

Celebrate God’s love
Nurture relationships with God and one another
Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

Trinity Church is a congregation of The United Methodist Church and is a Reconciling Congregation.



February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements made by Black Americans and a time to reflect on the central roles of African Americans in United States history.

February was chosen as the appropriate month to celebrate Black History Month because it coincides with the birthdays of former US President Abraham Lincoln and social reformer Frederick Douglass. Both of whom had a significant role in promoting abolition.

Recently, a curious person inquired of me: “Why is there a Black History Month?” Well, there are many reasons, and there are also serious gaps in recorded black history. I can remember from my educational experiences in high school, college, and graduate school that any reference to black history was a brief reference. What I know of black history, I learned on my own, outside the limited framework of formal education.

Not only was there no simple factual and cultural history, there was no history of specific incidences of repression, rebellion, or inhuman practices within the culture of slavery. There are many reasons for this. One is that history was written and published primarily by white/Caucasian people. Since education for slaves was discouraged, even forbidden by law, the slaves would not have had access to their own history even if it had been fairly and accurately recorded. Black history was transmitted almost entirely by oral tradition – by legends and storytelling. Even after the slaves were freed, there was for many years, no provision for education. When black people were admitted into the arena of public education, it was separate from white people, but certainly not equal.

There was history we never heard. Both white and black people were, and are, the poorer for the history about which we’ve never known. It is important to have an emphasis on Black History to remind us of the history we so easily forget or never knew to begin with.

It is important to teach our children about the past. They need to know what happened lest it happen again. This is not to embitter or perpetuate hate. Our children will never understand who they are or the roots of their own heritage, unless we recite the stories of the past to them.

Black History Month is also an opportunity to understand Black histories, going beyond stories of racism and slavery to spotlight Black achievement. There is a sense in which the meaning of this month relates, not only to African-Americans, but also to non-African Americans. Our history and our future are inextricably woven together. We need the lessons that can come from an emphasis on Black History Month to help us recognize our own biases and prejudices and attempt not to place them on others. We can in fact, honor each other’s culture, race, life experience, belief system, class, age and gender. Perhaps then, we can do our best to acknowledge, and validate the feelings and inextricably woven together. We need the lessons that can come from an emphasis on Black History Month to help us recognize our own biases and prejudices and attempt not to place them on others. We can in fact, honor each other’s culture, race, life experience, belief system, class, age and gender. Perhaps then, we can do our best to acknowledge, and validate the feelings and achievements of others. Remember it was Jesus who said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.”

Your minister,
Dr. David Calhoun



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Trinity’s office & building will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents’ Day!

VISIT US ONLINE:
www.trinityspringfield.org



**Pray for These Members/
Friends:**

Jim A, Lisa B, Borys B, Bridget B,
James B, Meri B, Natalie B,
Pat C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C,
Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Mary G,
Courtney H, Aurie I, the family

of Tom L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L,
Holly Joy P, Sue P, Daryl P, Catherine Ann R, Bing S,
Jane S, Thomas S, Carl S, Lynn T, Alison (Allie) W,
Sheila W, the W family, our service members and their
loved ones, those affected by gun violence and
natural disasters.



We Offer our Christian Sympathy to:

Scott & Pat W & family, upon the
passing of Scott's father, George W.
Services will be private.

David, Lisa and Matthew L, upon the death of
longtime Trinity member, Tom L.

Please keep both these families in your prayers
during this very difficult time.



Thank You Notes

Thank you everyone who participated in
Angel Tree this December by purchasing
gifts, delivering gifts and praying for the
children, families and those who are
incarcerated. The families expressed their
gratitude to our wonderful congregation
and to this special ministry.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Kristina Stone

To my Trinity friends,

Thank you so much for the gifts and cards I received for
my birthday. It is a blessing.

Sincerely,

Doreen

Thank you to my Trinity family for your cards, notes, kind
words and overall support after the recent passing of my
father George. My family is grateful to have you all in our
lives.

Scott W

To Trinity members & friends,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful gift you
blessed us with this holiday season. We are grateful for
your generosity.

Blessings,

Trinity United Methodist Church Staff

FEBRUARY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Regular Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries (Italics)

S - Staff

- 2/1 Joel J
- 2/2 Austin L
- 2/3 Ellen A, Evan V, Spencer V
- 2/4 Cheryl P, Zachary S, Tracy W
- 2/5 Beverly R, Israel T, Larry T, Aisla V
- 2/6 Joshua W
- 2/8 Hope L
- 2/9 Shannon F, *Nicole & Michael S*
- 2/11 Teri D
- 2/12 Felix E
- 2/12 Robert M, Rachel M
- 2/13 Don E
- 2/14 Francis S, *Paul B & Susan C-B*
- 2/15 Brian C, Dominick E, Brenda S, Maura S
- 2/16 Xena E, Brennan W
- 2/18 Matthew A, Alan H, *Tom & Julie L*
- 2/19 Drew B, Pinkney S, Jr.
- 2/20 Nii Lante B
- 2/21 Robin H, Ashby P, Cynthia T
- 2/22 Stella C, John D, Ellen L
- 2/23 Susan M-M, Daniel M, Benjamin T, Scott W
- 2/24 Borys B
- 2/26 Princess A
- 2/27 James S
- 2/28 Blake M, Greta
- 2/28 Kimberly L

**Milestone Birthdays 75 &
Every 5 yrs. After & Over 90**

2/22 Kathryn C



No Milestone Anniversaries this Month



February Rose Window

February 4 - In loving memory of Pauline,
from Judy & Paula

February 6 - Anonymous

February 10 - In loving memory of David C, Jr., from his
mom, Barbara

February 27 - In loving memory of Ted & Jane C, from
Ted & Judy

**If you would like to light the Rose Window in memory
or honor of someone for \$5.00 a night, please contact
Doreen in the church office at
doreen@trinityspringfield.org. Thank you.**



Trinity Community Gallery

Ann Bagge is the artist featured in February. Ann became interested in painting while watching the popular TV artist Bill Alexander with her dad. This German artist inspired her to begin painting. She has taken classes in several art mediums and enjoys painting landscapes, still lifes and portraits. She has exhibited in several local art shows and continues to strive for improving her craft.

Ann is a member of the TVAA, Wilbraham Art League, Scantic River Artisans, and Artists at the Crossroads.



New Member Orientation

Are you new to the church and interested in learning more? Have you been attending Trinity UMC and would like to learn about its work in the community and/or about becoming a member of this dynamic congregation? You are invited to a New Member Orientation on **Saturday, February 22, 2025, 10 a.m. to noon in the Trinity Parkside Café.** Come and enjoy a continental breakfast and have your questions answered! If you decide to join, you will be received into church membership on Sunday, March 9. If you are interested in attending, email Doreen at: doreen@trinityspringfield.org or call (413) 737-5311 Thank you.

Bing Productions Concert, Asbury Hall Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.



Treat your valentine or yourself to a delightful evening of music with two wonderful musicians! Charlotte Collins is a classically trained violin and viola player and Sophie Lippert is a classical pianist. This concert will include Three Romances for Violin and Piano Op. 22 by Clara Schumann (1819-1896), Sonata for Viola and Piano by Rebecca Clarke (1886 - 1979), Libertango by Astor Piazzola (1921 - 1992), and more. It is \$20 (cash only) or advance tickets available through Eventbrite.



2025 Boar's Head Festival Notes

Congratulations are extended to all who participated and contributed to the Boar's Head Festival this year. It is incredible to think about the enormous amount of time and energy needed to produce an event of this magnitude. It took the efforts of every single person involved including our patrons, cast, support crew and the cooperation of the Trinity Church staff. Please know that you all deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

It has been a pleasure to participate with you in this wonderful event.

Blessings on behalf of the BHF Executive Committee,

Scott Woodward
Production Manager

Dear Boar's Head Festival Committee,

Again, what a thrilling performance! You continue to outdo yourself. Thank you so much for putting on this presentation every year.

Thank you / stay safe.

Very truly yours,
Christopher C

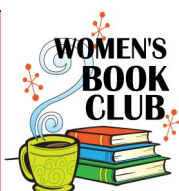


Arm in Arm is Coming Back! Save the Date: March 22, 2025

The first Arm in Arm Concert was a response to the Parkland mass shooting in 2018. Since then we have had a number of concerts including music, mime, dance, visual arts and poetry. The creative arts help us to acknowledge the painful reality that our society's obsession with guns is increasingly making gun violence a part of our lives, yet we live with hope. Each concert has lifted up two organizations working against gun violence to which donations are split from the proceeds.

Mark your calendars now with the date of our next concert, Saturday, March 22, 2025. Join us in turning away from arming ourselves against others toward reaching out to others and linking arm in arm.

To learn more about the concert and how you can be involved, see Janet Dixon-Metcalf or Alyssa Guerin or send an email to: arminarm@trinityspringfield.org.



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25 at Arlene Mackie's home at 936 Grayson Drive in Springfield. At that time we will be discussing *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

"A remarkable story about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation." (Amazon)

All women are welcome. If you have questions, contact Jane S.



BRANCHES:

HOW HAS GOD'S GRACE GROWN IN YOUR LIFE?



SHARE YOUR STORY AT OUR FRIDAY LENTEN SERVICES. REACH OUT TO ROB IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!



directorfmand@trinityspringfield.org



YOUTH MISSION TRIP



Informational Meeting for Parents and Youth
Sunday, March 9, at 11:45 in Youth Room

Confirmation Class
Our Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m.

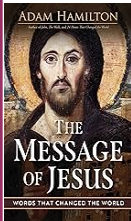
Youth Mission Trip Group
The Youth Mission Group will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Youth Fellowship
Sunday Night Youth Fellowship will be held on February 9 and February 16 (note: no Sunday Night Youth Fellowship on February 23).

LIGHT@9
The LIGHT@9 team, elementary and youth, is excited to see everyone throughout February! Please note, there will be no LIGHT@9 on Sunday, February 23.

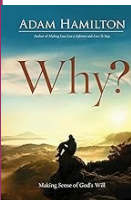
Book Studies with Rev. Dr. Calhoun in the Gallery & Café

These books can all be ordered on Amazon. Please email Doreen in the office at doreen@trinityspringfield.org to let her know which class(es) you will be attending. Thank you.



An After the Holidays Book Study Continues - The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World

Did you know that much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said? If you would like to learn more, you are invited to join Rev. Calhoun in a fresh encounter with the Words of Jesus. In this six-week study by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, we explore six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings. why they matter, and how they speak to us today. **The study continues on Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20 - 5:30-7 p.m.**



Why? Making Sense of God's Will

When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when a community is wiped away by wildfires taking away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation? When we lift our prayers to God, and no answer seems to come; when we earnestly seek to know the will of God for our lives, yet can't seem to discern it; when God seems far away; where is God? Join Rev. Dr. Calhoun as we explore best-selling author Adam Hamilton's fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, we will discuss how we can comprehend God's plan for the world and ourselves. **Mondays, September 15, 22,29 & Oct 6, 2025 - 12-1:30 p.m.**



Goodbye, Murphy's Law: Whatever Can Go Wrong God Can Make Right

We live in a world where people tend to expect the worst. But God has an amazing plan for each of us, and this plan is not some elusive, mystical riddle we cannot decipher. We can move past dry spells and give up dread and fear. We can shape a vision for our life that is large and special and meaningful. Join Rev. Dr. David Calhoun as we explore this marvelous little book by Judy Pace Christie as she encourages us to seek and discover God's will in our lives through listening, discernment, prayer, and perseverance. We will discuss ten important questions to help us live a more hopeful, encouraging, engaging, caring, eloquent, practical, prayerful, devoted, Christ-centered, life. Judy Pace Christie encourages us "To do our best and trust that God will do the rest." **Mondays, November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 2025 - 12-1:30 p.m.**

Future Studies

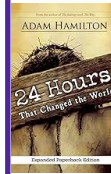
Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses by James W. Moore

The Undivided Soul by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan

Lenten Opportunities

Lenten Book Study

24 Hours That Changed the World



No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Join Rev. Dr. David Calhoun in this Lenten journey, as Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether you are a long-time Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you are invited to join this **Lenten study** in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. **Mondays, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 12-1:30 p.m.**



Chapel Ash Wednesday Service - Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. we invite you to join others from Trinity Church in Grace Chapel for this service which marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. There will be a special message and music. We will offer the imposition of ashes for all those who would like to receive them. **Also, from 9 a.m., to noon** Rev. Dr. David Calhoun will offer ashes in Grace Chapel. This is a beautiful way to enter into this reflective season and important time of year in the life of the church.



Friday Lenten Services

Be sure to include our Friday mid-day Lenten services on your calendar as we journey through this sacred season. The services are March 7 - Good Friday, April 18, 2025 - 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. in Grace Chapel. This year we are going to try something new. See Rob's request on page five.

Lenten Simple Meal



Good Friday Simple Lenten Meal

On Good Friday only, we would like to have a simple meal following the noon service. We are asking people to sign-up to bring different types of soup, bread and/or salad for a true Lenten simple meal. Please email Doreen in the office at: doreen@trinityspringfield.org to bring items and/or serve. Thank you.

ELEVATOR

Trinity is Getting an Elevator!



Exciting things are happening at Trinity. After nearly 50 years of discussion and study, as well as several attempts with various degrees of success, we're finally seriously addressing some of our accessibility issues. Thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor, we have been gifted a million dollars to make as much of our building available to all regardless of mobility issues. We have voted at the November charge conference to accept the gift and at a January church conference to move forward with the project.

The Trustees have been working with Architectural Insights of Palmer on studying our facility and we've come up with a three-pronged approach that will give access to the basement and first floor. There will be an elevator installed right off the parking lot inside the "Vincent Hall" entrance which will allow access into the JA room and the former Nursery school area, as well as direct access to the Sanctuary over by the handbell area. We chose this entrance since it's close to parking (unlike our existing ramp) so folks can come to church during inclement weather. The second area will be in the chapel Narthex. The existing lift will be removed - it does function but has been somewhat problematic and is difficult to operate without a trained staff person. We will be removing the 3 stained glass windows (they will be repurposed elsewhere) and a new small vestibule will be installed in a corner of the memorial garden with a lift to bring one from that level up to the Asbury Hall level. The third area will be where the existing water fountain now resides. The fountain will be moved and a door installed in its place with a lift behind it to bring folks down to the chapel level.

We still have things to be worked out and several areas of the building won't be addressed in this plan. We decided on an approach that would have the biggest benefit for the most people at this point and will see if any other areas can be addressed as we move forward.

More to follow over the next few months.

The Board of Trustees

Thoughts on our Theme "I am the vine; you are the branches."



We are entering the last full month of winter. The cold can seep into our bones and snow is always a possibility. Think about how the world on a snowy day seems very silent. Can the silence remind us to listen more carefully?

Let's pay attention this month to how well we are listening to one another. Do we think we already know what someone is going to say? Stop and listen. Someone's comments remind us of our own story and we want to interrupt to share it? Stop and just listen. Are we feeling too busy to listen to someone? Stop and listen.

In our prayer lives, let's include a time of listening also. In fact, anytime is a good time to listen to God. God Incarnate is the vine, we are the branches. What does God want to say to us on these winter days as we prepare to bloom in the Spring? Winter silence is upon us. Listen.



The Carillon

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Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church, welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.

