

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2026 |

THROUGH EPIPHANY INTO LENT

As we follow Jesus' Journey in our worship services from Birth, Baptism and answering his call to gather disciples and reach people with the Good News of God's salvation, we find ourselves transitioning in the month of February, from the season of Epiphany, into the season of Lent, as Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem and the Cross.

We will celebrate Jesus' Transfiguration on Sunday the 15th and then begin Lent with a Service of Ashes at 7pm on Wednesday the 18th. The ashes for the service come from palm branches that were used in Palm Sunday services previously. The Palm branches were waved in excitement at the arrival of Jesus

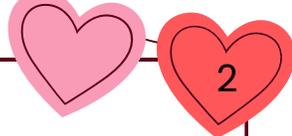
Continued Page 2

Contents

From the Pastor	1
St Valentine's Day History	2
NOW Committee Report	3
Church Council Notes	4
Lenten Book Study	4
2026 #WeAreUMC RAGBRAI Team	5
Church Building Projects	6
QCD Distribution from Your IRA	6
TUM Hands Serving Others	7
50th Anniversary Celebration	7
Puzzles	8

Upcoming Events

- FEBRUARY: Clothing Pantry volunteer month
- February 8th ~ Tailgate Fellowship
- February 15th ~ Brown Bag & Noisy Offering
- February 18th ~ Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00
- February 22nd ~ Did you Know?
- February 26th ~ Social Dinner
- March 8th ~ March Madness Fellowship



From Lent to Epiphany continued

into Jerusalem during the Passover Feast. In a few days the excitement would be over and formerly excited followers would now hide in fear.

The ashes will represent all of our good intentions to follow Jesus that so often don't get carried out. They also represent our realization that in many ways we have chosen to go our own way rather than to follow Jesus in our day-to-day living. The Good News is that God never gives up on us.

Our repenting, turning back to Jesus, is needed and He joyfully receives us. God is so good and sacrificially loves us. Now that we're a month into the new year, when New Year's resolutions are easily forgotten, maybe we can seek the Holy Spirit's help in following Jesus above all in our life.

He doesn't condemn us and has great redirection plans for us. He's the Best! Trust Him in all things.
Pastor Bobb

Who was Saint Valentine and how did he come to inspire Valentine's Day?

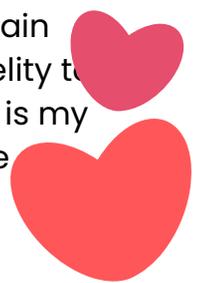
In the early martyrologies, three different St. Valentines are mentioned, all sharing Feb. 14 for a feast day. Unfortunately, the historical record is sparse. The first St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. He along with St. Marius and his family comforted the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II.

The second St. Valentine was the Bishop of Interamna (now Terni, located about 60 miles from Rome). Under the orders of Prefect Placidus, he too was arrested, scourged, and decapitated, again suffering persecution during the time of Emperor Claudius II.

The third St. Valentine suffered martyrdom in Africa with several companions. However, nothing further is known about this saint. In all, these men, each named St. Valentine, showed heroic love for the Lord and His Church.

The popular customs of showing love and affection on St. Valentine's Day is almost a coincidence with the feast day of the saint. While it seems that the exchange of "valentines" is more the result of secular custom rather than the memory of St. Valentine, and that the celebration has been further paganized with cupids and the like, there is a Christian message that should be remembered. The love of our Lord, depicted beautifully in the image of His most Sacred Heart, is a sacrificial, self-less, and unconditional love.

On this Valentine's Day, looking to the example of this great saint, each person should offer again his love to the Lord, for only by doing so can he properly love those who are entrusted to his care and any other neighbor. Each person should again pledge his love to those loved ones, praying for their intentions, promising fidelity to them, and thanking them for their love in return. Never forget Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:12-13). St. Valentine fulfilled this command, and may we do the same.



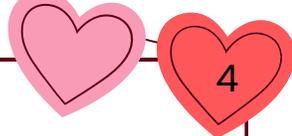
NOW Committee report

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to work at the Clothes Pantry in February. Thanks to Kathy and Robin for overseeing that project. At this writing some dates were still open. Let them know if you are available to help out.

- Are you ready for some football? The February TUM FUN event will be a Super Bowl Tailgate on the 8th. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite tailgate food. Drinks and table service will be provided.
 - Our Noisy Offering and Brown Bag collections will take place on February 15th. Our current Heifer Project is a Family Solar Kit – goal \$250.00.
 - Our Mission Focus for February is the collection of stuffed animals for the Huxley Police Dept. They can be gently used or new. Let's fill the tub on the table in the Narthex.
 - Social Dinners have resumed and the next one will be held at R Place in Kelley at 5:30 on February 26th. Please sign up on the clipboard if you plan to attend.
 - February 22nd is the next Did You Know Sunday. Let us know if there is something that should be announced.
 - On-going projects: Pop tab collection for Ronald McDonald House, plastic bag collection for sleeping mats, stuffed animals, school supplies, personal hygiene items for the Clothes Pantry, and paper tubes (toilet paper/paper towels) for the Trinity Kids Mission Project.
 - Thank you to everyone who has helped bag the cans and bottles. We will resume collecting them sometime in March.
 - First Methodist Church in Ames has opened a place in the church for homeless folks to come during the night when the temperatures are frigid. If you would like to donate items please check out the list at ameswarming.place.
- Ø If you are in the cleaning mode while waiting for spring, box up those get-rid-of items for the Annual Garage Sale to be held on May 9th here at Trinity . More to come on this event.
- Ø Our March Mission Focus will be Ronald McDonald House. Please keep saving those aluminum tabs to fill the jar, and we will also be collecting new children's books which they will take to the hospitals for sick children.

Many thanks to everyone for your support of the NOW Committee projects and events. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we plan activities in 2026!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!



Church Council Notes

January 2026 COUNCIL NOTES

Our church was very busy during the holidays. We hosted the successful Thanksgiving service and soup dinner and our combined hanging of the greens and Advent service with dinner went well. Christmas Eve service was well attended. We donated to the 100+ Thanksgiving meals delivered to Huxley families in need and contributed gifts for the Mitten Tree. Seven care baskets were delivered just before Christmas. Thank you for all you did to help with these outreach missions. Please see the calendar for more volunteer opportunities and events.

Pastor Bobb noted our successes and is already preparing for Easter starting with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 on Feb. 18th. We are in the process of updating membership records and contact information. Please provide your preferred contact information to the office.

The church's 50th anniversary celebration will be planned for this year. Please volunteer to chair the committee, join the committee, or provide ideas for making this a special event for our church.

Building projects are in planning stages. Updating bathrooms and replacing exterior doors are at the top of the list. Designate donations for the Trustees account to help keep our building in good shape.

These financial figures are from January 13, 2026. Year-to-date, we took in \$382.43 more than was spent and apportionments were paid for 2025. Account balances are checking \$2,712.70, trustees \$5,061.80, Memorial \$16,194.05, and Heifer project \$36.32. Your council appreciates all you do for TUMC! Our next meeting is February 11, 2026, so please let us know if you have questions.

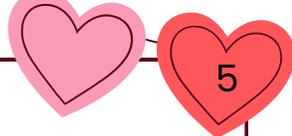
Lenten Book Study

Lenten Study – "Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny" Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai invites you to join her 6-week Lenten Study based on her book "Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny." Together, we will explore how to build beloved community in the face of division and hate.

- When: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM CT
- Dates: Feb 24 | March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- Where: Online via Zoom
- [Register to join & for more details.](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tkXzP2HUT9SVD4tSaGwsfA#/registration>
To order the book: <https://admin.cokesbury.com/Building-Beloved-Community-2?refq=building%20beloved%20community>





2026 #WeAreUMC RAGBRAI Team

Now entering its fourth year, the #WeAreUMC RAGBRAI Team offers a fresh expression of church that embodies connection, hospitality, and discipleship—on two wheels.

RAGBRAI (Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) is the oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycle tour in the world. Each July, thousands of cyclists journey from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River over seven days, riding through Iowa’s rural towns and cities in a celebration of community, culture, and endurance.

The #WeAreUMC team joins this event as a visible and relational expression of United Methodist witness—offering prayer, conversation, and encouragement along the way, while building spiritual community through daily devotions and shared hospitality from UMC churches along the route. In 2025, the team included participants from 14 states, with both riders and support crew contributing to a meaningful ministry on the move.

Our Vision: A Movement Beyond Iowa

Our goal isn’t just to ride RAGBRAI—it’s to grow a broader #WeAreUMC movement that reimagines what church can look like outside the walls of traditional buildings. We believe this kind of mobile, relational, connectional ministry can flourish in many places across the country.

This ministry is more than a bike ride. The #WeAreUMC RAGBRAI team:

- Offers a unique opportunity for faith-based connection, hospitality, and visibility
- Embodies the mission to connect, inspire, and serve as a new expression of church
- Shares the UMC’s inclusive message through prayer, conversation, devotions, and presence
- Welcomes both riders and support crew from all experience levels
- Live out the UMC’s new vision to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously

Learn more here: www.iaumc.org/WeAreUMC-RAGBRAI Dates: July 18-25, 2026

What’s Next?

- Register For RAGBRAI 2026: arty on Jan 24, 2026:
- Team Size Limit: Space is limited—secure your spot early!
- Open to Riders and Support Crew

Feel free to invite others who may be interested in joining our rolling community of faith. Riders and support crew of all experience levels are welcome, and spiritual support is as important as pedaling!

For More Information, Contact:

Liz Winders

#WeAreUMC RAGBRAI Coordinator

(515) 974-8907 liz.winders@iaumc.org

www.iaumc.org/WeAreUMC-RAGBRAI



Church Building Projects

With the Church's 50th Anniversary coming up this year, it is time to make needed repairs and updates to the church building and grounds. Below is a list of items, in order of priority, that the church Council has determined are needed in getting everything ready for the Anniversary party and going into our next 50 years.

1. Bring the Sanctuary Men's and Women's restrooms into ADA Compliance. It has been suggested to make these restrooms unisex and one being ADA compliant and one non-compliant. Estimate \$2,500.00.
2. Insert windows in the doors of two classrooms. Per our insurance carrier these windows are required to protect both the children and the adults in the classrooms. Estimate at \$150.00 per door. This part of our SAFE church program with Iowa Methodist Conference program.
3. Fellowship exit door that faces Highway 69. This door jamb is deteriorating and is no longer keeping the weather out. It would also be easy for someone to gain entry into the building. Estimated cost is \$1,200.00.
4. Fellowship Hall windows. The framework for these windows is also deteriorating. Estimated cost is \$1,500.00 per window. There are windows around Fellowship Hall, South, West and North side, Seven-(7) windows in total.
5. Narthex exit door by the pastor's office. This door jamb is also deteriorating and is no longer keeping the weather out. It would also be easy for someone to gain entry into the building. Estimated cost is \$1,200.00.
6. Revisit exterior landscaping quotes and plans. As you may have noticed a number of the railroad ties have crumbled and have to be removed. Depending on the cost, plans and need this issue will possibly move up on list. We have only some ideas at this point, and not a solid estimate, however depending on the scope we are looking at a cost of \$2,000.00 and up.

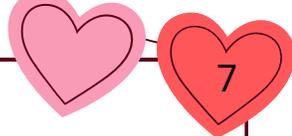
We have estimates listed above for each project, although they are almost a year or more old. We have had a couple people inquire about sponsoring a project and we hope that others can step forward and also sponsor a project in whole or in part.

If you have questions or concerns about these projects, please contact a council member. Craig Henry, Bryan Purdy, Kathy Parmenter, Jay Weeks, Loa Christensen, Nicki McCrady, Tracy Weber, Doug Brown, Jean Kelly, Cheryle Harmon and Pastor Bobb Barrick.

QCD Distribution from Your IRA

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are age seventy (or getting close), you can take advantage of the 2006 pension protection legislation that allows for tax-free use of RMDs for charitable contributions. With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a check goes directly from your IRA to your church or the charity you select. You could pay your annual tithe at one time, or fund a repair project, through their QCD and never have to show it as income.

continued on Page 8



QCD Distribution From Your IRA

You don't have to wait for 73 to do the QCD! QCDs can happen for anyone who has reached the age of seventy and a half. Retirees who are over that age and want to continue to be generous to our church should consider a qualified charitable distribution.

We encourage everyone to discuss this with a financial planner, tax consultant, or attorney—and be sure to let your family know! It could be a savings for you and a blessing to our church!

TUM Hands-Serving Others

As a Grantee under the guidance of Story County Housing Trust (SCHT) we closed out 2025 with a small balance of \$1,431.60 in un spend funds. During the past twelve (12) months we accepted 19 applications for client projects in Story County. Many were HVAC systems, but we had three roofing projects in the list and unfortunately had to turn down two-(2) applicants and had two withdraw.

During this period, we accomplished \$133,651.00 of projects for our neighbors here in Story County. The past year sets a record for our work which surpasses our last record year of \$100,000.00 dollars.

Our 2026 campaign has started with three applicants and a grant for \$60,000.00 in funding. Thank you, Craig D. Henry

Trinity UMC to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Speaking of the Anniversary Celebration this summer, we are looking for people to help in the planning of the party. We don't know what we want to do to celebrate this achievement, but we do know that we want to celebrate.

Below are a couple of questions that we need to figure out how to celebrate.

When do we want to celebrate? What activities should we have? Who should we invite? How do we contact the people we are inviting?

One thing that we need to do to get the process rolling is to get people to join the committee to set up the anniversary activities. If you are interested in helping please contact a council member, Pastor Bobb or notify Eileen in the office.

We also need to update our church roster. We will be sending out an email form for everyone to complete to update their address and phone information. Look for that email form to be sent out in the next couple weeks.

This will be a wonderful celebration; we are looking forward to the fun!



Prayer for St. Valentine's Intercession

O glorious St. Valentine, advocate and protector, look with pity upon our needs today. Hear our humble requests and attend to our prayers with your powerful intercession. Relieve the miseries under which we labor through your heavenly intercession. Obtain for us the divine blessing that we may be found worthy to praise Almighty God. Through the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us your protection. May we join you in praising God for all eternity in heaven. Amen.

