

# Trinity Trumpet

Good News!

Since 1973 Vol. 49 No. 02

February 2021

A Newsletter for Covenant Partners and friends of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Modesto, California

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

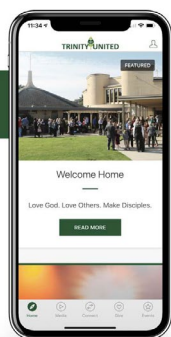
9:00 AM Adult Education  
10:00 AM LIVE Stream  
from Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Online

### The First Chapter—MARK

FEB. 7 HEALING  
Mark 1:29-39  
FEB. 14 SEEING  
Mark 9:2-9  
COMMUNION



FEB. 17 IN THE DUST  
Ash Wednesday  
Psalm 51:1-17  
FEB. 21 IN THE WILDERNESS  
Mark 1:12-15  
FEB. 28 IN THE REARVIEW  
Mark 8: 31-38



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Tres' Take

## Lenten Sermon Series

The Lenten Season is upon us. Lent is the season leading up to Resurrection Sunday. It encompasses the six weeks prior to Easter and is a time of introspection as we self-reflect on what God is doing in our lives and how we can serve Him more fully. The season is a time when we read Scripture more and pray more often. It is a great time to take on new spiritual disciplines like practicing Sabbath or designated time for Bible study. May I encourage all of us to dive deeper into God's Word and carve out a set time to pray each day this Lenten Season.

We will start a new sermon series for Lent called "Reflections." Each sermon will have us look at the reflections in various things related to familiar passages and stories in Scripture. I pray that as we look at these reflections, the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and minds to see our Lord Jesus Christ's ministry in new, exciting, and inspiring ways. May God bless us all as we reflect on His steadfast love this Lent.

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### Ministerial Staff

**Rev. Dr. Tres Adams** Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Les Malakian** Parish Pastor  
**Melissa Fletcher** Director of Music Ministry  
**Cindy Zellman** Administrator  
**Becky Pombo** Minister to Children  
**Wade Patton** Director of Young Adult Ministry  
**Destiny Robles** Director of Youth Ministry

### Trinity Preschool

**Cassi Torrez** Director  
**Cindy Zellman** Administrator

7 days without God  
makes one weak.

**Lisa Traugher** Managing Editor  
**Char Wickman** Circulation Manager

Thanks to many Volunteers!

## DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION 10TH OF EACH MONTH

Materials are collated  
on the fourth Tuesday  
of each month.



**More  
from Les**

**“ . . . now just calm down . . . ”**

*Submitted by Parish Pastor Rev. Les Malakian*

It seems that no matter where you turn, you run into somebody who is “uptight”. Whether it is “road rage” or “political hostilities” or “family tensions” or, you name it, people are “uptight”.

I’ve never in all my 75+ years seen so much tension being expressed by people in all walks of life.

What in the world is going on? I think we would all pretty much agree on this, so now what?

Let me tell you a life lesson taught by our four year old grandson, Shayne. After telling this life story, I’ll turn our attention to Scripture. One day when our son, Michael, and my wife Leslie were in the midst of a political discussion things were getting a bit tense and voices were being raised. In the midst of all this our little grandson walked into the room, went and stood between his dad and grandmother and, with outstretched arms, said, “Now just calm down.” We all chuckled and the tension dissipated and all was well. How is it that a little four year old named Shayne was so wise and we adults, so . . . ?

Whatever the situation, whatever the cause of the tension, Jesus stands in the rooms of our lives, stretches out His arms and says, “. . . now just calm down . . . ” God tells us as recorded in James 1:19-20, “Know this, my beloved brothers; let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”.

Be “. . . quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger . . . ”, i.e., “Now just calm down.” Good counsel don’t you think?

*God bless you,  
Pastor Les  
Matthew 6:33*

### November 2020 Finance Summary Fiscal Year = September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021

	ACTUAL	
	December	Year to Date
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Receipts	\$ 114,103	\$ 442,275
Expenses	71,911	293,186
Receipts over Expenses	\$ 42,192	\$ 149,089

Thank you to all of you who gave year-end gifts over and above your normal giving!



## Melissa's Music Notes



### Climb Every Mountain

*Submitted by Melissa Fletcher, Director of Music Ministry*

This morning while I was browsing the internet, I stumbled upon a music recording posted by a friend. She was playing “Climb Every Mountain” from the Sound of Music. It struck a chord within me and I heard an encouraging message of strength, resilience and hope, a message about challenging oneself and following dreams. It was a message I needed to hear. This week has been tough. Pandemic fatigue is wearing on me and my family. It is wearing on all of us. It is hard to follow your dreams when things aren’t happening and everything in the state is shut down.

February 2021 marks the beginning of my second year here at Trinity United. 11 months of my first year were characterized by a global pandemic. There was not an opportunity to settle into my new position. Plans were made constantly throughout the year. Planning is my forte. However, the rules kept changing, the situation kept changing and plans had to be tossed out continuously. It has been a challenge. In my position as Director of Music Ministry, a huge part of that job is planning and selecting music and directing the choir. Everything has shifted to music recording and production. We were not able to hire an organist due to Covid. I have stepped up and fulfilled that role to provide music for worship. I have invited those who were comfortable participating in worship to sing in small ensembles while I accompanied them on the piano or organ every week, often singing myself. I have joined the Celebration Band as

a worship leader and participated by singing and playing keyboards. I have continually planned and selected music for an evolving program. Our staff has met religiously and worked through new challenges every single week. I have continued our music program here at Trinity despite the pandemic.

Tuesdays we meet for Small Ensemble practice and recording and Wednesdays we meet for Celebration Band practice and recording. We turn the sanctuary into a recording studio. Our sound and video team has laboriously set up this studio, including microphones and stands, instruments, music stands, speakers, monitors, sound boards, computers, lighting, cameras and recording equipment. It is a labor of love. We have added a video team to create music videos so our congregation can see the musicians on the livestream. We have added video content to supplement music recordings. This has been a constantly evolving program as we have tried to improve sound and add new equipment based on what was needed. We are all learning and improving with every worship service. Each new recording is a huge achievement. The recording process is tedious and any interruptions such as a cough or mistake or glitch in the sound equipment requires us to start over. We have an amazing rapport and team effort towards accomplishing great music every week. I am excited for the quality of music we are producing for the livestream!

I don’t know what 2021 holds, but I do know that I will embrace it and continue challenging myself to “Climb Every Mountain.”

Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

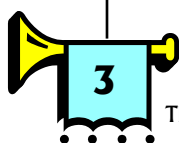


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### Sharing Our Concerns

**Deaths:** Crystal Loeser, beloved daughter of Willie and Robert Loeser and sister of Robb Loeser, died on January 13, 2021.

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## Elder's Edge

*Peggy Long-Prevette*

*Elder of Session*

## Jesus Seeks Your Company

People can be so irritating! Everywhere I turn at Trinity United, someone is reminding me to 'read my Bible', 'be in God's Word', 'set aside quiet time', or some other words or phrases that mean the same!

Have you ever felt this way? After all, are we bad people if we fail to spend time reading the Holy Word on a daily basis? What if I miss a week . . . or longer! Where do I pick-up . . . or should I just give up? Am I the Christian version of loser? Is it possible that Jesus has forgiven me my sins but doesn't want my company because I'm too\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your blame)? Friend, these thoughts and questions are the whisperings of the enemy; he wants us to believe one, all, perhaps more of these questions of self-doubt. Jesus seeks our company. Jesus seeks your company. Jesus even seeks mine.

God's Word, the Holy Bible, is His way to instruct you (me). At times, He is telling you (me) how to live in a particular situation. Other times, His Word is softening and improving your (my) heart. Yet other times, still, the Bible (Old and New Testaments alike) is preparing you for the future. God loves to talk to you and hear from you. He desires a growing relationship with each of us individually. He is the greatest friend/love/inspiration you will ever know (yes, Mr. Hubs knows this). Dive into His Word. Read through quickly as a first timer and very, very slowly as a many timer. Allow our Savior Jesus Christ to mold you into a new person through the whisperings of the Holy Spirit. Remember, you're not a bad person/friend/Christian if you miss a day;

you're a human being made in God's image, learning to have the greatest, most intimate relationship of your life. Then reflect on how He blessed you when you spent 10 or 15 minutes in the Holy Bible!

**BLESSINGS!**



## Words from Wade

*Director of Young Adult Ministry*

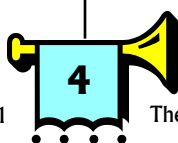
### Young Adults

Happy New Year! It's our second month and we're on the move. What can you expect this 2021? Great question. 2020 truly belonged to the "pandemic". It was hard to plan for anything and gain momentum. However in 2021 the year belongs to us. We've simplified Young Adults ministries to simply: "Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples". That's the current mission of Trinity United and we're praying God shows us how to fulfill that statement. What activities can you expect? Another great question. We've simplified that as well. Two Sundays out of the month are devoted to study and fellowship at the church. The other two Sundays we'll either be in the community helping our city or promoting health thru exercise. Who can attend? Anyone and everyone. We're taking the "Young Adults Only" off of this group. We love people and believe God will send whom He chooses.

### Modern Worship

We are proud to say we have evolved again. Now with the help of our AV-T team (Audio, Visual, Tech) our modern worship will now show a video of the Celebration Band during our worship services. We're hoping this will enhance the worship service. In January, the Lord gave some members an idea of using pallets to make a drum cage. This cage will be mobile for both indoor and outdoor venues.

*Words from Wade continued on page 5*



## Discipleship

2020 has made the whole world rethink how we live. It's also making the church look at the way we come along side others, and receive those who answer the call to discipleship. Currently our "Formation Commission" and sub-committee is deciding how the church will adjust and fulfill the great commission and Trinity United's mission. (Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples).



## Dates with Destiny

Director of Youth Ministry



## A Way with Words

One thing that you may not know about me is my love for words—one of the things I like to do most in my free time is write. I enjoy writing poetry—which can take form in lyrics to songs, spoken word, or even in rap. I find a sense of release as I put to words what is inside of my heart and mind in creative form. In all transparency, I have found it difficult in the past few years to really have freedom in writing and really be on the roll of things. One of my hopes for this year is a renewing of that creativity and passion once again. I think part of that renewing is in being obedient to share what God has given me, when He says to share it. As someone who ministers to youth, I find it all the more important to be an example of using the gifts God has given me and having freedom in creativity. About a year ago, this poem was written in a moment where I needed to remember who God called me to be, no matter the things that surround and seem too large in my life. There is nothing too big for God. This was written as a "we" because I believe my call for being bold in my faith is a call for all of us as disciples . . . May you be blessed:

## "In A World That Is Afraid"

In this world, there are so many lost and broken, and they are searching for something to have hope in.

But are we pointing to hope, in what we say and do?

Are we listening to the world, or standing on The Truth?

Everything seems chaotic, not something we can ignore.

But can we point to the Peace in the middle of the storm?

Greater is He Who is in us, than whatever is out there.

We have a hope that is inside us, we must be ready to share.

Now is the time for us to stand and be the light.

But we must first remember who truly holds this fight.

We do not need to back down in fear, we use wisdom in it all, while remembering who is near.

God has not left or made us forsaken, He holds it all together, so may our faith be awakened.

May we be the voice of love, hope and peace, instead of allowing the fears to just increase.

May we truly love our neighbors, remembering our command, not being selfish, but instead be a helping hand.

May we give of our time and sacrifice our wants, not just reacting to everything, but wise in our response.

Christians: it's time to rise up and point to our Mighty God, showing we can approach Him even though we're flawed.

Our solid foundation on Scripture, we must not easily be swayed.

Because the Church needs to remain fearless in a world that is afraid.

© 2020 Destiny Robles



## Becky's Bridge

Submitted by Becky Pombo,  
Minister to Children

Remember the Adventure Boxes that were given out at Christmas time? It was a great success. We reached over 100 families. So, we're going to do it again, but it's called Lent Adventures or Easter in a Box.



Lent is the period of 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter. Just as Advent is a season that prepares us for Christmas, Lent prepares us for Easter. Lent Adventures includes 46 bite-sized devotions that any parent (or an older child) can lead. All devotions are focused on the life and teachings of Christ. They are short, action-driven and heart-focused. By design, they are meant to help parents and children to grow closer to God but also to each other.

One of the coolest parts of the Lent Adventures is the HOLY WEEK PAPER THEATER.

Both parents and children will love this craft that follows Jesus from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday. **It's an interactive and captivating way to share the story of Easter that encourages movement, sharing, and imagination.**

The streets of Jerusalem, the dinner table, the cross, the tomb—it's all there! As well as, Jesus and four disciples, a Roman soldier, an angel, a rooster, a donkey and so much more.

We hope this will open doors to some life giving conversations between parents and children.

The Lent Adventure boxes will be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 14 or a drive-thru on Wednesday, February 17 from 5:00-7:00 PM in the North Parking Lot. If you would like one of these boxes for your kids, grandkids, neighbors, co-workers, etc., please call the church office to make your reservation.

Make sure to get your boxes before February 17, as that marks Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent.

## BLAST News!

We were able to take three weeks off to get recharged after Christmas! Our kids were back on campus on January 13 from 2:00-5:00 PM.

The kids enjoyed the Detective theme so much, we decided to continue with that series for the next quarter. We begin the quarter with

Case #1 The World's First Murder—  
Cain and Abel

Case #2 Missing Person—Zacchaeus

Case #3 The Walking Dead—Lazarus

Case #4 Lost Sheep—children and adults

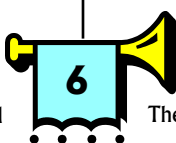
We chose this curriculum because at the end of each lesson it asks the question "How does this story affect my walk with God?" Good question, huh?

Our next series leads us into Easter and is called "Escape the Tomb". The synopsis is: Earth was the ultimate escape room, a place where all God's people were doomed to die from sin. Then God sent us a hero, a Savior, Who would show us the way out. The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the ultimate escape story. If we follow the way Jesus has made for us, we can escape to new life in Him.

## Confetti Foundation-Service Project

Last quarter our BLAST kids were part of Operation Christmas Child and packed 53 boxes to send to boys and girls around the world.

This quarter we are taking on a new service project called "Confetti Foundation." **THE MISSION OF THE CONFETTI FOUNDATION IS TO SUPPLY BIRTHDAY PARTIES TO**





## CHILDREN WHO HAVE TO SPEND THEIR BIRTHDAY IN A HOSPITAL, PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY CLINIC OR HOSPICE FACILITY.



The foundation was started with the hope that families will be able to shift their focus from their child's sickness for just 30 minutes and celebrate. Although the party is not a

cure, it will be a welcome distraction and a good reminder that every child deserves to be celebrated.

Through the partnership of children's hospitals, pediatric oncology clinics and pediatric Hospice facilities in the United States, The Confetti Foundation's goal is to provide a themed birthday party, positive memories, and normalcy during a difficult time.

Our kids will participate in "stuffing the PIÑATA" with coins and dollar bills, make birthday cards, banners and supply much needed items for the birthday boxes. If you would like to help stuff the PIÑATA, donate supplies or come to one of our FAMILY NIGHT TEAM BUILDING EVENTS (1st one is on March 3 from 5:30-7:30 PM (dinner and FUN! provided) in Telle Center.



We hope that 2021 brings many blessings to our kids and their families. Even in the midst of tough times we see God's hand everywhere. We just need to look.



"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."  
—Galatians 6:2

**FOR INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Liz Benson: 522-2390



## Cassi's Corner

Submitted by Cassi Torrez  
Trinity Preschool Director

## Hi there family and friends,

### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

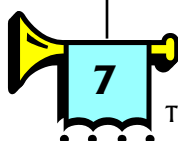
As we move into February the Preschool will be celebrating Valentine's Day and enjoying all the festivities that this day brings. We are so thankful that we know love because God loved us first. The children will be learning the verse mentioned above and will understand more of God's love for others and for them.

The atmosphere around the Preschool remains upbeat and endearing. All the classes are enjoying the nicer weather, which allows them to play outside comfortably. The toddlers love their stroller rides around campus! Thank God for sunny days in winter!

The school age class remains focused as they are continuing their distance learning here on campus. The staff in this classroom is very helpful and patient with the students and technology.

As always please continue to keep the Preschool and staff in your thoughts and prayers.

Many Blessings,  
Cassi Torrez





Submitted by Bethany Couchman

Need a Valentine or Birthday gift for that one person that already has everything? Support the Guatemala Mission Project 2021 by purchasing a gift from the Giving Tree!

Trinity has been sending a team to Guatemala for numerous years, working with local mission group Bethel Ministries International, to bring the Good News of Jesus to Guatemalans. We customize and personally distribute wheelchairs for those needing mobility and independence, build houses for those who need a place to call home, and distribute Bibles and food supplies to families who have fallen on hard times.

This past year, Guatemala has endured two hurricanes, numerous landslides, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Take the opportunity to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of Guatemalans and purchase an item from the Giving Tree today!

You can buy a Bible, wheelchair, part of the house project, a month supply of food, and much more in honor of your friends and family. Visit the Giving Tree at Sunday services or online at <https://www.tupc.org/guat> and help bring the Gospel of Jesus to Guatemalans.

### **DONATE TODAY!**

Please phone the Church Office at 209-529-3228 or send an email to [tupc@tupc.org](mailto:tupc@tupc.org) letting the office know your online donation is for Guatemala.

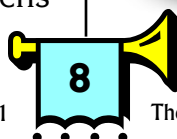
### **GO!**

Does the idea of building a home, fitting a wheelchair, or getting to know the friendly people of Guatemala interest you? Join Guatemala Mission Team for our week-long trip in June 2021. Call or text Shell Siemens at (209) 602-7553.

## **HUGS**

(Mindful of COVID—Cyber Hugs for now)  
received via email

*It's wondrous what a hug can do;  
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.  
A hug can say "I love you so"  
Or, "Gee, I hate to see you go."  
A hug is "welcome back again"  
And "great to see you! Where've you been?"  
A hug can smooth a small child's pain,  
And bring a rainbow after rain.  
The hug! There's been no doubt about it . . .  
We scarcely could survive without it!  
A hug delights and warms and charms,  
It must be why God gave us arms.  
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,  
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.  
And chances are your favorite aunts  
Love them more than potted plants.  
Kittens crave them; Puppies love them,  
Heads of State are not above them.  
A hug can break the language barrier.  
And make your travels so much merrier.  
No need to fret about your store of 'em,  
The more you give, the more there's more of 'em.  
So stretch those arms without delay,  
And GIVE SOMEONE A (Cyber) HUG TODAY!*





# Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Char Wickman  Judy Wiegman	<b>2</b> Jenny and Ken Willmarth  Dave and Milly Wing	<b>3</b> David Witt  Margaret Wolfe	<b>4</b> David and Vicky Wolff  Deidre Wolfley	<b>5</b> Lynne and Chris Wilkinson  Adelle and Joseph Yonan	<b>6</b> Jim Young  David and Cindy Zellman
<b>7</b> Twilla Zellman  Miriam Acevedo	<b>8</b> Bob and Tippy Achterberg  Andrew and Marie Andersen	<b>9</b> Cameron and Stephanie Anderson  Jeff and Julie Anderson	<b>10</b> Randy and Doreen Anderson  Ryan and Kate Anderson	<b>11</b> Twyla Anderson  Harry and Donna Bakker	<b>12</b> Jimmy and Amy Bauer  Diana and David Beal	<b>13</b> Krista Beal  Martha Beasley
<b>14</b> Rob and Susan Beasley  Robert Beltran	<b>15</b> Cynthia Belyeu  Ted and Liz Benson	<b>16</b> Virginia Berry  Mona and Kevin Bettencourt	<b>17</b> Barbara Bianchi  Joyce Blank	<b>18</b> Elizabeth Blixt  Jim Boucher	<b>19</b> Esther Bradfield  Phillip Bravard	<b>20</b> Clayton Bray  Dennis and Michele Bray
<b>21</b> Emily Bray  Ed Brooks	<b>22</b> Shirley Brooks  Marilyn Brown	<b>23</b> Dale and Thea Brummel  Grace Brummel	<b>24</b> Elizabeth Bucknell  Jim and Monique Bucknell	<b>25</b> Lee and Sandy Bucknell  Reva Burchett	<b>26</b> Justine Campbell  Greg Cash	<b>27</b> Mike and Barbara Cash  Mike and Kim Caskey
<b>28</b> Debbie Chamberlain  Karen Chamberlain						

1. Advancing Vibrant Communities  
Michael Douglass
2. Bethany Christian Services  
Sandra Hiatt
3. Bethel Ministries International  
Ben and Emily Mooney
4. Child Evangelism Fellowship  
Sandy Jostad
5. City Ministry Network  
Marvin Jacobo
6. CRU Zimbabwe  
Kelly and Vicki Londoni

7. Guatemala Trinity United Mission Team  
Mary Couchman and Michelle Siemens
8. IDEAS, Bangladesh  
Dr. Jay Litchfield
9. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship  
Lauren McDermott
10. LOVE Modesto  
Jeff Pishney
11. Modesto Gospel Mission  
Jason Conway
12. Modesto Pregnancy Center  
Erin Koolhaas

13. MOPS and MOMSnext  
Jenny Currie
14. Operation Christmas Child
15. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Liz Benson
16. Rock of Ages  
Sidney Stone
17. Samaritan's Purse
18. Servant Partners  
Liz Heim Fung
19. Shalem School  
Pastor Helcias Reyes

20. Teen Missions  
Bob and Paula Yost
21. Trinity Preschool
22. United World Missions  
Todd and Sarah Hunnicut
23. Valley Recovery Resources  
Steve Berkowitz
24. Vine House  
Cheryl Van Horn
25. Witnessing Ministries of Christ,  
India—Elizabeth Prasad
26. Youth for Christ  
Ken Sylvia

*Pray for one of our supported Mission Families each day of the month.*



**WORSHIP WITH US!**

10:00 AM Online  
10:00 AM LIVE Streamed  
from the Sanctuary

## **LEADERSHIP**

**COMMISSIONS: ALL meet as scheduled.**

FORMATION/EDUCATION:

Adult Education  
Children's Ministries  
Preschool  
Student Ministries  
Worship

MISSION:

Assimilation/Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Missions  
Prayer  
Senior Ministries

WORSHIP

**Electronic Version Online at [www.tupc.org](http://www.tupc.org)**

*See on-line "Calendar" for changes, or check with Commission*

*Elders or Committee Leaders: "Leadership Footprint."*

*Worship Services are LIVE Streamed through*

*Boxcast Mobile App ID = tupc*



*Follow us on FaceBook*

*TUPC Mobile APP and Instagram*

## **LEADERSHIP**

DEACON Meeting: February 2, 6:30 PM

SESSION Meeting: February 2, 6:30 PM

STAFF/PROGRAM: Tuesdays, 11:00 AM

## **STUDY**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: BLAST—Wednesdays, 2:00-5:00 PM

7TH-12TH GRADE BIBLE: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Sunday, 5:00-8:00 PM

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP: Texting

## **PRAISE**

PRAYER MEETING: M-F, 12:00 NOON—ZOOM

COMMUNION: Sunday, February 14

FORMATION: Sundays, 9:00 AM

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:00 AM

WORSHIP ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

## **FELLOWSHIP**

During COVID-19 fellowship has been happening via zoom, parking lot distancing gatherings and drive-bys. Stay connected to Trinity United family via a phone call, text, messenger, instagram, FaceBook or a card.