

# Trinity United Methodist Church

Your monthly newsletter about our church!

March 2024

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## Prayers

Please keep praying for Pastor Dass, Martha Brown, Alice Kahler, Steve Hornung, Rich Harmon, Kay & Larry Thompson, Kathy Parmenter's sisters, Nathan Dishman, and Pat Cole.

A Note from Kay Thompson  
"Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. We have all built a church we can be proud of. I love you all, but I feel God is calling me home."

## Serving Others

By Pastor Emmanuel Dass

There is an oft-quoted story that tells of a rumor which spread through a certain village that the Master is coming. That he is going to come on a particular day; so the women of the neighborhood began working diligently to prepare their homes, hoping that the Master would come to their house. One woman, in particular, busied herself in preparation for the Master to come. And while she was thus engaged, there was a knock at the door. There stood a small neighbor's boy—who had injured his finger while playing—and he wished her to bind it up and to dress the wound. And she said, "Sonny, you go home and get your mother to help you. I am too busy cleaning for the Master."

A little later there was a knock on the back door, and she went to the back door to find a beggar seeking bread. But she said, "No, the food that I have I'm saving it for the Master. I can't share with you. So she sent him away.

Then, toward evening, there came a traveler who knocked on the door and ask for shelter for the evening. And she said, "No, I only have one bed left; and if the Master comes, it's for Him."

Then at last, with everything ready, she sat down and waited for the Master to come. And she waited... waited... waited. But the Master never came.

The poor woman never understood that three times that day she had her chance to serve him. That three times He had come to her door and that three times she had turned him away.

Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done unto me."

There are the neighbor's children. There are the people who work in your office, the service station attendants, and the store clerks. There is a multitude of people whose paths you cross—there is your chance to serve the Lord.

Deny yourself! Take up your cross and follow Jesus. Then, not only do we find meaning and purpose in life. "If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it." (Mark 8:35)

### Christ-Like Actions for Lent

To help you experience the meaning of Lent, here is a list of actions you could do in the spirit of Christ:

- Write a letter to someone who longs to hear from you
- Offer to babysit for a few hours
- Pray for someone who has no one to pray for
- Donate for Hunger project and Clothing Closet
- Be patient with someone when you don't feel like it
- Apologize to someone whom you have hurt
- Fast on Good Friday.



### The Origin of Easter

When asked how Easter originated, historians sometimes point to Acts 12:4 (KJV), where the word 'Easter' is used. This is actually a loose translation of the Greek word, 'Pascha,' which is usually translated 'Passover'. In the New Testament, a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Christ, but no indication of an annual celebration, is recorded.

The Jewish Christians later linked it with the Passover and observed it on the 14th day of Nisan (April) regardless of the day of the week. However, Gentile Christians later celebrated the annual resurrection of Christ on the Lord's day. In 325 AD, the Council of Nicaea decided Easter would be observed the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox (the time the sun crosses the equator—approximately March 21). This remains our method for determining the date of Easter and it always falls between March 22 and April 25.

But more important than when Easter is celebrated is how it is celebrated. Do we allow Easter to confirm and deepen our faith? Are we living our faith daily? If we say we believe, do our lives show it?

## Palm Sunday

The celebration of Palm Sunday originated in Jerusalem in the fourth century. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, had established churches on the various sites in the Holy Land which were traditionally held to mark the earthly life of Jesus. Gradually, celebrations arose around these churches that re-enacted, in dramatic fashion, the events of Jesus' passion. On the Sunday before Easter, for instance, people gathered on the Mount of Olives. One of the gospel narratives describing the triumphal entry into Jerusalem was read and the people proceeded down the Mount and into the city, children and adults alike waving palm and olive branches and singing psalms.

As the observance of the Palm Sunday spread, carried back to local churches by people who had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, it became customary for each worshiper to receive a palm branch to take home after the pilgrimage. Now Palm Sunday is celebrated all around the world. This year Palm Sunday is March 24. Join online or in-person for worship on Palm Sunday.

## Maundy Thursday

The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin *mandatum*, commandment, after the traditional Maundy Thursday reading from John: "A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another even as I have loved you" (John 13:34). It is the night on which Christians for centuries have re-enacted Christ's washing of his disciples' feet. It is also the night on which we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. Come and join us for the Holy Communion, Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm

## Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
4/5	4/9	4/10	4/12
			

## Good Friday

Good Friday is probably the second oldest "special day" of the Christian year, predated only by the celebration of Vigil on Easter Eve. The appropriate liturgical color is, in fact, no color at all. This is highlighted by stripping the sanctuary of the paraments, banners, and candles. Come and worship on Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm.

## Easter Sunday

We are story-telling people. And at the heart of the story we tell is the death and resurrection of Jesus. That makes Good Friday and Easter the high point of the Christian year, and they have been observed and celebrated by the church since the earliest times. Easter is the central celebration of the Christian year. Join us for worship on Easter Sunday, March 31, 9:30 am.

## Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily has long been a symbol of Christ's resurrection. For as the bulb dies before springing forth to new life so Jesus died before being raised to new life. Please donate a plant for Easter Sunday.

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 \_\_\_\_\$12.50\_\_ Lily (s)  
 ( ) in memory of\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please make your payments to Trinity

## Holy Communion

Through communion as a means of grace, we encounter the boundless love of God offered freely for our sakes and the sake of the world. The Sacrament will be served on Sunday, March 3.

## Calendar

March 3 Sunday	Worship	9:30 AM
March 5	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 7	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 10 Sunday	Worship	9:30 AM
March 12	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 14	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 17 Sunday	Worship	9:30 AM
March 19	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 21	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 24 Palm Sunday	Worship	9:30 PM
March 26	Martial Arts Class	6:00 PM
March 28 Thursday	Maundy Thursday Worship Service	7:00 PM
March 29 Friday	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM
March 31 Sunday	Easter Worship Service	9:30 AM
	Children's Activity	10:30 AM

## March Madness

The NOW (Nurture Outreach Worship) Committee is planning a March Madness event on March 17th after worship.

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and also the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. Please join in the celebration and wear green or your favorite team colors. If you are a Notre Dame fan, you will have both covered.

The committee is planning on serving Pancakes and are asking congregation members to assist with the breakfast by providing other foods.



## March Madness Event



COME AND ENJOY BREAKFAST AFTER WORSHIP  
AS WE CELEBRATE MARCH MADNESS AND ST. PATRICKS DAY!

Pancakes will be furnished.  
There is a sign-up sheet at church on the clipboard for other items.



## District Committee Openings

*We need you!!*

Are you ready to step into leadership at the Conference and District Level? The District Nominations Committee has the following openings. If you have an interest in any of the Committees, please let the District Office know. Please provide your name, contact information (address, phone number and where your church membership is held) along with the committee you would like to know more about.

Annual Conference Members. Each district is assigned 25 District At Large Members. In addition, each district is assigned two young adult members (age 18 – 30) and two youth members (high school age).

Conference Openings:

- Finance & Administration – Need new clergy person
- Trustees – New Laywoman
- Episcopacy – Need new layman
- Volunteers in Mission – One person
- Board of Laity – One lay person
- COSROW – New representative

Annual Conference Members. Each district is assigned 25 District At Large Members. In addition, each district is assigned two young adult members (age 18 – 30) and two youth members (high school age). We still have openings!

Please reach out to your District Office or Kathy Pettinger at [mkpettin@midiowa.net](mailto:mkpettin@midiowa.net) with any questions or interest in helping fill the available positions. Include your name and contact information (name, email, phone number & mailing address).

## HomeOwner Assistance Fund

Iowa Homeowner Assistance Fund Iowa Homeowner Assistance Fund. This outlines information regarding a Home Repair Program. The goal of the program is to prevent homeowners being displaced by assisting with home repairs. These needs must affect the insurability or accessibility of their home. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$35,000 to effect these repairs. Eligible homeowners may also qualify for assistance with past due mortgage and related property expenses, or payments of fines assessed by local government as a result of the inability to make the critical repairs (i.e. fine for a broken sidewalk, boarded up windows). Submit an on-line application at [iowafinance.com/repair](http://iowafinance.com/repair).

# Iowa United Methodist Camp Pledge Form

It seems like summer is still a long way off, but it will be here before you know it plants will be budding, trees will again have leaves, and children will be attending summer camp at Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji.

Each year, we reach out and invite the churches in our conference to be part of this ministry. 2024 is no exception.

Here is a pledge form. Can you contribute to camps? The dollars raised are used to provide camp scholarships for those that may not be able to attend due to family financial constraints, as well as providing every camper a subsidy toward their registration keeping the registration fee lower than actual costs.



Thank You

Joanne Appenzeller  
Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center

Mark Slocum  
Director for Camps and  
Spiritual Formation

<b>Step 1: Donor Info</b>	Name(s) _____		
	Address _____	City, ST, Zip _____	
	Cell _____ Home _____	Work _____	
	Email _____		
	Last Year's Gift _____		
<b>Step 2: Pledge Info</b>	1. Total 2024 pledge \$ _____		
	2. Designation: <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Okoboji <input type="checkbox"/> Wesley Woods <input type="checkbox"/> Where Needed Most		
	3. Check if you prefer to remain anonymous <input type="checkbox"/>		
	4. If your gift is \$1,000 or more, may we include your name on the Campfire Circle plaque at camp? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
<b>Step 3: Payment Options</b>	1. Payment options: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit or Debit Card <input type="checkbox"/> E-Check <input type="checkbox"/> Stock*		
	*A member of the Iowa Camps team will be in touch with the donor		
	2. How would you like to pay?		
	<b>Cash/Check</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly invoice mailed the 1 <sup>st</sup> of the month beginning March 2024	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly invoice mailed March, June, September, December	
	<b>Card/ E-Check</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice for full payment on specified date: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice immediately			
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly recurring on day of your choice: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly recurring on 15 <sup>th</sup> of the month	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full payment on specified date: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Full payment immediately	
<b>Step 4: Payment Info</b>	Card type: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express		
	<b>Card</b>	Card # _____	Expiration _____
		Name on Card _____	Security Code _____
	<b>E-Check</b>	Name on Bank Account _____	Account Number _____
		Routing Number _____	

# Happy Easter Word Scramble

The Easter Bunny decorated some of his eggs with words, but when he delivered them, they got a little scrambled. Can you unscramble the words and find the answer to his favorite riddle?



1. \_ \_ \_ 1 2 \_ \_ \_

4. \_ \_ \_ 7 \_ \_ 8

2. \_ \_ 3 4 \_ \_ \_ 5

5. \_ \_ 9 \_ \_ \_ \_

3. 6 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. 10 11 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

*What do you call a rabbit who tells good jokes?*

11 6 3 2 7 8

10 9 1 4 5