

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Gathering
Welcome
Announcements and Prayer

Birthday Celebration

Prelude Laurie Knapp
(Prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

*Call to Worship
In beauty and mystery,
We see the face of God.
In the common and the ordinary,
We know the love of Christ.
In the song and in the embrace,
We share the joy of faith.
Gathered together,
We are the church singing praises to God.

*Opening Hymn 67
"We, Thy People, Praise Thee"

*Opening Prayer
God of Us All,
We gather in your name seeking your grace and your healing. Help us to remember that if we carry the name *Christian*, we are signs of your presence. Help us to believe that you receive us as we are. More than that, help us, imperfect though we are, to be carriers of the message of your love. We ask that you enter the lives of each one of us today, refreshing and renewing us with the power of your Spirit that we may live as your church and your people and your community, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Psalter 833
Psalm 112 with Response

*Affirmation of Faith 881
"The Apostles' Creed"

*Gloria Patri 70
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace: *Let us greet one another with love and peace.*

"Let the Children Come!" Patsy Boggs
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Anthem Choir

Scripture Lessons Pages 652-653 (O.T.)
Isaiah 58:1-12
1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Pages 157-158 (N.T.)

*Gospel Lesson Pages 10 (N.T.)
Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon Rev. Darlene L. Kelley
Shining Your Light

*Hymn of Invitation Rhett Hook & the Congregation
"This Little Light of Mine"

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory Laurie Knapp
*Doxology 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Celebration of The Great Thanksgiving 13

*Closing Hymn 411
"Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day"

*Benediction
*Benediction Response Choir & Congregation
"May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You"

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *Rev. Darlene L. Kelley* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
Pianist: *Laurie Knapp* AV Assistants: *Chris Derrick; Erin Derrick*
Time Together: *Patsy Boggs*

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning.

A Gift in Lieu of Flowers is given to the **Glory of God** and in celebration of **Mary Kamoroff's 88th birthday on February 7th, by Annie.**

"AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...

Marie Stiles	Marilyn Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Rhett Hook	Raleigh Carter	Christopher McCroskey
John Ballentine	Diane Muszynski	Ray Frady	Latson Lewis	English Percy	Jeanette Hornsby
Hannah Glanz	Hilda Edwards	Fran Laska	Kaye Floyd	Libby Strickland	Jan Stamps

Shut-Ins: Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch

Family and Friends: **Donna Eidson** (former Trinity pastor); **Ghent Brewer** (brother-in-law of Jeanette Hornsby); **Kim & Sandra Meetze** (friends of Martha Cooke); **Dave Griffin** (husband of Chantel Griffen); **Matt Imel** (husband of Holley Gleaton Imel); **Cayla Watters** (friend of Karen Carter); **Tommy Stokes** (nephew of Joyce Robinson); **Kati Flowers** (mother of friend of Blake Kamoroff); **Berry Cochran** (son-in-law of Charlyn McNeill); **Jim Lewis** (father of Mark Lewis); **Christina Lindemuth** (daughter of Karen Carter); **James Leonard** (previous coworker of Mark Lewis); **Kathleen Varnadore** (Ted & Ruth Frady's neighbor); **Paul Frenzel** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Sissy Henry** (former member of Trinity); **Keith James, Jay Clark** (friends of Darlene Kelley); **Sean & Tucker Smith** (cousins of Darlene Kelley); **Colby Martin** (son of Donna Muszynski); **Lynne Powell** (friend of the Ballentines and Branhams); **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); ; **Michael McNeill** (brother of Mary Sue Lewis); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Linda Allen, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd, Gwen Scott, Dana Ammer** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Nancy Wilson** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David & Kristen Turner** (brother and sister-in-law of Pam Turner); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 02/01 SS: N/A Worship: N/A

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 02/01 \$ N/A

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Souper Bowl Sunday
Birthday Celebration

02/09 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/10 Grieving with God, 11 a.m.
Office Closing at 1:30 p.m.

02/11 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

02/12 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/13 Office Closed

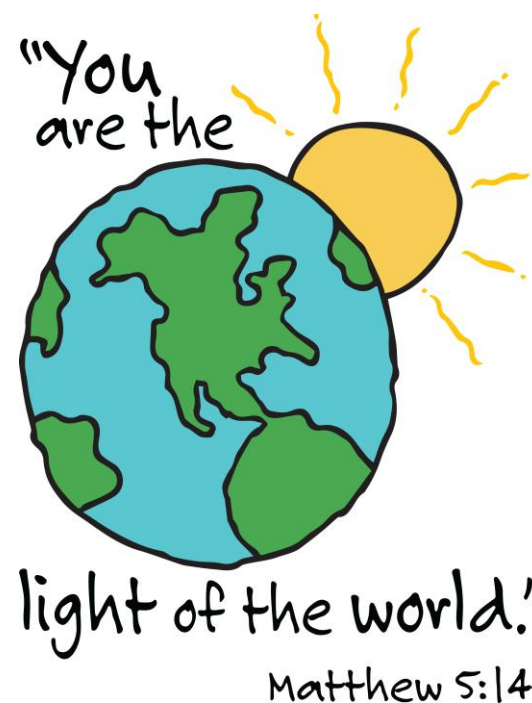


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
Darlene L. Kelley
Leonard Fairley
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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Souper Bowl Sunday



Sunday, February 8

Today the children and youth will be collecting donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. All monies collected will go to a local charity. Please give generously to help those less fortunate.



**Grieving with God
Tuesday, February 10**

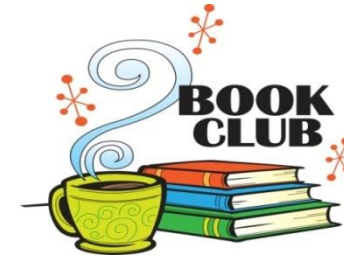
All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us on Tuesday, February 10, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, will facilitate the discussion.



SHROVE TUESDAY

**Pancakes to Ashes
Tuesday night, February 17
6 p.m.**

Join us for pancakes in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, February 17. After we enjoy our pancakes and the sun sets, we will join together in prayer and begin our Lenten celebration with an imposition of the ashes. Everyone is welcome. We may need some cooks & kitchen volunteers!



**Book Club Dinner
Friday, February 20
6:00 p.m.**

Join us for an opportunity to share a meal and time together as we discuss Father Richard Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ*. Our Book Club gatherings have been a great opportunity to grow personally and as a community. A meal will be provided, and we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. All you have to bring is an open mind and an open heart. Bring a friend and join us—even if all you've read is the title. What happens at Book Club stays at Book Club, and we hope to see you there!



**Columbia Community Concert Band's Winter Concert
February 22 at 4:00 PM
Airport High School Auditorium**

You're invited to join us for the sweet sounds of the CCCB as we present our winter concert on Sunday, February 22, at 4 PM in the Auditorium at Airport High School, 1315 Boston Avenue in West Columbia. From a special arrangement of Amazing Grace to the songs of Neil Diamond, the theme music from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, the rousing Sousa marches and so much more, there's music for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Trinity UMC
February 8, 2026
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Shining Your Light

I am grateful because during the last few months, I've had some lovely opportunities. First, I got invited to lunch with the Monks, and I got to pet their dog, Aloka. I learned a lot just watching the Monks for a short period of time.

Then this week, I went to the Bishop's School of Ministry and saw one of my heroes, Adam Hamilton. I feel like God's been giving me lots of opportunities, and I appreciate those.

During the Monk's visit I witnessed a level of discipline I am not used to seeing in my own tradition. Many of us are not good at meditating and reading Scripture daily and taking care of ourselves mind, body and spirit. We have trouble staying quiet especially in our loud and immediately gratifying world. We are addicted to social media. We get our information in bites. We are busy people after all. The Monks moved with a quiet stillness I fear we have not mastered in the West.

So, after watching the Monks, I have been haunted by my own sins on Lent's horizon. Perhaps, I can learn to sit longer, quieter, practicing the spiritual disciplines I preach. *They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous* (Psalm 112:4). You don't become gracious, merciful and righteous without working on it.

Though the energy may be different, Adam Hamilton shares a disciplined and hard working spirit with the Monks. Pastor of the largest United Methodist Church in the US, Hamilton has served Resurrection UMC in Kansas for the past 36 years. He also captivated the crowd. Just like the Monks, Hamilton was a big draw. I wrote a story about him for the Advocate that I'm hoping may be published next month. I want to share a piece from the article:

"Our purpose is to build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians". Hamilton shared his church's mission statement and spoke emotionally of the deep significance the statement makes.

“Our purpose is to build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians”.

Staff members memorize the statement, and it is hanging over all the doors in the church. I venture to say most of the pastors present in the room began to think about their own church’s mission statement or lack thereof or where one might be or didn’t I see one somewhere?

From mission to membership, Hamilton spoke of the requirements for joining them in Kansas and how commitment and effective follow-up helped his church grow.

Hamilton listed the commitments necessary to become part of the congregation, the expectations placed on folks who want to become official members of the Resurrection UMC family, and they include: worship on Sunday, prayer at least 5 times a day, 5 verses of Scripture a day, service at least once a year and giving a tithe which includes generosity to others, and bearing witness to your faith. Hamilton made us realize we shouldn’t be afraid of asking too much of our people. We should fear asking too little.

Hamilton’s presentation made me think. It inspired me to ask what we might be capable of here. Lent is the perfect season to ask yourself if you are doing too much or too little in your faith journey.

Prayer five times a day seems like a lot, but when you pray in the morning when you rise, breakfast, lunch, dinner and then when you go to bed, Hamilton explained that prayer five times a day is not a burden at all. It’s natural.

And how many of us read five verses of Scripture daily? Or make a commitment to go to church every week? Discipline and commitment are written into the program at Hamilton’s church, and it seems to have worked in their favor. I wonder if we ask too little of ourselves when it comes to our relationship with God? I wonder if the church expects too little.

In a short time, we will be joining together in communion. And I hope you can take a moment to invite God into your life in a new and committed way.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

As we prepare for Lent, let’s start asking some of the tough questions.

Fredrick Buechner wrote a powerful piece about the tough questions of Lent. I want to end with it this morning. Buechner writes:

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness, where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world or any cause that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are, but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.¹

Amen.

Will you pray with me?

God of Love,

We surrender to your will. Prepare our hearts and minds and spirits and lead us into Lent that we might be gracious, merciful and righteous in all that we do and all that we are.

Amen.

¹Frederick Buechner, originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*, fredrickbuechner.com; online resource.