

News update for May 18, 2023

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This Week at Trinity

Thursday (May 18th)

Friday (May 19th)

- 5:00pm JACL Meeting
- 7:00pm N.A

Saturday (May 20th)

- 4:00pm Bishop’s Installment

Sunday (May 21st)

- 9:30am Donuts and coffee
- 10:10am Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:30am Fellowship Scout Brunch
- 11:40pm Safe Sanctuaries Training
- 2:00pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00pm N.A

Monday (May 22nd)

- 7:00pm N.A

Tuesday (May 23rd)

- AC Clergy Session
- 7:00pm N.A

Wednesday (May 24th)

- 10:00am Upper Room book study
- 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack meeting
- 7:30pm Scouts BSA

Trinity Homeless Services

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

! Bell Choir Concert !

There will be a free handbell concert put on by the Rigby Highschool Handbell Choir. Come see them! *

*More info on page 9

Worship Plans for 5/21

Theme: Ascension Sunday

Reverend Ruth will be offering baptism & taking in the confirmands as new members

Focus Scripture (John 17:1-8)

When Creator Sets Free (Jesus) was finished speaking to his followers, he lifted his eyes to the spirit-world above and sent his voice to the Great Spirit.

“O Great Father,” he prayed, “it is time for you to bring honor to your Son, so he may bring honor to you. You have put all human beings under the care of your Son, so he can give them the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony. This life comes from knowing you, the only true and Great Spirit, and from knowing the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the one you have sent into this world.

“I have brought you honor on earth by finishing the work you sent me to do. It is now time, Great Spirit, for you to honor me with the beauty I shared at your side before you created all things.

“I have shown who you truly are to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours and you trusted me with them, and they have walked in your ways. They now know that everything I have comes from you. The message you gave to me I have given to them. They have welcomed the truth about who I am and trust that you sent me.

© First Nations Version

Baptism is grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; the grace which baptism makes available is that of the atonement of Christ which makes possible our reconciliation with God. Baptism involves dying to sin, newness of life, union with Christ, receiving the Holy Spirit, and incorporation into Christ's church.

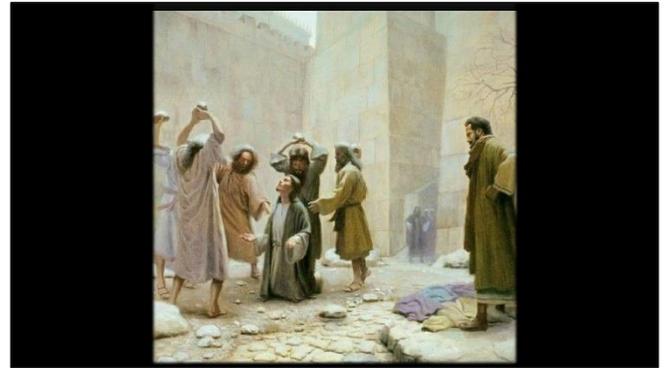
~ *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*

Last Week's Sermon 5/14

Theme for the day: Knowing God

Sermon: “At Home in God”

Focus Scripture: (Acts 17:22-31)



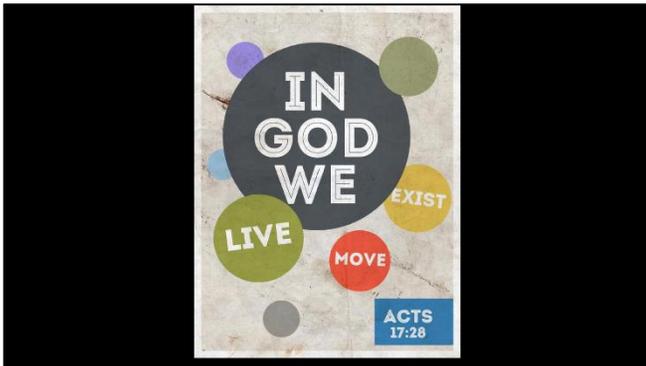
Last week we heard a passage from the Acts of the Apostles describing the stoning of St Stephen. You might remember that a young man named Saul held the coats of those who were committing that heinous hate crime. I mentioned then that this young man would become important to the story of Christianity. Today, we once again hear from the Acts of the Apostles, however it will be our focus scripture, rather than passing it by quickly. Once again Saul will appear in the passage, but today he has a new name. You see, Saul met the risen Christ and it changed his life! It changed his life so much that Saul was transformed into Paul.



Today we find Paul in Athens, sometime before Greek Orthodox Christianity became the dominant religion there. As he wanders around the city, he finds evidence of religious devotion everywhere; devotion to all kinds of different gods and all kinds of different faiths. He concludes that the people of Athens are a

religiously minded people. As if to confirm that impression, he is invited to meet with the Areopagus, a council of the most respected and distinguished thinkers in the city, and to explain to them what his faith is all about.

Paul begins by affirming the Athenians for their keen interest in religion. He quotes approvingly from two of their own respected poets. And far from telling them that their religions are all rubbish, he links his message directly to things he has observed in their own religious practice. He had found a shrine in the city dedicated to “the unknown god”, and so he begins by suggesting that the faith he is there to preach is not something strange and new, but rather it is the missing knowledge of a faith that is already within their experience.



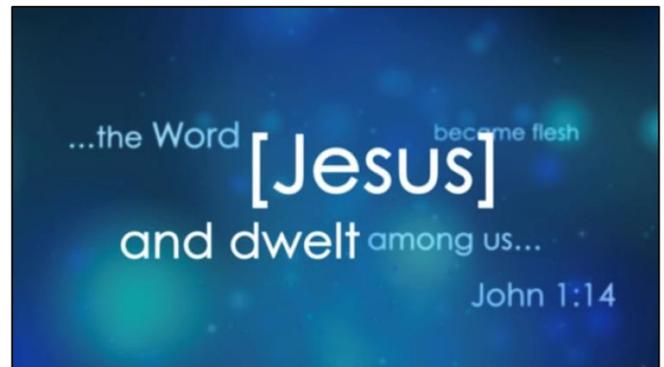
Now that raises a question. Is this just a slick bit of marketing on Paul’s part? Or is he actually speaking with integrity about some deep truths concerning the nature of God? Well, although I think the advertising industry would have been proud of the angle he took, I think we have to conclude that he meant what he said. The quote he uses from the Greek poet Epim`enides is particularly instructive. “In God we live and move and have our being.” In using that quote, Paul is saying that no one, regardless of what they might or might not believe, is entirely cut off from God and removed from the influence of God. To live, to move, to be; all is surrounded by God and underpinned by God. A person’s ability to walk across the room is as dependent on God as it is dependent on the oxygen that they breathe. Indeed Paul specifically says that although God wants to be sought out by us, God

is not far from anyone and is within reach of everyone.



This does, I think, track with what we heard Jesus say in the gospel reading last week when he made the rather exclusive sounding statement that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit, because it neither sees or knows the Spirit, but that the disciples can and do.

It seems that both are saying that there is something confronting about the gospel made known in Christ, something that demands a tough choice, something that does not simply allow people to add a bit of Christian faith to their lives and leave everything else unchanged. The demands of Christian discipleship will not be domesticated to fit “the world”. There comes a point in understanding when you are forced to choose one or the other. You can’t have both.



So in Paul’s speech, we find what looks like a mix of affirmation of other people’s religious faith and a challenge to go beyond it and find something more.

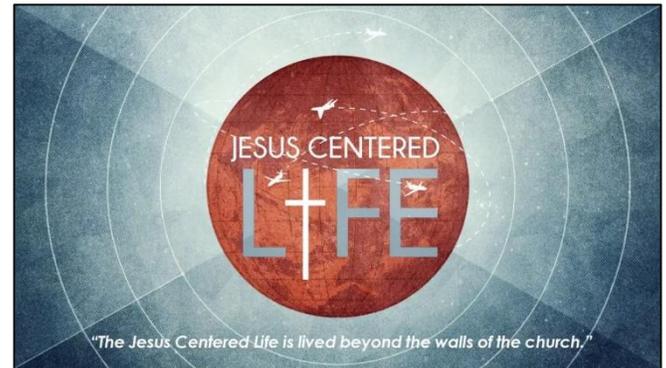
Paul’s speech is clearly asserting that there are people who do not know anything about Christ who are nevertheless reaching out for God and

responding to God. And he also clearly implies that we cannot, so to speak, “take” Christ to them, because Christ is already among them. In God they live and move and have their being. This should come as no great surprise to us. We believe in a God who takes the initiative and comes to us while we are still set on our own ways and unwilling to change. We believe in a God who takes flesh among us, who embodied himself in places where he may not be welcomed. We believe in a God who is present in ordinary things, in bread and wine and water, reaching out to us and asking us to offer ourselves in return. So it should be no great surprise to us that this God who is not far from anyone is present among people of other faiths, reaching out to them in the ordinary things around them. And so we would be horribly out of line if we were to barge in and begin denouncing other faiths and asserting the claims of our own without listening first and learning what Christ has been doing among them.



To me, there seems no obvious reason why people who are genuinely seeking God might not discern enough of God’s response to turn their lives around and entrust themselves to God and so be accepted as God’s people. I don’t think the Bible either tells us that or rules it out. But what I am sure is that all of us – those who know the story of Christ and those who don’t – will come closer to the truth and to understanding what God is calling us to as we listen to one another and allow one another’s stories of grace to reveal God to us and challenge us to offer ourselves more fully into the hands of God. We have much to learn and much to offer.

For us it begins here, encountering the risen Christ in the word spoken and the bread broken,



and as we do we learn to recognize him in places ever more strange and foreign. Henri Nouwen said that “when we have met our Lord in the silent intimacy of our prayer, then we will also meet him in the camp, in the market, and in the town square. But when we have not met him in the center of our own hearts, we cannot expect to meet him in the busyness of our daily lives.” So as we encounter the Christ here, let us go out ready to acknowledge and celebrate the Christ wherever and in whoever we encounter him, and to allow that recognition to call us and others to offer ourselves, ever more fully and consciously, into the hands of God.

Amen.

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

*“Do all the good you can,
 By all the means you can,
 In all the ways you can,
 In all the places you can,
 At all the times you can,
 To all the people you can,
 As long as ever you can.”*
 ~ John Wesley



Trinity Scholarships

ATTENTION High School Seniors and College Students! The TUMC Endowment Committee is kicking off its scholarship process for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Two scholarships are available:

1. The Hazel Skelton General Scholarship: one scholarship, up to \$1,000
2. Chesbro Music Scholarship: one scholarship, up to \$1,000, for those pursuing a college major or minor in music

The Pete Isaksen Scholarship is not available. The funds have all been awarded. Many students benefitted from his generosity and we are so thankful !

Applicants will be considered for all available scholarships, with selections made based on individual scholarship criteria. Therefore, each applicant only needs to submit one application package. Completed application packages, including a brief essay, transcripts, and two letters of reference, are due no later than June 15, 2023. Completed application packages need to be type written and E-mailed to TrinityUMCIIdahoFalls@gmail.com

Scholarship applications are available on the church website at www.tumcif.org or by contacting the church office or Kathy Borland. The application has been updated as a "Form" document to assist you in completing it electronically. A scholarship checklist is also posted on the website to help you. If you have questions regarding the process, please contact Kathy Borland at kaborland28@gmail.com

Financial Statements

Our church's financial status January 1 - April 30, 2023



Income	\$41,223
Expenses	<u>\$62,428</u>
Current deficit	<-\$21,205>

John Wesley Quote

"It is hard to find words in the language of me to explain the deep things of God. Indeed, there are none that will adequately express what the children of God experience. But perhaps one might say the testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit..."



~ To Thomas Bigg, 1749

Birthdays

May

Borland, Mark	05/20
Haas, Jennifer	05/21
Bradshaw, Lyndell	05/23
Gonzalez, Jr.	05/25
Oliver, David	05/25
Kelly, Carney	05/26
Wade, Jennifer	05/26
Harmon, Kristine	05/27
Borland, Faith	05/28
Jensen, Sara	05/30

Sunday Morning Fellowship

There is always food and fellowship after church

- **Every 1st Sunday: Soup Potluck**
Bring your favorite Soup.
- **Every 2th Sunday: Regular Brunch**
Bring your favorite dish
- **Every 3rd Sunday: Scout Brunch**
This is a fundraiser for Troop 6 and a wonderful meal to share as we visit.
- **Every 4th Sunday: Regular Brunch**
Bring your favorite dish

Letter from DS Karen

Sage District



Oregon-Idaho Conference

The Reverend Karen
Hernandez, District
Superintendent The United
Methodist Church Etha
Carruthers, District
Administrator

May 14, 2023

Dear members and friends of Trinity United Methodist Church,

I am writing to share with you that Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth and the Greater Northwest Area Cabinet have long prayed about and worked on an interim appointment plan for your congregation. As a result, we have a one-year plan with the goal of discerning what God is calling United Methodists in Idaho Falls to do and be in the future. Beginning July 1, 2023, the following leadership will be journeying with you in ministry:

First. Rev. Kathy Neary, ordained elder from the Pacific Northwest Conference, will be with you on a part-time basis. Pastor Kathy is a trained and experienced interim minister who will lead you in worship the first two Sundays of each month, offer a weekly discipleship group, work with your leadership, and join you in the ministry of pastoral care for the year ahead.

Second, Genesis Christian Mediation will also be with you to listen, teach, train, and discern. Andrew Arthur and Rev. Brian Shimer's work alongside Pastor Kathy will make for superb team! Genesis has a track record of success with an ever-growing number of Sage congregations, and I am grateful to know that their gifted leadership will be put to use among you.

Third, a different member of the Greater Northwest Area Cabinet will be with you each month to preach and offer additional training resources. *This is unprecedented in the Area!*

Because of your resources, your potential, and you being you, the Bishop has asked the Cabinet to invest in you on a monthly basis. You can expect Bishop Cedrick to be your preacher once in the coming year – and you should expect to be richly blessed by his faith and wisdom!

In order to have these three kinds of leadership available to you, all three will all be shared with the St. Paul's UMC congregation. Your worship time will change, but you will continue having worship for your congregation in your building. Many details are yet to be determined. While this complex plan likely seems challenging, I am absolutely certain that you are in for an incredible year of learning, growth, and discernment.

Because this is a lot to take in, you are invited to a time of conversation immediately following worship today. Leaders who met with me to discuss this plan will facilitate this conversation and help to clarify this news. Your SPRC members will convey to me your questions and concerns so that Pastor Kathy, Andrew, Brian and I can give them our time and careful consideration.

You have been praying for your next pastor. The Cabinet has prayed dozens of times, and I have prayed many hours for your church and this appointment. God has answered all of those prayers with a surprising plan that includes an abundance of extraordinary leaders!! Don't stop now though! Instead, please be in prayer for Andrew, Brian, Pastor Kathy, Bishop Cedrick, the Greater Northwest Area Cabinet, the St. Paul's congregation, and for your church family. Pray that the Spirit moves in a mighty way and that we are all courageous enough to follow! Know that all of these leaders are also praying for you.

May God's grace carry you in the weeks ahead as you thank Pastor Ruth for her wonderful care, her joy, her service over these past nine years. May the hope of the Risen Christ lead you into the possibilities that await you!

With the peace of Christ,

Rev. Karen

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

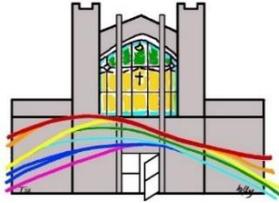
Bev Kemp-(208)569-6149
bevmkemp@gmail.com

Chair of Trustee

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

Chair of Finance

Scott Taylor (208)201-5593



Homeless Services

In April, 71 people received services in the 16 days we were open. This represents 31 unique individuals whose ages range from 18 to 70 with an average of 47. The average time in the church was 52 min with a range of 1 min to 5 hours. 9 people registered as first-time visitors. The services included 57 showers, 16 loads of laundry, 12 supplies which included drinking water, sleeping bag, 3 pair of socks, and 2 hygiene kits. 14 people use the mailbox service. 72% of the visitors had valid ID cards and 63% had a phone.



Donation Drive

If you're able to, we would love if you could donate a couple items to us for the Humanitarian Centre of Idaho Falls.

We're trying to help them out, and would absolutely love it if you could help us out.

Below are some items that they are in great need of currently. If you have any of these items, feel free to come by the church and drop them off, and we'll make sure they get to the right people.

The main thing they are in need of now is all-purpose cleaner.* Dollar Tree cleaner is perfect for their needs, and is very cheap. Some other items they could use are:

- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Shampoo
- All-Purpose Cleaner*
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Laundry Detergent
- Disposable Women's Razors 5 each
- Large Quilts
- Disposable Men's Razors 5 each
- Twin Quilts
- Shave Cream
- Diapers all Sizes
- Bleach
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels 1

Anything helps, and we would be very grateful for your donations. See if there's anything that you'd like to donate!



UWF NEWS



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings! We enjoyed a wonderful and very informative program presented by Shepherd's Inn at unit meeting on Thursday. The Inn is a faith-based pregnancy support center that offers a variety of services tailored to individual needs. Joni and Kay served a yummy cake and treats. Marilyn delivered the devotional. Thank you, ladies!

Bev Kemp talked to us about FISH and the school backpack program. They are already getting supplies gathered for the coming school year. Kay read a short story about an early Methodist women's group. They were brave women.

Remember there will **not** be unit meetings in June or July. Our next get-together will be in August for the ice cream social. Keep in touch with Mary if you are planning on attending Mission U at Trinity in July.

Have a safe and fun summer.

Safe Sanctuaries Training

There will be Safe Sanctuaries training provided on Sunday May 21st at 11:40am MT at Jason Lee Memorial UMC at 168 S. University Ave in Blackfoot. This training is FREE and open to anyone who wants to be trained.

Additional training will be provided via zoom on Saturday June 3rd 10a MT. Please RSVP to jasonleeumc@gmail.com by June 1st. The Zoom link will be sent to those who sign up.

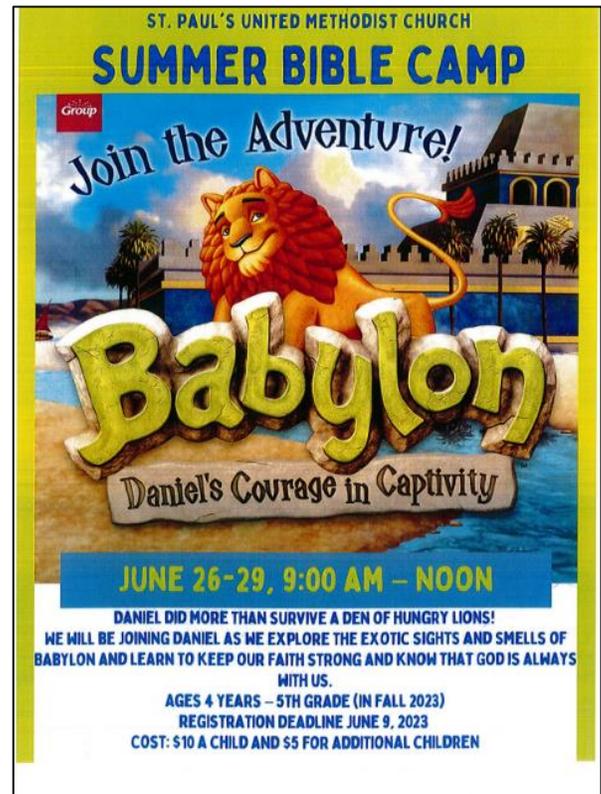
Both training courses will last 1 hour and 15 minutes. For more information on the program, www.umoi.org/resources



Summer VBS Bible Camp

This year we are participating in the Summer Bible Camp at St Paul's UMC. This invitation is extended to other churches also as the world restarts after Covid.

Dates: June 26-29 9am - Noon



Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's walk will be held on Saturday, September 23th. The Trinity team "Memory Methodists" is participating in the 2023 walk. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to fight Alzheimer's.

To join the Trinity team sign on to: https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2023/ID-GreaterIdaho?fr_id=16521&pg=entry

Register for:

[Memory Methodists](#)

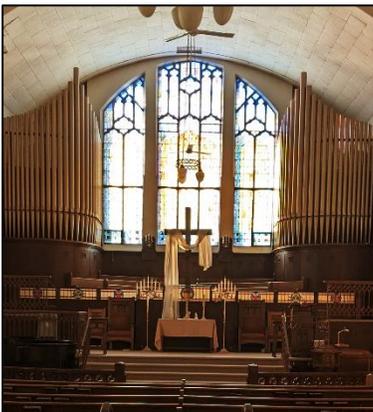
Team Captain: Don Rohde



Stained-Glass Window Repair

The project to procure replacement-stained glass for our windows has hit a snag. In the last status meeting, we were informed by Nzilani Glass Conservation that the vendor that was lined up to provide our replacement glass was experiencing challenges. The machine that rolls out the “Cats Paw” texture on the stained glass had a chipped gear. Each time the missing tooth came around it made a wave in the glass. In addition, they needed to take a break during the summer months to replace the roof of their building. We are waiting until mid-July to check on the progress of the repairs on the roller tooth and the roof.

This is not a showstopper for our restoration project. Plan “B” includes repairing rather than replacing existing pieces of glass and a nationwide search for matching replacement-stained glass pieces. Plan “B” is very much like the process we used for the first two windows.



Rigby Handbells at Trinity

The Rigby High School handbell choir, under the direction of Corbin Rasmussen, will present a bell concert at Trinity on Sunday May 28th at 4pm.

There is a strong connection between Trinity and the Rigby Bell Choir. Corbin was the latest director of the Trinity Bell Choir and gave the Rigby students an opportunity to play within the Trinity Bell concerts. Trinity has supported the Rigby Bell Choir by loaning them extra bells for their regional competitions.

Please come and hear the Rigby Highschool Bell Choir in their “Thank You” concert at Trinity.



Bishop Cedric Instillation + GNW Opening Worship

On May 20, Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth will be formally installed as the episcopal leader of the Greater Northwest Area, and it will also serve as the opening worship service for the GNW Area annual conference sessions with his episcopal address. The service is being held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Juneau, AK, starting at 2 p.m. AKT, 3 p.m. PDT, 4 p.m. MDT. | The worship service will be livestreamed on the homepage of our website at www.greaternw.org/installation.

Sawtooth Methodist Camp



UNITED METHODIST & EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAMPING PROGRAM

Calling all children and youths age 3rd to 12th graders in Eastern Idaho. Past, present, and future campers.

BENEFITS: Camp provides spiritual and emotional formation for your children. It helps kids make friends and build connections across the area. Camp is a safe place with plenty of unconditional love.

Did we mention Fun! Adventure, Nature, Friends?

MISSION: We are people dedicated to creating sacred spaces of Christian hospitality and learning. We offer these spaces so that people may...

- Experience God’s love
- Engage with creation
- Develop loving interdependence with each other and the Earth
- Act with justice* in the world (*justice is what love looks like in public)

LOCATION: Sawtooth Camp is remotely located in an alpine valley 35 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho, on the North Fork of the Boise River. This picturesque camp is a blend of mountains, meadows and a winding river that offers a wide range of wilderness experiences.

COST: The cost is \$475 per person. There is a \$50 nonrefundable registration fee payable at registration. We encourage families to provide the registration fee and whatever additional money they can pay. Discounts and scholarships are available and provided by local churches or the conference. Our goal is to see that all students that wish to go to camp can

participate. We urge each congregation to donate to a camp fund and fundraise to cover costs. For more information about scholarships contact Betty Anderson at bettyellenba@gmail.com

SCHEDULE:

Elementary	Completed Grades 3 rd -6 th
7/09/2023 - 7/15/2023	
Junior High Camp	Completed Grades 6 th -8 th
7/23/2023 - 7/29/2023	
Senior High Camp	Completed Grades 9 th -12 th
7/16/2023 - 7/22/2023	

REGISTRATION: Register on-line at gocamping.org or call Holly Dolan Camping Registrar at 503-802-9214 for more information. If you register for camp, please also contact Betty Anderson so we can coordinate transportation to and from camp. We encourage parents to assist with transportation.

INFORMATION: Eastern Idaho Campers contact Betty Anderson call or text at 208-521-3039 or email bettyellenba@gmail.com. You can also leave a message with the Trinity church office at 208-522-7921.

ACCREDITATION: Sawtooth Camp is Accredited by the American Camp Association. Camp and Retreat Ministries is a partnership between the United Methodist Church of Oregon and Idaho and the Oregon Diocese of the Episcopal Church. Todd Bartlett is the Executive Director of Oregon Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministry (503) 802-9211.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			17 10:00am Upper Room Study 6:30pm Gather at the Table via Zoom 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:30pm Scouts BSA		19 Office Closed 7:00pm N.A	20 Office Closed Opening of Annual Conference via Zoom 4:00pm Bishop Cedric instillation (livestream)	
21 9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Scouts brunch 11:40am Safe Sanctuaries training 6:00pm N.A	22 7:00pm N.A.	23 Annual Conference Clergy Session 7:00pm N.A.	24 10:00am Upper Room Study 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	25	26 Office Closed 7:00pm N.A	27 Office Closed	
28 9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Potluck brunch 6:00pm N.A	29 Memorial Day Office Closed 7:00pm N.A.	30 	31 10:00am Upper Room Study 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:30pm Scouts BSA		2 Office Closed 7:00pm N.A	3 Office Closed	
4 9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Soup Brunch 6:00pm N.A	5 7:00pm N.A.	6 7:00pm N.A.	 Ruth out of Office ----- Annual Conference			9 Office Closed 7:00pm N.A	10 Office Closed
11 9:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts 10:10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Brunch 6:00pm N.A	12 10:00am F.I.S.H. 7:00pm N.A.	13 6:30pm Trustee Meeting 7:00pm N.A.	14 10:00am Upper Room Study 6:30pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:30pm Scouts BSA	15 6:00pm Annual Conference Closing Session via Zoom	16 Office Closed 7:00pm N.A	17 Office Closed	