



A look ahead at our Lent service schedule:

Ash Wednesday 2/22, 7:00 pm

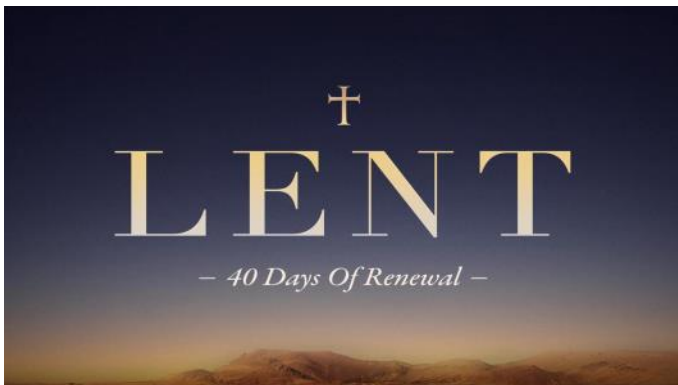
Weekly Wednesday Night Services 7:00 pm  
(3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29)

Palm Sunday Service 4/2, 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday 4/6, 7:00 pm

Good Friday 4/7, 7:00 pm

Easter Morning Service 4/9, 9:00 am





Dear Siblings in Christ,

We enter this month of February with a big step forward in the Trinity UMC process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church.

It was on Sunday, January 29, 2023, that the disaffiliation vote took place at Lomira Trinity UMC, led by DS Park Hunter. Two members of the Wisconsin Conference Disaffiliation Team were present: Rev. Eliud Martinez from Fond du Lac Salem UMC and Rev. Diane Rew from Green Bay St. Paul's UMC.

With 94 professing members voting, Lomira Trinity UMC had a 95% vote in favor of Disaffiliation from the UMC. 89 member voted for disaffiliating from the UMC and 5 members against. Our professing membership list has 235 names on it. So, why am I starting this article giving this information while we have a Trinity disaffiliation taskforce which is supposed to do it?

It's because times like this are not easy to handle by church members and even by pastors because they can easily affect the relationships among them.

The truth is we had people who voted for and others against disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church, and others did not even vote we don't know why. So, how can we discern times like this while transitioning as we are expecting a change at Trinity UMC? As your Pastor, I give the advice below:

#### Prayer

It should go without saying that pastors should be praying. In fact, that should go without saying for anyone who is a Christian. We even learned in Sunday School as kids in a song. I am writing it in French then I will try give you the meaning in English,

*"Lis ta Bible, prie chaque jour, prie chaque, prie chaque jour, lis ta Bible, prie chaque jour si tu veux grandir..."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9VBKlgm8Hs>

This little song means in English, *"Read your Bible and pray every day if you want to grow."* Remember growth is a part of our vision statement at Trinity UMC. How many of us really take the time to pray through everything? A prayer and submitting to the Lord's direction are highly needed in time like this.

#### Relying on the Holy Spirit

Too often, we rely on our own intelligence, wisdom, commitment, self-confidence, self-esteem in all our accomplishments. We try to admire the cover of our books but not the contents in them. The Holy Spirit, however, calls us away from that. He makes us fully dependent on God. He gives us the exact mind of Christ, which brings discernment into situations that we could not gain on our own. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit also gives us the power to act as Jesus would. Without the Holy Spirit's activity in our life, and our submission to His activity, we can't go anywhere.

The truth is Trinity United Methodist Church will be a subject to many changes but remember that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will remain the same. And the word of God will remain the same. What will continue to keep us united as brothers and sisters in Christ is the Word of God found in the Holy Bible. Change involves more than the eye can perceive at first glance. Change is moving to something different and within each change, one or more transitions are continually taking place. A new way of being, a new way of experiencing life, a new way of handling what comes next...

As we are transitioning from one point to another one, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to help us in our work to view the changes in our lives, our families, our communities, in our worship, in our church, and in the world, as new ways of being.

From my own experience, I would like to finish by sharing with you that none of the above advice will keep us from experiencing difficulty. We are still human, and although we have been set free from the power of sin and have been given the Holy Spirit, there will be times we will make mistakes. When we deal with other humans there will be difficulty,



misunderstanding, hurt feelings, anger, bitterness, resentment, etc. It is my hope that whenever this happens, remembering the advice given above will help us navigate through that. All we need is to demonstrate humility and listen for what God is saying to us in those times, and then applying what He is saying and leading us to do.

So, February is the month leading us into the season of Lent, a time to focus on our relationships with God and others in a disciplined way. Too easily we become distracted or burdened by the demands laid upon our shoulders by our jobs, our families, other people, and other circumstances. We need to remember that this year, on top of our routines and daily burdens, Trinity UMC has task to accomplish the disaffiliation process all of its implications that can affect our relationship with God and with each other.

From your pastor’s heart,  
Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo



WESLEYAN/METHODIST DENOMINATIONAL COMPARISON							
Denomination	Doctrine	Trust Clause	Bishops	Clergy Appt.	Apportionments	Size	History
United Methodist	Wesleyan, lack of accountability	Yes, local church holds property for conference	Elected for life	Yearly appointed by bishop/DS, some congregational input	7-15 percent of budget (varies by annual conference)	13 million members globally, 6.2 million in U.S., 30,000 churches (2020)	Founded 1968, merger of predecessor denominations founded in 1784, 1800, and 1803
Global Methodist	Wesleyan, adds Nicene and Apostles Creed, More robust accountability	No	Elected for a term (TBD at Convening GC) Likely 12-year limit	Appointed by bishop/DS, more congregational input, possible congregational search	2 percent of operating income, with a 6.5 percent cap	Projected 2,400 to 4,000 churches, 240,000 to 400,000 members in U.S. (2024)	Founded 2022
Free Methodist	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference; property transferring in is exempt	Elected to 4-year terms, re-electable	Appointed by Ministerial Appointments Committee chaired by bishop	10-13 percent of previous year's income	77,000 members in U.S., 1,050 churches (2015)	Founded 1860, issues were abolishing slavery and eliminating pew rent
Wesleyan	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference	One General Superintendent, 4-year term, re-electable	Congregational call system	11 percent of income	125,000 members, 1,500 churches in U.S. (2019)	Founded 1843, issue was abolishing slavery
Nazarene	Wesleyan	Yes, local church holds property for conference	Six General Superintendents, 4-year terms, re-electable	Congregational call system	15 percent of income, includes pastor's retirement	637,000 members, 5,280 churches in U.S. (2016)	Founded 1908, issue was focus on holiness
Congregational Methodist	Wesleyan	No	One president, minimal authority	Congregational call system	Decided by local church	15,000 members, 150 churches in U.S.	Founded 1852, issue was congregational government

## Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church

Questions! Questions! We have so many questions!

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, we crossed one big hurdle in the disaffiliation process. 94 professing members of Trinity Church voted with 95% voting to proceed with disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. We know that this has been a difficult conversation for our church family, with tensions high at times, and friendships tested. Please continue to pray for each other for healing and discernment as we move forward.

Our next questions for us to discuss are:

What is our future mission and vision for our church?

What denomination do we want to align with?

What will our new church name be?

How will we pay for the disaffiliation fees?

The Disaffiliation Task Force will be meeting this week, Feb 1, and the Administrative Council will also meet next week, Feb. 8. We will start the discussion of these issues, and develop a plan to guide our congregation in making these decisions. Please join us for a **congregational meeting after our worship service on February 12<sup>th</sup>** to give your input. Please also put some thought into the above questions before Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

We will have copies of articles to read to help you digest the information. One of these articles is available on-line now, if you want to get started:

[Considering Methodist Options - Good News Magazine](#), an article written by Tom Lambrecht, found on the Good News Magazine website, dated 12-9-2022. It is comprehensive review of many aspects of a denomination: doctrine, trust clauses, bishops, clergy appointment, denomination financial support, denominational size and history. A chart comparing the various Methodist options is included in the article and is also included this newsletter. Paper copies of each will be available starting Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

We have heard from many people that they would like to retain “Trinity” in our new church name, because of its long history, and it’s connection to the joining together of three churches. Think about what would make our name unique, or what would tell the community that we have changed the direction of our church? Trinity \_\_\_\_\_?

Regarding the disaffiliation fees, we were very pleased to learn that the amount we are expected to pay was lowered by about 30%, to \$165,000. It is not the final amount but we would not expect it to be much different, as long as the economy is in this slump! We have a commitment from Theresa State Bank to allow us to put this amount on our line of credit. We will be asking everyone in our church family to consider how they can sacrificially give in order to pay this off, even over and above what you are regularly giving to support the ministry of the church.

Please prayerfully consider all that is still before us. Please pray for your church leadership as they discern how to guide our church in the next year. Put thought into the questions mentioned above, and write down your own questions for our Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Finally, please pray for Pastor Mulongo as he ministers to us and wrestles with us in these decisions.

Pam Wellso

# **STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE OFFERING**

It's been a while since I wrote you all last. Since we just finished the 2022 year, I thought I would get everyone up to date with where our church finished 2022 Financially. We took in \$7,569 in Christmas Offerings. Thank you so much for your gifts towards this. The SF team has decided again to take 10% of the Christmas Offerings and put the towards different ministries in the church. Overall, we finished the year with a \$23,771 deficit which was around \$3,700 more than last year. This means we were not able to fully give apportionments to the UMC again in 2022 as that total is \$39,996. For 2022 we averaged a weekly giving from 30 families of our possible 147 families in the church and we took in on average \$3,622 per week.

Some other update information: the replacement windows in the fellowship hall are on order and will be installed in Spring. These totaled \$3,500 in costs and the church has a \$1,000 insurance deductible to pay to replace those windows. Currently the balance of the A/C units is at \$32,672 as of the end of December.

As we are early in 2023 the SF committee wants you to think of your church each week and the needs we have. Think of how you can contribute, review your year-end statements and ladder chart when you receive them and determine how you can better serve the Lord through your tithes and offerings at Trinity. How can you improve on your current giving status. I want to leave you with a verse that I think reads as a mission statement of any church. How can we work together to accomplish this.

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. – 1 Timothy 6:17-19*  
NLT

SF Committee Chair  
Josh Marschie





## Cemetery Lots

Cemetery lots are available in three area cemeteries that are coordinated through our church. These cemeteries were on the properties of churches that eventually closed and combined to form the current Trinity United Methodist Church.

- Salem Cemetery - The corner of Highway 67 and Third Street. 1070 Church Street in the Village of Lomira.
- Ebenezer Cemetery - The corner of County KK and Butternut Road. Northeast of Lomira in the Township of Lomira.
- Emanuel Cemetery - Corner of County Y and County AY (Lomira Drive and County AY). West of Lomira in the Township of Lomira.
- Trinity Woods Memorial-Corner of Highway 67 and East Avenue. Behind the church

Trinity United Methodist Cemeteries Associated is the group that maintains the three cemeteries: Salem Cemetery, Ebenezer Cemetery And Emanuel Cemetery.

There is a Trustees Board composed of nine persons who care for the cemetery property and related business. There are multiple representatives for each cemetery.

Lots are available to all members and non-members at all cemeteries. Human remains only. Above ground monuments only. NO shrubs or trees are allowed on lots. To keep the cemetery clean, all flowers and memorials should be placed in vases or on top of the monument.

Deeds are presented with each lot after full payment.

One body burial and one cremated human remains will be allowed on a single lot. Or, two cremated human remains will be allowed on a single lot. Each burial must pay the perpetual care fee. Perpetual care fees are used to maintain all three cemeteries including lawn mowing, snow removal, and planting grass. Family members are responsible for stone maintenance.

You can reserve your lot in any of our three cemeteries now. You can reserve a lot for you and your family members. We have lots available in all three cemeteries and can accommodate multiple lots together.

## Members:

Lots: \$500

Perpetual Care: \$1000

Non Members:

Lots: \$1,000

Perpetual Care: \$2,000

Trinity Wood Memorial ashes distribution \$100.00 per person with no marker plus engraving price for memorial plaque.

Each burial must pay the perpetual care fee. Perpetual care fees are used to maintain all three cemeteries.

To place an urn (cremated remains), please contact one of the committee members.

Each urn requires perpetual care.

If a member of the Trinity United Methodist Cemeteries Associated digs and buries the urn, there is a \$100 fee per urn.

Contact the person for each cemetery or you may send an email to the Trinity United Methodist Church office. Please note the office is only staffed a few hours during the week.

Trinity United Methodist Cemeteries Associated, 300 Church Street Lomira, Wi 53048

### List of Cemetery Members:

Chairman - Doug Kiehnau 920-948-7045

Vice Chairman - Jason Ehlert 920-922-0361

Secretary - Glen Wellso 920-979-2071

Treasurer - Bridget Thorn 920-904-6392

## Contact Information

### Salem Cemetery:

- Douglas Kiehnau 920-948-7045
- Jeff Luedtke 920-948-5688
- Wade Beck 920-960-9203

- Douglas Kiehnau 920-948-7045

- Jeff Luedtke 920-948-5688

- Wade Beck 920-960-9203

## Ebenezer Cemetery:

- Wayne Flury 920-517-1296

- Jan Guell 920-948-9410

- Dan Michels 920-960-3507

- Jason Ehlert 920-922-0361

# Emanuel Cemetery

- Glen Wellso 920-979-2071

- Jeff Faber 920-269-2107



# YOUNG AT HEART Sunday



Mark your calendars for our Young at Heart Sunday. February 12th, the Sunday School kids will sing for us during service that day.



Women's Bible Study will be restarting on February 2! Thursday nights, 6:30 p.m. Fireside Room. We'll be reading the book, The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today, by Shannon Bream. (You may have seen her as an anchor for Fox News.) There will be a sign up in the Coffee Connections Room starting January 8th. We will have a Zoom link for snowbirds and snow days!



Mug, Muffin and Craft! Feb. 18 & March 18 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Bring 6 muffins to share, store-bought is ok! Donuts are okay, too! We'll have the coffee pot and hot water ready. Bring a friend and a craft to work on, or learn a new craft! A great time for women to fellowship, share our burdens and get to



## TUMC Prayer Concerns

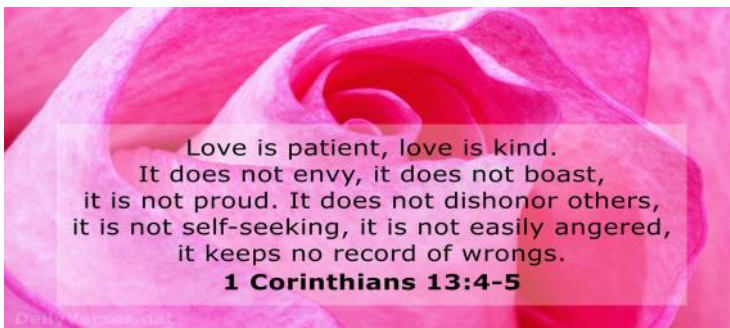
- **Family of Abby Sauer** 1/20
- **Corey Rubusch** hodgkins lymphoma 1/26
- **Dan Michels** various health issues 1/22
- **Lucy Jewson** (Victor's Sister) had a stroke, doing well now 1/22
- **Katie Schwanke** surgery 1/18
- **Dan Stephany** heart failure 1/12
- **Had Johnson** recovering from fall/broken collarbone 1/8
- **Paul Penning** (friend of Gene Junger) health issues 1/5
- **Dorothy Hake** health issues 12/21
- **David Menzer** (Fred's Brother) recovering from pneumonia 12/20
- **Gia DelPonte** 3 year old recovering from brain surgery 12/4
- **Janice Volbright** going through chemo, doing well 11/20
- **Kay Lindberg** in hospice care 11/20
- **Mike Skelton** Parkinson's and other health issues 11/20
- **Carol Lieungh** (Augie and Andi's neighbor) brain cancer 8/21
- **Ellen Doornbos** (fiancé of Jungers grandson) leukemia, starting chemo 5/25
- **Mary Brandt** bladder cancer 5/1

TUMC will be hosting a Blood Bank on Monday February 6th, starting at noon. You can sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carissa Backhaus
- Judy Schraufnagel
- 2 Emily Batterman
- 3 Emily Schwanke
- 4 Peter Buske
- Mike Sacotte
- 6 Judy Lerch
- 7 Zachary Dewhurst
- 10 Skylyr Thorn
- Cynthia Bryant
- Aricka Ullius
- Ryan Ullius
- Catrina Rambousek
- 11 Sharon Germain
- 17 Debbie
- Bintzler-Oestreich
- Tori Beck
- 18 Joel Menzer
- 20 Bill Buske
- Vickie Renderman
- 21 Cathy Wetzel
- 22 Jonathan Luedtke
- 23 Gene Junger
- 25 William Beck
- 27 Glenn Eichstedt
- 28 Doug Kindschuh
- Will Jewson
- Finley Sacotte
- Marley Sacotte
- 29 Deb Janke



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Tom and Syd Henke
- 20 Kevin and Jenna Rhein
- 27 Todd and Lori Klein

### Golden Club

**Judy Schraufnagel turns 82 on 2/1 and Gene Junger turns 92 on 2/23!**

Judy Schraufnagel

Gene Junger

1202 Maple Street

P. O. Box 385

Lomira WI 53048

Brownsville WI 53006

**Lets send them lots of Happy Birthday wishes!**

## February 2022 TUMC-Lomira

### Online Services 9:00 AM

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon	2 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6 12:00 pm Blood Bank	7 6:00 pm Bible Study	8 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon	9 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 11 10:00 am Food Pantry
12 Young At Heart Service	13	14 Valentines Day 6:00 pm Bible Study 	15 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon	16 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 18 9:00 am Mug and Muffin
19	20	21 6:00 pm Bible Study	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 25 10:00 am Food Pantry
26	27	28			



**Mulongo Mpoyo, Pastor**

**Church Office: (920) 269-4411**

**Cell (414) 690-5796**

**Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 9AM-1PM**

**Or by Appointment**

**Email:**

**revmpoyomm@yahoo.fr**

**churchofficetumc@gmail.com**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**9:00 AM**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tues-Thur 9AM-1PM**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
300 Church Street  
Lomira, WI 53048  
*Return Service Requested***