

News update for February 15, 2023

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Leroy Meyer 92 Birthday Party

The family of Leroy Meyer invites everyone to his 92nd Birthday Party. Friday 17th at 4:00pm, address: 850 Lincoln Dr.

Party will be held in the Lincoln Court activity room.

Leroy has been head usher at Trinity United Methodist Church for 50 years.

Please send cards to Leroy’s room # 285.

This Week at Trinity

Thursday (February 16^h)

- 6:30pm Trustee Meeting via Zoom

Friday (February 17th)

- Office Closed
- 7:00pm N.A.

Sunday (February 19th)

- 9:30am Donuts before worship
- 10:10am Indoor, In-Person Church and Video Worship on Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF>
- 11:30 Fellowship Scouts Brunch
- 7:00pm N.A.

Monday (February 20th) Presidents Day- Office Closed

- 7:00pm NA Just4Today2

Tuesday (February 21st) **Shrove Tuesday**

6:30pm Pancake Dinner & Pancake Races

- 7:00pm NA Book Study

Wednesday (February 21st) **Ash Wednesday**

- 10:00am Upper Room
- 11:00am-3:00pm Ashes for Anyone at the Broadway Bridge
- 4:00pm-6:00pm Ashes in the Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Pack 6 Scouts
- 7:00pm Troop 6 Scouts

Worship Plans for 2/19

Theme: Shiny Things
 Sermon: We Are Changed In Christ
 Focus Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus went up to the top of a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. There, something spectacular happened: Jesus' face began to glow and gleam and shine like the morning sun. His clothes gleamed too – bright white, like sunlight mirroring off a snowfall. He was, in a word, transfigured. Suddenly there at the top of the mountain were Moses and Elijah, those icons of the faith, beloved of God. And they talked to Jesus.

Peter: Lord, how amazing that we are here to see these heroes of our faith, these men through whom God spoke. Should I quickly build some shelter, three small tabernacles, for You, for Moses, and for Elijah?

As Peter spoke, a bright cloud enveloped all of them, and a voice from within the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son. With Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

This voice from heaven terrified the three disciples, and they fell prostrate on the ground. But Jesus – who was, by this time, used to His disciples being plagued by fear – touched them.

Jesus: Get up. Don't be afraid.

And when the disciples got up, they saw they were alone with their Lord. The four men hiked back down the mountain, and Jesus told His disciples to stay silent.

Jesus: Don't tell anyone what happened here, not until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

John Wesley Quote

Lose no opportunity of receiving the Sacrament. All who have neglected this have suffered loss; most of them are as dead as stones; therefore be you constant therein, not only for example, but for the sake of your souls.



To Societies at Bristol, 1764

Last Week's Sermon 2/12



Last week I confessed that it would be impossible for me to best Jesus' preaching. That still holds true, but hopefully I can at least unpack some of the difficult teaching which Jesus presents to us in today's scripture lesson. Jesus instructions go way beyond the law of Moses, but that is because people had become legalistic and were using the law to justify doing the least possible in most situations. So Jesus turns the law on its head to make it useful to God's people once again. Just because something has been that way, doesn't mean it has to stay that way!



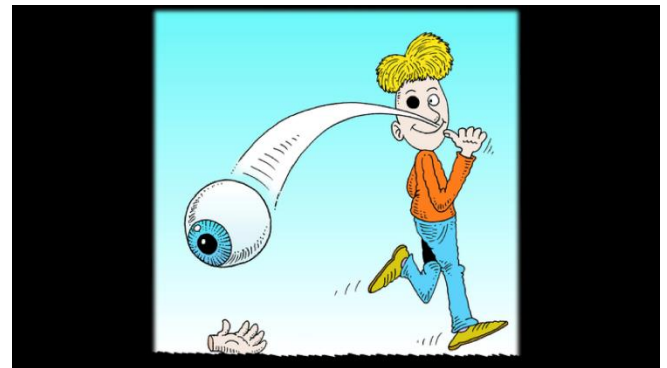
Jesus gives some very practical advice in this section of the Sermon on the Mount, like “don’t put stuff off.” (Ask how many people have put something off that they should have taken care of earlier?) When I do that, the task always gets bigger and scarier. In this case of procrastination, Jesus says: if you remember that the interactions you have with someone are damaging to both of you, go. right. now. and fix the problem! Go, right now, and take care of the situation, even if you are in the middle of an act of worship.

The God that we Christians worship is one of relationship. Hence God exists for us as Trinity: Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit, making relationship highest good and greatly prized in God’s eyes. Let’s continue to look verse by verse at the ways God desires for us to mend our relationships

Matthew 5:23 & 24 are sometimes used as the rationalization for people to not receive communion unless they have made themselves worthy by confession or some other means. I propose to you however, that these two acts are not analogous. In this context, a sacrifice is when you pay off God to forgive you for messing up. It doesn’t even have to involve reconciling with the person you harmed. Jesus recognized that faithful religious people were using the loophole of offering a sacrifice to avoid actually making amends with those they had wronged.

Eucharist is when you receive God’s grace and God’s unconditional love as the medicine to heal your capacity to be in relationship.

The idea that you should take care of business right away instead of putting it off is evident in verses 25 & 26 as well. I don’t know how many times I have heard people exclaim that once you let lawyers get involved in a dispute, it only gets more expensive and more painful. Jesus encourages us to settle our disputes with others face to face so that we have to interact with them at a human level rather than the more impersonal and faceless level that court proceedings usually bring about.



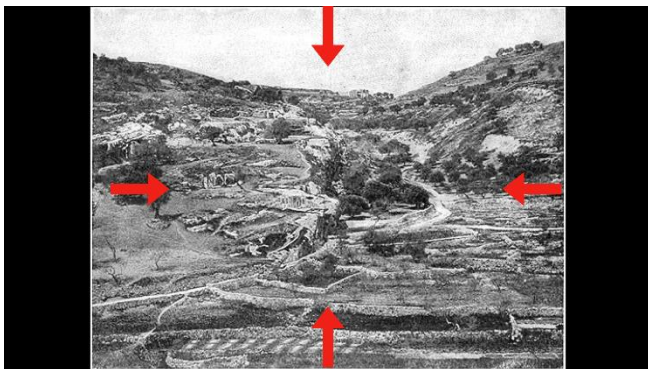
The First Nations Version of the bible that we heard this morning does veer away from the original languages translation one place. In biblical times, the law was that you were not supposed to sleep with your neighbor’s wife, because it would be in effect “stealing another man’s property.” Yet if we read verses 27 & 28 through the lens of healing relationships, it makes a great deal of sense that treating women poorly, even if the law allowed it, would break God’s heart.

The biblical literalists never seem to quote verses 29 & 30. No one seems up for gouging your eye out or cutting off your hand. I believe that Jesus is trying to help us

understand how ridiculous it is to follow the letter of law while ignoring the spirit of the law!



But what about Hell you might ask? It gets mentioned 3 times in today's gospel lesson. Well, for Jesus, and those listening to him, the place that is referred to in these scriptures "Gehenna" was real, and it was yucky!



When the people of Jesus's day heard the name "Gehenna" they didn't hear it as a place that only existed in some other spiritual realm. They heard it as a place name that they knew. Gehenna was a valley south of Jerusalem where the trash heaps were perpetually burning. So when Jesus said you could be thrown into the Gehenna fires, the image was local and concrete. They heard that place the way you would hear it if I said that you could be dumped into the slurry at Idaho Falls sewage treatment plant for eternity. You'd probably assume that I was

meaning it as a metaphor and not just literally, but even so, the metaphor would begin with the image of a disgusting, locally known place.

If you are one of those who firmly believes that every word of the Bible is to be taken literally in its plain and simple sense, then these references to hell are definitely bad news. They certainly are for me anyway. Maybe not you. But at face value, since I have been known to call someone a fool, I am "liable to the hell of fire", and since I haven't either plucked out my eyes or cut off my hands which have, on occasions, been known to participate in my sinful thoughts or sinful actions, I am in danger of my whole body being thrown into hell.

Do I believe it? Yes, I've seen the way people can treat each other, and no, I believe that God is more powerful and loving than to resort to torture as a means of controlling humankind.



The common, modern, image of hell is a place of fiery torment, created by God for the eternal punishment of sinners who do not repent and get saved. It is a pit of fire into which an angry God sends people after they die to be tortured for the rest of eternity if they have failed to believe the right things and mend their ways. I don't believe in a God who is like that. I don't believe that hell is

something God created or to which God deliberately sends anyone. And I don't think there is any evidence that Jesus believed in such a God or such a hell either.



I believe that Jesus was teaching that just because we have always done something one way, or believed that a thing was a certain other way, it is possible to change our view, or the outcome in the world. We can learn to walk the good road. We can learn to be relational, and we can learn to do it right now, without putting it off.

Amen.

Reverend Ruth Marsh (she, her)
 (208) 419-7870
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 (208) 522-7971
www.tumcif.org

Trinity Day Shelter

The Day Shelter is available during office hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am -2pm, for laundry, showers, and compassionate care services that are authorized by Rev. Ruth.

Lent 2023



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Lent is coming!

February the 21st is Shrove Tuesday, the day that Christians traditionally party by making and eating pancakes to clear the house of fat, sugar and other ingredients that can be turned into yummy treats. On that evening, at 6:30, Trinity will have a pancake dinner followed by pancake races. The next day, February 22nd is Ash Wednesday, the day that Christians begin the season of Lent by accepting the mark of an ash cross on their forehead to represent that we are mortals who mess up (sin) and that God is always ready to shower us with love and forgiveness never-the-less. Lent is a time when Christians prepare for the joy of Easter when we celebrate Christ's victory over death by rising from the grave on the third day. One of the ways we do this is by taking on a Lenten Discipline.

Lent is 40 days long, excluding Sundays, which are considered "little Easters" and you are released from your Lenten discipline. Traditionally, fasting was the preferred Lenten discipline, but in the United Methodist Church, Lenten disciplines are aimed at growing closer to Christ and each other rather than focusing on penitence through suffering. Six weeks is long enough to begin forming a new habit, but not so long that it seems like forever if you can't abide by the discipline that seemed like a really good idea until you started doing it! One last note,

it can be helpful to use the buddy system when you practice a discipline. I will be keeping you in my prayers.

Lenten Discipline Suggestions:

1. On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, come to "Ashes for Anyone" at the Broadway Bridge anytime between 11a and 2p to receive your ashes or come to Trinity "In the Sanctuary" any time between 4p and 6p. on.
2. Share in the "Meetup With Jesus" gatherings at the time and place to be announced.
3. Read a book for spiritual growth. (give pastor Ruth a call for some suggestions)
4. Read through the entire Gospel of Matthew, or read the Passion Story in all of the Gospels.
5. Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, and readings.
6. Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
7. Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
8. Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
9. Make a list of people with whom I need to reconcile. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
10. Take control of my life by _____.
11. Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
12. Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
13. Give up a grudge or a replay in my head of a past event.
14. Forgive someone who has hurt me.

15. Dance my prayers to a favorite piece of music.
16. Take on some loving task:
17. Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
18. Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
19. Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
20. Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.
21. Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.
22. Give blood and recall the cross.
23. Spend time in solitude each day.
24. Pray about who you could become a mentor for; act on that prayer.
25. Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
26. Decide to become a member of the church and speak to the pastor or lay leader.
27. Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.
28. Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by _____
29. Pray for refugees from war. Ask God if there is more you should do.
30. Call someone you haven't seen in a while and need to reconnect with.

(signed) _____

(date) _____

Blessings,

Reverend Ruth

Birthdays

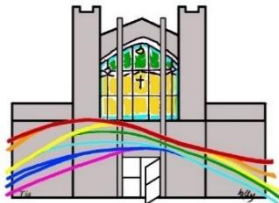
February

Campbell, Kristy	02/15
Cole, Tara	02/15
Byron, Ruth	02/16
Meyer, Leroy	02/17
Oliver, Johnathan	02/21
Oar, Ruth	02/22
Bottcher, Hayden	02/23
French, Tim	02/23
McBurney-Rebol, Jesse	02/25
Mower, Savon	02/25
Oliver, Daniel	02/25
Pickens, Logan	02/25
Borland, Kathy	02/28
Mahnami, Dan	02/28
Stewart, Don	02/28
Tuckett, Jake	02/29

Trinity Leadership

Below are the leadership positions for the next leader year.

Please let the appropriate person know how you are willing to serve:



Chair of Admin Council; Open Position

Chair of Staff/Parish Relations
 Bev Kemp-(208)569-6149
bevmkemp@gmail.com

Chair of Trustee
 Don Rohde (860)810-3227-
donrohde@aol.com

Chair of Finance
 Scott Taylor (208)201-5593

Sunday Morning Fellowship

There is always food and fellowship after church

- **February 19th** - Scouts Brunch

Scouts make brunch after church (3rd Sunday) – This is a fundraiser for our own Troop 6 and a wonderful meal to share as we visit



- **February 26** Potluck Brunch
Bring your favorite dish
- **March 5** Potluck Brunch
Bring your favorite Soup and bread, (Chili also being a great soup)



Financial Statements

Our church's financial status January 1 - January 31, 2023



Income	\$10,634.93
Expenses	\$15,434.74
Net Income	<\$4,799.81>

Thank you for your continued generosity. More than ever, the world needs what our church offers!

UWF NEWS

Hi, all. We had a fun pre-valentine party at Thursday's meeting with yummy goodies and treats. Kathy



United Women in Faith

Gaskill presented a program on membership nurture and outreach. Two new members have joined our unit – Kristi Evans and Camille Blackburn. Welcome!

Mary Nagel gave some inspirational quotes about love, and Joni told us about a program called GEM (Girls Embracing Mothers). This is a program we help support (through grants) with our offerings. It is a program for women in prison and their daughters.

Betty Anderson presented a United Women in Faith "Moment". During each upcoming meeting she will highlight an important woman in our church history. Thanks for your work on researching this topic, Betty.

Kay Pottorff reviewed the book Firekeeper's Daughter. It is one of the new books from this year's reading list. The book follows Daunis Fontaine, a half-native, half-white young adult who witnesses her friend's murder and becomes involved in an FBI investigation revolving around a new drug. Kay says it's very good.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting on March 9th.



Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30pm

Shove Tuesday pancake dinner and pancake races, bring your favorite pancake topping and pancake flipper. Come out and join us in the Mary Dawson Hall for some fun and fellowship.

Northwest Leadership Institute

Once again the Downtown Campus of Cathedral of the Rockies (717 N. 11th St. Boise, ID 83702). Will host the NLI that is a two day training to gather leaders to think, dream, worship and connect as we together find the path forward in the post-pandemic church.

Come to Boise and join our three newest Bishops in the Western Jurisdiction for a time of dreaming, visioning, and strategizing as we write the next chapter together.

In-Person

- Early Bird Special (Until 1/31) \$129
- Regular Conference (2/1 to 4/26) \$159
- Student \$79

Online Streaming

\$99



FEATURING

 BISHOP DOTTIE ESCOBEDO-FERRAN	 BISHOP CEDRICK BRICE-CROFT	 BISHOP CARL O. BOWMAN	 BISHOP JOS. TIMKOFF	 REV. DR. DUANE ANDERS
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APRIL 26 & 27

REGULAR CONFERENCE IN-PERSON \$159
ONLINE STREAMING \$99
STUDENT IN-PERSON \$79
CATHEDRAL OF THE ROCKIES MEMBER \$40

Appointing a pastor

In The United Methodist Church, clergy appointments are made annually by the bishop. This unique system of deploying clergy dates back to John Wesley.

United Methodist pastors are itinerant - sent, not called or hired. "Itinerancy" refers specifically to the commitment by pastors to go and serve wherever their bishops send them.

In the early days of Methodism in America, a pastor, usually [a circuit rider](#), might be sent to serve multiple churches in a large region. This practice became the basis for the system the United Methodist Church uses today. When bishops consider appointments, they consult with others who know the congregation and community, including the district superintendent, the pastor, and the pastor-parish relations committee of the local church. The needs and desires of the pastor and the congregation are considered, but the mission of the church comes first.

The windows will be disassembled, cleaned, restored, and reassembled. This is our second contract with Nzilani. The difference this time is that we are getting 3 batches of custom-made glass to allow the windows to be repaired with matching glass rather than something that might be close. These three batches of custom glass are large enough to provide material for the future restoration of windows at Trinity.



Stained Glass Window Project



Richard, Rob, and Sherry packed up stained-glass ventilator windows #3 and #4 for shipment to Nzilani Glass Conservation in Oakland California.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>19</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Scout Bruch 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>Shrove Tuesday 21</p> <p>6:30pm Pancake Dinner & Pancake Races 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday 22</p> <p>10:00pm Upper Room 11:00am -2:00 pm Ashes for Anyone @ Broadway Bridge 4:00pm-6:00pm Ashes In the Sanctuary</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Admin Council Via Zoom</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed 4:00pm Leroy Myers Birthday Party at Lincoln Court 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Lent 1 26</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Potluck Bruch 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>10:00pm Upper Room 6:30pm Gather at the Table via Zoom 6:30pm Pack 6 Scouts 7:30pm Troop 6 Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>“Meet up with Jesus” starts!</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office Closed 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Lent 2 5</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Potluck Bruch 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm PEO BG 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00pm Upper Room 6:30pm Finance Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm Pack 6 Scouts 7:30pm Troop 6 Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00pm UWF</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office Closed 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Lent 3 12</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Potluck Bruch 7:00pm N.A.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am F.I.S.H 6:00pm GS Leadership Meeting 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm Trustee Meeting 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00pm Upper Room 6:30pm Gather at the Table via Zoom 6:30pm Pack 6 Scouts 7:30pm Troop 6 Scouts</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Office Closed 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>Lent 4 19</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Scout Bruch 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm Admin Council 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00pm Upper Room 6:30pm Pack 6 Scouts 7:30pm Troop 6 Scouts</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed 7:00pm N.A</p>	<p>25</p>