



# A Publication of Trinity United Methodist Church

# In Touch

Volume 65

FEBRUARY NEWS

30 January 2026

Hello, Trinity!

We enter this new year with two incredible new ministry opportunities. Trinity UMC is officially the first church to join the North Central Kansas Justice Organization. NCKJO is a non-profit collective of churches that includes many denominations. It is being financially supported with significant grants from the Great Plains UMC, and it sounds like the local Catholic synod will be heavily involved. Together we will assess the problems in our communities that we need to change to help people who have very limited resources. One of our sister organizations is called Topeka Jump. They have been able to secure \$3 million in funding to create a 30-bed emergency mental health care center. They received a \$600,000 grant to develop a violence reduction program and won state funding to open 131 new Oxford houses in Topeka. These are transitional living homes for people in recovery from addiction.

We are beginning to develop a leadership team here at Trinity to organize our involvement in the justice ministry. One of our congregation members came into my office this week and said, "Eric, our country is such a mess! I am being called to do something, but I don't know what to do!" I told her about the justice leadership team, and she immediately scheduled an appointment to meet with our organizers to discuss different levels of involvement. Perhaps you are feeling that call too. If so, my cell # is 479.426.8411, and my email is [eric@triumc.org](mailto:eric@triumc.org).

This past Thursday the advisory committee for the Core Communities program approved our budget, and we are now moving forward to hire a liaison who will help our advisory council raise the funds we need to run the program. We will probably launch in January of 2027. The Core Community of Saline County will work with up to 20 people who will participate in an 18-month session. They will be paired up with congregation members from local churches who will meet with them weekly for dinner, fellowship, and training. We will need volunteers to be mentors and will have at least four paid positions opening. The Community Liaison is the first of those positions. If you would love to raise money for an organization that has 18 successfully running communities and a 10-year track record of success, please contact me, and I will send the job description to you. The job will pay \$25 an hour for 15 hours a week.

God is moving in amazing ways in our community, and Trinity is at the center of that movement!

Pastor Eric



As we dive into a new year, it's great to reflect on the wonderful 2025 we had! I am so proud of the Congregational Care team's first year and am excited to see the ways we continue to grow and meet the needs of our congregation!

Our next project will be to deliver Valentine's Day crafts to our friends at home, in the hospital, and in local retirement communities. We are hoping to have enough crafts to deliver to around 40 friends. Want to help contribute? Plan to attend our next Crafting Connection gathering on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. to make some Valentine's crafts to donate towards the cause! Or feel free to make love-themed crafts at home and bring them into the church office before February 9<sup>th</sup>!

The Congregational Care team will deliver the Valentine's crafts during their visits the week of February 9-14. If you'd like to help deliver and aren't already connected, please reach out to Pastor Chelsea!

## Update on the Meal Ministry

Did you know that TUMC has a freezer meal ministry?! Our goal is to provide folks with an easy meal in times of need (recovering from surgery, getting out of the hospital/rehab, new baby, etc.). Our volunteers bake small casseroles or cookies/desserts that can be easily frozen, and then we keep them in stock in the church freezer (in the kitchen by the Fellowship Halls). Then when congregation members are in need, we'll pull stock from the freezer, and a volunteer will deliver the meal to the recipient!

If you would like to contribute food or donations towards the meal ministry, OR know someone who could use a meal, please reach out to Pastor Chelsea! If you'd like to make some casseroles, we have small single-use foil pans (2 sizes) for you to use. These supplies can be found in the 'old' kitchen in a plastic tub by the hallway door. Another (EASY!) way to support the meal ministry is to buy an extra individual-sized meal from the TUMC youth fundraisers and donate it to the freezer meal ministry! Thank you!!



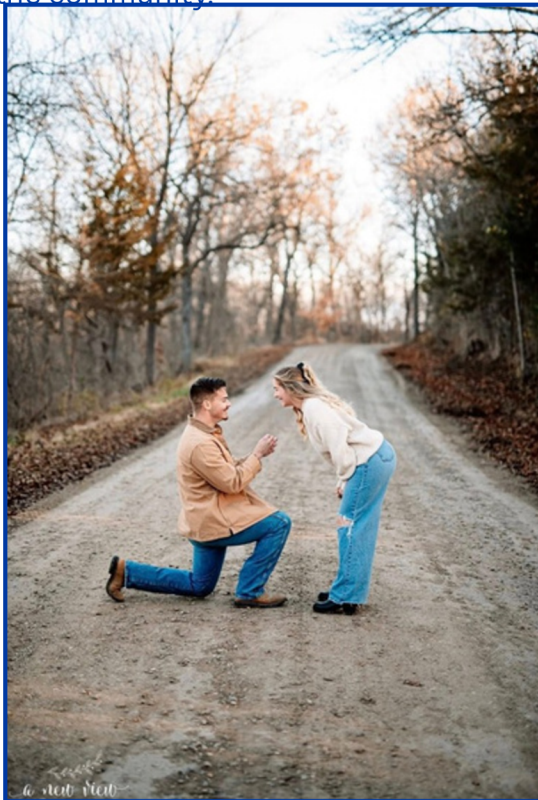
# Kylee Gragg

Director of Youth & Intern Ministries  
[kylee@triumc.org](mailto:kylee@triumc.org)

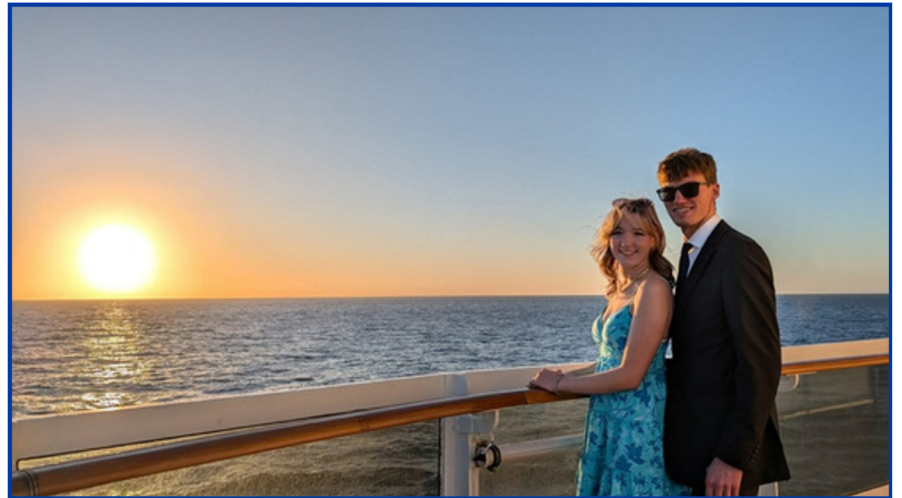
Leadership Lab has received exciting news that their pilgrimage in December 2027 will be to Turkey, where students will follow in the footsteps of Paul. Each participant will be working to raise \$2,000 to help cover the remaining cost of the pilgrimage. If you are willing to help plan or organize fundraisers to support our students, please reach out or join us for a planning meeting on February 8 from 11am to 12pm, in Room 2.

Christmas break brought joyful news for several of our interns. Keegan Lott and his girlfriend, Samantha, became engaged, and less than 24 hours later Evan Pearce and his girlfriend, Brynne, also announced their engagement. It has been exciting to celebrate these milestones as our students prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

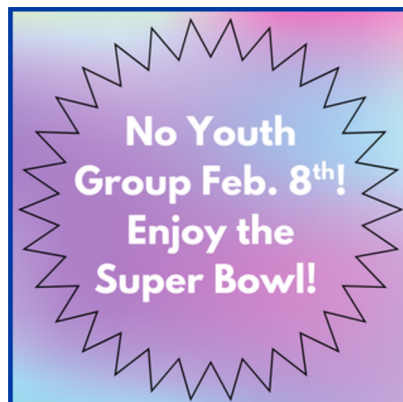
In our weekly programming, middle school students continue their study, Called to Do Big Things, focusing on the message that age does not limit the ability to make a difference. High school students are working through a series on miracles and parables. Leadership Lab students are currently earning their generosity badges and will hear from several inspiring speakers this month on giving time, tithes, and talents. Jessica Martin from the Greater Salina Community Foundation and Steve Thompson will be sharing about tithes and their impact on our church and community. Chris and Pat Leon will also join us to speak about generosity. Chris, an adult with Down syndrome, has raised over \$110,000 for Kansas Honor Flight in Wichita and, with the support of his mom, Pat, continues to give generously of his time and resources to the community.



*Keegan Lott and his girlfriend,  
Samantha*



*Evan Pearce and his girlfriend, Brynne*





# Marilla Colson

Communications  
[marilla@triumc.org](mailto:marilla@triumc.org)

I am now an empty nester, and what that means to me is more time for activities with others. I have added bird-watching to my activities. I have set a goal to try to photo-identify 200 birds in the state of Kansas for 2026. The second new activity I just recently joined is the Love Chloe committee for their April running race. I am excited to start these two new activities.

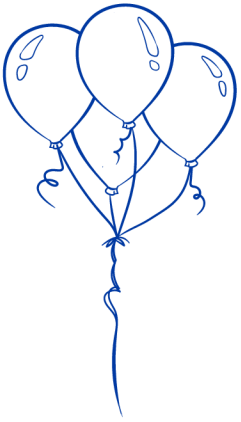
I recently drove to Loess Bluffs, MO, to view Bald Eagles. Although, this sighting was not in Kansas, it was amazing. On December 30th, Loess Bluffs counted 1,012 eagles. Below are a few photos from my visit on January 2nd.



## A group gathered to help with Unhanging of the Green on Jan. 3



Pictured left, Steve Thompson, leader of the take-down-crew. Pictured above, the take-down-crew: Loren Young, Jan Johannes, Amy Collins, George Troutfetter, Steve & Penny Thompson, Faye Spencer; not pictured, Chris Carazo and Troy Johnston. Thank you!!!



HAPPY  
*birthday*

Celebrating Vince Weber & Janet DuBois at IHOP Bible Study.

## Children's Sabbath – February 15.

All 3-year-olds through 5th-graders are invited!

Celebrate the gift of children and a wonderful year of Children's Ministry at Trinity by serving in worship on Children's Sabbath. Kids can help greet worshipers, hand out bulletins, assist with communion, or serve as a reader during one or more of our worship services. Sign up at the Information & Sign-Up Table in the East Hallway on February 1 and 8 at 9:30am or 10:45am or call the church office. Questions? Contact: Lyz Garwood at [lyz@triumc.org](mailto:lyz@triumc.org).

**4<sup>th</sup>-Grade Bible Presentations** were rescheduled due to the weather and will be featured in our March newsletter.

## Camp Sunday – March 8.

Camp Sunday is coming! We'll be sharing exciting opportunities to support camp ministry, including our 100-Envelope Challenge and Camp Potluck. Stay tuned for more details!

## VBS 2026.

Save the Date! June 22-26.

VBS



**Children's Sabbath, Feb. 15**

sign-up in the East Hallway  
February 1 & 8  
9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

All 3-year-olds - 5th-graders are invited to serve in worship!  
Help greet, hand out bulletins, assist with communion, or be a reader.  
Let's come together to celebrate the gift of children and the past year of Children's Ministry at Trinity!  
Questions? Contact Lyz Garwood.

**March 8 Camp Sunday**

We'll be sharing exciting opportunities to support camp ministry including our 100 Envelope Challenge & Camp Potluck.  
Stay tuned for more details!

Contact: Lyz Garwood with questions: [lyz@triumc.org](mailto:lyz@triumc.org)





# Morea Charvat

## Missions

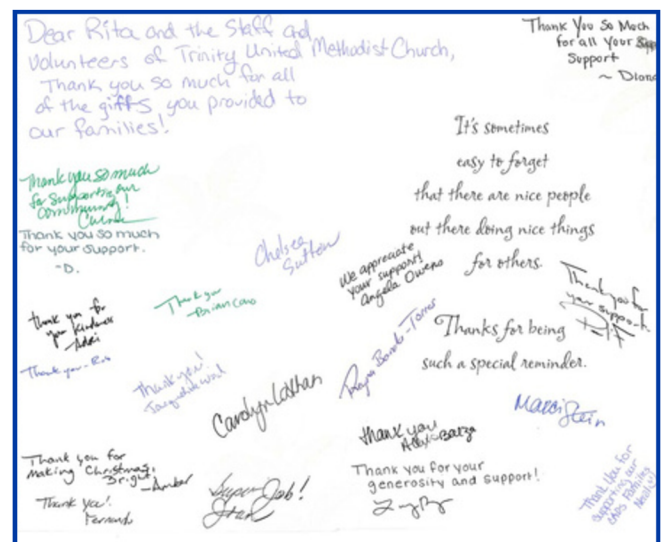
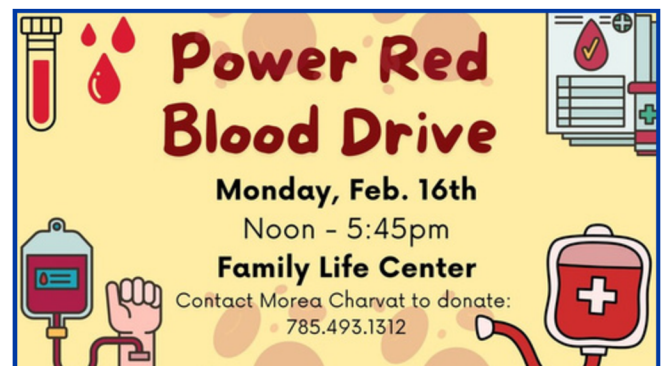
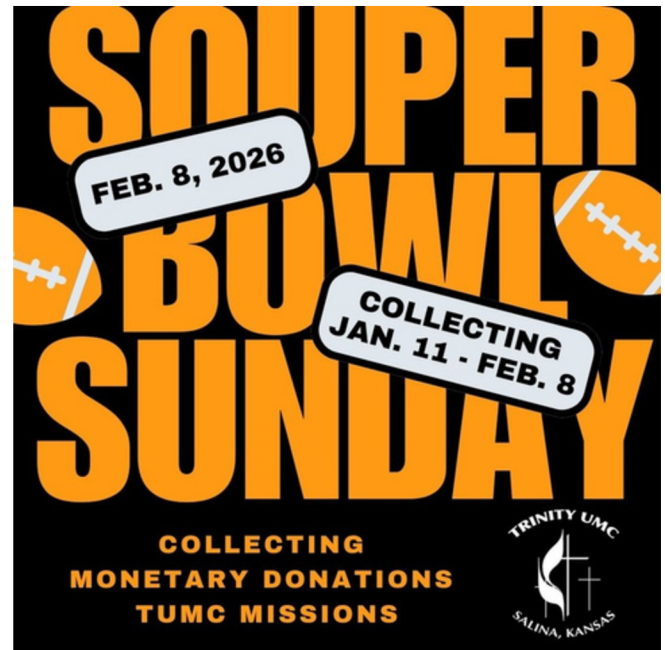
**Missions Advent Collection Update:** Trinity, you are absolutely AMAZING!! You donated \$16,430.90 to the Boys and Girls Club of Salina, which was our Advent project! This amount is going to be DOUBLED because of a GENEROUS, also amazing anonymous donor! Total for the Boys & Girls Club will be \$32,861.80! Thank you, Trinity!!

**Souper Bowl of Hope.** Trinity is once again supporting the Souper Bowl of Hope, sponsored by Project Salina. The goal for our community is 60,000 cans of soup! While Project Salina certainly welcomes cans of soup, they prefer cash since they can buy 50 cans of soup for \$30. Also, money is much easier to transport! Six Salina organizations will be the recipients of the soup-Salina Grace, Salina Shares, Salina Rescue Mission, the Salina Food Bank, DVACK, and Salvation Army. Decorated bowls are by the Family Life Center and the sanctuary for your donations. Souper bowl collections end on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th! Please make checks payable to: Souper Bowl of Hope. Thank you!

**Blood Drive:** Our next blood drive is Monday, February 16th, from noon until 5:45! This is a power red blood drive (O positive and O negative donors) and regular whole blood drive. Several of my power red donors can no longer donate so I would really like for some other people to step up!! To give the best Valentine gift ever, call or text Morea at 785-493-1312. Thanks so much!!



Advent check to Boys & Girls Club of Salina



THANK YOU! From, CAPS (Angel Tree)

# Church Activities

**W.O.W.**  
**WIDOWS & OTHERS WIDOWERS SUPPORT GROUP**  
**WILL MEET AT SPANGLES AFTER**  
**11AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2026**



**United Methodist Women**

**Next Meeting, Feb. 16**  
**Fellowship Hall 1**

\*The UMW meets every third Monday each month.

**TUMC Bridge Group**



February 18 / Coffee Bar, 1-4 p.m.  
 Contact Cheryl Siemers-Johns to play at: 785.820.0556

**2026**  
**Sign Up for Altar Flowers**



Sign-up on the bulletin board by the sanctuary, or you can email Marilla at: marilla@triumc.org.  
 The price for a bouquet is \$25.99.

Bulletin Deadline  
 Sunday, Feb. 1 @ midnight.

Newsletter Deadline  
 Sunday, Feb. 22 @ midnight.

## Lori Blake

**Finance**  
**lori@triumc.org / 785.822.4677**

### TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE through 12/31/2025 (unaudited)

	Jan - Dec 2025 Actual	Jan - Dec 2025 Budget	Over/Under Budget Actual	Jan - Dec 2024 Actual	Jan - Dec 2024 Budget	Over/Under Budget Actual
General Fund Giving	\$ 608,326.81	\$ 632,476.79	\$ (24,149.98)	\$ 603,030.15	\$ 650,300.00	\$ (47,269.85)
Operating Expenses	\$ 677,224.99	\$ 632,190.76	\$ 45,034.23	\$ 662,626.30	\$ 663,172.78	\$ (546.48)
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (68,898.18)	\$ 286.03	\$ (69,184.21)	\$ (59,596.15)	\$ (12,872.78)	\$ (46,723.37)
Building Fund Giving	\$ 191,315.40	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (58,684.60)	\$ 425,247.41	\$ 105,600.00	\$ 319,647.41
Building Fund Loan Payments (Prin & Interest)	\$ 191,315.40	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (58,684.60)	\$ 380,460.00	\$ 124,050.00	\$ 256,410.00
Net Building Fund Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,787.41	\$ (18,450.00)	\$ 63,237.41

Statements were emailed on Thursday, January 29. If you need a printed copy, please email me or call the church office.

  
 Lori Blake, Treasurer  
 785-822-4677 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

Marion Barrow  
Sue Holmes  
Fran Hutchinson  
Family of Eric Johnson  
Rita Johnson  
Deb Marseline

### Long-Term

Bonnie Baldwin  
Barb Bell  
Beth Berridge  
Hud Chapin  
Cort Collins  
Steve Daily  
Hilma Demaree  
Pam Emig  
Michele Gant  
Richard Howeth  
Sandy Jones  
Ronnie Knott  
Juanita Masko  
[Rochelle Masterson  
(Culley)]  
[Jenny Mitchell's  
in-law's family]  
Jimmy Joe Patterson  
Don Peterson  
Lindsey Pratt  
Janice Scott  
Sharon Scott  
Mark Turner  
Thaine Weber  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Prayer Update:

\*Please keep the Wahlgren family in your prayers. Denny Wahlgren 1.4.26.

\*Janice Scott lost her grandson, Eric Johnson, unexpectedly on 12/22/25. She is asking for prayers for her family.

\*I am asking for prayers for our daughter-in-law, Leigh Hauser, who is recovering from brain surgery. Thank you. Sheryl & Jerry Brown

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to all of you prayer warriors for all the love and support I felt over these years of caring for my Dad. He was an amazing person that loved his church and loved God. Your thoughts and prayers have been a blessing and greatly appreciated. *Elaine Ferguson*

**THANK YOU!** To the Trinity United Methodist Church, On behalf of Sunflower Adult Day Services, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation(s) totaling \$50. Your support is vital to our mission of providing support and care to individuals while also providing a welcome break for their caregivers. *Lindsay Huenefeld, Director*

## Healthy Congregations Retreat

**April 16-17**

**Salina, Kansas**



The retreat is designed for Healthy Congregations members, but all Great Plains United Methodists are invited to join each year. The retreat is free to attend, and the Health Fund covers a one-night hotel stay for those who need it. This year, the retreat will be April 16-17 at the **Homewood Suites** in Salina, Kansas.

**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.

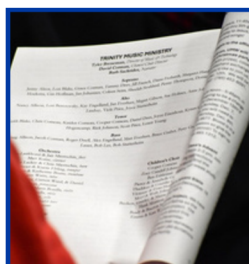


# Tyler Breneman

Director of Music & Technology  
[tyler@triumc.org](mailto:tyler@triumc.org)



*Christmas Cantata photos by intern Kierra Jensen*



## 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.**

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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.

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