

# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February Newsletter

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## Valentine Poem for God

You always answer when I call  
And help me up if I should fall,  
But you never complain at all,  
My true friend.

You see in me gifts I deny  
And urge me to give things a try.  
You spread for me my wings to fly,  
My true friend.

You always perceive what I need  
And offer it before I plead.  
Just like a book, my mind you read,  
My true friend.

And greatest of all I have found  
When times are tough and I'm  
down,

You are the one who sticks around,  
My true friend.

## From the Pastor

### Don't Hope...Decide

Here is a marvelous story to  
ponder in anticipation of  
Valentine's Day, written by  
Michael Hargrove.

Straining to locate my friend  
among the passengers deplaning  
through the jet-way, I noticed a  
man coming toward me carrying  
two light bags. He stopped right  
next to me to greet his family.  
First, he motioned his youngest  
son (may be six years old) as he  
laid down his bags. They gave  
each other a long, loving hug. As  
they separated enough to look  
into each other's face, I heard the  
father say, "It's so good to see  
you, son. I missed you so much."  
His son smiled somewhat shyly,  
averted his eyes and replied  
softly, "Me, too, Dad!"

Then the man stood up, and  
gazed into the eyes of his oldest  
son (maybe nine and ten)

Continued Page 2

# From the Pastor continued

and while cupping his son's face in his hands, said, "I love you very much, Zach." They too hugged a most loving, tender hug. While this was happening, a baby girl (perhaps two years old) was squirming excitedly in her mother's arms, never once taking her eyes off the wonderful sight of her returning father. The man said, "Hi, baby girl!" as he gently took the child from her mother. He quickly kissed her face all over and then held her close to his chest while rocking her from side to side. The little girl instantly relaxed and simply laid her head on his shoulder, motionless in pure contentment.

After several moments, he handed his daughter to his oldest son and declared, "I've saved the best for last!" and proceeded to hug his wife. He gazed into her eyes for several seconds and then silently mouthed, "I love you so much!" They stared at each other's eyes beaming big smiles at one another, while holding both hands.

For an instant they reminded me of newlyweds, but I knew by the age of their kids that they couldn't possibly be newlyweds. I puzzled about it for a moment then realized how totally engrossed I was in the wonderful display of unconditional love not more than an arm's length away from me.

I suddenly felt uncomfortable, as if I was invading something sacred, but was amazed to hear my own voice nervously ask, "How long have you two been married?"

"Married for twelve years" he replied, without taking his gaze from his lovely wife's face. "Well, then, how long have you been away?" I asked the man. The man finally turned and looked at me, still beaming his joyous smile, "two whole days!"

Two days? I was stunned by the intensity of the greeting. I had assumed he'd been gone for at least for several weeks—if not months. I know my expression betrayed me, I said almost offhandedly, hoping to end my intrusion with some semblance of grace, I hope my marriage is still passionate after twelve years?"

The man suddenly stopped smiling. He looked me straight in the eye, and with forcefulness that burned right into my soul, he told me something that left me a different person. He told me, "Don't hope, friend... decide."

Continued on Page 3

# From the Pastor continued

Then he flashed his wonderful smile again, and shook my hand and said, "God Bless!" With that he and his family turned and strode away together. I was still watching that exceptional man and his family walk just out of sight when my friend came up to me and asked, "What' cha looking at?" Without hesitation and with a curious sense of certainty, I replied, "My future." By Michael Hargrove

## Communion Sunday

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, February 2. Come and celebrate the sacrament with your church family.

## Brown Bag Sunday

Help those who are in need by bringing a bag of groceries to the church on the Third Sunday, February 16. Non-perishable food items are needed. You can also make monetary donations. Thank you for your generosity.

## Coffee Fellowship Time

Volunteers are needed for coffee refreshments following the worship services. Please sign-up if you wish to help. A sign-up sheet is on the friendship table.

## Sunday Worship Service

We live-stream our worship service on Facebook at 9:30 am. You can also go to our website and watch the service there at any time. Watch us online or join us in-person worship.

## New Safety Equipment

We recently reviewed and ordered NEW fire extinguishers, fire blankets and signs for the kitchen and other locations within the church. Please consider familiarizing yourself with where they are located.



# Our Mission

The mission of God's church is to go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make disciples by proclaiming this gospel, calling people to respond in ongoing repentance and faith, and demonstrating the truth and power of the gospel by living under the lordship of Christ for the glory of God and the good of the world.

How do we perform the mission? Do we go into the world proclaiming God's word? Do we call to people and show our faith? Do we invite People to know Jesus, to come to our church and learn about Jesus?

We perform God's mission by performing acts in our community that show God's love for others.

Staffing the Clothing Pantry

Collecting food on Brown Bag Sunday

Donating to Heifer International,

Pancake breakfast

Fellowship each Week

Social Dinners

the Little Free Pantry

Thanksgiving Baskets

Many other activities as well are all part of the church's and our mission. What else can we do to bring God's love and Word to the world?



## Valentine's Day Origin

No one knows for sure how Valentine's Day began, but there is one story that says there was a Christian priest named Valentine who lived in Rome. The story says that he helped young soldiers get married (against the wishes of the emperor). This angered the emperor and he had Valentine put in jail.

The children of his church were saddened and wrote notes saying that they loved and missed him, then they pushed their notes through the prison bars. These notes were perhaps the first valentines.

Later, Pope Gelasius I declared February 14 the feast day of St. Valentine. It became a day for the expression of love. The greatest commandment says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and the second is, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22: 37,39

# TUM FUN



**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL??**

**TUM FUN SUPER BOWL TAILGATE  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 10:30ish**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE TAILGATE SNACK AND  
COME JOIN THE FUN.**

**Drinks and table service will be provided. Wear your team colors.  
Bring family, a friend or neighbor.**

## **NOW Committee News**

Thank you to all who have signed up to help at the Clothes Pantry and with the Pancake Breakfast this month.

Church sponsored "Take Your Sweetheart(s) to Breakfast on February 8th.  
Did You Know Sunday - February 9th Recap of all NOW Projects/Events.  
The NOW Committee is hosting our Annual Super Bowl Tailgate on February 9th. Bring your favorite tailgate snack to share during fellowship.

# NOW Committee News

Noisy Offering to Benefit Heifer Project – Sunday, February 16th We are almost at our goal with our current project “Sending a Girl to School” – Goal \$275.00 This year we have so far supported Heifer International with a Dream Basket, Bee Hive/Earth Basket, and a Pig. Thank you for your support!

Our Mission Focus in February is collecting new or gently used soft animals for the Huxley Police Department. Add to the tub in the NOW communication corner.

On-going projects: Pop tab collection for Ronald McDonald House, plastic bag collection for sleeping mats, Teddy Bears/Stuffed Animals for Huxley PD, yarn.

Plans are being made to host a garage sale in May that will include lunch and a bake sale.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the NOW Committee projects and events.

## SCHT News

SCHT (Story County Housing Trust) was formed in 2019 by six leaders in Story County to serve citizens of Story County. Some of the work is done by “TUM Hands – Serving Others” (Trinity United Methodist Hands – Serving Others). Recently TUM Hands – Serving Others was awarded \$99,000.00 for service projects for the current 2025-26 year.

Our programs are aligned to assist the citizens of Story County in need of a safe, secure home to live. During the last few weeks of winter weather, we installed a new HVAC system for a Story County family with two disabled occupants.

Recently I was re-elected to the SCHAT board of directors and serve as the Vice-Chair and hope to serve more citizens through our church in the years to come.

## Adopt a Project

In the December Newsletter there was a proposal for people to adopt a maintenance project to help maintain the building condition. Some of the projects were replacing the doors and the windows in the fellowship hall, repairing the playground fence and a few other issues. Continue on Pg 7



We have had some members step forward to adopt a maintenance project that was mentioned in December, a few have been adopted by some of our congregation members. Thank you!

The North Exit door from the fellowship hall is deteriorating and will be replaced with a new door similar to what we used in the sanctuary (SE Exit). Plus, they are paintable to match the exterior and interior of the church. We will replace the other Fellowship Hall exit door as our next project.

The library window is also failing and is our other adopted project.

We are soliciting bids for a new library window and West exit door at this time with plans to install in the spring.

## **Letter from the Bishop Standing with Our Migrant Neighbors**

Time for Action: Immigration Advocacy and Support Letter from Iowa's Ecumenical Leaders

To Our Migrant Siblings in Christ:

As we celebrate the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his call to beloved community, we stand with our Catholic colleagues in extending to you our prayers, our solidarity and our witness in these trying times. We are aware of the uncertainty, fear and threat you face as migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We want you to know that you are loved and valued by God and by us. You are not alone.

We are neighbors, friends and colleagues. Together, we are part of the household of God. Despite the harmful rhetoric we hear, we are all made in God's image and precious and honored in God's sight (Isaiah 43:4). We recognize and are thankful for the immense gifts contributed to the collective culture and shared experience.

As members of the Body of Christ, we stand together, reminding our nation of its historic commitments to human rights. We will renew our commitment to live out God's second greatest commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We will work to protect inherent dignity and insist on fair, lawful and compassionate treatment of everyone.



# Letter from Bishop continued

All of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, “For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come,” (Hebrews 13:14). We invite all people of Iowa to join us in sojourning with you in ways that are just and respectful of our shared humanity. May God bless you and give you peace as we walk together this common journey.

In Christ,

Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference and Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church

## LITANY IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS

LEADER: The love of Christ shines in the lives of all people—including those who are migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We stand with our migrant neighbors in the face of threats to their basic human rights.

**PEOPLE: We commit ourselves to being the love of Christ in the lives of our immigrant neighbors.**

LEADER: God calls us to treat all people with the compassion. Christ compels us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Holy Spirit leads us to speak up when our migrant neighbors are vilified or dehumanized.

**PEOPLE: We commit ourselves to be the love of Christ in the lives of our immigrant neighbors.**

LEADER: In Christ, we oppose language, actions and policies that do harm to our migrant neighbors. In Christ, we oppose language, actions or policies that further racism and delay racial healing. In Christ, we call for reconciliation and beloved community.

**PEOPLE: We commit ourselves to being the love of Christ in the lives of our immigrant neighbors.**

LEADER: Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven,” (MT 5: 14,16 NRSV).

**All: We commit ourselves to allowing the love of Christ to shine in us. We commit ourselves to allowing Christ’s justice to work through us. We commit ourselves to being the light of God’s peace, reconciliation and hope in the world. Amen.**



# Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						Clothing Pantry 10-12
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Clothing Pantry 2-4		TaeKwondo 6:30	Clothing Pantry 5-7	TaeKwondo 6:30		Clothing Pantry 10-12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Clothing Pantry 2-4		TaeKwondo 6:30	Clothing Pantry 5- 7Church Council Mtg 6:30	TaeKwondo 6:30		Clothing Pantry 10-12
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Clothing Pantry 2-4		TaeKwondo 6:30	Clothing Pantry 5-7	TaeKwondo 6:30		Clothing Pantry 10-12
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Clothing Pantry 2-4		TaeKwondo 6:30	Clothing Pantry 5-7	TaeKwondo 6:30		

## Puzzles

### Valentine Word Scramble

1. elwrfo \_\_\_\_\_
2. yatpr \_\_\_\_\_
3. ftgi \_\_\_\_\_
4. vleo \_\_\_\_\_
5. nigea \_\_\_\_\_
6. der \_\_\_\_\_
7. seros \_\_\_\_\_
8. rehta \_\_\_\_\_
9. wsaettehre \_\_\_\_\_
10. inkp \_\_\_\_\_

1. rdac \_\_\_\_\_
2. brrufaey \_\_\_\_\_
3. othcaeloc \_\_\_\_\_
4. orwar \_\_\_\_\_
5. ssidken \_\_\_\_\_
6. dacny \_\_\_\_\_
7. epails \_\_\_\_\_
8. ebinem \_\_\_\_\_
9. hypap \_\_\_\_\_
10. ltruveeo \_\_\_\_\_

### Cross word Hints

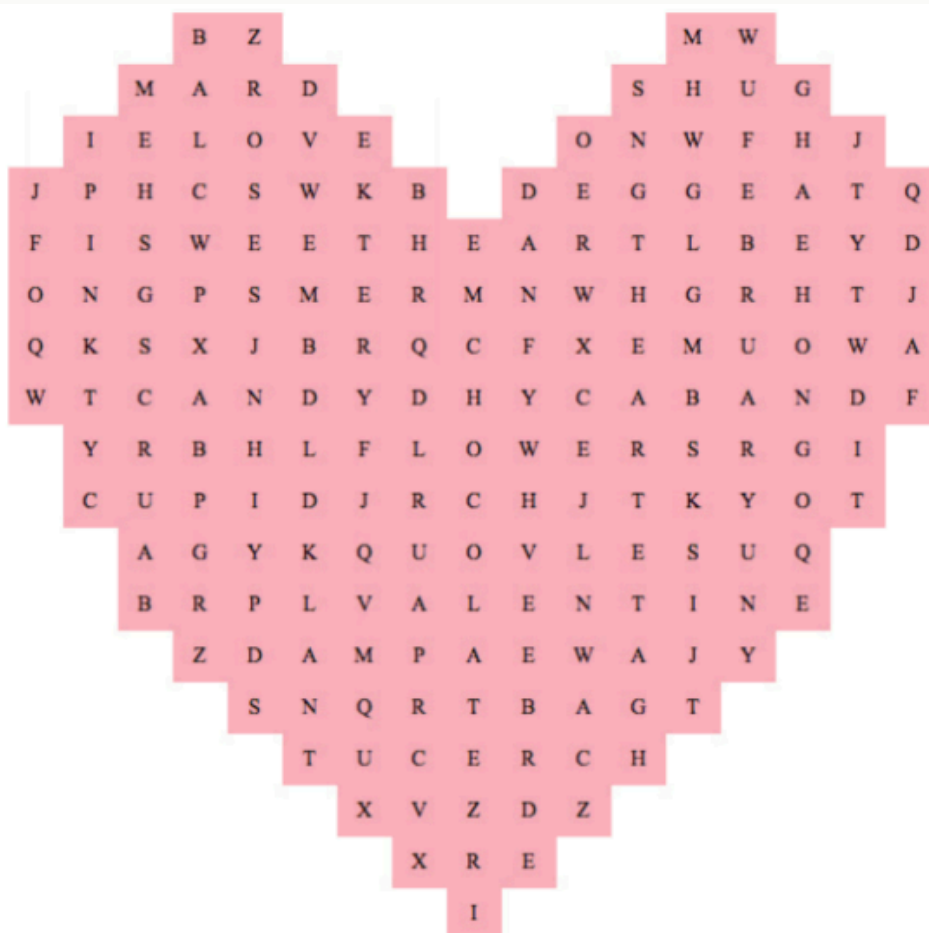
PHILADELPHIA  
TOM BRADY  
TOUCHDOWN  
FIELD GOAL

TICKET  
COMMERCIALS  
LOS ANGELES  
GRIDIRON

JUMBOTRON  
SAN FRANCISCO  
MIAMI  
JERRY RICE

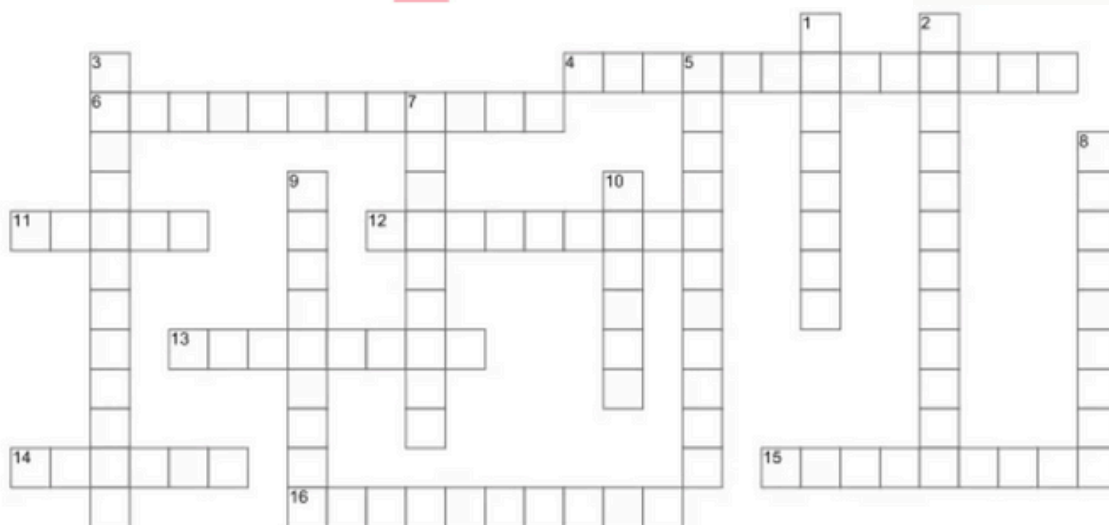
PRINCE  
VINCE LOMBARDI  
SUPER BOWL  
HALFTIME SHOW

# Puzzles



## Word Bank

Love  
Chocolate  
Roses  
Cupid  
Pink  
Valentine  
February  
Red  
Hug  
Flowers  
Candy Heart  
Sweetheart  
Card  
Sweet



### ACROSS

4. Name of Super Bowl Trophy.
6. Entertainment during the Super Bowl.
11. Most of the Super Bowls have been played in this city.
12. Wide Receiver
13. American football field.
14. Performed at the Super Bowl XLI Halftime Show.
15. Large video screen that displays live action and scores.
16. First Super Bowl was played at...

### DOWN

1. Player who has won the most Super Bowls.
2. Team that won the highest scoring Super Bowl of all time.
3. Eagles
5. A 30-second spot ad.
7. Big Game
8. Six points are scored.
9. Three points are scored.
10. Required to watch the game at the stadium.