



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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LIMA, OHIO 45801
PERMIT #77

301 W. Market Street
Lima, Ohio 45801

419-227-0800

“In the heart of the city, sharing the heart of Christ.”

Pastor

Rev. Jim Nathan

Associate Pastor

Lori Wright

Director of Student and Family Ministries

Kyle Ley

Director of Music

David Schneider

Church Accompanist

Dean Altstaetter

Director of

The Center for Creative Child Care (CCCC)

Christina Vorhes

Church Secretary

How to reach us:

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Trinity United Methodist Church, Lima, Ohio

Webpage:

www.limatrinityumc.org

Podcast:

www.iheart.com

Lima Trinity UMC Weekly

Trinity United Methodist Church Calendar - March 2025

*All events and activities listed are subject to change please visit our website for updated monthly calendar. *

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship 2pm Flute Practice	24 6:30am MMMen 10am MMWWomen 3pm Primrose Worship	25 2:30pm Lima Music Academy 7pm Hispanic Bible Study	26 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS	27 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 7pm Hispanic Worship	1
2 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship 2pm Flute Practice 3pm Good Reservation	3 6:30am MMMen 10am MMWWomen	4 10am Urban Event 7pm Hispanic Bible Study	5 7am Men's Bible Study 11:30am Soup Kitchen 4pm TOPS 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 5:30pm Lenten Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7pm Hispanic Worship	8
9 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	10 6:30am MMMen 10am MMWWomen 3pm Primrose Worship	11 2:30pm Lima Music Academy 7pm Hispanic Bible Study	12 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS	13 5:30pm Lenten Study 6pm Worship team Meeting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7pm Hispanic Worship	15 7am St. Patty's Pancakes
16 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship 3pm LACB Flute Concert	17 6:30am MMMen 10am MMWWomen	18 2:30pm Lima Music Academy 7pm Hispanic Bible Study	19 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6:30pm SLB Meeting	20 5:30pm Lenten Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10am Literary Ladies 7pm Hispanic Worship	22 8am Pet Cert.
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Trinity United Methodist Church Calendar - April 2025

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Highlights from the January SLB Meeting

FINANCE REPORT

- The 2025 church budget of \$358,818.00 was approved.
 - A summary of the recommendations from E.S. Evans' audit of Trinity's finances was presented. Included among the recommendations, but not limited to these, were the following:
 1. Conduct monthly reconciliations of ALL accounts.
 2. Include ALL income and expenditures in ALL accounts in financial reports.
 3. Require receipts and payment approval forms for ALL purchases.
 4. Since the CCCC is utilizing Trinity's Employer Identification Number (EIN), create a formal agreement with the CCCC regarding all financial actions of the CCCC.
- Overall, the audit did not uncover any glaring issues and was helpful in revealing areas that can make Trinity's financial practices even better.

TRUSTEES REPORT

- There are several areas needing attention but financial constraints are limiting the ability to address all of them at this time. Listed in order from least urgent to most urgent.
 - A. Parking Lot: It badly needs resurfacing but is a low priority compared to other greater needs at this time, so for now the lot will continue to be "patched" as needed.
 - B. Plumbing Issue: Because of a recent failure of the main drain pipe, a study needs to be conducted; however, this, too, will have to wait.
 - C. Boilers: The church building has three boilers, two in the main building and one in the educational wing. There is a leak in one of the boilers in the main building; yet, Smith-Boughan, with whom Trinity currently has a maintenance contract, says the boiler in the educational wing needs to be replaced. The cost to repair the leaks is \$30,000/section, not including labor, and there are four sections/boiler. The cost to replace a boiler is \$200,000-\$250,000, again, not including labor. A special committee has been formed to work just on this project. Along with Pastor Jim and head custodian Rob Stidham, the following board members were named to this Boiler Project Team: Sharon Walsh from the Finance Team, Trustee Representatives John Mulder and Dennis Hefner, and Beth Bartels as an At-Large member.
 - D. Cracks in Sanctuary Walls: An engineering assessment was conducted to determine the structural integrity of the walls in the sanctuary, especially where there are cracks above the stained-glass windows and elsewhere. The initial comment by the assessor(s) was that the cracks might be intentional and necessary. Trustees are awaiting the final assessment report.
- It was determined during last year's parsonage inspection that new carpet is needed in three rooms in the parsonage—the living room, the master bedroom and the basement. The Organization and Furnishings Team will be working with Jami Nathan in selecting carpet samples for gathering the needed quotes for this project.

PERSONNEL REPORT

- In order to do what can be done to keep Trinity's good, hourly staff here, the SLB approved cost-of-living and additional raises for all non-pastoral staff. The suggested increased salaries are already reflected in the 2025 budget.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Missions

1. The Turner Love Offering met its Christmas offering goal and donated \$1,074.83 to 6 local groups.
2. The Easter Offering will go to the Lima Music Academy.
3. The Missions Team is in contact with Family Promise to determine the best means for utilizing funds left in Trinity's suspense account that are designated specifically for this ministry.

Worship

1. The February sermon series will be on the four graces.
2. March's message theme is "Let the Children Come."
3. Lent will be focusing on "Everyone Has Monkeys" with weekly topics such as Change, Fear, Relationship, Finance, and Addiction.

Continued on next page...

Trinity Family News & Notes . . .

Dear Trinity,

I was blessed to have received a wonderful gift basket that was brought to my home and delivered by Ann Mulder. I want to thank the person who put it together! What an array of items so thoughtfully put together! So many useful items, they even included stamps with the notecards, and batteries with the flashlight! A prayer and gratitude journal along with a pen! Just to name a few. Also, wonderful chocolates! God's blessings for your special gifts to me.

I wanted to tell you how much it meant to me to have Christmas Carolers come to my home and sing to me! Thank you Sharon and Mike Wildermuth and Pastor Jim and Jami! I felt honored have you all! What wonderful singers!

Love and blessings,

Carol Brown

Dear Trinity Family,

I want to thank Lisa and Trinity Church for my Christmas basket filled with so many of my favorite things! I also enjoyed getting to know Lisa during her visit.

The notes you send me are very much appreciated and it is really nice to know the Trinity Family is here and cares.

Happy New Year to you all!

Jean Wright

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for your thoughts of me at Christmas time. The basket was beautiful with a lot of snacks.

Thank you to Vickye and Pam Laules who visited and I enjoyed my time with them.

Carol Wilkerson

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all of the card's following my father's death. I deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and support of our church family.

- Tina Schneider



Mar. & Apr. Anniversary 50+

Bob & Frances Johns,
March 30th, 63 yrs.

Jan. & Feb. 90+



Ralph Hubbell
March 8th, 93 yrs.

Miriam Wynn
April 13th, 95 yrs.

Suzanne Plumb
April 4th, 90 yrs.

Nancy Meyer
April 22, 91 yrs.

C.U.P. has asked for member churches to donate hygiene items. There is a box in the narthex area to place donations.

March - Shampoo

April - Feminine Products



January SLB Highlights Continued

OTHER BUSINESS

- The SLB will begin work on revising and updating Trinity's wedding policy.
- The SLB is looking into policy issues regarding use of Grace House by outside groups per a request from the Center for Peace & Reconciliation which has groups seeking a place to meet.
- If anyone wants to receive the UM district newsletter, they should email Cortney at creed@wocumc.org.

Highlights from the February SLB Meeting

SHARING BY PASTOR JIM

- Conference News: The UM Church in Ohio is busy combining the East Ohio and West Ohio conferences into one Ohio Conference, the finality of which should be completed within three years. This move towards one, statewide conference is indicative, too, of the issue of fewer pastors to serve in local churches, leading the conference to seek new ways to cover the gaps.
- Local News: In the spirit of joining together as a unified body of believers who identify as United Methodists, the local Lima area UM churches are planning a united Pentecost service on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Our current district superintendent, Jim Wilson, will lead this combined service. Participating UM churches are Trinity, Shawnee, Forest Park, Elida St. Paul, Cairo, and Cridersville.
- One final announcement is the appointment of Don Wilson as the new Western Lakes District Superintendent effective July 1, 2025. Wilson is the first black D.S. assigned to our district. His focus is in encouraging us to “be the hands and feet of Christ in this place.”

FINANCE REPORT

- The Platt Trust Funds yielded a higher-than-expected dividend. Though good news, these additional funds will not affect the annual budget as approved in January.
- The Finance Committee is focusing on improving four areas of financial stewardship as identified in the recent audit of Trinity’s finances.
 1. Set a monetary threshold for expenditures not requiring approval of the SLB as a whole and utilize the executive group to assist with these approvals when needed.
 2. Tighten up the process of accounting for all credit card purchases.
 3. Utilize more volunteers for counting donations so no staff is involved with this.
 4. Work out details regarding the agreement/relationship of the CCCC to our church budget.

TRUSTEES REPORT

- The purchase of carpeting for living room, master bedroom, and basement at the parsonage was approved by the board
- Criterium-Liszky Engineers recently completed a visual inspection at Trinity to evaluate the cracks in the sanctuary at the interface of the domed plaster ceiling and exterior walls. The findings indicated no significant movement of the building super-structure. However, several recommendations were made including the following:
 1. Complete stated maintenance items for extending the expected useful life of the building.
 2. Carry out a more complete assessment of the condition of the plaster and the connection of the lathes to the suspended wood framing
 3. Be prepared for possible repairs/replacement for the plaster and the lathe.
- Trinity is facing a serious and expensive issue in regards to the buildings boilers.
 1. Of the two boilers in the main building, one is currently working while the other, per information from Smith-Boughan, will cost \$50,000 to repair, but such a repair should give it another 15 years of life.
 2. The boiler in the education wing is thought to be the original placed in 1959. Smith-Boughan indicated that parts for this boiler are no longer available and it should be replaced. Smith-Boughan is working on submitting a bid for a replacement boiler.
 3. A second opinion is being sought from Wellman Services, but other than these two local companies, the only other companies that deal with this kind of boiler unit are located in Dayton and Columbus, which would add significant travel expenses to the cost of the project.
 4. A subcommittee has been set up to determine how best to finance this large project.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There were a few reports from board members regarding topics and comment they discussed with staff members for whom they serve as liaisons.

MINISTRY UPDATES: Discipleship

An extensive schedule of youth group activities was shared with the board members.

Continued on bottom of following page

Fun Facts

- Did you know that the Free Store distributed over 20 hooded sweatshirts, 6 winter parkas, 20 winter hats, 20 pairs of gloves, 22 blankets, and 24 pairs of socks!
This was JUST for the men shoppers?!!
- Did you know Family Promise served 40 families in 2024? Those 40 families were made up of 168 people, 98 of which were children!

Missions Update:

At a recent Mission Team meeting, it was decided that the Easter Offering would go to the Lima Music Academy that meets here at Trinity. That program is growing and serves the youth of our community who are interested in private lessons in voice, piano, and violin. All lessons are provided free of charge to the students.

Special Offering Sundays for 2025 were also selected. They are as follows:

UMCOR Sunday	March 30th
Peace with Justice Sunday	June 15th
UM Student Sunday	November 9th

Informational fliers and special offering envelopes will be provided. Special Sunday offerings are in addition to our usual Easter Offering and the Turner Love Offering.

New Altar Flowers and More!

The Organization and Furnishings Team (OFT) hopes that many of you have noticed a pair of new winter floral bouquets adorning the altar on Sunday mornings. Because the cost of fresh florals has increased rather abundantly in the last few years and donations for such florals has diminished, the OFT decided to invest in four pairs of seasonal artificial bouquets to use on the altar when fresh bouquets are not available. We extend a big THANK YOU! to Cathy Woodward and Kevin Reeks for their selection of such lovely bouquets and also to the anonymous donor who so generously covered the cost of these first two bouquets.

The purpose of the OFT is to help create a hospitable and welcoming environment within Trinity's walls along with an atmosphere of peace and well-being via a visually appealing, orderly, and attractive church facility while also being good stewards of Trinity's resources. Since our inception in 2017, the OFT has engaged in a number of projects including freeing the church of unnecessary clutter, addressing cleaning needs that go beyond the ordinary duties of the staff, utilizing items in a more effective and pleasing manner, and purchasing items to help create a sense of warmth and to meet the needs of our church.

Another project soon to take place is the painting of the large bulletin board in the church entry. Utilizing the phrase "In the heart of the city, sharing the heart of Christ", this artistic endeavor is being created by former Trinity member Kathy Hollinger who is very generously donating the gift of her talents for Trinity's benefit.

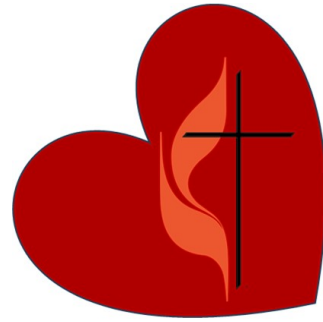
We hope that all who enter Trinity's doors experience the peace of God's Spirit from their very first glance inside this historic building to their full experiences within it.

OTHER BUSINESS

- An update to Trinity's wedding policy is still in progress.
- Work on locating and/or developing building use agreements for Grace House is also still in progress.
- Questions regarding Trinity scholarships for students going to college were raised with more discussion to take place at next month's meeting.

The Chimes

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In other words,...

Hymn of Promise, by Natalie Sleeth

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Rev. Dr. Ronald Sleeth was the Homiletics (Preaching) Professor at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. He was a beloved member of the faculty and a favorite of students. His wife, Natalie, was a hymn writer. When he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the mid 1980s, he set out like any good preacher to plan out his own funeral. He asked his wife to write a new hymn for the occasion; Hymn of Promise was the result of his request.

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Consider seriously for a moment and reflect; the deep, deep faith of this couple. In the face of a fatal diagnosis, to speak, write sing words of hope and promise. It is one of the strongest witness I know to facing a world that ever more dark and pessimistic with the hope that is Christ.

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

During the season of Lent, we can get caught up in the darkness of of our own reflections, in confronting the negatives powers that we need to confront. We can get caught up in the darkness of the story of the Passion narrative and the guilts of our own place in the midst of that story. But that is also why I like to use verse three of this hymn as my sung benediction at the end of every funeral service, at the end of worship throughout the season of Lent. That in the midst of the challenges, we remember that Hope has the last word.

See ya in church!

Pastor Jim