

News Update for February 16, 2022

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GNW COVID 19

Dear Ones,

Below is recent guidance from the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Office regarding face mask usage in church. While some municipalities and businesses are rescinding mask mandates (often due to political pressure), Trinity's leadership feels it is important for us to continue to do this small thing of wearing our masks in church in order to protect each other, especially our vulnerable loved ones.

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth



Becky Platt, on behalf of the GNW COVID-19 Response Team answers the question: *Should we still require masks if our state or city has dropped its mandate?*

Several states and local municipalities recently announced the ending or relaxing of mask mandates at dates in the near future. Just as this is causing some anxiety and confusion in public schools and other settings, we know it could raise questions in local churches and ministries in communities where these masking mandates are in effect.

As we have from the beginning of the pandemic, we continue to recommend that churches and ministries follow the most cautious recommendation in place, either those set by the CDC or by their state or local municipalities. It is important to note that parts of the GNW Area have had no state or local

mandates to rely upon and used the CDC guidance throughout. And last week, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky clarified that “now is not the moment” to relax or drop mask mandates in schools and other public places, though there are reports that the CDC is considering new benchmarks for their recommendations.

For now, the CDC continues to recommend that all people over the age of 2 who are not fully vaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals with weakened immune systems wear a mask in indoor public places. They also recommend mask-wearing for all fully vaccinated people in areas with substantial or high transmission (as defined by the CDC). Nearly all of the US continues to exhibit high transmission rates as of mid-February 2022.

The public’s exhaustion with the coronavirus has been widely reported and sometimes explicitly mentioned as a significant motivation to end or relax mask mandates. While COVID exhaustion is very easy to understand and relate to, we share the concern of many epidemiologists and public health experts who caution that the science doesn’t support this action at this very moment.

This Sunday! Scout Dutch-Oven Brunch

The February 20th Scout breakfast will be the Dutch-oven cooking event please remember to mask



Sermon from 2/13

“Now or Later”
based on (Luke 6:17-26)

Most folks have heard of the Sermon on the Mount, although not so many could tell you what’s in it. Even fewer people have heard of the sermon on the plain, or the sermon off the mount, which we just heard the beginning of. Some of you are looking a little bewildered already. You see in Matthew’s gospel it says Jesus went up the mountain and began to teach, and that is the line from which the Sermon on the Mount takes its name; but in Luke’s gospel, as those who listened carefully will have noted, it said Jesus came down from the mountain and stood on a level place and began to teach. Believe it or not there is a good reason for this. You see Matthew, in his portrayal of Jesus, consistently parallels Jesus with Moses. Mathew is writing to a Jewish church, for whom Moses had been the primary hero of the faith, and he is seeking to portray Jesus as the new Moses. And as you may remember, all Moses’ big moments of revelation, especially the Ten Commandments, occurred on the mountain. So when Matthew tells of Jesus’ number one sermon, Jesus’ equivalent of the Ten Commandments, it has to happen on a mountain.

Luke, on the other hand, is not writing to a Jewish church and is not portraying Jesus as the new Moses. Luke is more concerned to portray Jesus as one who gets down among the people and identifies with their situations. So Luke has Jesus come down from the mountain to the people to deliver his major sermon.

I suspect that most people prefer the Sermon on the Mount. It rather lends itself to letting people read it, and think, “that’s nice,” and then totally ignore it. Even most bible believing Christians spend more time working out why it shouldn’t be taken too literally, or why it doesn’t apply to them, than they do working out how to live it, and take it seriously. Which is rather disturbing, since the Beatitudes are the most comprehensive example of Jesus teaching that we have. It is the guts of Jesus’ teaching on the values of the kingdom, and how his followers should live.

Matthew’s version is better known because Matthew softens the Beatitudes a bit, and makes them somewhat easier for people to wriggle their way

(Continued from pg 2)

around. Luke not only puts them bluntly, he gives a reverse as well to ram home the point. So where Matthew says "Blessed are the poor in spirit" which has had people ever since saying things like "Well I might be taking home a million dollars a year and have a Porsche and a Rolls Royce, but I'm poor in spirit," Luke says "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God, and Woe to you who are rich, because you've had all the goodies you're going to get."

Now it is quite clear that neither Jesus or Luke are saying that poverty is a good thing in itself. Nor that hunger, grief or being hated are good things. There is no question that God would much prefer that we all had adequate resources, and that life was full of laughter and joy, and that all people spoke well of each other. But Luke doesn't allow us the easy Matthew answer of spiritualising it all.

Jesus is certainly not saying that poverty and suffering are blessings, or that hunger and rejection are evidence of God's favor. Jesus is not even focused on the ideal state of the world as God intends it, and as it will one day be. Jesus is talking about the tough realities of living in this world now. He's saying that as things stand at the moment, if your life is all wealth and happiness, then there is something wrong. If you get to live in happy pampered luxury while people just outside your 6 ft. high wall and elaborate security system are selling their plasma to avoid starvation, then something is wrong. If you survive by disconnecting from reality and living in a fantasy world, then something is wrong.

Woe to those who maintain their frivolous affluence by closing their eyes and ears to the pain and suffering of the poor. When the final day comes and you cannot take with you the possessions you have acquired, you will find that you haven't acquired anything that lasts. Your good times will all be in the past, while those whose cries you blocked out will inherit the Kingdom of God.

That promise which Jesus makes is very important. They will inherit, they will be filled, they will laugh. Once again I emphasize, Jesus is not saying that it is so blessed to be poor and weeping that he's going to ensure that you are poor and weeping for the rest of eternity — He's saying poverty is the reality, but inheritance is what's coming. Weeping is the reality, laughter comes next. Death is the reality, but the

resurrection is coming. And it's a really delicate balance here, and I hope I can make it clear. It is unhealthy to live as though there is no suffering now, but it is also unhealthy to live as though that is all there will ever be. It's unhealthy to deny the reality of death, but it's also unhealthy to live without hope in the resurrection.

Those who weep now are blessed because they are the ones who are in touch with the real world. They are the ones who feel the pain and who respond in the only appropriate way to it. Jesus wept. No doubt Jesus wept a lot more often than the gospels tell us. Jesus wept because weeping is the first appropriate response to grief, and grief is the most appropriate emotion when encountering the brokenness of our world. If you never feel like crying it may be that you are insulating yourself against reality, that you are living in denial. Ambulance drivers say that at an accident scene, it is the ones who aren't crying who are the most seriously injured. I think that's true of more than just physical injury.

What Jesus seems to be saying here is consistent with basic principles of human psychology. Those who grieve properly recover properly, those who suppress it and refuse to feel it, hold it all within them where it slowly poisons them. You don't learn to cope with a problem if you are denying its existence. You can't move to resurrection while you are refusing to acknowledge death. Those who deny their hunger will never be filled. Those who expend their energy trying not to weep, will never laugh. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now for you will laugh.

Again, this delicate balance - weeping but hoping. Grieving for today, but believing in tomorrow. Entering with God into the pain of a wounded and scarred creation, but hoping with the God who raises life from death, who makes all things new. Opening ourselves to the anguish but refusing to despair and allow it to have the final say. Because our God is a god who sends up green shoots of hope through the cold hard concrete of tragedy. Our God is a god who brings spring to every winter. Our God is the god who raised Jesus Christ from the agony of death to the joy of resurrection life.

To be faithful to Christ, to the Christ who weeps, who dies and who is raised to life, we need to be a church that faces all those realities.

(continued from pg 3)

Resurrection comes when we have experienced the fullness of death, and so if we are to be a community that helps those who suffer, grow towards resurrection, we need to not gloss over the reality of their pain. You can't move from Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday before you have endured the anguish of Saturday. Blessed are you who weep on that Saturday, for only you will know the full joy of resurrection on Sunday. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Amen.

UMW News

There are several new books in the UMW library in the parlor. Kay Pottorff especially enjoyed *Grit in Juarez: Beyond the Wall* and *We are Called to be a Movement*, which she summarized at the executive board meeting. Everyone is welcome to check them out and enjoy.



Our next meeting will be March 10 at 1:00. Plan to be there.

Happy Presidents' Day!

John Wesley Quote

If you find anything hurts you or draws your soul from God, I conjure you flee for your life! In that case, you must not stand upon ceremony; you must escape without delay.



To Lady Maxwell 1767

Sunday's Worship 2/20

This Sunday, Ruth's sermon will be:

"For Those Willing to Listen,"

Our theme will be: "Advice From Jesus."

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL

(Luke 6:27-38)

"But I say to you people who are listening to me, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Ask God to bless the people who ask for bad things to happen to you. Pray for the people who are mean to you. If someone hits you on the side of your face, let them hit the other side too. If someone takes your coat, don't stop them from taking your shirt too. Give to everyone who asks you for something. When someone takes something that is yours, don't ask for it back. Do for others what you want them to do for you.

"If you love only those who love you, should you get any special praise for doing that? No, even sinners love those who love them! If you do good only to those who do good to you, should you get any special praise for doing that? No, even sinners do that! If you lend things to people, always expecting to get something back, should you get any special praise for that? No, even sinners lend to other sinners so that they can get back the same amount!

"I'm telling you to love your enemies and do good to them. Lend to people without expecting to get anything back. If you do this, you will have a great reward. You will be children of the Most High God. Yes, because God is good even to the people who are full of sin and not thankful. Give love and mercy the same as your Creator gives love and mercy.

"Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. Don't condemn others, and you will not be condemned. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give to others, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands – more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you."

(c) Easy-to-Read Version

Staying Connected

Each Sunday Worship videos will be 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.

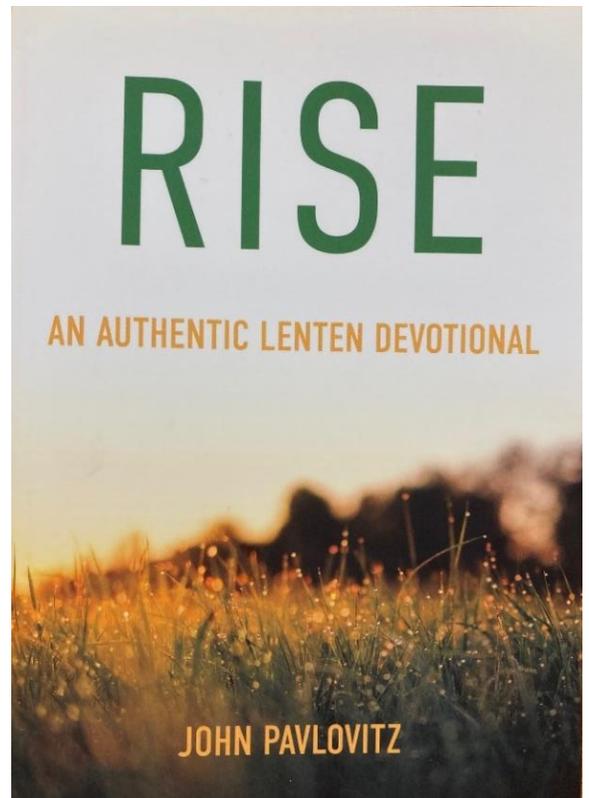
Check Trinity's YouTube channel for videos of weekly worship at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZz1YGrdRCH6HIND2LpVCgg>

"Rise," Lenten Devotional

The books are here! This year's after-worship Lenten Study will be based on John Pavlovitz's book "Rise." You may pick your copy in the church office starting today! I'm looking forward to seeing you in-person in the Parlor during Coffee Hour, or via Zoom, Sundays at 11:30am, beginning March 6th.

Blessings,

Rev. Ruth



Lent is not an event. It's not just one, glorious moment. As much as being about a single dawn arriving, it is about all the many not-yets, one-day-soons, and still-to-comes of this life in the waiting, about the painful in-between times that we'd like to fast-forward through on our way to peace and growth and clarity.

With his characteristic unflinching honesty about the human experience, bestselling author John Pavlovitz shows that the promise of Lent is not just the triumph of the moment—it is also the promise of perseverance, endurance, and deliverance. Lent is hope.

In the midst of darkest night, we wait for the sun to rise, knowing that joy comes in the morning. After falling to our knees in desperate prayer, we rise to our feet. We rise to meet the coming day, knowing we are held by a Love that will have the last word.

Join John on a 40-day spiritual journey of elevated hopes and ascending spirits.



JOHN PAVLOVITZ is a bestselling author, pastor, and activist from Wake Forest, North Carolina. His blog, *Stuff That Needs to Be Said*, has reached a diverse worldwide audience. A 20-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, John is committed to equality, diversity, and justice—both inside and outside faith communities. He is the author of *LOW: An Honest Advent Devotional*, *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*, *A Bigger Table*, and *Hope and Other Superpowers*.

Visit JohnPavlovitz.com

Holidays / Easter & Lent

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 **chalice press**

You Want to Change the World. So Do We.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rose, Gary	2/2
Esparza, Trudy	2/3
Croson, Diane	2/11
Haga, Roger	2/13
Norris Jr., David	2/13
Jensen, Savannah	2/14
Campbell, Kristy	2/15
Halgas Jr., Frank E	2/15
Byron, Ruth	2/16
Meyer, Leroy	2/17
Oar, Ruth	2/22
French, Tim	2/23
Mcburney-Rebol, Jesse T.	2/25
Mower, Savon	2/25
Pickens, Logan	2/25
Borland, Kathy	2/28
Stewart, Don	2/28
Tuckett, Jake	2/29

Sunday Activities 2022

Sunday Worship - each week

- 10:15 a.m. In person and on the internet
- 11:15 a.m. Parlor - Coffee & Fellowship
- Childcare Available from 10 - 12:30 p.m.
- "Kid's Time" is back in Worship too.

*See you at
Trinity United Methodist Church!*

Crockpot Lunches Needed

Compassionate Care Need!

We need crock pot or casserole lunches for the homeless people that stop by the Day Shelter.



We will provide the cooking container and the ingredients, as necessary. Please help with all the love in your heart. Contact Don in the office.

The next available dates are February 20th, 21st & 22nd.

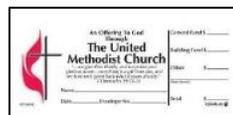
Also, donations of canned food would be greatly appreciated. Examples of greatest needs are:

- Ramen Noodles
- Pasta (for example Chef Boyardee)
- Corn, Green Beans, & Mixed Vegetables
- Meats
- Soups
- Spaghetti Sauce

Thanks to Ann Shively, Jill Ecklesdaffer, Joe Goyen, Cindy Woolf, Heather Rutledge, Dixie Oswald, Kay Kiefner, Kathy Harder, Bev Kemp, Pam Mayes, Jo Ann & Gary Rose, and Marcia & Tommy Lew for their preparation of food, generous donation of time, and compassion in helping with feeding the hungry.

Finance & Giving

Thank you for your continued financial support of Trinity by:



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

This Week at Trinity

Wednesday (February 16th)

- **Upper Room** 10:00 am by Zoom

Thursday (February 17th)

Friday (February 18th)

Saturday (February 19th)

Sunday (February 20th)

- **Indoor, In-Person Church and Video Worship** on Facebook Page at 10:15am. Do church in person or from the comfort of your couch!
(<https://www.facebook.com/TUMCIF/>)
- 11:30 Scout Dutch-Oven Breakfast
- 4:00 Hand bell practice.

Monday (February 21st)

- Presidents' Day Holiday
office closed
- **Theology on Tap** 7:00 pm Zoom

Tuesday (February 22nd)

- **7:00 Cub Scouts Pack & Den**

Upcoming:

March 1 Shrove Tuesday

- 7pm Pancake Dinner & Races

March 2 Ash Wednesday

- Ashes To Go 11am to 2pm
at the Broadway Bridge
- Ashes in the Sanctuary 4pm to 6pm

March 6 Sunday Lent 1

- Lenten Book Study on "Rise"
by John Pavlovitz begins
after worship at 11:30

Today's Greatest Needs:

- **Winter coats, clothing, boots, gloves**
- **Kitchen Storage Containers**

Trinity Leadership

Below are 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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<h1>February</h1>		15 6:30 Admin Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack & Den	16 10:00 Upper Room by Zoom 6:30 pm Gather at the Table (zoom) 7:30 Troop 6	17	18 Office Closed	
		20 10:15 In-person worship with Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Scout Dutch Oven Brunch in Mary Dawson Hall 4:00 Handbell Practice	21 Presidents' Day Office Closed 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	22 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack & Den	23 10:00 Upper Room by Zoom 7:30 Troop 6	24
27 10:15 In-person worship with Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Coffee hour 4:00 Handbell Practice	28 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Races 7pm 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack & Den	2 Ash Wednesday 10:00 Upper Room by Zoom 6:30 pm Gather at the Table (zoom) 7:30 Troop 6	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Lent 1 10:15 In-person worship with Live stream on Facebook 11:30 Lenten Book Study 4:00 Handbell Practice	7 7:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	8 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack & Den	9 10:00 Upper Room by Zoom 7:30 Troop 6	10	11 Office Closed	12