

NORMA KETCHUM 21-Feb

Happy Anniversary

FOHN & JOHNETTA GOANEH 2-Feb

DANIEL & BERTA SPAULDING 16-Feb

DONATE ONLINE

Simply scan this
image using your
phone's camera
(or QR code
reader).



You may also go
to:

www.tumcsa.net
then click on the
“Donate” button.

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE.

You may also **text**
giving to:
844-210-1179
(Type in the
amount you wish
to donate, then
hit send).



*If we have missed your
special day, please notify
Cynthia in the church office.
Thank you!*

Weekly Recurring Meetings where everyone is invited:

- Sack lunch ministry each Sunday at 9:15am in the narthex.
Everyone is welcome to help. For more information, please contact Don Ketchum.
- Seekers Sunday school every Sunday at 9:00am in the parlor.
- Pastor-led Bible study every Tuesday via zoom at 5:00pm.
- Prayer meeting every Wednesday via zoom at 2:15pm.
- Sunday school meetings every Thursday via zoom at 3:00 p.m.

Please call Cynthia for zoom links or visit our website at www.tumcsa.net.

Trinity is asking for volunteers to...

..... broadcast our worship service live on Facebook (on rotation).

..... help with the Family Life Committee alongside Alisa Roberts, Carol Lewis, & Sandra Dance. Family Life is responsible for our social activities, e.g., July 4th luncheon and sing-along, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving luncheon, Super Chili Bowl Cook-off, and “Fat Sunday instead” (Sunday before Ash Wednesday).

..... read at our Sunday’s worship services, on rotation.

..... help in the church office with very light clerical duties such as answering phones, assisting visitors, and other tasks alike. Help is needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am -2pm.

..... serve refreshments and clean up after church on the 1st Sunday of every month.

..... donate refreshments such as cookies, doughnuts, sweet breads and beverages to serve after the first Sunday worship services; please contact Stacie Brown.

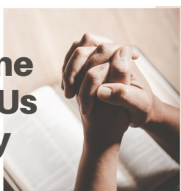
If you are led to serve in these areas, or any other ministries not mentioned, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.



Trinity UMC Prayer Team †

“God, help me navigate whatever challenges I encounter this day. Be my comfort and my rock. Guide me to do Your will and be an instrument of Your peace today and each day. Amen.”

**Come
Let Us
Pray**



*Prayer team meets every Wednesday at 2:15pm via Zoom.
Please join us or send us your prayer request at www.tumcsa.net*

50 WAYS TO WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

By Lewis Center

One key to effective outreach is making sure that worship visitors feel truly welcome. These 50 Ways will help your congregation make a good first impression and extend hospitality in meaningful ways.

Engage your leaders and members

1. Teach that hospitality is at the core of the Gospel.
2. Teach your congregation to honor Christ in everyone and that God seeks to be in relationship with ALL persons.

Make a good first impression

3. Convey a clear invitation and a statement of welcome in all communications directed at the external community — advertisements, banners, flyers, website, etc.
4. Know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor, according to Barna Research. Within two minutes of the beginning of a service visitors have formed an opinion about whether the congregation is friendly.
5. Care for your building and grounds as a way of honoring your attendees and honoring God. A well-cared-for building demonstrates a commitment to excellence and communicates that what the church does is important.
6. Have clear exterior and interior signage that guides visitors everywhere they need to go.
7. Reserve special parking places for visitors. Encourage church members and staff to park offsite or in more remote spaces. If parking lot congestion is an issue, recruit volunteer parking attendants.
8. Make your nursery clean, safe, sanitary, well-equipped, and visually appealing to children and their parents. Use a space that is easy to find and convenient to the sanctuary. Make sure your nursery workers and procedures inspire confidence on the part of parents.
9. Make sure your restrooms are neat and clean.

Be intentional about saying hello and goodbye

10. Station greeters at all entrances, in classroom areas, and in the parking lot or entry walks, if appropriate.
11. Identify your greeters and ushers with a special badge or name tag so visitors who need information can easily identify them.
12. Encourage friendly, out-going persons with the gift of “hospitality” to serve as greeters and ushers. Don’t expect that just anyone can do these jobs well. Provide regular training that helps them see the church through a visitor’s eyes.
13. Escort newcomers to the nursery, classrooms, coffee hour, etc. Don’t just point the way or give directions.
14. Adopt the “rule of three,” which says members will not talk to other members in the first three minutes following the service — typically how long it takes guests to exit.
15. Enact the “circle of ten” rule — that each member will greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of them.
16. Say, “I don’t think we’ve met before. ...” if you are not sure if the person next to you is a member or a visitor.
17. Ask outgoing church members to sit in the pews where visitors most commonly sit, often near the entrance or in the back.
18. Post someone at every exit to shake hands and thank people for coming. Ask worship participants (readers, music leaders, liturgists, etc.) to do this since their faces will be familiar.

Help newcomers feel at home in worship

19. Accept and encourage casual attire.
20. Do not ask visitors to stand and identify themselves. Seventy percent of new attendees feel negatively about being recognized. However, they do expect people to be friendly and welcoming.
21. Provide nametags for the whole congregation and develop the habit of wearing them. Form a “tag team” to organize and promote name tag use.
22. Review your church bulletin and other printed material to make sure information is not “insider oriented.” Avoid church jargon and assuming that people understand the context.
23. Make sure your order of worship is easy for a visitor to follow. Include written or verbal explanations of what is going on and why. Print the words to all prayers, songs, and responses.
24. Sing at least one hymn each Sunday that is well known outside the church, such as “Amazing Grace,” “Joyful , Joyful,” or “Morning Has Broken.”
25. Include a welcome to visitors in the open words before the service. Make sure the person speaking identifies him or herself. It is best for the pastor to issue this welcome.
26. Remember that visitors sometimes arrive a few minutes late. Don’t front load all the information directed at them.
27. Place information about your church’s ministries where a visitor can easily find it — preferably in the pew, or a clearly marked location near the entry points used by visitors. Don’t expect them to go somewhere else to find it.
28. Prepare Visitors Packets to be handed out by greeters with information about your church programs.
29. Give visitors with small children a small activity packet (with crayons, pipe cleaners, stickers, etc.) as they enter worship.
30. Avoid all talk about money with visitors.
31. Keep the discussion of “family business” to a minimum in the services. Limit announcements.

Follow up with your visitors

32. Get the names and addresses of first-time visitors. Some churches use visitors’ cards, but asking ALL worshippers to record attendance makes it more likely visitors will sign. Visitors don’t want to be singled out.
33. Make a special effort to remember visitors’ names and call them by name.
34. Make at least one follow-up contact with first-time visitors within 24 to 36 hours of their visit — a letter from the pastor, a phone call, a hand-written note, an email message. Many churches deliver a gift, such as freshly baked cookies or a church coffee mug, to visitors’ homes. The purpose is to communicate friendliness, not get a membership commitment.
35. Develop a system or data base for keeping track of visitors, their contact information, and the frequency of visits. A mailing list of persons who have visited in the past is one of your best marketing tools.
36. Don’t overlook visitors who come to the church for the first time for an event other than worship.
37. Once someone has attended three times, they should be invited to join the church with a pastoral visit and/or an invitation to take part in an inquirers or new member class.
38. Encourage visitors to get connected with activities and groups, even if they are not ready to join.

Be more inviting

39. Hold an Open House Sunday at least once a year.
40. Organize a “bring-a-friend” Sunday at least once a year.
41. Extend extra hospitality during back-to-school time, Christmas and Easter, when persons are most likely to consider visiting a church.
42. Start a personal invitation ministry. Three out of four people attend a church for the first time because they were invited. Yet less than half of church members say they have invited someone in the last year.
43. Provide training to members on how to invite others to church.
44. Print special invitations to Christmas Eve services that people can deliver to friends.
45. Plan special events — concerts, lectures, etc. — that appeal to those outside the church and that members feel comfortable inviting someone to.
46. Have special recognition Sundays for scout groups, preschool families, or other community groups meeting in your church to encourage them to attend worship.

Become more aware of visitors and their concerns

47. Gather feedback on how visitors respond to your church through surveys, focus groups, or interviews.
48. Conduct a “welcome audit” annually.
49. Provide training on welcoming at least once a year.
50. Send your welcome team to visit other churches and report back on how they experienced their reception.



Ash Wednesday Services

February 14 is Ash Wednesday. We will have a noon service in the sanctuary, followed by a light lunch and fellowship time in the parlor. From 3-4 pm, Pastor Fred will be in the lower parking lot offering “drive by” imposition of ashes and a blessing. An evening service will be offered at 6:30 p.m. We pray that you will be able to join us at one of these services.



Have you ever wondered why our livestream crew holds up and posts a sign stating “*We Are Live*”? When the streamer holds up that sign, it means that the sanctuary can now be seen by our online viewers. It also means the microphones have been turned on, and the online viewers can hear everything we say, including conversations that we are having with other worshippers. When you walk across the front of the sanctuary, the online viewers get a lovely view of your midsection/ backside. Please be mindful of the situation when you see the “*We Are Live*” sign. It is a great time for getting your mind set for our worship service.