

# TRINITY TIMES

*We exist to share the love of God, now & forever.*



## seeking:

### honest questions for deeper faith

The lectionary for Year A offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

And so, this Lenten series is founded on questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative (“Can these bones live?”). Some feel like a charge or challenge (“Who will you listen to?”). Some questions are hopeful and curious (“How do we begin again?”). Our questions won’t necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. We hope this series will help us unpack some of

those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

## LENT/EASTER CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- ⇒ **Weekly Wednesday Lenten Lunchtime Art Reflection - “Visio Divina”** beginning **Mar. 1** from 12:15-12:45PM, Sanctuary
  - ⇒ **Weekly Confirmation Classes** following worship each Sunday, Library
  - ⇒ **Weekly Children’s Church** during worship using new curriculum from our worship series, **seeking**, and building out of the WORD WALL
  - **Wed., Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday Services** at 12 Noon in the Sanctuary & 6PM in the Fellowship Hall with a light meal.
  - **Fri., Feb. 24 - Trinity Confirmation Class** to visit Congregation Beth Ha Tephila Asheville at 7PM for Shabbat service.
  - **Mon., Mar. 6 - Manna Food Distribution I** - 5PM Asheville First Church of the Nazarene.
  - **Tue., Mar. 7 - TUMC Concert Series** at 7PM featuring **Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble** (free, love offering)
  - **Sat., Mar. 11 – Church Spring Workday** at 9AM
  - **Tue., Mar. 21 - Nolan Anthony’s Senior Organ Recital** at 8PM Furman Univ’s Daniel Chapel
  - **Sat., Mar. 25 - Lent Art Show JoeRob, artist** (time, TBA) Fellowship Hall
- Holy Week:**
- **Sun., Apr. 2 - Palm Sunday** at 10:45AM

- **Wed. Apr. 5 - Final Visio Divina Art Reflection** in the Sanctuary
- **Thu., Apr. 6 - Maundy Thursday** Garden Meditations, Arboretum, IPM (more details to follow)
- **Fri., Apr. 7 - Good Friday**
  - ◊ **Stations of the Cross Prayer** walk down Haywood Rd (time, TBA)
  - ◊ **Good Friday Service, 6PM**
- **Sat., Apr. 8 - Holy Saturday**, Help Decorate Sanctuary, (time TBA)
- **Sun. Apr. 9 - Easter**
  - ◊ **Sunrise Service** at 7AM (Location TBA)
  - ◊ **Breakfast & Egg Hunt** at 9:45AM (Trinity's front lawn)
  - ◊ **Resurrection Service** at 10:45AM

### WHAT IS VISIO DIVINA?

Wednesdays during Lent, 12:15-12:45PM, Sanctuary

*Visio Divina*, Latin for "divine seeing," is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. We will use art from our series to blend visual meditation with group discussion and bible study.



### GOOD FRIDAY

What is Good Friday Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk and Stations of the Cross on Haywood Road? On April 7, Good Friday, we will do a prayer walk guided by 7 "Stations" telling the story of the last hours of Jesus. Similar to our Visio Divina practice, the Stations will be pieces of art, done by local artists (including JoeRob who provided our lovely "Asheville Nativity" piece in the Library. We are inviting neighboring churches, schools, and businesses to allow us to place these outdoor installations along Haywood Road to help us imagine

the story in our neighborhood. Each station will have a short reflection and time of silence. Stay tuned for specific information about the time of the walk.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION

### ON GOING RED WAGON

We also continue to collect items for those in need: PopTarts, cracker packs - cheese or peanut butter, fruit or applesauce cups, Vienna sausages, ready to eat tuna, granola bars, boxes, cereal, instant grits.



### BEAR CLOSET @ ST. PAUL'S UMC

If you enjoy organizing and helping young families, we have a wonderful ministry opportunity for you! St. Paul's UMC is in need of volunteers for the BEAR Closet ministry (Babies, Equipment, And Resources). Volunteers meet at St. Paul's every Thursday morning from 9-11 AM to help organize, clean donations, sort and bundle clothes, and put together orders for our guests. If you are interested, please join us on Thursday mornings. For more information, call the St. Paul's church office on Wednesday mornings at 828-252-6512.

### MANNA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Manna Food Distribution has a NEW LOCATION (Asheville First Church of the Nazarene, 385 Hazel Mill Rd, Asheville, NC 28806). For now, the volunteer times are the same as the former Emma UMC site. Dates are Mondays, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, Jun. 5, Jul. 3, Aug. 7, Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, & Dec. 4



Volunteers needed during these times:

- Volunteer shift 1 - Market Setup: 1-3PM
- Volunteer shift 2 - Market: 3-5PM

### WINTER SHELTER UPDATES

Continued thanks to the WNC Presbytery for the use of the former West Asheville Presbyterian Church for continued winter shelter through March

31. This has provided stability for the guests and volunteers who build community there.

Curious about our neighbors utilizing winter safe shelter?

Here are some of the following statistics from the intake process:

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities to serve at the Winter Shelter - gather a team to cook (prior to delivering), serve and enjoy the meal (around 7PM) and stay until 9PM if you are able, you may be a 2nd adult volunteer with the paid staff for a shift from 8:30PM-11PM each night, you may offer funds/ resources for needs as they arise. To date, THREE families have found permanent housing since staying in this shelter (housed at the former West Asheville Presbyterian Church) since it opened on Dec. 21. Visit [counterflowasheville.com/safeshelter](http://counterflowasheville.com/safeshelter) for an up to date list of items and to sign up.



## DISCIPLESHIP & FORMATION

### ADULTS DISCIPLESHIP

#### 9:45AM options:

- Koinonia Class - 1st floor across from Fellowship Hall entrance, led by Mrs. Charlotte Clodfelter
- Mary Mann/ Faith Class - Library, on the Sanctuary level, across hallway from Sanctuary. Beginning Dec. 4 through Dec. 18, we will use Dr. Efirid's series on The Birth Narratives.

### TRINITY TABLE

Trinity Table is an opportunity to share and encounter the love of God through food, fellowship, and connection with our community twice a month. Two committees have been formed to coordinate these meals. The Food Committee consists of Dustin Mailman, Laszlo and Laurie Bujdoso, and Matt, Ruby, and Everett Leggat. The Setup/Cleanup Committee includes Melanie Robertson, Ellen Mitchell and Ruth Gaddy. If you would like to join either of these committees or work a specific date, please contact Laurie Bujdoso (828) 301-9891. If you are planning on coming by for a meal, please be sure to make a reservation through the Church Office or Realm app.

Please save the following dates for the next six Trinity Tables:

#### Wed., Mar. 8

St. Patrick's Day Meal 6:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/ysb6wx6h>

#### Sun., Mar. 26

Christian Passover Meal 12:15 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/mr35wned>

#### Wed., Apr. 12

Indoor Spring Has Sprung Picnic 6:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/2b9ku8ry>

#### Sun., Apr. 23

Take Me Out to the Ballgame 12:15 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/5ey8bjtj>

#### Wed., May 10

Cinco De Mayo Times Two 6:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/yx5azwua>

#### Sun., May 28 or Jun. 4 (To Be Determined)

Confirmation Class Celebration 12:15 PM

We look forward to breaking bread together! Suggested donation for meals: \$7/adults, 3/child, \$20 max/family. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. Please RSVP by calling the office, sending an email, or, ideally, using the REALM app! Lee Thomas can help you set this up if you haven't already.

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class began Feb. 5 and they continue through Lent and into May, each Sunday following Worship in the Library. Over the course of their 4 month journey, they will learn about our distinct Methodist heritage, visit other faith communities, do service projects, and travel to Atlanta to visit significant social justice focused sites from the church's involvement in the Civil Rights movement.

Please contact Pastor Dustin for more information or to sponsor a lunch to keep hungry bodies and minds focused on learning about their relationships with God, neighbors, self, the world, Scripture, tradition, reason, experience, United Methodist history, other faiths, and much more! Confirmation is set for either **Sun., May 28** or **Sun., Jun. 4**, with a catered lunch to celebrate this big occasion! If you would like to help make this Pentecost Confirmation a special day, please contact Rev. Nancy.

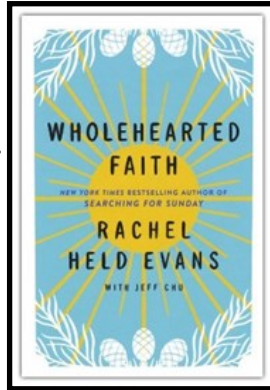


## TUESDAY MORNING DEVOTIONS

We're currently reading through one Psalm per week and reflection time with the pastors at Izzy's Coffeehouse, 975 Haywood Rd. - **7:45AM**.

## BOOK GROUP

Meeting at 11AM on the first and third Wednesdays each month, we will complete Rachel Held Evans' final book, finished posthumously by Jeff Chu, *Wholehearted Faith*. The reading schedule is: Mar. 1 - Ch. 12, "God Has Made A Home With Us", Mar. 15 - Ch. 13, "Loving Our Enemies", and a fifth Wednesday meeting, Mar. 29 - Ch. 14, "Dwelling in Sabbath" & Epilogue, "Telos." We will break until after Easter, resuming with a lunch meeting on Apr. 19. We are considering as our next read, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Let Rev. Nancy know if you have a suggestion.



## DEMENTIA PARTNERS

Dementia Partners: a support group led by Vernon & Joyce Robinson at **Scenic View Terrace Clubhouse at 60 Fallen Spruce Dr, Asheville, NC 28806**. For the month of March, they meet the first Thursday at 6PM and the third Saturday at 10AM. In April, they will go back to meeting the first and third Thursdays at 6PM.

## YOUTH NEWS

As shared, our Confirmation Class is planning a Social Justice focused trip to Atlanta April 21-23. Please contact Dustin for more information.

Also, Confirmation Sunday will be either May 28 or June 4 followed by a special Trinity Table to celebrate our confirmands. More details coming soon.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY NEWS

Throughout Lent, our church will be following a series called "Seeking". Each Sunday, our children will have special bulletins just for them and be "Seeking" during Children's Church.

Invite family and friends to our Annual **Easter**

**morning Egg Hunt and Breakfast, Apr. 9 at 9:45AM**. We will have plastic eggs available starting on Mar. 26. Please fill with nut free treats and return to the church by Apr. 1. Feel free to bring breakfast treats to share.

Is your family interested in going to camp this summer at **Camp Tekoa**? Registration is open at [www.camptekoa.org](http://www.camptekoa.org). Contact Reverend Nancy if you need assistance with scholarships or coordinating families attending the same week.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are excited to announce a joint **Vacation Bible School and Youth Week** will be July 17-21. Youth volunteers are needed from 8:45AM-12PM each morning for VBS. Then in the afternoons, youth will participate in a variety of mission and fellowship opportunities around town. Contact Anna Broome ([albroome04@gmail.com](mailto:albroome04@gmail.com)) for more information. **VBS registration will open on Easter Sunday!**



## MISSIONS

### MLK DAY FLASHBACK

Trinity got to participate in the MLK Day of Service at the Hood Huggers Peace Garden, helping to clean out layers of leaves and help reimagine an art installation around war and peace.



### LITTLE LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Have you seen our Little Library? It needs some attention and refilling. If you have any children's books, please feel free to donate at your convenience! It's empty because it's been very successful!



## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

### **2023 CONCERT SERIES**

At the fall Trinity Strategic Planning Team meeting, it was decided to offer a concert series at Trinity during 2023. The goal was to focus on a minimum of four concerts: one per quarter during the calendar year. Our hope is the congregation at Trinity will support this ministry and also share the word with your neighbors, friends, co-workers, family, and really anyone you come into contact with on daily basis. Music is a way to unite the community around us and bring those on the outside - IN! We have three of the four concerts slated: March—Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble, July—Patriotic Stan Kenton Concert, & December—Christmas Stan Kenton Concert. (Spring is yet to be determined.) Thanks to Kari Richmond and Patty Sands for being a part of the the planning team for this exciting ministry. If you would like to get involved, please see Lee Thomas, Director of Music.

### **2023 MARCH CONCERT**

#### **BEREA COLLEGE BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE**



**Tue., Mar. 7, 7PM, Sanctuary.** The concert is free. There will be a love offering collected to help offset the ensemble's tour cost. This ensemble provides students with the opportunity to improve their individual and collective musical skills through performing in a traditional bluegrass band format. The overall style and character of the ensemble will reflect the actual abilities and preferences of the

ongoing membership of the group. Under the direction of the instructor, students will actively participate in song selection and instrumental and vocal arrangements, thereby giving each member the authentic experience of performing in a working bluegrass band.

### **TRINITY VOCAL ENSEMBLE**

**Trinity Vocal Ensemble** has started back up **every Sunday from 9:45 - 10:15 AM** in the choir room. If you have or haven't sung in the recent past and would like to, please speak with Lee Thomas so he knows how many to prepare for.

### **TRINITY RINGERS**

**Trinity Handbells** has started on Wednesdays from 7 - 8PM most weeks. If you have or haven't rung in the recent past and would like to, please speak with Lee Thomas so he knows how many to prepare for. A reading knowledge of music is highly recommended for handbells.



## **TRINITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

### **TLC UPDATE**

Our Strategic Planning Team (open to anyone) will meet **Sat., Feb. 25** and **Sat., Mar. 18, 9AM - 12 Noon** for our next two planning session. Please RSVP to TLC Chair Laszlo Bujdoso or Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton.

### **NEXT TLC MEETINGS**

TLC next two meetings are on **Tue., Feb. 28** and **Tue., Mar. 28** at **6PM** in the Library and via Zoom. Please let Lee or Nancy know if you need the Zoom link emailed to you. Agenda for February meeting includes 2023 budget and end of year 2022 financials, updates from our Staff Parish Relations Committee's (SPRC) assessment process with Rev. Nancy, Calendar consideration through the summer, and updates on the special called Annual Conference for the WNC Conference in May. If you have an item for consideration on the agenda, please send it to



Laszlo Bujdosó or Nancy Walton **one week prior to meetings**. Contact Lee in the office if you need the Zoom link to attend virtually.

### STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Last autumn the Staff Parish Relations committee members were invited by the Conference to participate in an exercise in which we were asked to consider various aspects of ministry. Each of us was asked to select the top three categories which we would like Nancy, as our Senior Pastor, to concentrate on in 2023. We met on January 27 and were presented with the top three priorities as compiled by the Conference, based on the individual rankings by everyone who participated. We also considered the areas of ministry that our responses ranked as less important, or that could be done by someone other than the Pastor.

On Feb. 8, the group met again and Nancy presented an Action Plan based on the priorities, showing objectives and specific action to be taken during the year. The top three Ministry Priorities are as follows:

1. Providing Pastoral Care, which would include objectives such as increased visitation of and contact with Homebound members, and the Pastor's providing support to the pastoral care team.
2. Leading this Church to Accomplish Key Goals, which will involve Nancy's continuing to utilize the Strategic Planning Team and working to identify key goals through this group process. Some of these goals might include getting a new phone system and planning to celebrate Trinity's 175th Anniversary.
3. Acting as the Spiritual Leader of this Congregation, in which Nancy will lead from her strengths. These top strengths, as identified from the Gallup Strengths Finder Survey are Connectedness, Responsibility, Arranger, Consistency and Adaptability.

While these Ministry Priorities were identified with the Senior Pastor in mind, each of us has a part in accomplishing Trinity's ministry, and we look forward to seeing the ways in which every congregant's gifts and talents can work together to accomplish our purpose, which is to share the love of God, now and forever.

Thanks! Caroline & Melanie

### IMAGINEHUB

Trinity Leadership & Pastors are partnering with ImagineHub.

#### What is ImagineHub?

ImagineHub provides a learning network, training programs and support solutions for churches that desire to reimagine and deploy their space and resources as a means for improving economic empowerment in their community. The Mission - Equipping faith communities to build bridges into their community through creating pathways for equitable economic empowerment. Their Vision - A network of teams and environments for "spirit-filled collisions" of diverse people where innovation and entrepreneurship are nurtured, cultivated and harvested. The first ImagineHub sites launched in 2020 in under-utilized church spaces in the Piedmont Triad region of NC, and has grown to 25 sites in NC and FL. They are led by long-time UMC lay leader, Cindy Thompson.

#### Why ImagineHub?

Trinity is at an important crossroads, having already done some of this cross-pollinating work with our community and hope to use ImagineHub as a discernment process for future ministry innovation and entrepreneurship in cooperation with our strengths, membership and community.



## PASSAGES & CELEBRATIONS

### THANKSGIVINGS

- From Dustin and Nancy - Deep gratitude for all your expressions of love and support at the January Pastors' Appreciation Chicken Pie Lunch. Thank you for the cards, words, hugs, gifts, the Chicken Pie/ Trinity Table Team, and SPRC.
- From Dustin - Thanks for all the expressions of love, support, nourishment (thank you, Meal Train Team!) and comfort following his Feb. 7 knee surgery.
- We are grateful for the Jubilee JAMS shelter community for helping with set-up and participating in Christmas Day.



- HIGH appreciation and the Epiphany Light award to Paul Sprouse & Laszlo Bujdoso for setting up, taking down, and reassembling scaffolding FOUR times, also while moving pews, in order to change to dimmable, long-lasting LED lights in four of our Sanctuary chandeliers! It's made such a huge difference, and we appreciate their gift of time, talent, muscle, and courage!
- Gratitude to the Trinity Book Group for providing the evening meal at the Winter Shelter on Feb. 7!

### MEMORIAL GARDEN

Since the dedication and the name plate sign has been installed, the Memorial Garden is now ready. The church office has a form available to order the name plate for the loved one. The fee for the name plate is \$200. Please contact the church office for more information and to obtain the form.

### PRAYER LIST

Praise for the changing season; natural disasters; for the unemployed; the "others" in our community; for our city & county leaders; our state and national leaders, our church leaders, and all in positions of public trust.

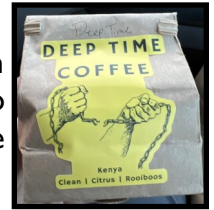
**For those in our congregation in need of God's healing:** Hal Alexander; Enoch Ball; Taylor Biggers; Oris Crout; Jimmy & Barbara Davis; Tony Hooker; Jennie Lynn Krichbaum; Jerry Lyda; Rev. Dustin Mailman; Betty & Bob Mull; Tom & Mary Ann Patelidas; Larry Scholtz; Maxine Schrader; Barbara Smith; Hal Starnes.

**For family members & friends of our congregation:** Lisa Boone (John & Janice Nelson's daughter); Dennis Carpenter (Cathie G. Carpenter's husband), Andrea Cook's cancer patients; Rebecca Dotson (Mary Ann Patelidas' great niece); Mary Long (Ruth Gaddy's sister); Tiffany Leger (Maxine Schrader's step great niece); Daryl Lyda (Betty Mull's son); Deb McCarson (Anne Cogburn's friend); Rev. Dr. L. C. Ray & Rev. Robbie Williams of One Youth at a Time; Denny Teal (Anne Cogburn's friend); Bobby & Sue Walton (Ellen Mitchell brother/sister-in-law); those struggling with mental illness & faith; unspoken joys & concerns.

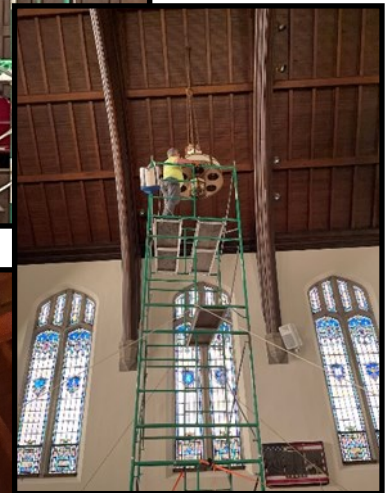
Please send your joys, requests & updates to the Church Office, [tumcnc@yahoo.com](mailto:tumcnc@yahoo.com) or call.

### DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

Did you know that Pastor Dustin is now roasting coffee!!? Want to learn more? He'd love to share more with you about it - just ask!



### I SAW THE LIGHT!





**587 Haywood Road  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-253-5471**

**What is our "why?"**

*We exist to share the love of God now and forever.*

**How will we behave?**

*We strive to be generous and courageous team members.*

**What will we do?**

*We will work together to build community by providing brave spaces and opportunities to gather, engage and serve.*

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**TRINITY TIMES**

**STAFF**

**Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton**  
Pastor

**Dustin Mailman**  
Associate Pastor  
of Family Ministries & Missions

**Lee Thomas**  
Office Administrator  
Director of Music Ministries

**Adam Waldo**  
Church Accompanist

**Wendy Leach Parker**  
Nursery Worker

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon. - Thu. 9:30AM - 2PM  
Fri. Church Office Closed  
828-253-5471 (Ext. 100)

**Google Emergency Contact #:  
828-490-7419**

Can't reach someone at church or  
after hours? Dial the number and  
state your name. It will ring the  
pastor or staff on call.

**EMAIL**

[info@TrinityWAVL.org](mailto:info@TrinityWAVL.org)

**WEBSITE**

[TrinityWAVL.org](http://TrinityWAVL.org)

**FACEBOOK PAGE**

Trinity United Methodist Church of  
Asheville

