



# Trinity In Touch

March 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.**

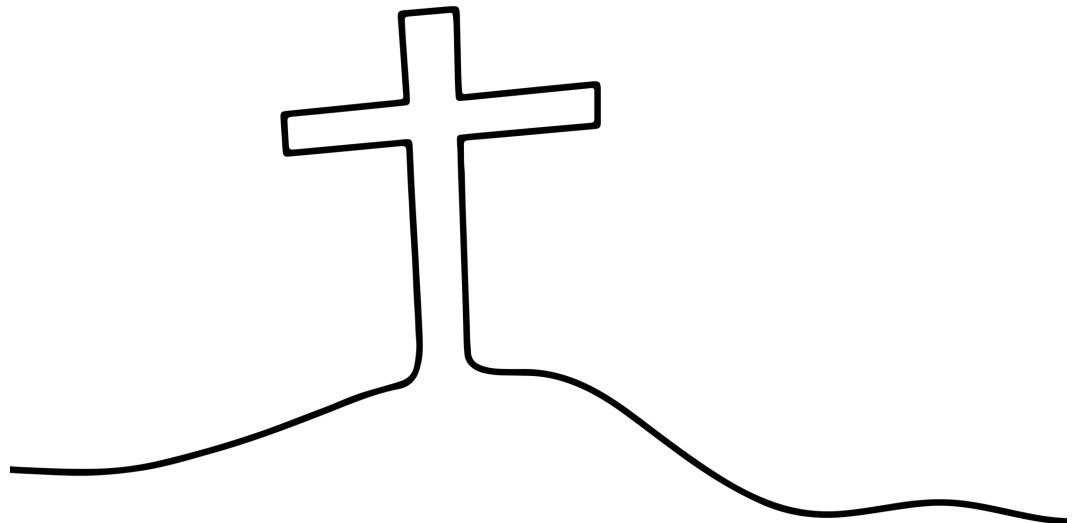
**Peace & Justice:**  
**Striving for positive social change in our neighborhood and world.**

**Trinity UMC**  
**1100 Lake Drive SE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
**616.456.7168**  
**[office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org)**

## A Little Help from Our Friends – Journeying Through Lent Together

Lent is the 40-day journey leading up to Easter, a time when Christians prepare their hearts by focusing on repentance, sacrifice, and renewal. For many this is a deeply personal season, a time of deep reflection, fervent prayer, and critical self-examination. Many who observe Lent take on new spiritual practices or let go of habits that distract them, in an effort to draw closer to God. But if we make Lent only about personal faith, we miss something essential: that we are not meant to walk this road alone.

This year, as we explore Lent with the Beatles, we're reminded that faith, like life, thrives in community. The song, With a Little Help from My Friends, captures a deep truth about the Christian journey: we need each other. Jesus didn't call his disciples to a solitary faith. He called them into a movement. He sent them out in pairs. He gathered them around tables, in boats, and on the road, teaching them that the love of God is not something we hoard, but something we share.



As we enter this season of Lent, we are also in the midst of difficult and uncertain times in our world. Many are struggling with fear, division, and the weight of injustice. It's easy to feel isolated, discouraged, or even powerless to bring about change. But here's the good news: being together in community is the first step on the road to transformation. We may not be able to fix everything, but we can show up for one another. We can be the kind of people who listen, who encourage, who stand up for what is right.

And one of the most powerful ways we show up for one another is by journeying through Lent together, and not just on Sundays, but through the full experience of the season. The road to resurrection winds through the ashes of repentance, the breaking of bread and betrayal, and the dark weight of the cross before it ever reaches the empty tomb. We cannot fully celebrate Easter without walking through the depths and darkness of Holy Week together.



## A Little Help from Our Friends – Journeying Through Lent Together Continued...

That's why I want to encourage you to be present for our special services and gatherings we share as a faith community:

**Ash Wednesday** (March 5, 7:00 PM at Trinity, joint service with St. Paul's UMC) – The journey begins in ashes as we confront our mortality and need for grace.

**Hosanna to Hallelujah** (Tuesday, April 15, 5:30–7:30 PM at Trinity) – A hands-on Holy Week experience for all ages helping us walk through the final days of Jesus' life.

**Maundy Thursday** (April 17, 7:00 PM at Trinity, joint service with St. Paul's UMC) – We gather at the table, remembering Jesus' last meal and his commandment to love one another.

**Good Friday** (April 18, 7:00 PM at St. Paul's UMC) – We stand at the foot of the cross, remembering Christ's sacrifice and the depth of his love.

Lent reminds us that resurrection is coming, but we don't get there without the journey. And the journey is easier when we walk it side by side. This season, I encourage you to lean into our faith community. Worship together. Pray together. Engage in meaningful conversations. Encourage one another to do good. And when the road gets hard, remember that we are stronger together. With a little help from our friends and a whole lot of grace from God, we will stay strong in mind and spirit.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mike



## Ministry Spotlight

### AV Tech Team



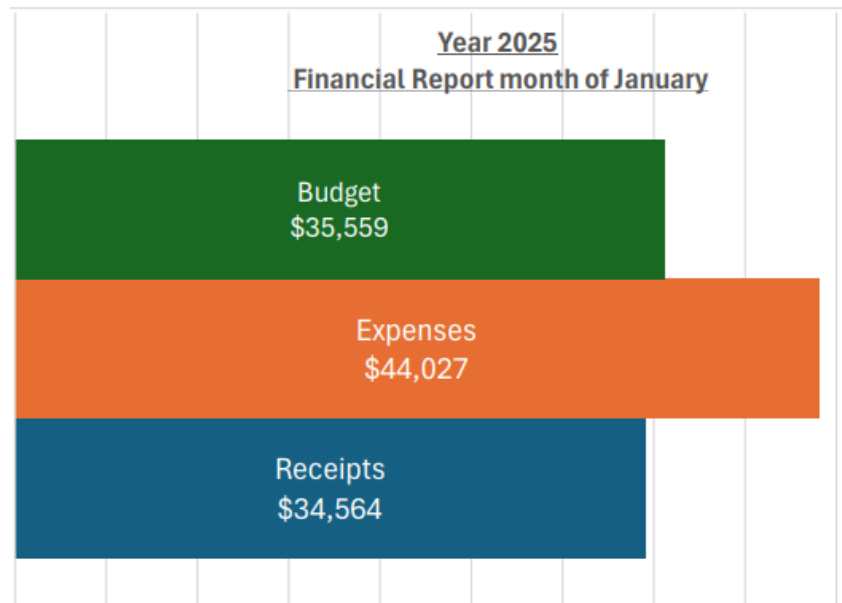
At our church, we're all blessed by the incredible work done every Sunday by the AV Tech Team—those unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that each service runs smoothly and effectively. Their dedication plays a crucial role in creating an engaging and meaningful worship experience for everyone, from the moment you step into the sanctuary to the time you leave.

From audio to visual to lighting, the AV Tech Team is responsible for everything that enhances the worship service through technology. Whether it's adjusting microphones to ensure clear sound, managing live-streaming so our online community can participate, or controlling the visuals on the screens, these team members ensure that everything flows seamlessly.

As our church continues to grow, so does the need for more hands to join this vital team. We are looking for passionate individuals who want to help in any of the AV Tech areas, whether you have experience or are willing to learn. Don't worry if you're not familiar with the technology—we provide all the training you need to be successful and part of this amazing team.

If you're interested in volunteering, we encourage you to reach out. Join a team that makes a real difference in our worship experience and be a part of something powerful. Whether you're good with technology, have a keen eye for detail, or simply have a heart to serve, the AV Tech Team needs you! Sign up today and help us continue to offer the best experience for our community. For more information or to volunteer, contact Randy Burghart at [r.burghart@grtumc.org](mailto:r.burghart@grtumc.org).

## Finance News



Our Trinity Foundation has received gifts from the estate of Ellie Lawton and that of Ernie and Joan Patterson.

By remembering our church in your will, you will help sustain the life of the church and this beautiful building for generations to come.

Dear Trinity Members and Friends, Thank you for your faithful support. Your giving, prayer and participation help Trinity sustain our ministry to live out the love of God in our neighborhood and beyond. Receipts were close to the budget but expenses exceeded the budget because of high gas and snow plow bills as well as three paydays in January plus advance payment for camp reservation. Monthly financial reports are available in the church office and you may contact our treasurer, Joy Murphy, for a copy or if you have any questions.

Submitted by: Pros Tumonong, Chair-Finance Committee



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.

March

Intention Word



Our intention word for March is Hope. Not sure what an intention word is? Pastor Mike wrote an introduction to this concept in September 2022's Newsletter. Check it out online at: <https://bit.ly/Sep2022Newsletter>

## Church Family

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**March 2:** Greg Longworth in celebration of Kim Longworth's 60th birthday on March 7th.

**March 9-30:** LENT

### PRAYERS AND CARE

*Prayers for healing for Ted Busch, Jane Hazle's son-in-law, who is recovering from a skiing accident.*  
[jdhazle@gmail.com](mailto:jdhazle@gmail.com)

*Prayers for continued healing and recovery for Chad Frost, husband of Mary-Lyn Frost, as he is at home and recovering.*

[Fattio1@yahoo.com](mailto:Fattio1@yahoo.com) (Chad)

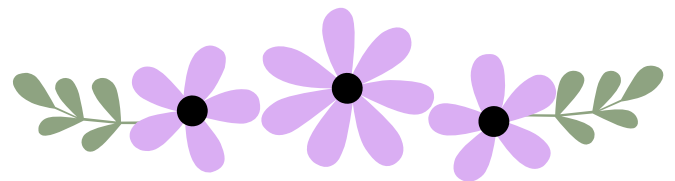
[frostmarylyn1@gmail.com](mailto:frostmarylyn1@gmail.com) (Mary-Lyn)

*Prayers for Lois Teed-Guillen as she navigates health challenges and medical appointments.*  
[la.gillen@outlook.com](mailto:la.gillen@outlook.com)

### CONDOLENCES

*Condolences to Glenn Jaffas, son of Dorothy Smith, as Dorothy passed away on February 2, 2025.*

*Memorial planned for March 22, 2025, more details to follow once available.*







United  
Women  
in Faith

Trinity UWF is excited to invite you to discover social justice and fellowship opportunities set in a welcoming community relationship. Here are some upcoming ways we would love to have you be in community with us!

**Monday, March 10 beginning at 6pm “Come to the Table: Continuing the Conversation”**

This event is in collaboration with Trinity staff. This follow-up to the Listening Session on February 10 will give opportunity to further resource ourselves in response to the discourse around us. **A free meal of homemade soup, artisan breads and salad bar will be served at 6pm.** We will break into interest groups and organize table discussions on next steps. We plan to finish by 8pm.

**Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27 12:30-1:30pm** “Book discussion via ZOOM

**“Sacred Resistance: Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent”** by Ginger Gaines-Cirelli. A study that helps to embrace our frustration and hopelessness with strategies of purpose and value. RSVP through the office at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org).

**Saturday, April 19 9:30-11:30am Lenten Breakfast** A time of centering in preparation for

Easter. Delicious breakfast buffet, encouraging word and limitless conversation! Suggested donation: \$8 for adults. Children are free. Proceeds go to the UWF Call to Prayer and Self-Denial : Bold Women Transforming Communities. RSVP at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org).

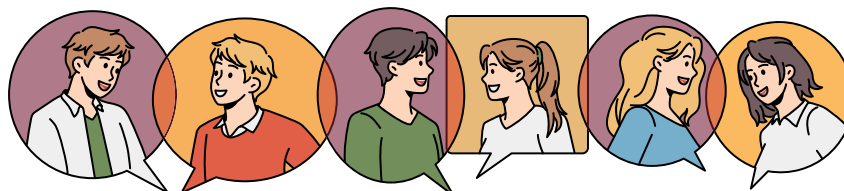
**Friday, May 9 6:30pm Black Tie and Blue Jeans Gala** An exciting new event that will bring us together for an appetizers and hor d'oeuvres buffet, music and dancing, gift card auction, storytelling and so much more! A great evening of fellowship for ALL ages. Proceeds go to the UWF justice ministries both locally and global. RSVP at [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org).

These events are open to ALL, designed to encourage diverse interaction and community.

Watch for UWF partnership opportunities in the Grand Rapids community with:

- New City Neighbors, an urban farming initiative for young adults.....
- Treetops Collective, a cross-cultural movement connecting new Americans (refugee) and women leaders that transform our community into places of belonging.....
- United Methodist Community House.....

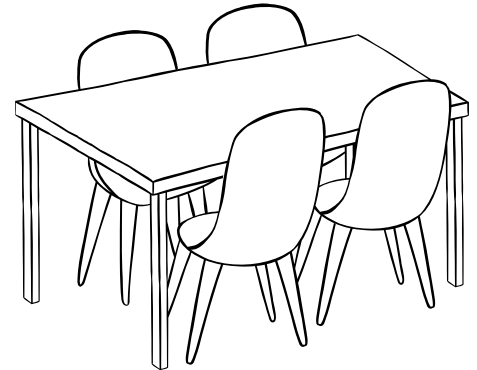
Nichea VerVeer Guy / Judi Ryan / Sarah Goldner / Judy Conner / Sue Emmons / Joy Murphy  
Kristen Gifford / Sue VanderLaan / Laura Johns



## Opportunities to Engage



**Come to the Table:**  
**Continuing the Conversation**  
A Joint Effort between Trinity UMC & United Women in Faith  
**Monday, March 10 from 6:00pm-8:00pm**  
**GET INVOLVED WITH JUSTICE WORK AT TRINTY!**  
This event provides a follow-up opportunity to our original listening session on February 10th. Come enjoy homemade soup, artisan breads, & salad bar courtesy of United Women in Faith. We'll continue our dialogue, explore resources, and brainstorm opportunities for civic action.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Childcare available. RSVP to [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org).



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**From Hosanna to Hallelujah:**  
**Exploring Holy Week Together**  
Tuesday, April 15 from 5:30pm-7:30pm

We surveyed and you answered! From Hosanna to Hallelujah – the Holy Week event you do not want to miss - is back this year on Tuesday, April 15! We will follow Jesus through his last week – reading scripture & stories, reflecting through crafts and activities, celebrating communion, walking the labyrinth, and much more! This all ages experience is designed to be open house style – that means you will move from room to room at your own pace.

Beloved by kids & grown-ups, this FREE multi-sensory experience will be better than ever with a few new surprises waiting for you!

RSVP: Planning to join us? Email Laura Johns at [ljohns@grtumc.org](mailto:ljohns@grtumc.org). This gives us a better idea of numbers for purchasing supplies. That said, join us no matter what. All are welcome here!

Lend A Hand: To make this event magical for all our guests, we need room hosts, hospitality folks, and greeters. All helpers are asked to arrive at 5:00pm for a quick tutorial. Each volunteer will be assigned a 1 hour shift (5:30pm-6:30pm or 6:30pm-7:30pm). This ensures that even our volunteers have an opportunity to tour the various rooms. To sign up, contact Laura Johns at [ljohns@grtumc.org](mailto:ljohns@grtumc.org).



Popcorn Party Time continues this month and we're excited to have a game night after a long stretch of movie nights. Join us Friday, March 14 at 6:30pm for game time with Trinity friends. Bring your own from home or enjoy a Trinity favorite!

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.

Our last Popcorn Party Time night of this program year is a Game Night on April 25. Make sure it's on your calendar too!

Questions? Contact Laura Johns at [L.johns@grtunc.org](mailto: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 March meet-up are below:

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

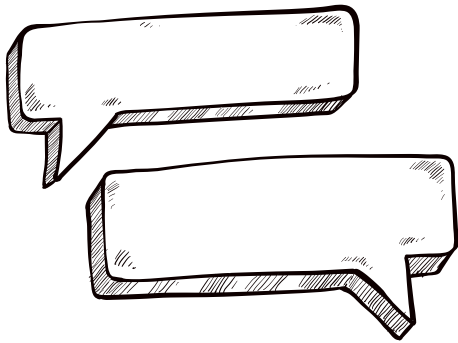
Blandford Nature Center at 1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Park in the main lot and gather near the entrance to the Mary Jane Dockeray 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@grtunc.org](mailto:L.johns@grtunc.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 (EvB)

Thursdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm

Library | Book: Breathing Under Water

## FoRT:

Friends of Rohr at Trinity



## The Chosen: Season Four

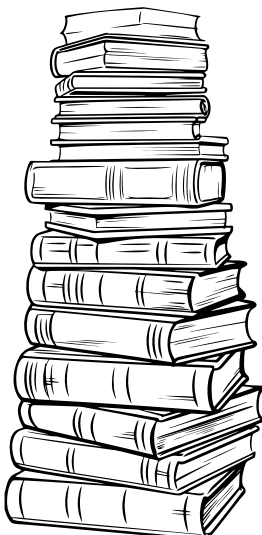
Sundays, February 16 - April 13 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Adult Faith Formation Class | Discovery Room

Join us as we continue watching this unique show about the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Join us Sundays, February 16 to April 13 from 11:30am-12:30pm 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.

Want to catch up on past seasons or missed episodes? Watch for free online at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/> or borrow the DVDs from Laura.



## 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@gtrtunc.org](mailto:joymurphy@gtrtunc.org).

**January 14**

The Cloisters

Katy Hays

**February 11**

Vanishing Half

Brit Bennett

**March 11**

The Women

Kristen Hannah

**May 13**

Horse

Geraldine Brooks



**Spring 2025**



Maybe you have been attending Trinity Family Camp for 40 years? Maybe you've just heard the stories? Either way, this is your year to join us! Come experience the magic of the West Michigan lakeshore with your Trinity family this Memorial Day Weekend.

Friday, May 23 to Monday, May 26, 2025  
Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center at 5807 Ridge Rd, Pentwater, MI 49449

**FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED REGISTRATION:**

All sites, cabins, and other lodging options will be available on a first-come, first-served basis again this year to ensure new & returning Trinity friends have the most options available to them. The online camp registration form will go live on Tuesday, March 11 at 12:00pm. If you have your heart set on a specific lodging option, plan to RSVP right at 12:00pm on March 11. Our hope is that this process will go smoothly again this year and give everyone an opportunity to book a lodging option that works for them!

All the information you need for booking your lodging and planning your stay will be circulated via email on Wednesday, February 26 and then shared again in the Monday emails. This gives you two weeks to review it and decide on your plans.

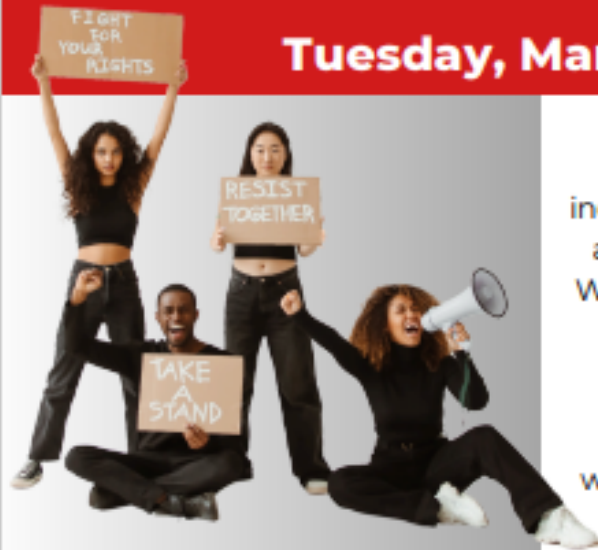
The registration website will go live Tuesday, March 11 at 12:00pm and is:  
[tinyurl.com/TUMCFamilyCamp2025](https://tinyurl.com/TUMCFamilyCamp2025)

RSVPs are requested as soon as possible after the website goes live. We need to let Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center know by late March if there are any sites we do not need to avoid paying for nights/sites we are not using.

If you have questions or concerns about family camp or about the registration process, contact Laura Johns, Director of Discipleship, at [l.johns@grtumc.org](mailto:l.johns@grtumc.org).







# Advocacy 101

**Tuesday, March 25 from 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Use this time together to explore what issues YOU are most passionate about. We'll create individual plans for how we can each take action and make change in our specific passion areas. We'll also learn practical advocacy skills that can be applied across the board and to any issue.

Light snacks & beverages will be available. If you need childcare, please notify the Office when you RSVP so we can make arrangements.

RSVP to [office@grtumc.org](mailto:office@grtumc.org).

## Sign Ups

We know there's a lot going on at Trinity and sometimes it gets tricky to keep all the things straight. So here's a list of important registration and sign-up links for the next few months. Not sure what something is? Check the rest of the newsletter or contact your Trinity Staff. We're happy to answer questions!

### **Fat Tuesday: Jazz & Eats (March 4)**

RSVP for our March 4th Mardi Gras celebration for all ages using this online form.

[tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2025](https://tinyurl.com/TUMCJazz-Eats2025)

### **Acolyte Sign Up (January-May)**

Is your child interested in helping to light the candles at Trinity during worship on Sunday mornings? Here's your chance to sign them up!

[tinyurl.com/TUMC-AcolyteSpring2025](https://tinyurl.com/TUMC-AcolyteSpring2025)

### **TrinityKids Fellowship Leaders (January-May)**

Volunteering with TrinityKids is a great opportunity to build relationships with other adults while facilitating fun activities for our PreK to 5th grade kids. No long term commitments; pick your Sundays!

[tinyurl.com/TrinityKidsSpring2025](https://tinyurl.com/TrinityKidsSpring2025)

### **Second Adults in Youth Group (January-May)**

Volunteering as a second adult in Youth Group is a great opportunity to support our 6th-12th grade friends. Youth Director Annie leads each week, but she needs a second grown-up to keep us Protection Policy compliant! No long term commitments; pick your Sundays!

<https://tinyurl.com/TUMCSpring2025>

### **Weekly TNT Dinner Reservations (January-May)**

Sign up for Thursday night meals each week using this online form. Can be submitted multiple times!

[tinyurl.com/TNTDinnersSpring2025](https://tinyurl.com/TNTDinnersSpring2025)



## **Pints with the Pastor** **Select Sundays at 6:00pm at Taco Borracho**

**Jan. 26**

**Feb. 23**

**March 23**

**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 dinner, and get to know each other better. Watch your email and the screens for location information and then meet up anytime on select Sundays between 6:00pm-7:30pm. No RSVP required. Contact Pastor Mike at [m.desotell@grtunc.org](mailto:m.desotell@grtunc.org) with questions.

## **The Youth Connection Corner**

YOUTH EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF



Happy March everyone! Spring is on its way and we've got some very exciting activities planned for our wonderful 6th to 12th Grade Youth!

Mark your calendars for...

### **Pastor Post-It Sunday – Sunday, March 9th**

Last month--after getting some new ground rules—our youth chose the word “Empanada” to try to stump Pastor Mike and wouldn't you know it? He found a way to incorporate it into his sermon. But never fear it's a new month and a new word on this date up in Pellowe at 9:40AM!

### **Donuts & Discussion – Sunday, March 16th**

Donuts & Discussion returns for a visit this Lent! Have your youth meet me up in Pellowe for service on this date for donuts and talking about whatever they see fit! Once Pastor Mike begins his sermon, we will head up to the balcony and might play a little “Sermon Bingo!”

### **Spring Semester Event: Clothes Relay & Roller Rink – Sunday, March 29th**

Our SPECIAL SPRING EVENT is here! More details on this exciting event to come to an email near you. If you are not already receiving emails from me every Wednesday but want more information about this exciting event, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As we head into this upcoming March, I ask that you pray for our wonderful youth as they go about their semesters and that this upcoming Spring brings new opportunities and new adventures for them all!

Annie Slabaugh, Youth Director - [a.slabaugh@grtunc.org](mailto:a.slabaugh@grtunc.org)