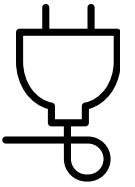




APRIL 2026

# TRINITY CONNECTION



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY UMC



*"Love God, Love People!"*

## WELCOME TO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you are a newcomer to the congregation please make yourself known to one of the clergy or to one of our ushers before worship.

### **Pastoral Team**

**Rev. Erica Munoz**

Lead Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos**

Associate Pastor, Spiritual Formation & Discipleship

**Rev. Donald Gebhard**

Associate Pastor

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday - Office closed

### **Worship Times**

Saturday 5:00 pm - Worship in Trinity House

Sunday 10:00 am - Worship in the Sanctuary

All Worship Services are livestreamed at  
[Facebook.com/TrinityCatchTheSpirit](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityCatchTheSpirit)

# From the Pastor

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As we step into the month of April, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of the most sacred and transformative season in the life of the Church. It is a time when we walk together through the shadows of Holy Week and into the radiant hope of Easter morning. This year, I invite you to reflect on a powerful image: the mosaic.

A mosaic is not made from perfect, unbroken pieces. It is formed from fragments—jagged, varied, sometimes seemingly mismatched pieces—that, when placed in the hands of a skilled artist, become something breathtakingly beautiful. So it is with our lives. Each of us carries brokenness, disappointments, and unfinished stories. Yet God, in His grace, gathers every piece and fashions them into a masterpiece that reflects His glory.

Holy Week reminds us that God does His most profound work not in spite of brokenness, but through it. You are invited to join us on Maundy Thursday for a deeply meaningful evening together. Our service will include a reenactment of the Lord's Supper, inviting us to sit at the table with Christ and remember His love poured out for us.

On Good Friday, we will participate in a Cross Walk, physically embodying the journey to the cross and reflecting on Christ's sacrifice. The evening will conclude with a Tenebrae service, led by our Confirmation Class. As light gradually fades into darkness, we will remember the weight of Good Friday and the depth of Christ's love. I encourage you to come and support these young members of our church as they lead us in this powerful time of worship and reflection.

And then—Easter morning. Out of darkness, light. Out of brokenness, beauty. Out of death, life.

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at our Easter services at **8:00 am** and **10:00 am**. These services will be filled with joyful worship, the proclamation of hope, and the reminder that God's final word is always life.

Just as a mosaic reveals its beauty when all the pieces come together, Easter reveals the fullness of God's redemptive work. The cross was not the end—it was the beginning of something new. In the same way, the broken pieces of our lives are not discarded; they are redeemed, reshaped, and woven into a story of grace.

This April, I invite you to bring your whole self—every fragment, every joy, every sorrow—and trust that God is still creating something beautiful in you.

May we walk through Holy Week with reverence, and may we rise on Easter with renewed hope, knowing that we are all part of God's unfolding masterpiece.

Blessings,

*Pastor Erica*



# Stay in the Know and Join in the Fun!

## Trinity's Friendship Circle

Thirty-eight people, many of them wearing green!, attended the March meeting at Heath Village. It was so nice to have Gladys Hoffler, Mary Kashmanian, and Jean Koenig, now all living at the Meadows, able to join us! We celebrated both Jean Koenig's and Rosemary Robertson's birthday with cake and singing!

Pastor Erica sang "O Danny Boy" and Fred Bormann told us a little of the history of St. Patrick. Andy Meissner (violin) and Gerry D'Albis (keyboard) played Irish music for us.

Fellowship was enjoyed as we nibbled on birthday cake, cookies, and the traditional Irish soda bread!

### 5 Spots Available!

Ladies gather with other women for a simple meal, fellowship and great conversation.

April 24th in Hackettstown  
Sign up for more details by emailing [ddevos@catchthespirit.org](mailto:ddevos@catchthespirit.org)  
To host a Savor Supper contact Pastor Deb also!



### Faithful Food Share Fundraiser April 17

Please support Faithful Food Share (FFS) by participating in our fundraising event at Panera, Route 57, Mansfield, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm Friday, April 17. Twenty-five percent of sales benefit FFS. Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout

**RAISE SOME DOUGH**  
*Help support us!*

25% of sales will benefit  
**Trinity United Methodist Church, Faithful Food Share**

April 17, 2026  
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
2045 State Route 57  
Hackettstown, NJ

Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.

**Panera FUNDRAISING**



**GOLDEN GATHERING**  
**APRIL SHOWERS**  
**BRING MAY FLOWERS**

*Let's plant some seeds  
& take them home and watch them grow!*

*Enjoy some sweet treats!*

April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
Trinity Connection Cafe

### Senior Social - Mark your calendars: April 16th

Please join us for a casual Tea Party (and coffee too)!

Remember to bring a friend to this fun time of fellowship with other seniors. Come and enjoy lots of time for conversation, too.

Join us in the Trinity House Connection Cafe on Thursday, April 16, 1:00 - 2:45 p.m.



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# Stay in the Know and Participate!

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## United Methodist Men

On March 14<sup>th</sup> thirty-eight people attended our breakfast. Our speaker was NJ author Phil Coffin. Phil's topic was: "Baseball's Integration and the Influence of the Negro Leagues". This topic was germane because the baseball season starts on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Phil shared many fine points with us and everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves.

Our April 11<sup>th</sup> breakfast will feature author Paul Semendinger. Paul has been here the last two years and his topic this year will be on the West Point Cadets who fought at Gettysburg. Paul is a very inspirational speaker.

This year's Voucher Sale in coordination with Donaldson's Nursery will begin Easter weekend and run through August. The vouchers will again cost \$10. You may buy vouchers by using the church bulletin's "Just Say Yes" form, contacting the church office, or by contacting one of the officers of the UMM. As always, all our proceeds will go to the Torgersen Scholarship.

The UMM continues collecting new and slightly used clothing for the Midnight Run Mission. They always need NEW underwear and socks, and either new or slightly used jeans and hoodies. There next NYC run will be in May. Please consider helping us support this mission.

We have started scheduling speakers for our next year, starting in September. If you have a suggestion for a speaker please contact one of the officers of the UMM.

Always remember, UMM is not just for men. Among our goals is to provide: a sense of community, a meaningful presentation, and a fantastic breakfast.

## Small Group Ministry Team Update

### Lenten Season

- Lenten Study groups concluded and the study by Matt Rawle was greatly enjoyed. He provide fresh new insights into the passion of Jesus in all four gospels.
- The Lenten Day of Service was another successful Rise Against Hunger event where 10,172 meals were packaged and made ready to be shared where they are needed in the world. One carton feeds a child for a year. Thank you everyone who supported and participated in this.

### Spring Small Groups

Small Groups that will be offered after the Lenten Season:

- **Our Social Principles** on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm beginning April 16th for 6 weeks
- **The Message of Jesus** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm via Zoom beginning April 15th for 6 weeks
- **Trinity Explore Hiking group** - hikes are planned for
  - April 11th- Urban Hike in NYC,
  - May 3rd- Allamuchy Mountain State Park, Sussex Branch Rail Trail
  - June 7th -Schooley's Mountain County Park.

Look for more information in the weekly bulletin.

The Small Group Ministry team will begin a project to develop a Discipleship path for our congregation. Stay tuned



**Sister Share provides Easter Baskets for the Lord's Pantry clients**



# Stay in the Know and Be a Part of the Action!

## Finance Ministry Team Update

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures this month! We pray that you are feeling blessed during this holy season.

**REMINDER:** If you are giving electronically and have not yet updated your credit card or automatic payment amount, please take a moment to do this right away. If you need help with this process, please call the church office: (908) 852-3020.

Here is a quick summary of the February financials:

- Three of the ten budget categories show expenses over budget for the month. GNJAC Expenses due to catch up billing from church conference, Pastoral Ministry due to catch up billing by conference, and Property Ministry due to utility costs and snow removal.
- All budgets are within scope for the year.
- All Fund balances remain strong.
- Pledge contributions are on track (just 2% below where they should be at this point in the year)

**Colossians 3:23-24** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

## 2026 YTD Revenue vs. Expenses



	JAN	FEB
Expenses	\$79,074	\$126,935
GF Donations	\$74,544	\$48,255
Thrift Shop	\$22,808	\$24,870
Building Use	\$5,220	\$2,875
Cash Flow	\$25,149	\$(49,284)
Total	\$104,223	\$77,651
Interest	\$1,651	\$1,651

## Thank you - Rise Against Hunger

Our fourth Rise Against Hunger event was a great event. In just under two hours we packed 10,172 meals. One carton of 36 meals feeds a child for a year. Thank you to all who participated the day of event and who contributed financially to support it.



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## Other Ways to Connect and Things to Know!

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**ASP**  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Appalachia Service Project  
**PASTA DINNER**  
AND  
**SILENT AUCTION**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**Saturday April 25**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm Starr Hall**  
213 Main Street • Hackettstown, NJ  
Adults: \$18 • Children (6-10): \$11  
Children under 6: free!  
Trinity's ASP is a youth-based mission that seeks to share the love of Jesus Christ through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia.

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### Lord's Pantry Update from LPMT

Lay Personnel wants to share an important update regarding leadership at the Lord's Pantry. Scott Savokinas has stepped down from his role as Director. We are grateful for his dedication and service to our community since 2022. His efforts have helped strengthen our mission and expand our reach to those in need.

As we move forward, Trisha Massa will be stepping in as Interim Director. Trisha brings a strong commitment to our mission and we are confident in her ability to guide us during this transition period.

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### Trinity Scholarships Available

Applications for the 2026 Trinity UMC's student scholarships are available in the foyer, the church office, and on the Trinity website. **All completed applications are due by Thursday, April 30th at 12:00 noon.** There are ten (10) different scholarships available. The description of each scholarship and their qualifications are included in the application package. Students are encouraged to apply for all the scholarships for which they are qualified.



**Lilly Bormann**, daughter of Brad & Brittany Bormann, great granddaughter of Fred & Ginny Bormann

#### Baptisms

**Josie Lynn Turner**, daughter of William Turner, III and Hannah Turner

#### Sympathy to

**Bill and Janet Mahoney** and family on the death of his father, Bill Mahoney  
Family and friends of **Beverly Slayton**  
Family and friends of **Carol Norton**  
Family and friends of **Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett**  
Family and friends of **Karyl Darker**

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### Exciting News for Starr Hall!

We're pleased to announce an upcoming improvement to **Starr Hall** this May! The hall's floor, which has served our community well for more than 15 years, will be professionally refurbished to restore it to like-new condition.

After careful consideration, the Trustees chose to invest in refurbishing the floor now rather than waiting for it to fail in the coming years. This proactive approach will extend the life of the floor by another 15 years while avoiding the significantly higher cost of a full replacement later. Even better, this project is being funded through a **Trustee-held endowment fund**, meaning the refurbishment will **not impact the general fund**.

The refurbishment process will take about **two weeks, beginning May 18**, and when complete the floor will look and feel brand new. It will also feature permanently marked basketball and pickleball lines, making the space even more versatile for activities and recreation. Starr Hall and kitchen access will be closed during this time.

We look forward to celebrating a refreshed Starr Hall floor very soon!

## St. Patrick's Day Parade



## Secret Angel Reveal!

Trinity's Secret Angel Reveal Party was held on March 1st in the Rotunda following our 10:00 am worship service. Nineteen children were matched with unknown "angels" who, during the month of February, reached out with notes, cards and surprises to help get through a long, cold winter. These matches were kept a surprise until the reveal on Sunday morning where we played rounds of Bingo and enjoyed sweet and salty snacks! Everyone won a few prizes and (hopefully) gained a new friend. Angels will always be looking out for you, sharing their love for Trinity and the devotion of God! Many thanks to all who participated.

