



A Publication of Trinity United Methodist Church

In Touch

Volume 65

JANUARY NEWS + 2 January 2026

I hope everyone had a happy and warm Christmas and New Year! It's hard to believe that 2025 is over and we're into the new year! 2025 was quite a year, and I wanted to highlight a few of the many wonderful things that have happened.

We started off the year with the Consecration Anniversary Service, recreating and adapting the original order of worship used for the consecration of the sanctuary in 1965. Despite the cold winter weather, we had a great turnout, enjoyed a wonder chicken potluck dinner together, and also dedicated the new sanctuary organ with a blessing and a recital.

In April, we had our annual Palm Sunday cantata, dedicated in loving memory to Helen Gregg, who created stunning visual media and creative camerawork for the cantata for many years before her passing.

We continue to enjoy the time and talents of our worship band at the 9:50 worship service, led by Stuart Eshleman. If you haven't heard the full ensemble rock out, stop by the 9:50 service sometime - you won't be disappointed!

During the summer, we turned our focus to Vacation Bible School, where music plays an important and fun role. There is nothing like cranking the sound system up to 11 and hearing all the people (both big and little) sing and dance their hearts out to songs like "On the Road with God", "Manna in the Morning", and "Even When the Lions Roar." It warms my heart to see everyone singing and dancing together.

The fall kicked off with the Folk Choir and Chancel Choir beginning rehearsal for their musical offerings, and we started two new ensembles! The Handbells and the Children's Choir. Currently, the bells and the children's choir are seasonal, lining up with Christmas and Easter this first year. We just finished up the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Pageant in early December - what incredibly moving services! I'm always amazed about how the community comes together to offer some really important worship to the area.

I am incredibly blessed to work here at Trinity - I'm in the middle of my sixth year on the church staff. I couldn't do this work without the faithful volunteers from the congregation that make it all happen. Trinity is such a special place - we have over 100 people involved in the choirs, orchestra, band, handbells, and children's choir. There are also people who have volunteered to sing or run tech for funerals, which is a vital service to the families we serve. I also need to mention the behind-the-scenes people - our music librarians and tech booth volunteers! None of this would happen without all of you. Thank you for offering your time, talents, and treasures to the church. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I am excited for the music ministry in 2026 - if you are interested in joining us in any of our ensembles, please let me know and we'll get you connected!

Many blessings on your new year, and see you around!

Tyler

Chelsea Shrack Bell chelsea@triumc.org Pastor

Christmas Caroling Extravaganza Success

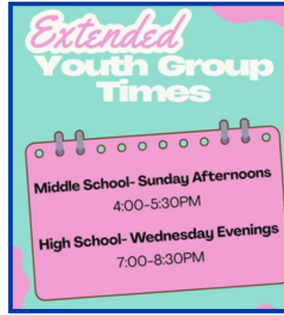
The TUMC Congregational Care Team's 'Caroling Extravaganza' was a blast! We visited friends at Eaglecrest, Presbyterian Manor, and Reflections. We had 44 carolers (and musicians), of all ages, from Trinity UMC, University UMC, and Church of the Cross! A special thanks to Anne Hoekstra for organizing the music and to the folk choir musicians for their beautiful accompaniment. Thank you to all who came and helped spread some Christmas cheer!



Kylee Gragg

Director of Youth & Intern Ministries

kylee@triumc.org



Walking into Walmart with 25 kids and eight adults is bound to turn some heads. As we entered, a gentleman who had just finished his grocery shopping kept asking who was in charge and what we were doing. I shared that our youth group had raised money and were purchasing toys for 92 children in foster care through Saint Francis. He was surprised and deeply grateful for the wonderful things these kids are doing. He reached into his wallet, pulled out a \$100 bill, and said, "Do some extra shopping for those kiddos." WOW! What a beautiful and unexpected moment.



Our youth raised and received donations that allowed us to do all this Christmas shopping. In total, we raised an incredible \$1,784. This is such a special project and one we all look forward to every year. We wrapped up the day with a lock-in here at the church, which made for a fun and meaningful night for everyone.

This project is a beautiful example of our youth living out Christ's love through generosity and service. We are so grateful for a congregation that continually supports and encourages our young people as they grow in faith and compassion.

During finals week, I also had the chance to feed our interns dinner at Chick-fil-A and treat them to homemade cookies for some extra luck on their finals. It is such a blessing to walk alongside these students during their college years and beyond.

A special thank you to those who helped make the lock-in and shopping trip successful: Melanie Allison, Chris Comeau, Kylee Comeau, Jason Gragg, Allison Hiatt, Libby Lorensen, Kelly Mobray, Sharon Nowak, Ali Riekhof, Leah Wilson.

Your continued prayers, encouragement, and support make opportunities like this possible, and we invite you to continue walking alongside our youth as they serve, learn, and lead together.



Marilla Colson

Communications
marilla@triumc.org

Enjoying the holiday spirit!



Cooper, Marilla, & JR



Crown Center, KC



Santa @ YMCA



Salina Running Group



Christmas Cookie Bakers

Tuesday Morning Bible Study wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!



**Tuesday afternoon
Advent Bible study
with Pastor Chelsea**



Holiday Activities



Cantata Sunday, Dec. 14



Christmas Eve Fun!



Morea Charvat

Missions

Missions Auction Update: The Missions committee has had a very very busy month! We'd like to thank the Trinity congregation for all of their support! Our silent auction was a huge success this year! We made a record-breaking \$6,150!! This is our only fundraiser, so we are most appreciative of everybody's generosity-both with items donated and in your bidding!

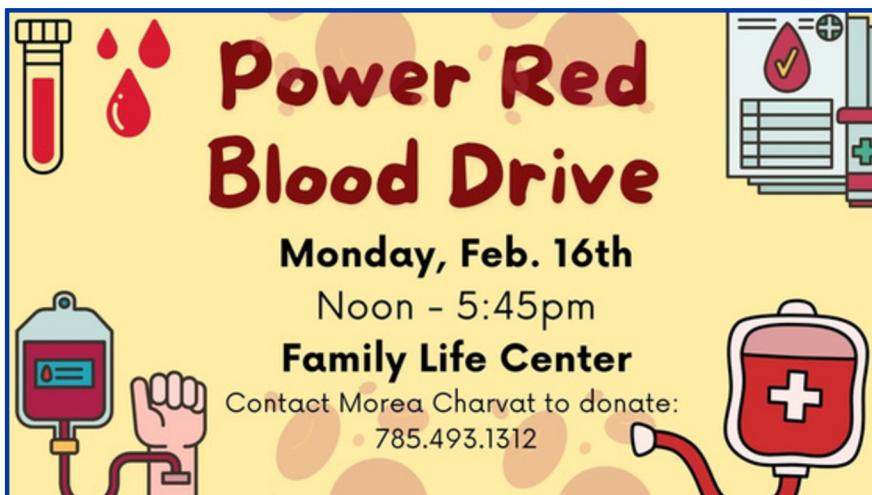
Salina Food Bank Update: The Christmas collection for food for the food bank was also a great success! We bagged up and delivered to the food bank 101 bags of food! A worker from the food bank had just told one of our committee members, Cheryl Mitchell, that the food bank was out of food and they didn't know what they were going to do for their clients for Christmas. Cheryl told them Trinity was collecting food and to hold off on doing anything until the food bags came in. Like superheroes, we arrived with all of our bags of food and their problem was solved!!

Angel Tree Update: Rita Johnson and Jan Johannes delivered 23 presents to Child Advocacy and Parenting Services from our Angel tree!

Blood Drive: We had another great blood drive thanks to Lori Blake, Mary Lou McKenzie and Eunice Gary. What a wonderful gift our blood donors gave! Lives changed and saved!! Our next drive, which is a power red, is Monday, February 16, 2026.

Salina Grace: We have continued to pack up 1-gallon bags of non-perishable food items for Salina Grace every five weeks. This is a mission we will continue in 2026.

The Missions committee wishes everyone a happy, healthy, and blessed 2026! We appreciate our partnership with you, our congregation!



*Top right picture: some of the Missions committee with the trucks loaded with food to take to the food bank.
Bottom right picture: food delivered to the food bank.*

Church Activities



Boys & Girls Club Advent Collection

Our thanks to everyone who donated to our advent project- The Boys and Girls Club of Salina! We will be updating the congregation on how much money was donated and how much money will be matched by an anonymous donor!! Very exciting times coming for our community! *Morea Charvat, Missions*



Lori Blake

Finance
lori@triumc.org / 785.822.4677

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE through 11/30/2025

	Jan - Nov 2025	Jan - Dec 2025	Over/Under Budget	Jan - Nov 2024	Jan - Dec 2024	Jan - Dec 2024	Over/Under Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund Giving	\$ 546,067.55	\$ 632,476.79	\$ (86,409.24)	\$ 538,564.88	\$ 603,030.15	\$ 650,300.00	\$ (47,269.85)
Operating Expenses	\$ 618,260.12	\$ 632,190.76	\$ (13,930.64)	\$ 613,148.88	\$ 662,626.30	\$ 663,172.78	\$ (546.48)
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (72,192.57)	\$ 286.03	\$ (72,478.60)	\$ (74,584.00)	\$ (59,596.15)	\$ (12,872.78)	\$ (46,723.37)
Building Fund Giving	\$ 145,936.23	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (104,063.77)	\$ 388,058.74	\$ 425,247.41	\$ 105,600.00	\$ 319,647.41
Building Fund Loan Payments(Prin & Interest)	\$ 145,936.23	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (104,063.77)	\$ 388,058.74	\$ 380,460.00	\$ 124,050.00	\$ 256,410.00
Net Building Fund Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,787.41	\$ (18,450.00)	\$ 63,237.41

As of 12/30/25, there have been 145 pledges received from families for the 2026 budget year. With fewer pledges, there will be some cuts coming. Finance Committee is reviewing the budget today to submit our plan for the coming year. If we haven't heard from you, it isn't too late to impact our work to share God's love in Salina and the world through our sharing of the financial resources we've been blessed to steward.

Lori Blake
785-822-4677

Lori Blake, Treasurer
lori@triumc.org

Church Activities

Pastoral Care

Pastor, Eric Meyer: 479.426.8411

Pastor, Chelsea Shrack: 620.546.6059

Pastoral Care Concern, contact church office: 785.825.5270

Prayers

Short-Term

Barb Bell
Kaiden Comeau
Janet DuBois
Larkin French
Rich French
Dirk Hutchinson
Chad Knobloch
Janice Scott
The Family of Phil Shrack
Jim Waters & Family

Long-Term

Bonnie Baldwin
Beth Berridge
Hud Chapin
Cort Collins
Steve Daily
Pam Emig
Hilma Demaree
Michele Gant
Richard Howeth
Eli Jackson
Sandy Jones
Ronnie Knott
Juanita Masko
[Rochelle Masterson
(Culley)]
Jimmy Joe Patterson
Don Peterson
Lindsey Pratt
Mark Turner
Denny Wahlgren
Thaine Weber

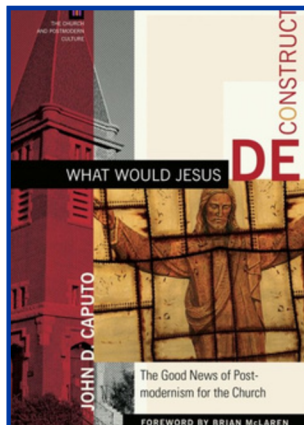
Prayer Update:

*Darrel Dees' mother,
Kay Dees, passed away.
*Chelsea Shrack's uncle,
Phil Shrack, passed
away.
*Former church member,
Dennis Ade, passed away
on December 6, 2025.
*Elaine Ferguson's dad,
Galen Case, passed
away.

UMW Christmas Party, Dec. 15



January Bible Study led by Pastor Eric



**Bible Study,
What Would
Jesus
DeConstruct
led by
Pastor Eric**

**Wednesdays,
at 6pm.
Jan. 7 - Feb. 11,
Room 1**

John Caputo wants nothing less than to confront us with a Jesus who resists all our domestications. In and through humor that will have you laughing out loud, Caputo is dead serious. Here is a book in the tradition of John the Baptist, out to make way for a Messiah who, when he shows up, will ruin all our parties. And so Caputo invites us to ask: What would happen if Jesus showed up in Colorado Springs? Or slowly made his way down the aisle on "Justice Sunday" in Kansas? What would Jesus deconstruct if he made an appearance at the denominational offices of the Southern Baptist Convention, or, on the other end, the Episcopal Church in the USA?

Caputo leaves us with a question that's still alive when we finish: it is a haunting, prophetic question. And he convinces us that we will best serve Jesus's coming kingdom by never ceasing to ask the question.

Wednesdays, 6pm. January 7th thru February 11th. Room 1.



Prayer Team: The Trinity Prayer Team is a group of people who commit to come to the church once a week to pray for those listed on the Prayer Request Cards (but not cards for pastors only). We also pray for God's work in Love in Trinity, our city, state, country and world. If you feel the call to pray for God's work, contact Sandy Ward, 785.823.2081. She will be glad to give you information.

Painting Class with Barb Culley



Barb Culley shared her time and talent on December 7th, teaching her students how to paint a Christmas snowy tree with red bird. If you would like to take a class with Barb reach out to her directly or look for information in our Church Bulletins.



Women of the Word

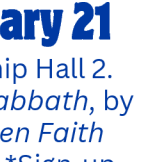
Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00am
Fellowship Hall 2

Beginning January 21, 2026

\$12 1) Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath, Priscilla Shiner

\$22 2) Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight, Jennifer Rothschild

*Look for sign-up sheets outside the Worship areas.



Grief Group to return in January

Grief Recovery Method sponsored by CAPS begins January 8. Scan the QR code located outside our Worship Centers and on our bulletin board or to register call 785.825.4493. For more info go to: capsosalina.org/parenting-classes 15 spaces available.

TRINITY United Methodist Church

CAPS

Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

For almost 50 years, The Grief Recovery Method has helped thousands of people worldwide. As an evidenced based program, there is a good chance The Grief Recovery Method can do the same for you.

Grief Recovery Specialist Rex Cearley, will present The Grief Recovery Method in a small group format at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Grief Recovery Method is an action based curriculum created to assist adults in processing death, divorce, moving, financial change, health change, relationship changes and on and on... Grief is the result of unmet hopes, dreams and expectations and the loss of concepts such as safety, trust, security, faith, and hope.

Class sign up limit is 15.

On site daycare will be provided for children 2 weeks old - 10 years old.

Preregistration required for class and daycare.

For more information, or to register, visit capsosalina.org/parenting-classes or call (785)825-4493.

Scan to Sign Up

REX CEARLEY, MS

Grief Recovery Method Specialist

Co-Founder, The Grief Recovery Institute

Copyrights/ Trademarks ©1995 Present, Grief Recovery Institute®, John W. James and Russell P. Friedman. All Grief Recovery Institute® related copyrights/trademarks are owned by The Grief Recovery Institute, John W. James and Russell P. Friedman, including but not limited to: The Grief Recovery Institute®, The Grief Recovery Method®, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist®, Grief Recovery® and AMM®. All rights reserved.

Woman of the Word to begin January 21

Join us on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00am in Fellowship Hall 2. Beginning January 21, *Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath*, by Priscilla Shiner, book = \$12. Next book, *Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight*, by Jennifer Rothschild, book = \$22. *Sign-up sheets are up and located outside the worship areas.

Trinity Staff

Eric Meyer
Pastor
eric@triumc.org

Chelsea Shrack Bell
Office Coordinator & Pastor
chelsea@triumc.org

Lyz Garwood
Director of Christian Education
lyz@triumc.org

Tyler Breneman
Director of Music & Technology
tyler@triumc.org

Lori Blake
Treasurer
lori@triumc.org

Marilla Colson
Communications
marilla@triumc.org

Kylee Gragg
Director of Youth & Intern Ministries
kylee@triumc.org

April Saskowski
Learning Center Director
april@triumc.org

David Corman
Chancel Choir Director

Jeff Waters
Custodian

Mandy Jarvis
Nursery Director
mandy@triumc.org

Chris Carazo
Sunday AV Admin.

Bulletin Deadline
Sunday, Jan. 4 @ midnight.



Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, Jan. 25 @ midnight.

To securely give online, scan the code or go to: triumc.org/giving
or visit the office.



We envision vibrant, thriving, teaching congregations which are developing relationships with Jesus and for Jesus in the congregations, in the community, and on campus.

We develop these relationships by inviting people, investing in them, and then inspiring them to use their God-given talents to transform lives, the community, and the world.