

# Trinity United Methodist Church

April 2026 | Newsletter



## History of Easter

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the last day of Holy Week, consisting of several days — each with its significance. These include:

- Palm Sunday: Commemorating when Jesus entered Jerusalem
- Holy Thursday: Commemorating the Last Supper and washing of feet
- Good Friday: Commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death
- Easter Sunday: Commemorating the resurrection of Jesus

Of the four canonical Gospels, each has a version of the Passion, or final period of Jesus' life. While the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are similar in their accounts, the Gospel of John varies and strikes a more triumphant tone.

According to the text, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. Jesus was then put on trial and later sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, ultimately leading to Jesus' crucifixion.

Jesus was then buried in a tomb. And on the final day (Easter Sunday), Jesus' tomb was found empty. The Bible proclaims he rose from the dead.

continued on page 2

## Contents

History of Easter?	1
Word from Pastor Bobb	2
Council Notes	4
Congregational meeting	4
NOW Committee	5
Women in Faith Guest Event	5
Huxley Spooky Gals Event	6
Recipes	7
Puzzles	8



From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord I lift Your name on high!



## History of Easter continued

Easter is celebrated to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a result, many Christians will go to Church services and pray in observance. Other aspects of the holiday, such as Easter eggs, also derive from Christian traditions.

### Why do we celebrate Easter with eggs and the Easter bunny?

The colorful Easter eggs you might decorate with your family are symbols of new life and rebirth. Ancient Christian communities in Mesopotamia would stain eggs red to represent the blood of Christ, which was shed at the crucifixion. The eggs also signify the empty tomb of Jesus.

As for the Easter bunny, its origins are not necessarily rooted in Christianity. The exact origins of the anthropomorphic rabbit are unclear. However, since ancient times, the hare has been said to represent rebirth, according to the Smithsonian Magazine.

### How is the date of Easter determined each year?

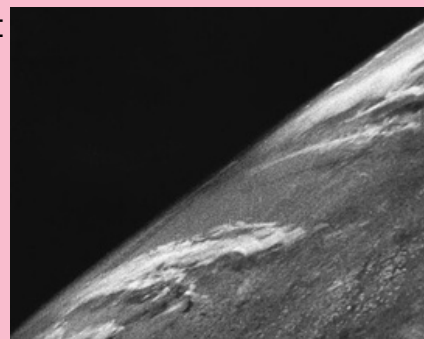
Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring equinox, March 20, 2026, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. The first full moon after the spring equinox will happen on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, which the first Sunday after that would be April 5th.

## Getting the Heavenly Vision & Perspective



In 1946 a V2 rocket captured from Germany 1945 was fitted with a camera and launched for a short flight. Its goal was to take a picture of Earth from space.

In 1968, though it was not on their list of photos to take, the Apollo 8 team caught a now iconic picture of an "Earthrise" while orbiting the moon.



Again in 1972 the Apollo 17 crew took a well recognizable picture of Earth.

Continued on page 3

## Getting the Heavenly Vision & Perspective continued

"During almost every mission we turn around and take a picture back home," said Bill Barry, NASA's former chief historian. "There seems to be an irresistible tendency to look back at home."

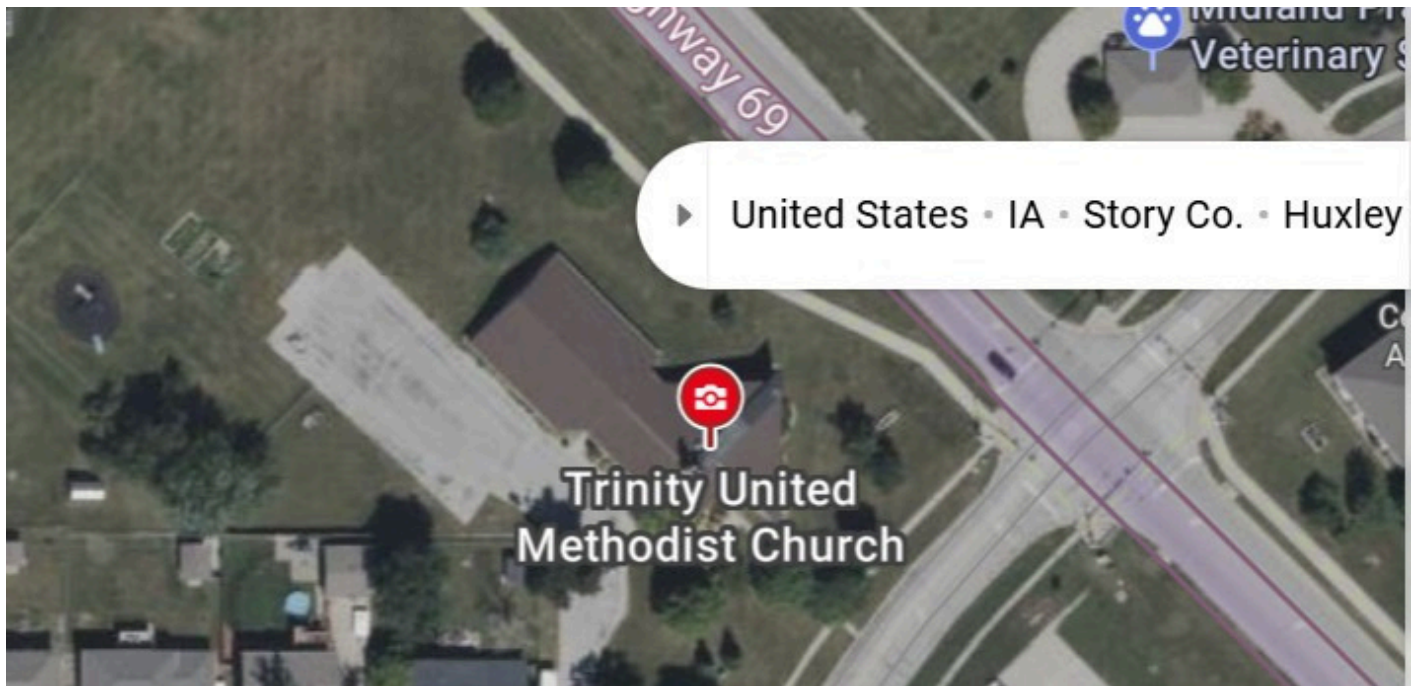
(from *The Mashable 101* article 'The Images of Earth are Chilling' by Mark Kaufman, April 17, 2023.)

During our journey towards Easter and beyond, we will be reading the Scriptures and living in the events that happened in Israel, especially in and around Jerusalem. In 1986 I had the privilege of visiting Israel and seeing actual stone steps where it is known that Jesus walked. I also got to take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

As impactful and faith-building as these kind of experiences are, the greater impact is in what Jesus accomplished as the events recorded in the Scriptures unfolded--namely the salvation of humanity. Jesus is the Lamb of God who came with a vision and mission to redeem (pay the price for) humanity which had been held in captivity by darkness, sin and death.

Our mission as individuals and as a church, is to live for the One who lived and died and rose again for us all. We have wonderful, life-changing news to share! As we look ahead in our long-range, visioning process coming up, may the Heavenly perspective inspire us to reach our corner of the Earth (visible from spaceships and Google Earth).

Pastor Bobb



# MARCH 26, 2026, COUNCIL NOTES

Thank you for making the March Madness Breakfast a success. NOW committee has several ongoing mission projects and appreciate your continued support. This month's mission focus is new books and aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Our bake sale and garage sale is coming in May so it is time to sort those unused items out. You may bring small items to the church anytime now and place them in the furnace room off the sanctuary.

An important congregational meeting will be held after church April 12 th with treats provided by NOW committee. All are encouraged to attend.

Pastor Bobb reported the new mic is working well. He is attending the Bishop's Lenten study, met with the Ballard Ministerial Association, and attended an Orders of Elders meeting. Plans for Holy week services are in place.

The exterior door off the Fellowship Hall is ready to be installed once weather permits. Quotes for bathroom updates to meet ADA guidelines have been requested. Rob Wright will be mowing our lawn again this year.

The 50 th Anniversary Celebration Committee is beginning to plan our celebration on September 20th. Please save this important date and join in.

The financial report as of 3/11/2026 shows we took in \$3600 more than we have spent. Account balances are checking-\$6053.89, Trustees-\$6066.99, Memorial-\$16,239.24, and Heifer project-\$121.18. Three month's apportionments or ¼ of our 2026 obligation were paid. Sunday School program materials are ordered, and taxes will be due soon. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Loa Christensen, Council Secretary

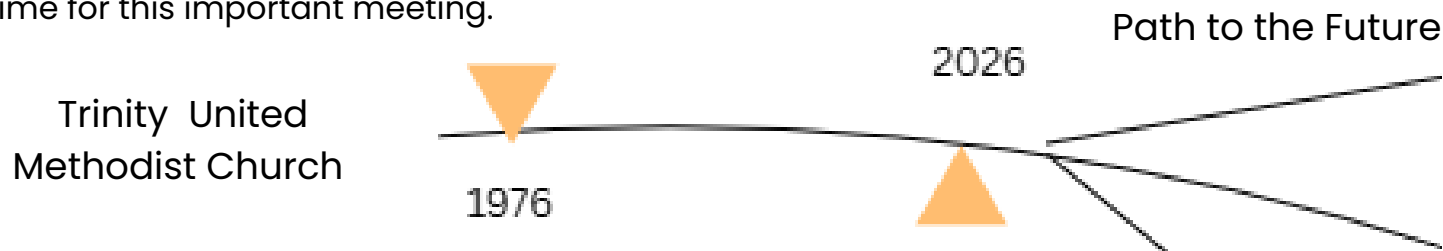
## Congregational Meeting April 12, 2026

Spring is a time of renewal and celebration in our lives and especially in our church. On April 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a special congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall after worship service with treats provided by the NOW committee.

During this meeting we will celebrate our past and current successes and look to our future. This is our opportunity to each voice in our congregation to be heard through the completion of a questionnaire. We want and need to hear from each one of you to guide the planning of our church's future. By enlisting the resources available from the Conference, we will move through the process with respect to your time.

The members of Trinity do a great deal to help each other and our community, and we want to continue to be a positive presence in this community.

This meeting is the kickoff for the process of gathering your input to identify our strengths, chart our future course, and celebrate our unique identity. It is only with your help that we can move forward in a way that benefits all of us. Please make sure to make time for this important meeting.



## Now Committee

Make sure to put the Trinity Congregational Meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. The NOW Committee will furnish treats for Fellowship during the meeting.

- Our Noisy Offering and Brown Bag collections will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We are getting close to meeting our goal of \$250.00 for a Family Solar Kit.
- Our Mission Focus for April is the collection of items the Huxley EMS (Fire, EMS,PD) staff can use to refresh after emergency calls. A list is forthcoming.
- The April Social Dinner location has not yet been announced due to the late date of our March Meeting. Watch for that announcement and make sure to sign up.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the next Did You Know Sunday. Let us know if there is something that should be announced.
- On-going projects: Plastic bag collection for sleeping mats, stuffed animals, school supplies, personal hygiene items for the Clothes Pantry, yarn for baby blankets and paper tubes (toilet paper/paper towels) for the Trinity Kids Mission Project.
- We will resume collecting cans and bottles soon. A camp scholarship is being provided to Josh Weber with some of the funds made from this project.

Ø The May 9<sup>th</sup> Garage Sale, Bake Sale and Lunch is right-around-the corner. Boxed items can be brought to the church and placed in the furnace room behind the Sanctuary. No clothes please, and large items can be brought in on Friday, May 8th. Sign-up sheets for workers will soon be on the clipboard.

Many thanks to everyone for your support of the NOW Committee projects and events. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we continue to plan activities in the coming months.

## Nevada United Women in Faith Guest Event



Join us for:  
Salad Supper  
Program to follow  
April 14th - 5:30 PM  
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Guest Night Salad Super is Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. First United Methodist Church at 1036 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada IA, Please RSVP to Leanne Harter at 515-231-4932 or [thearterclan@gmail.com](mailto:thearterclan@gmail.com).

The Urban Bicycle Food Ministry - Des Moines is the guest speaker of the event. They are a community based and non-denominational organization that serves people living on the streets.

Since 2015 they have been serving radical hospitality - one burrito at a time. What is "radical hospitality"? Every Thursday, all year long, they prepare and deliver hundreds of food and personal items by bike or car to the people on the streets, they might be living under a bridge, in a tent next to the river or railroad tracks or in a hole dug in the side of a hill or in subsidized housing. Think "Uber Eats" for people without an address or the ability to pay.

## Huxley Spooky Gals Event

Recently the church received the below email from “The Huxley Spooky Gals”. They are a group of Huxley residents who are working with Huxley businesses to promote the business and the town to the area residents and visitors.

This group has put on the Halloween, Christmas, and Easter activities in the past years and hope to get the different business and organizations involved. Would you be interested in helping The Huxley Spooky Gals with this activity. It will help get the name of our church out in the community and it might help bring in new people to our church.

Here’s the email, feel free to contact them directly, or let the church office know if you want to get a group together to see if we can assist The Huxley Spooky Gals.

*We’re thrilled to announce that the Huxley Spooktacular is back again in 2026 on Saturday, October 24 at Railroad Park! We’re excited to build upon the success of previous years with an even bigger and better event, geared toward both young and not-as-young Halloween lovers! With your support, we aim to make this year’s celebration the best one yet.*

*Since 2022, we’ve partnered with amazing organizations like the City of Huxley, Huxley Parks and Recreation, the Huxley Library, and the Huxley Police & Fire Departments. Thanks to the generous sponsorships from local businesses, we’ve brought the community together with:*

- *A safe and fun trick-or-treating Spook Walk along the Library Story Walk.*
- *Free trick-or-treating bags for over 300 kids each year.*
- *Multiple food trucks and local beverage options.*
- *Incredible entertainment and a main stage band to close out the night.*

*This year, we’re taking all the great feedback we received to elevate the event even further! The 2026 Huxley Spooktacular will feature:*

- *The return of the Spook Walk on the Library’s Story Walk.*
- *Delicious food trucks, costume contests, and community activities.*
- *A new designated time for adult trick-or-treating on the Story Walk .*
- *Show-stopping performances by two separate local acts for both kids and adults on our main stage!*

*We invite you to support this exciting event by becoming a sponsor. [HERE](#) you’ll find a sponsorship form with various levels of monetary contribution opportunities. If financial sponsorship isn’t feasible, we’d love to explore other ways you can help—whether through volunteer hours, material supplies, costume contest prizes, or other in-kind donations. To ensure your sponsorship is included on our trick-or-treat bags or other advertising materials, please finalize your commitment by August 1, 2026.*

*If you have questions or ideas, don’t hesitate to reach out at [huxleyspookygals@gmail.com](mailto:huxleyspookygals@gmail.com). Together, we can bring even more spooky and safe fun to our community for all ages!*

*Thank you for your support. We can’t wait to connect!*

*The Huxley Spooky Gals*

# Recipes for Easter

## Empty Tomb Easter Treat

### Ingredients:

- Graham Crackers
- Peanut Butter (or icing)
- Small Chocolate Doughnuts
- Mini Oreo Cookies
- Shredded Coconut
- Green Food Coloring

### Prep the Snack:

1. Take your shredded coconut and place it in a sandwich bag. Drip a few drops of green food coloring in, and shake the bag until your coconut turns green. Also, cut off the bottom of your chocolate doughnuts.

2. Spread peanut butter on the graham cracker, and stick the doughnut "tomb" on. Then, take one mini Oreo and twist it apart. Use the side with the icing on it to stick it to the front of the doughnut as the "rock" rolled away from the entrance of the tomb.

3. Sprinkle some coconut "grass" onto the remainder of the peanut butter.  
 4. Enjoy



## Lenten Soft Pretzel Recipe

Did you know that the pretzel is a traditional food for lent? In fact, the pretzel was actually invented in order to be a simple Lenten snack! Enjoy this simple soft pretzel recipe during Lent.

### Ingredients

- 1 package yeast .25 oz
- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups flour
- 1 egg
- large kosher salt for the top of the pretzels

### Instructions

Preheat your oven to 425°F  
 Mix yeast, water, sugar, and salt in a large bowl.  
 Stir in the flour, and knead until the dough is smooth.  
 Shape into the form of arms crossed in prayer and place it on a baking sheet.  
 Brush the dough with a beaten egg to give it a shiny finish. (This is optional. I skipped the egg on mine.) Sprinkle the top with salt.  
 Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes.



# Puzzles



## Analogies

Complete each analogy by filling in the blank.

1. Fire is to hot as ice is to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pencil is to write as eraser is to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Dog is to bark as cat is to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bird is to nest as bee is to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Eye is to see as ear is to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Leaf is to tree as petal is to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Plane is to fly as boat is to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Fish is to water as camel is to \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Teacher is to classroom as chef is to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Duck is to quack as cow is to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Apple is to fruit as carrot is to \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Clock is to time as thermometer is to \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Summer is to hot as winter is to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Fork is to utensil as shirt is to \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Cup is to drink as plate is to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BEGIN AND END

Each phrase below is a clue for an answer that begins and ends with the same letter.

1. A continent at the South Pole \_\_\_\_\_
2. Payment to stockholders \_\_\_\_\_
3. A brief advertisement \_\_\_\_\_
4. Handwriting skill \_\_\_\_\_
5. One television show in a series \_\_\_\_\_
6. A place for performers \_\_\_\_\_
7. One who reviews and gives judgments \_\_\_\_\_
8. Accepting of others \_\_\_\_\_
9. An amount over and above what is needed \_\_\_\_\_
10. An official list of names \_\_\_\_\_
11. A word used by magicians \_\_\_\_\_
12. An edible seed of a bean plant \_\_\_\_\_
13. Physical exertion done for fitness \_\_\_\_\_
14. Blue-green \_\_\_\_\_
15. A ray of moonlight \_\_\_\_\_

1.  $834 = 28$

$675 = 47$

$918 = 17$

$527 = ?$

*What is the missing number?*

2. **You can throw me off a tall building and it won't hurt me. If you put me in water I break.**

*What am I?*

3. **F, K, O, R, ?**

*What is the next letter?*

4. **If John's son is my son's father, who am I?**

*Guess who am I?*

5. **Snug      Live**  
**Dam      Grid**  
**Pans      Rats**  
**Keep      Trap**

*Which word is the odd one out?*