

# TRINITY UMC NEWSLETTER

March 2025

## From the Pastor

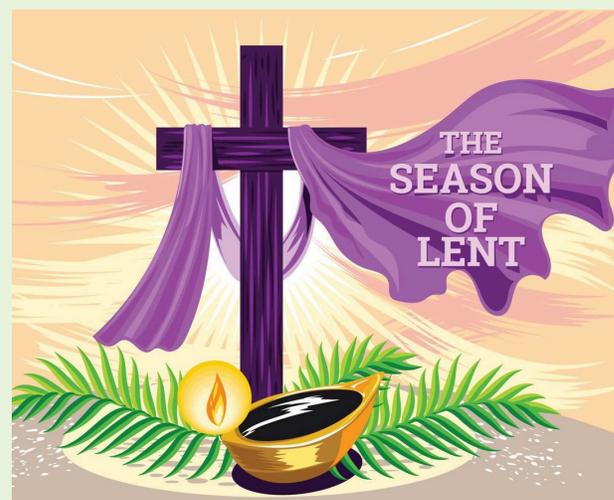
### HOW IS YOUR SEASON OF LENT GOING?

So I was at the Cozy Cafe in Johnston with friends from a 50+ church group having great conversations about 70s muscle cars and Corvette Car club activities (I do not now nor have I ever owned such cars or been a part of such organizations) when the conversation turned to Lent. Given that the day was Ash Wednesday this wasn't a surprise but questions were asked, "Is Ash Wednesday in the Bible?" and "how did that get started?" and "why do we put ashes on our foreheads-- did Jesus do that?"

I am writing this in the morning after we just celebrated Ash Wednesday at Trinity UMC here in Huxley. Continued on page 2

## Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| From the Pastor             | 1  |
| Lenten Book Study           | 3  |
| Council Update              | 4  |
| UMC handbook                | 4  |
| NOW Committee               | 5  |
| SCHT                        | 6  |
| Ballard Summer Meal Program | 6  |
| Congregational Meeting      | 6  |
| Story of St. Patrick        | 7  |
| Member Role Update          | 8  |
| Easter Lilies               | 9  |
| Puzzles                     | 10 |



Here's some information that I hope helps our understanding:

Applying ashes or dust on one's head is an ancient practice in the Near East. It is recorded in the book of Job which is considered to be the oldest book of the Bible. When Job is repenting of his self-righteousness after an encounter with God he writes his response to God in verses 42:5,6

"I had heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees Thee; therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

When Daniel, while in captivity in Babylon, reads the prophet Jeremiah and realizes that God was going to bring the people out of exile and return them to Israel at the end of 70 years, it is recorded in Daniel 9:3

"Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes."

When Jesus encountered a lack of repentance in some Jewish cities, He claimed some gentile cities would have responded appropriately as recorded in Matthew 11:20-21

"Then He began to upbraid the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

As best historians can tell, the practice of applying ashes on the forehead during the season when Jesus turned His face towards Jerusalem and the Cross to die for our sins, began in the 8th century. Pope Urban II made it an official ritual in the Roman Catholic Church in 1091. United Methodists embraced the practice more widely in the 1970s.

As with all rituals and religious practices, the point is not doing it to earn God's favor (can't be done) but to develop one's relationship with God and recognize our need for Jesus the Savior of the World. Celebrating Ash Wednesday is not a command of Jesus but He does call us to repentance and services like this and Good Friday can be powerful, and transformative experiences of our Lord's presence when we open our hearts in faith to Him. Don't participate out of obligation but rather in anticipation of deepening your relationship with Jesus—you never know how powerfully He may impact you. It could be life-changing.

Pastor Bobb

## 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
- To register go to  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tkXzP2HUT9SVD4tSaGwsfA#/registration>

Dear Iowa United Methodists,

We live in a country that is increasingly divided by racism and xenophobia, by growing extremism and rising political violence. Authoritarianism is on the rise, and dangerous ideologies, such as white Christian nationalism, are taking hold. These developments dismay us and leave us with hard questions:

- What does it mean to be a United Methodist Christian at a time when nationalistic movements that call themselves Christian deny the love of Christ?
- How do we have respectful conversations when there is so much division in our communities and churches, even in our own families?
- Can I love my country while rejecting the idea that one nation or race is better than another?

**Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny** is a new study from the Council of Bishops that invites us into this conversation. It invites us to learn together and to build beloved community in the face of division and hate. It invites us into acts of mercy, justice, and love and to faithfully live out our vision.

That vision reminds us, *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

Please join me in studying this important resource. Together, we can grow in our discipleship and be more fully formed in Christ. Together, we can lean into our Christian faith by having the courage to love.

In Christ's Love,  
 Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Thank you to everyone who joined in the social dinner, supported mission projects, and helped with fellowship and church services. Lent will give you more opportunities to sign up and get involved. Our next social dinner is March 26th and watch for information about a special congregation meeting April 12th after church. You are all needed and appreciated.

Pastor Bobb is preparing special services during Lent and Easter. He attended an Ethics Workshop for Pastors. Pastor is hoping to get membership records and information updated and appreciates you completing your information as soon as possible.

The Trustees are going to replace the North exterior door in the fellowship hall as soon as estimates are finalized. Also, council continues to work at keeping the costs of insurance coverage as reasonable as possible by comparing policies.

These financial figures are from February 11, 2026. Year-to-date, we took in \$5,300 more than was spent and will pay 2-3 months of apportionments. Account balances are checking \$7,835.60, Trustees \$6,064.43, Memorial \$16,196.67, and Heifer project \$70.40. Thank you for your generous giving.

Our next meeting is March 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Please let us know if you have agenda items or questions.

### New Digital Edition of the UMC Handbook is Now Available

United Methodist Communications has just published the 2025 - 2028 edition of The United Methodist Church handbook. It, along with the new member companion guide, is available in a digital-first format.

What's included in the new handbook

This updated handbook provides a clear, holistic overview of The United Methodist Church and the shared ministry United Methodists carry out together around the world. Inside, you will find:

- An overview of the denomination's beliefs, mission, structure, and history, with links to additional resources
- Clear explanations of our connectional nature and how United Methodists work together in ministry
- Frequently asked questions and a glossary of key denominational terms
- Information on UMC general agencies, communication, connectional giving, and resources that support mission and ministry

If you are interested in getting a digital copy, please let the office know and we will get the information to you.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Clothes Pantry in February. Thanks to Kathy and Robin for overseeing that project.

It is MARCH MADNESS time! The March TUM FUN event will be a ST. PATRICK'S DAY/MARCH MADNESS Breakfast on the 8th. A sign-up sheet for food is on the clipboard at church – pancakes will be provided.

- Our Noisy Offering and Brown Bag collections will take place on March 22nd. Our current Heifer Project is a Family Solar Kit – goal \$250.00.
- Our Mission Focus for March is the collection of aluminum tabs and new, all-age, children's books for The Ronald McDonald House. These books are shared with children in the hospitals. Please leave on the table in the Narthex.
- Social Dinners have resumed and the March get together will be held at the Boulder Tap House in Ankeny at 5:30 on March 26th. Please sign up on the clipboard if you plan to attend.
- March 29th is 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.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped bag the cans and bottles. We will resume collecting them sometime in March. A camp scholarship is being provided to Josh Weber with some of the funds made from this project.
- 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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> here at Trinity. No clothes please, and large items can be brought in on Friday, May 8th. We plan to have lunch and a bake sale again this year.

Ø Our April Mission Focus will be the Huxley First Responders (Fire, EMS, PD). A list will be made available of items we can supply for them to refresh after calls. 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 2026!

## CONGRATULATIONS

We have served 85 families through our work with Story County Housing Trust since its inception approximately Eight (8) years ago. This year we were awarded \$60,000.00 for The OORP (Owner Occupied Repair Program) and have already helped four of your fellow Story County neighbors. PLUS, we have two working projects, currently.

TODAY, we installed a water heater for a family of six. The total investment in Story County with this program is now approximately \$420,000.00 and I believe we are doing the work our Lord intended.

TUM Hands-Serving Others is your church helping our fellow Story County neighbors.

Respectfully, Craig D. Henry  
Administrator

## Ballard Summer Meal Program

The Summer of 2025 was a great success! Now it is on to planning for the summer of 2026. We have sent out a survey to the Ballard School District parents to gauge interest for 2026. hopefully we will see an increase in the number of children we will serve.

We are also hoping to start a partnership with the Ballard High School FFA, Family Consumer Science and the Business students to help us with menu planning, budgeting, fresh fruit and vegetable produce, and fund raising.

If you have ideas or time to help us with this program please contact Kathy Parmenter, Traci Kirtley or Eileen Lewis.

## Congregational Meeting April 12th

TUMC started 50 years ago, and our success is due to the planning and visions of those charter members. Many years and congregational meetings later we still need to look ahead and plan for our church's future. Our church council is organizing such a meeting for April 12th after Sunday service. Please mark this date on your calendar and help us start the process. During fellowship we will ask you to complete a short questionnaire, provide your input on what you hope to see in our church's future and set priorities for our church. Watch for more information and be thinking of what you see as our church's vision and programming you would like implemented. It takes all of us keep the church moving forward and one of our strengths is the way we come together to meet our goals and create successful programs. We look forward to your input and appreciate your time with this initiative.

The history of St. Patrick's Day dates back more than 1,000 years and honors Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick. The holiday is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. In 2026, St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years.



Saint Patrick, who lived in the fifth century, is celebrated as the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. After escaping, he eventually returned and is credited with introducing Christianity to the Irish people. Over the centuries following his death, believed to be on March 17, 493, stories about his life became deeply woven into Irish culture. One of the most famous legends tells of him explaining the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—using the three leaves of a shamrock.

Since the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have celebrated a Roman Catholic feast day honoring St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, the first St. Patrick's Day parade didn't happen in Ireland but in America. Records show one was held on March 17, 1601, in the Spanish colony of St. Augustine, Florida, organized by the colony's Irish vicar, Ricardo Artur, along with a celebration the year before. Over a century later, on March 17, 1762, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the British military marched in New York City to honor their patron saint. From there, enthusiasm for St. Patrick's Day parades only continued to grow. It is believed that there are more than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations."

Today, the New York City parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.75-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each. In 2020, the New York City parade was one of the first major city events to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic; it was replaced by a low-profile ceremonial march in 2021. The parade in New York and others around the country returned in 2022.

# Updating Member Info

The questionnaire below was emailed out to everyone last week. If you did not receive it, please complete the one here and turn it into the office. Our email is huxleytumc@gmail.com, and mailing address is P O Box 185, Huxley, IA 50124.

In an attempt to update the Trinity United Methodist Church Directory, we politely ask that you complete the following questionnaire. This questionnaire was emailed out to the people whose email address we have. If you have received and completed it via email you do not have to complete this form.

This information will not be shared outside of Church Communications.

\* Indicates required question

Your Name \* \_\_\_\_\_

Your spouse \* \_\_\_\_\_

Children in your home and their age(s). \* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Trinity United Methodist Church? \*

- Yes
- No

Do you wish to remain on the membership roll for Trinity United Methodist Church? \*

- Yes
- No

Do you wish to continue receiving communications from Trinity United Methodist Church? \*

- Yes, continue below
- No, thank you for your response.

Do you have adult children who were confirmed at Trinity United Methodist Church who would like to receive communications from us? If so please share their contact information. \*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Updating Member Info Continued

Your Home Address and Mailing Address if it is different.\*

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Home Phone number If you have one. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell Phone number. \*

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Your Spouse's Cell Phone number. \*

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Your Email Address. \*

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Your Spouse's email Address if it is different. \*

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Do you prefer mailed, emailed or text communications? Please mark your preference. \*

Written communications sent through the post office

Emailed communications

Text communications

Comments

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Thank you for sharing this information with us. Please feel free to email any questions or concerns to [huxleytunc@gmail.com](mailto:huxleytunc@gmail.com). We will respond to you as soon as possible.

## Easter Lilies

If you wish to donate Lilies for the Easter season, please complete this form and turn it into the church office or place it in the offering plates.

Consider sharing the beauty of flowers this holy season and recognize or memorialize a loved one with an Easter Lily.

A list of donors will be noted on the Easter Bulletin.

I would like to order \_\_ \$13.00 \_\_ Lily (s)

( ) in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Recognition of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

# Lent Word Scramble

- ROYTF ASDY \_\_\_\_\_
- PTENAECENR \_\_\_\_\_
- SIGTNAF \_\_\_\_\_
- MURALEJSE \_\_\_\_\_
- TEBYARLA \_\_\_\_\_
- NIRES \_\_\_\_\_
- SEDTRE \_\_\_\_\_
- ODGO DIFYRA \_\_\_\_\_
- HSA NDYASEDWE \_\_\_\_\_
- CILSIPEDS \_\_\_\_\_
- OSRCS \_\_\_\_\_
- GRISFOVNESE \_\_\_\_\_
- HSASE \_\_\_\_\_
- EAPNECN \_\_\_\_\_
- YOHL USDYRTAH \_\_\_\_\_
- REYARP \_\_\_\_\_
- XCIRONUIFCI \_\_\_\_\_
- ATRESE \_\_\_\_\_
- MPAL ASYDUN \_\_\_\_\_
- SUJSE \_\_\_\_\_
- FICGRECIA \_\_\_\_\_
- NORSURITECRE \_\_\_\_\_
- LOYH EKEW \_\_\_\_\_
- LSBES \_\_\_\_\_

|                   |               |             |               |              |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Word Bank:</b> | ASHES         | DESERT      | GOOD FRIDAY   | PENANCE      |
|                   | ASH WEDNESDAY | DISCIPLES   | HOLY THURSDAY | PRAYER       |
|                   | BETRAYAL      | EASTER      | HOLY WEEK     | REPENTANCE   |
|                   | BLESS         | FASTING     | JERUSALEM     | RESURRECTION |
|                   | CROSS         | FORGIVENESS | JESUS         | RISEN        |
| CRUCIFIXION       | FORTY DAYS    | PALM SUNDAY | SACRIFICE     |              |

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

1. lodg \_\_\_\_\_
2. tpo \_\_\_\_\_
3. enger \_\_\_\_\_
4. lukc \_\_\_\_\_
5. igj \_\_\_\_\_
6. ppie \_\_\_\_\_
7. imcag \_\_\_\_\_
8. crmha \_\_\_\_\_
9. nista \_\_\_\_\_
10. phicn \_\_\_\_\_

jig      pipe      gold      magic      pinch  
 march      luck      saint      green      pot



H F D J Z A S H W E D N E S D A Y H R R  
 N O A G O O D F R I D A Y J E S B O E E  
 G O L P A S S O V E R P A S F O R L S S  
 T T M Y B M F J E S U A J A C K A Y U U  
 N W S P S G O L O V E L E C E D N T R R  
 N A G R F A R L P A L M B R A N C H E R  
 J S I A A F T P L Y E S E I S O J U S E  
 C H V Y S O Y U J Y N U A F T A E R U C  
 J I I E T R D R R M T N S I E H S S S T  
 A N N R I H A P W D J D T C R X U D W I  
 N G G C N O Y L W E A A E E Y G S A Z O  
 W E D N G L S E H O L Y W E E K H Y C N

- Ash
- Wednesday
- Sacrifice
- Almsgiving
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Lent
- Palm Branch
- Forty Days
- Jesus
- Passover
- Holy Week
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter
- Palm Sunday
- Purple
- Foot Washing
- Resurrection
- Love