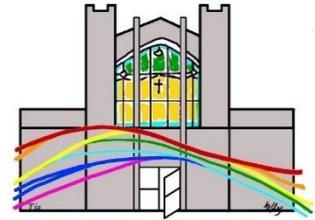


Trinity Times



“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

News Update for March 1, 2021

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Sermon by Logan 2/28

Imagine being in a business partnership or contract with someone to make jelly. You have this tacit, ironclad agreement that you’ll deliver exactly 572 berries to the factory every day, and in return your business partner agrees to smash the berries, reduce them down, and turn them into jelly: basically, the whole rest of the process. Pretty sweet deal, right? But one day, you only bring 570 berries. Your partner explodes! How dare you not bring enough berries! They then shut the entire operation down; all because you were just 2 berries short. This is like a static, word for word understanding and following of a contract written by someone uptight and



snobby so that no mere human would be able fulfill it.

So instead, we decide to take the whole project on ourselves, picking the berries, canning the preserves, printing labels, even sleepily selling the product on the street. This goes on for about week when, falling asleep standing up, we realize we cannot do this on our own. A new partner manifests, seemingly out of nowhere, with an agreement to help. Instead of this incredibly detailed contract, they reach out with a promise. They’ll do all the work, just as the last guy agreed, but this time we don’t need a specific amount of berries each day. We just have to get out of bed and bring as many berries as we can muster. Sometimes we’ll exceed the original amount of berries, and deliver 1000 of them, and they’ll make 500 jars of jelly, but

then there are days that will be unbelievably hard, such as we've injured our hand, making it an arduous journey not just to get out of bed, but to bring the 200 berries we somehow manage to muster. Yet we still get out of bed, and limp along, trusting that our infallible partner will fulfill their end of the bargain as long as we do our part. God asks us to take part in this jelly making process, the process of living day to day life, and we must surrender to properly answer the call.

God promises grace to every one of us too. When we surrender our fear, we can pick up faith and gain the fruits of grace God promises us.

The Old Testament law is like this explicit bond with God, where we just have to follow the motions, and like a formulaic machine, we'll get the results. But grace isn't a robotic quid pro quo, it's a gift offered freely to us. Faith is a necessary part of the process because faith is how we accept that gift. We don't always see the end of the journey, all the jars of jelly on the shelf, because we get caught up by obstacles that, to us, are very real and insurmountable.

The pain of losing a loved one, the anger of getting laid off from your job during a global pandemic, are real worries. Abraham's fear of his own, frail human body and his wife's infertility would cause real doubts too. How can we go out and collect the berries, how can we go about living our life, if every step along the way is riddled with barriers, riddled with fears?

In Romans we see the answer to this hardship. We have to have trust in our partner, God, a standing we can obtain through faith! If Abraham focused on his

own life, he certainly would have lost it. How often do we focus on our own shortcomings, on our own humanity as something negative, something less than? Although he was "well aware that his impotent body, (...) nearly 100 years (old), (and) as good as dead," his faith did not fail! We see that as he praised God and surrendered his very logical fear of his own human shortcomings, his faith grew! God then fulfilled his end of the promise, making Abraham's seed inherit the earth, all because "God saw his faith and counted him as righteous." We also have to surrender control, surrender our shortsightedness, and have faith.

The book of Romans, most scholars agree, was written by Paul to the church in Rome concerning a question he must have received from them, although we're not exactly sure what the question was. It might have been about the concept of entering in a covenant relationship with a living God, something pretty big for people to grasp. Paul spends so much time focusing on grace, because under the Jewish law, grace was a fairly new concept, because Judaism is under the old law, where the wording of the law is so binding and complex, everyone would inevitably fall short at some point. Grace would have been a welcome gift to some, who might have been struggling to follow each and every letter of this complicated and extensive set of rules.

Remember that week of making jelly on our own? It was too hard, and we struggled to do the whole of it, and in the end, really couldn't succeed on our own. We needed that second partner. We had to surrender our control and our fear of not getting it done, so that God could help us.

Now I hate surrender, and I'm sure many of you do too. After all, surrendering is weak! It's a sign that we lost everything. We all love controlling what we have in our own little world, don't we? We want to do it on our own, by our own sweat and blood, because then it's ours! We want to know that every step in the process has been done our way, dang it, but to our own dismay, time and time again, we find that when we choose what we want, because we think we know better, natural consequence comes swinging in with a billy club, knocking us back in place or, even worse, farther back.

Isn't that how it is, though? We focus on our failures, our actions that hurt everyone around us, and we just beat. Ourselves. Up. God doesn't want that for us!

So, what exactly do we surrender? Now this is a hard one. During this time of Lent we sometimes surrender something trivial, like sweets or carbs. We can really surrender anything to a God that unconditionally loves us, as long as it can bring us closer to God, really anything can count. Now, it's an important distinction to make that this is not giving up. To give up is to admit defeat, as this is usually under force or coercion. A bully demanding you your lunch money would have you give up all you have. Surrender is not quite the same, because with surrender, you CHOOSE to yield your control. no coercion, no force, just handing over the power that we didn't know how to use just right. This promise that God offers us asks us to surrender the control that was getting us nowhere. It's a promise in partnership to get the entire job done, because God wants this jelly made too, wants us to live the fullest life we can, and wants us to be part of the process. Surrender is sort of tricky,

because while it feels we are giving up control, God, in their infinite wisdom, ASKS us to surrender, asks us to choose to yield to their influence. We can choose to take it back, we can decide at any time that we want to do it our way again, but I believe, through one path or another we will be right where we were, desperate, feeling alone, and out of ideas or knowledge of where to go, living in squalor. Living in constant fear of anything and EVERYTHING in our lives. Why would a god of Ultimate Love ever want us to live as something less than?

They don't, and that's the point. This promise that Abraham was given was a promise of partnership. This wasn't a formulaic, "you do x and I'll give you y" agreement, for surely, he would fall short.

This promise that God makes with Abraham, and with all of us, allows us to be human, to question, to falter, because it's going to happen. That's where Grace steps in, God incarnate, the ultimate authority gets to be at the wheel! All we have to do is give up that control of trying to make our own jelly, of trying to do things our own way. We have to give up the fear that we will fail, because if we focus on that fear, we will.

I pray that we all find our way to surrender that fear, so that we might find faith in our own, loving God, so that we can find the happiness and serenity that only he can provide. Amen.

Covid-19 Graphs

COVID RISK LEVEL ⓘ

Active outbreak

Bonneville County is either actively experiencing an outbreak or is at extreme risk. COVID cases are exponentially growing and/or Bonneville County's COVID preparedness is significantly below international standards.

Bonneville County, ID

DAILY NEW CASES

● **29.9** PER 100K

Dangerous number of new cases

INFECTION RATE

● **1.15**

Active cases are rapidly increasing

POSITIVE TEST RATE

● **12.5%**

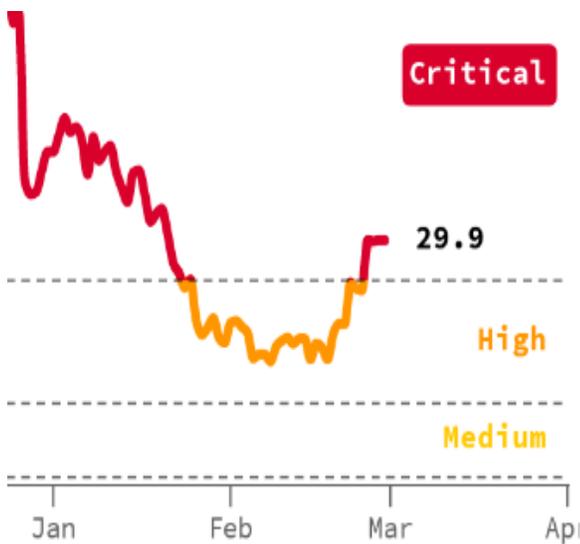
Indicates insufficient testing

ICU CAPACITY USED

● **70%**

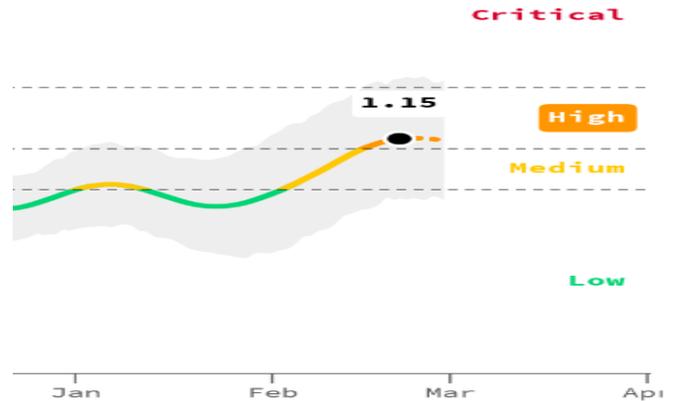
Can likely handle a new wave of COVID

Daily New Cases (per 100k population)

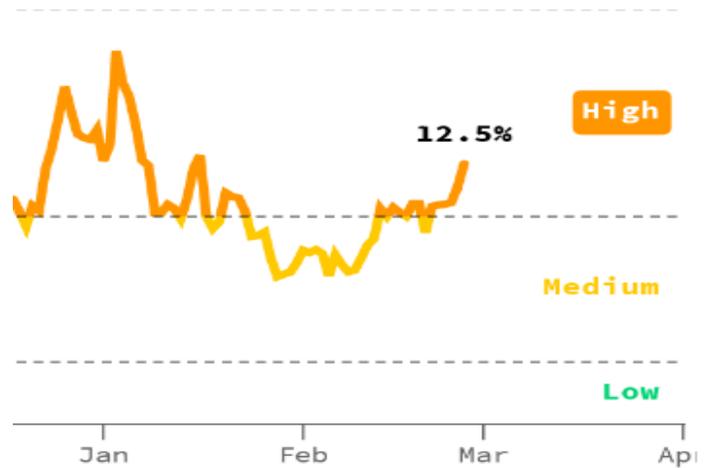


https://covidactnow.org/us/idaho-id/county/bonneville_county/?s=1625566

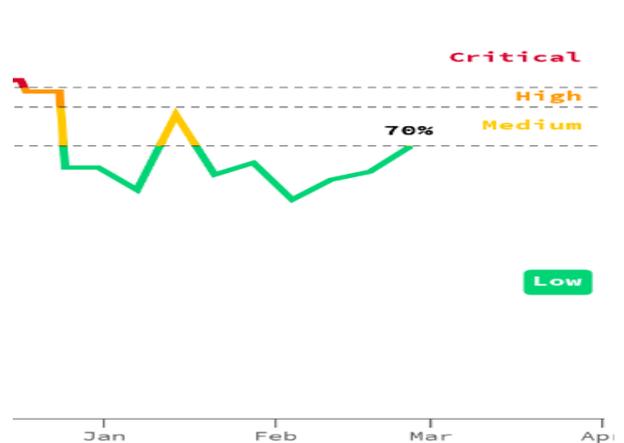
Infection Rate



Positive Test Rate



ICU Capacity Used



EIPH COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling⁽⁵⁾

Eastern Idaho Public Health update

Monday, February 22, 2021:

On February 1, individuals aged 65 and older became eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine in Idaho. There are over 30,000 people in the 65 and older age group in Eastern Idaho Public Health’s (EIPH) eight-county region (Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties). At the present time, there are approximately 3,100 doses of vaccine allocated to over 40 provider locations throughout the region weekly, and unfortunately, the demand for the vaccine far exceeds our current supply of vaccine.

At this time, we have made every effort to notify everyone on EIPH's waiting list of their opportunity to schedule an appointment and have now discontinued the waiting list for people aged 65 years and older as well as individuals in earlier priority groups.

WHO'S UP NEXT TO BE VACCINATED?

The following groups are next in line to be vaccinated, but dates are subject to change depending on vaccine supply. [Click here](#) for more information.

- Early April (Idaho Subgroup 2.3)
- Food and agriculture workers (including food processing workers)
- USDA processing plant inspectors
- Grocery, convenience store, and food pantry workers
- Idaho National Guard, if not included earlier
- Manufacturing workers
- Public transit workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers

- Subset of essential gas, electric, water, and telecommunications utility workers, who work indoors
- Homeless shelter residents

If you are in the above group (Idaho Subgroup 2.3), you may click on the link below to get on the waiting list for a vaccination. EIPH will call/text you when an appointment is available for you.

[Idaho Subgroup 2.3 Appointment Waiting List Registration](#)

Pro Tip: There are 10 other locations giving Covid vaccines besides the EIPH Department. You can call other locations to see if they have appointments available. [40 provider locations](#)

Church News

March Birthdays

Lily Bottcher	3/1	Adyllena Castillo	3/13
Josie Brown	3/4	Mike Croson	3/15
Camron Robertson	3/4	Giovi Castillo	3/19
Kathy & John Harder		Heidi Empey	3/21
	3/7	Analea Hruska	3/21
Art Jensen	3/7	Gene Summers	3/25
Sheila Mullin	3/10	Jim Anderson	3/28
Ruth Anne Cole	3/12	Bill Clemons	3/30

John Wesley Quote

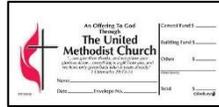
“Every good purpose will cool and die away if it is not as soon as possible put in execution. Only let us not undertake to much at a time.” *To Peard Dickinson* 1789.



Finance & Giving

Thank you for your continued financial support of Trinity by:

- (P)
- delivering your regular giving personally
 - calling the office and give via credit card
 - using US Postal Service to send a check
 - going to Trinity's website and give via credit card or PayPal
 - or, signing up for bill-pay at your bank so they can send a check



Our church's financial status for year-to-date February 28, 2021:

Income = \$22,768
 Expenses = \$29,373
 Difference = <\$ 6,605>

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

Food for Homeless

We need a crockpot of food or casserole meals for about a dozen people on Saturdays, Sundays, & Thursdays. We can provide crock pots and ingredients if needed. Please call Pam in the office to reserve your date.



Today's Greatest Needs:

- Reading Glasses of any strength
- Poor Man's Tupperware (like cottage cheese, yogurt & sour cream, with lids).



Sunday's Worship (2/28)

Sunday was the second Sunday in Lent. The sermon title was "Trading in Our Fear for Faith." The question of the day is, "What is God asking you to take up during Lent and what will you have to put down in order to do it?"

We studied Romans 4:13-25. You may read the scripture lesson below before you watch the livestream on Trinity's Facebook page. Use this link for the worship video:

<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>

A Lesson from The Christian Scriptures (Romans 4:13-25)

That famous promise God gave Abraham – that he and his children would possess the earth – was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract! That's not a holy promise; that's a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a promise – and God's promise at that – you can't break it.

This is why the fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God's promise arrives as pure gift. That's the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and

those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father – that's reading the story backward. He is our faith father.

We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"

Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That's why it is said, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right." But it's not just Abraham; it's also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.

© The Message

Staying Connected

Checkout all the Worship Videos^(P)

Each Sunday Worship videos will get posted on Trinity’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>). If you go to Trinity’s web page (www.TUMCIF.org) you can find a link to the Facebook page. Be sure to “like” and “follow” Trinity’s Facebook page if you want our content to show up in your personal Facebook feed. Please call Ruth at 208-419-7870 if you have difficulties finding the videos.

Check Trinity’s YouTube channel for videos of weekly worship at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZz1YGrdRCH6HIND2LpVCgg>

Gather at the Table for March!^(P)

Join us to reconnect during this time of COVID isolation. It would be wonderful see you on screen, and socialize with you, as we continue our faith journey. A brief deep-thought question and time for prayers will be available. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with everyone **Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:30.**



New guests, please call the office if you would like an invitation to this zoom.

Prayer Wall for Everyone^(S)



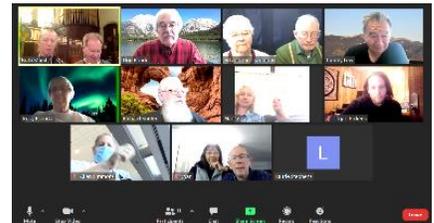
The bulletin board outside of the sanctuary doors has been dedicated to the prayer life of the community. Paper and pencils are available for making your request.

Thanks to Betty Anderson for the graphics. Drop in and have a look!

After-Church Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour^(P)

Have you been missing potlucks and coffee hour after church?

If you have, then show up at Virtual Coffee Hour” on Sunday morning at 11:30 on zoom. Stay in touch with your church family. The zoom invite will be posted on the Trinity Facebook page.



[\(https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/\)](https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=Wm9xZmdrM3FTQzNYaE8zSDRRL3Zqdz09>

Meeting ID: 460 907 9844

New Passcode: Jesus

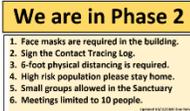
You are welcome to visit the church^(P)

You can **always** drop by the church from 9 – 3 to visit with Ruth or just sit in the sanctuary to soak in the beauty and the good spirit.

If you would like to have a small meeting or worship in the sanctuary, that can be arranged by calling Pam in the office (208-522-7921).

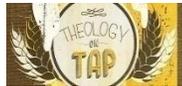
Some of the guidelines for groups include:

1. Up to 10 persons may meet in the sanctuary at the same time.
2. Your group needs to call ahead to schedule a time when it is not being used by other groups, or Rob is not in the middle of ripping down the ceiling, and so we can turn the heat on for you.
3. You will need to sign the contact tracing log when you arrive.



Masks must be worn inside the church.

Theology on Tap - The Home Edition^(P)



Theology on Tap is going strong with the weekly Zoom calls. On Monday afternoons check the Facebook page for the Zoom meeting number and password. At 7pm pour your favorite beverage, warm up an appetizer and be prepared to think deep thoughts with your Monday night community. Call or email the office if you want to be added to the Theology on Tap Facebook group.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4609079844?pwd=Mm9xZmdrM3FTQzNYaE8zSDRRL3Zqdz09>

Meeting ID: 460 907 9844 **New Passcode: Jesus**

How to Watch on Facebook

Watching Trinity Worship Video Without a F.B. Account.^(P)

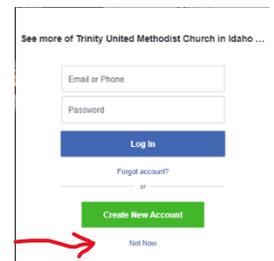
Yes, you can watch Trinity Sunday morning worship video without a Facebook account.

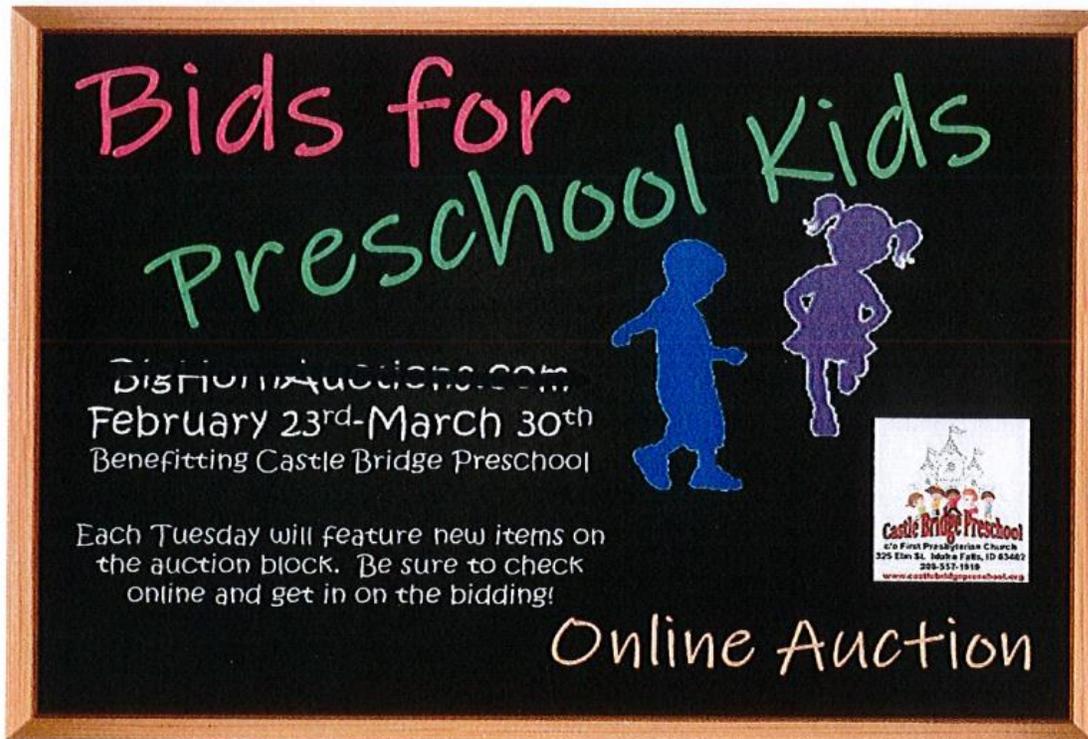
ON THE LAPTOP:

1. go to GOOGLE CHROME web browser and type in:
2. <https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>
3. The Trinity Facebook page comes up and you can see the video.
4. Then a Facebook “sign on” window comes up
5. At the bottom of the Sign on Window there was a "NOT NOW" button
6. Push that button and you are free to watch the live stream on a laptop without a Facebook account.

ON THE CELL PHONE: (P)

1. go to web browser and type in:
2. <https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>
3. The Trinity Facebook page comes up and you can see the video.
4. Then a Facebook sign on window came up
5. Using your finger scroll down the screen
6. A second Facebook sign on window comes up
7. Close that 2nd window by pressing the "X" box up in the top right corner
8. You can see the video on the screen and play it by pressing the play triangle
9. It only shows the latest videos.
10. If you press SHOW ALL you can see all the videos back to March.
11. You are free to watch the live stream on an iPhone without a Facebook account.





***Correct website: bighornauctions.hibid.com**

BigHornAuctions.com
February 23rd - March 30th
Benefitting Castle
Bridge Preschool

Each Tuesday will feature new items on the auction block.
 Be sure to check online and get in on the bidding!

Have items you would like to donate? We are now accepting items for the auction.

Contact: Betty Anderson, Board Member,
 208-521-3039 (C) or 208-523-8272 (h)
 email: bettyellenba@gmail.com
 She will arrange for drop off and pick up.

Items needed include (but not limited to):

- Handmade items such as quilts, welded items, blankets, leatherwork
- Firearms/Ammunition
- Gift Baskets
- Gift certificates
- Titled Vehicles such as ATVs, trailers
- Trip/Vacation/Get-Away Package and/or Accommodations
- Services such as Snow Removal, Yard cleanup, Massages and Spa Treatments
- Art Pieces and Photography
- Jewelry
- Furniture
- Hunting/Camping/Fishing items
- Household items and décor
- Vintage toys
- Antiques and Collectibles

Donations accepted until March 8, 2021

This Week at Trinity

Monday (Mar. 1)

- **Newsletter Input** due every Monday by 10 am
- **Theology on Tap** 7pm (Zoom) meet with your church buddies and think heavy thoughts while partaking of your favorite spirits.

Tuesday (Mar. 2)

- **Trustees Meeting** 6:30 (Zoom)

Wednesday (Mar. 3)

- **Upper Room** 10:00 am (Zoom - Contact Kathy Harder for an invitation)
- **Gather at the Table** 6:30 (Zoom)

Thursday (Mar. 4)

- **ReOpening Committee** 6:30 (Zoom)

Friday (Mar. 5)

Saturday (Mar. 6)

Sunday (Mar. 7) **Lent 3**

- **Video Worship** on Facebook Page at 10:15am Do church from the comfort of your couch!
(<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>)
- **Virtual Coffee Hour** - 11:30 am to meet with Ruth and your church friends on Zoom.

Upcoming:

March 10th - **Finance Committee** 6:30
(Zoom)

March 14th - **Daylight Saving Time Starts**

March 16th - **Admin Council Meeting** 6:30
(Zoom)



Trinity Leadership^(P)

Below are listed the names and contacts for the leadership positions for the next year. Please let the appropriate leader know how you are willing to serve.

- **Bev Kemp** - Chair of Staff/Parish Relations
208-569-6149
bevmkemp@gmail.com
- **Don Rohde** - Chair of Trustees
860-810-3227 donrohde@aol.com
- **Robin Stewart** - Chair of Administrative Council
208-521-6358
robin.s.stewart@gmail.com
- **Scott Taylor**, Chair of Finance
208-201-5593
auditpatroller@yahoo.com

Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
March	1 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	2 6:30 Trustee Meeting (Zoom)	3 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Gather at the Table (Zoom)	4 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	5 Office Closed	6	
	7 <u>Lent 3</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	8 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	9	10 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Finance Meeting (Zoom)	11	12 Office Closed	
	14 <u>Lent 4</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	15 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	16 6:30 Admin Meeting (Zoom)	17 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom) 6:30 Gather at the Table (Zoom)	18 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	19 Office Closed	20
	21 <u>Lent 4</u> 10:15 - Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Virtual Coffee Hr.	22 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	23 6:30 Admin Meeting (Zoom)	24 10:00 Upper Room (Zoom)	25 6:30 ReOpening Mtg (Zoom)	26 Office Closed	27