



Trinity In Touch

January 2025

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Mission

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision

We strive to be an inclusive faith community that extends God's love in our neighborhood and world.

Core Values

Diversity & Inclusiveness: Seeking to affirm every person as a child of God.

Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason: Searching for truth in our faith community.

Peace & Justice: Striving for positive social change in our neighborhood and world.

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Happy New Year!

As we step into 2025, I know we do so with a mix of emotions. This new year offers us the hope of fresh beginnings and new opportunities, but also a great deal of uncertainty about the challenges that lie ahead. It's perfectly natural to feel some apprehension as we look at the landscape of the world around us. Yet, as people of faith, we know this truth: no matter the season, God is with us.

Our calling does not waver with the times. We are called to love, to stand with the oppressed, and to proclaim justice, mercy, and hope in all we do. The light of the Gospel shines brightest in moments of darkness, and it is in such moments that we are invited to be a source of comfort, courage, and compassion.

This month, as we begin our Faith at the Movies series, we'll explore stories that remind us of the strength found in community, the power of perseverance, and the hope that comes from stepping forward in faith, even when the path ahead seems uncertain. These are stories that remind us who we are as God's people: bearers of Christ's love and builders of God's beloved community.

Let us enter 2025 with watchful hearts, looking for ways to uplift those who are hurting, to stand in solidarity with those who feel forgotten, and to boldly share the love of Christ with all. We may face difficult seasons, but we never have to face them alone. Together we will continue the work of building a world where love has the final word.

May 2025 be a year of faithfulness and courage for all of us. Whatever challenges or joys this year may bring, let us walk forward together, trusting that God is at work in and through us, always.

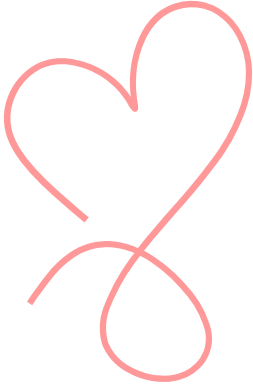
Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike

Happy New Year

Ministry Spotlight

Each month this year we will be highlighting a ministry within Trinity that you may or may not know about. This is a great way to see what our Trinity family is up to and ways in which you can get involved. We look forward to sharing these exciting ministries with you as we go through the new year!



We love Trinity, do you?

We have a new opportunity for any members who wish to express their love for Trinity. Tell us why you love Trinity and what programs you support by your giving! If this appeals to you, contact Eve Ricketts at rickettse235@gmail.com or 616-450-1206, Bonnie Czuhajewski at bonnie.czu@gmail.com, or the office at office@grtunc.org.

Finance News

What special fund paid for the following in 2024?

- Sidewalk replacement
- Brick repair on the church exterior
- New drinking fountain
- Payment on the new boiler
- New computers for the office
- Updated web site
- New lighting in several rooms
- Water purification system
- Plaster repair and painting

Did you guess it?

If you didn't, I would invite you to become more informed of our church's Endowment Fund.

Over the years, saints of our church, have left money in their wills to build a fund that will never be spent. Only the earnings of the fund come back to us to pay for large expenditures that keep our beautiful church building in good repair. If you would like to know more about this, please contact me (lynn@francisrealty.com).

Lynn Francis, Chairman





Trinity UMC celebrates the beautiful diversity of the human community. We affirm the sacred worth of each person as a recipient of God's love and grace. As followers of Christ, we are an open and inclusive congregation. We live this out by welcoming into full participation all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status or economic condition.

JANUARY
January
JANUARY

Intention Word



Church Family

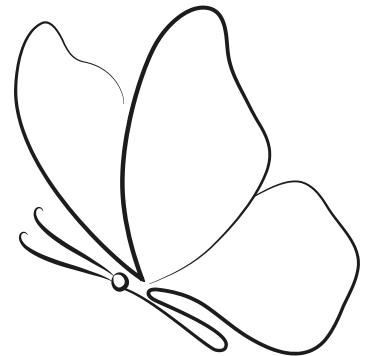
ALTAR FLOWERS

January 5: Suzy & Larry Gill in honor of our Trinity Family.

January 12: Available

January 19: Available

January 26: The Dickinsons



PRAYERS AND CARE



CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy and condolences to:

The family of Jeanette Hayes as she passed on November 30, 2024.

****Memorial to be held on January 25, 2024 at 11:00am here at Trinity UMC.****

Missions Updates

Thank you to all of you who gave gifts to our Thanksgiving Food Ingathering for the food pantries of South End Community Outreach Ministries (SECOM), North End Community Ministries (NECM), and the At-Tawheed Islamic Center. 31 bags and \$150 were shared! The pantries expressed their great appreciation for Trinity's caring. There is also deep appreciation for your giving to United Methodist Community House for the Thanksgiving Holiday Offering -- \$210 -- to help our Madison and county neighbors thrive.



Opportunities to Engage



Popcorn Party Time is on hiatus in January for Faith at the Movies but will be back on Friday nights at 6:30pm from February to April 2025. Save these dates in your calendar now!

February 14 – Valentine's Night ft. Elemental (PG | 2023)

March 14 – Game Night

April 25 – Game Night



Not sure what Popcorn Party Time is? It's our monthly movie or game nights! We're calling these special all-ages evenings Popcorn Party Time because that's what they'll be. A monthly party with lots and lots of popcorn! Not just for kids, not just for grown-ups – Popcorn Party Time is a chance for the whole Trinity family to get together for fellowship and fun.

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtunc.org.



Designed for Trinity families & friends ages 18 & up, God's Naturehood: Adult Edition is a great opportunity to visit a new park, get to know members of your Trinity family better, and get your daily steps in. The details of our January to March meet-ups are below:

Friday, January 31 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Downtown "World of Winter Festival" Tour

Did you know GR hosts the largest winter festival in the US with 30 art installations, events, and more? While some exhibits are better seen at night, we'll check out what we can during two daylight hours.

The meet-up location is Canal Park at 941 Monroe Ave NW, 49503. There is a small parking lot at Canal Park as well as meter parking along Monroe Ave NW. Gather near the Canal Park Playground just south of the lot. We'll walk about 1 mile south to Ah-Nab-Awen Park and back with a short coffee & warm-up break part way.

Friday, February 28 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Dr NE, Ada, 49301

Park in either lot and gather near the eastern side of the silos.

Make sure you save the date for our special "World of Winter Festival" tour in February. While some exhibits are better seen at night, we'll check out what we can during the day on Friday, February 28 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Location meet-up information coming soon.

Friday, March 21 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Blandford Nature Center at 1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Park in the main lot and gather near the entrance to the Mary Jane Dockerau Visitor Center.

Former Sugarbush Master Laura will guide our hike including an opportunity to pop into the Blandford Sugarhouse. This is not a Blandford provided tour. Trinity will cover the \$3 admission fee for anyone who does not have a Blandford membership.

Reservations are requested but not required. Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtumc.org.



Winter Update

Join a small group exploring the many writings of Father Richard Rohr together!

Deeper, Better, Clearer (DBC)

Sundays from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Fireside Room | Book: The Divine Dance

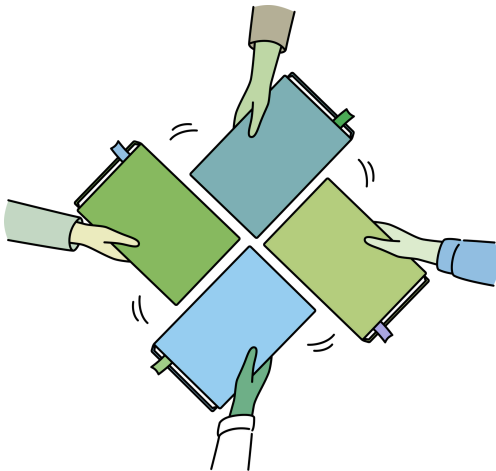
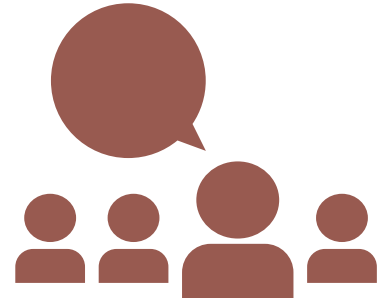
Everything Belongs (EB)

Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm

Library | Book: Breathing Under Water

FoRT:

Friends of Rohr at Trinity



Spiritalk Book Club

Join us as we discuss & dissect a new book each month!

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Trinity.

Contact Joy Murphy for more info at joymurphy@grtumc.org.

January 14

The Cloisters

Katy Hays

February 11

Vanishing Half

Brit Bennett

March 11

The Women

Kristen Hannah

April 22

Horse

Geraldine Brooks



Spring 2025



Pints with the Pastor

Select Sundays at 6:00pm at Brewery Vivant

Jan. 26

Feb. 23

March 16

April 27

May 18

2025

You're invited to join us this winter & spring for Pints with the Pastor. This gathering is an opportunity for all of us to get a drink, get some frites or poutine, and get to know each other better. Meet up at Brewery Vivant anytime on select Sundays between 6:00pm-7:30pm. No RSVP required.

Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org with questions.



Thank you to everyone who participated in TNT (Thursday Nights at Trinity) this autumn! We've had an amazing few months of good food, great fellowship, amazing small groups, and fantastic music.

We will kick off 2025 on Thursday, January 9! You can sign up for the full Spring season or week by week at <https://tinyurl.com/TNTDinnersSpring2025>.

And remember, even if you're not participating in any other Thursday night programming, God loves you and invites you to join us for dinner!



A milestone is a meaningful, memorable moment in the life of an individual, family or community. Here at Trinity, we want to recognize those moments, share them together, and find God's presence in the everyday. We will be lifting up milestones during worship every few months, but we need your help. Let us know if there's a milestone in your life we can celebrate together! Fill out our online form (<https://tinyurl.com/TUMCMilestone02-2025>), email Laura at ljohns@grtumc.org, or put a note on your Connection Card.

Our first Milestone Sunday of 2025 is February 2 and we will be celebrating any milestones from September 2024 to January 2025. Our Milestone Moment will be the welcoming of new members. We will also post select honorees on the screen and do a group blessing for all honorees.

Sign Up Your Acolyte

January - May 2025 SignUpGenius Now Available
<https://tinyurl.com/TUMC-AcolyteSpring2025>



Save the Date



Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm
 A Mardi Gras Celebration for All Ages

SAVE
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AGING WORKSHOP

Resources for anyone who plans to get older or loves someone who is.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025
10:00AM-1:30PM AT TRINITY UMC

Returning for a third year, this workshop is for seniors, caregivers, family & friends. Together we will explore topics related to aging. There will be multiple sessions with expert speakers, refreshments and a light lunch.

More info coming soon!

Questions? Contact Laura Johns
 at 616-456-7168 or L.Johns@grtunc.org.



Faith at the Movies is back this January and the line-up is exciting!

Join us in worship each Sunday at 10:00am for messages featuring costumes, props & more.

On Friday evenings at 6:00pm, come on out for movies screenings with your Trinity family & special guests from St. Paul's United Methodist. Popcorn and drinks will be provided and you're welcome to pack your own picnic dinner. We cannot wait to screen all these amazing films together!

January 7th & 9th: Toy Story (G | 1995)
 January 10th & 12th: Newsies (PG | 1992)
 January 17th & 19th: Big (PG | 1988)
 January 24th & 26th: Hook (PG | 1991)

There's also a special opportunity on Saturday, January 11th to see a live performance of Newsies Jr. by our friends at StageGR. It is their annual 30 hour show and will likely feature some Trinity friends. Ticketing information will be available soon at <https://www.stagegr.org/>.

Questions? Contact Pastor Mike at m.desotell@grtumc.org.



Want to know what's going on at Trinity this winter and spring? Check out the updated program flyers for the latest information on faith formation, fellowship, music, ministries, and more!

<https://tinyurl.com/TUMC-WinterFlyers2025>

Have you seen the new January & February Calendar of Events? Don't miss out on all these exciting offerings. More information throughout this newsletter and on the website.

Trinity Calendar of Events

January 2025 - February 2025

Friday, January 3 at 6:00pm

Faith at the Movies Screening: Toy Story

Sunday, January 5 at 11:30am

United Women in Faith Soup Cook-Off

Thursday, January 9 at 5:15pm

TNT Returns: Thursday Nights at Trinity (Weekly)

Friday, January 10 at 6:00pm

Faith at the Movies Screening: Newsies

Friday, January 17 at 6:00pm

Faith at the Movies Screening: Big

Friday, January 24 at 6:00pm

Faith at the Movies Screening: Hook

Sunday, January 26 at 6:00pm

Pints with the Pastor

Friday, January 31 at 1:00pm

God's Naturehood - Adults at World of Winter

Faith on the Fly - New Classes in Late January

Adult Beginners & Fly Tying (Details TBD)

Saturday, February 8 at 10:00am

Aging Workshop featuring Community Experts

Sunday, February 9 at 11:30am

Youth Group Cookies & Cards Service Project

Friday, February 14 at 6:30pm

Popcorn Party Time - Valentine's Day Edition

Sunday, February 23 at 6:00pm

Pints with the Pastor

Friday, February 28 at 1:00pm

God's Naturehood - Adults at Roselle Park

Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm

Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats

Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Check the website or Facebook page for the latest info as activities are subject to change.

YEAR ROUND OPPORTUNITIES THAT CONTINUE THIS WINTER:

Sundays from 10:15am-11:15am

Children & Worship and Kids Connect
(2nd-5th Sundays Starting Jan. 12)

Sundays from 11:30am-12:30pm

All Ages Faith Formation
(Weekly Starting Jan. 12)

Sundays at 5:00pm

DBC Small Group
(Weekly Starting Jan. 5)

Mondays at 9:30am

Kids Food Basket Volunteering
(Third Monday Starting Feb. 17)

Tuesdays at 9:15am

Gophers Exercise Class (Weekly)

Tuesdays at 10:00am

Coffee & Conversation (Weekly)

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Spiritalk Book Group
(Second Tuesday of the Month)

Wednesdays at 10:00am

Sunday Sneak Peek Study
(Weekly Starting Jan. 29)

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Community Ministries Program
(Weekly Starting Jan. 8)

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Ping Pong for Adults (Weekly)

Thursdays from 5:15pm-7:30pm

TNT: Thursday Nights at Trinity
(Weekly Starting Jan. 9)

Thursdays at 6:15pm

Everything Belongs Small Group
(Weekly Starting Jan. 9)

Trinity United Methodist Church | 1100 Lake Drive SE, 49506 | grtumc.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Join us in January & February for a variety of engaging Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation offerings...

Sundays January 12 & 26 and February 2 & 9 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Guest speakers from outside organizations and Trinity friends will facilitate conversations that allow us to explore social justice & community issues - focusing on learning, being in dialogue together, and taking action! Full schedule is still being finalized, so watch your email for updates!

Sunday January 19 from 11:30am-12:30pm

"Find Your Home" Panel Discussion

Don't miss this new opportunity for the new year! A panel of Trinity leaders will answer questions about the various ministry areas of the church and help you get connected. Regardless of how long you've attended, this is your chance to "find your home" here!

Sundays February 16 - April 13 from 11:30am-12:30pm

The Chosen: Season Four Screenings & Discussions

Join us as we continue watching this unique show about the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The Chosen takes us deeper into the gospel stories by retelling and expounding on the character & intentions of Jesus and those who knew Him.

Questions about what's upcoming? Contact Laura Johns at l.johns@grtumc.org or check out our updated program flyers online at: <https://tinyurl.com/TUMC-WinterFlyers2025>.

Community Ministries

The Community Ministries program resumes on January 8th, 2025. Want to volunteer to help out with this fantastic program, reach out to Matt Witkowski at m.witkowski@grtumc.org.

COMMUNITY *ministries* PROGRAM

