

Let God's Word...

The Good News



February 2021

...Rule Our Hearts and Guide Our Footsteps.

All Church Worship will be In Person, FM Radio Drive In OR Zoom

Guidance from the Bishop has lifted some of the restrictions and we may have services in the Church on Sundays with some requirements. Social distancing and masks are required. Use the front door, temperature checks and only use the handicap restroom for emergencies. Trinity seating is limited to 25 people.

You will still be able to listen to the service via FM Radio in the parking lot or by Zoom. We will be adding the message by Facebook coming soon.

Zoom worship is at www.zoom.us. Call in number for regular phones is 312-626-6799.
Starting Sunday, Feb. 7 we will have a NEW meeting ID: 4862226765, Password 331506

Ash Wednesday Service via Zoom

The Ash Wednesday Service on February 17th will be via Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Lisa. Ashes will be distributed on Sunday, Feb. 14th.

Mailing Offerings

For Trinity UMC, use the church address at:

Trinity UMC 300 2nd Avenue West Milan, IL 61264

For Green River UMC, use:

Green River UMC 125 Division Street Colona, IL 61241

Your continued giving has enabled us to stay current on our expenses and benevolences at both churches. Thank you to everyone who has given. Your tithes and gifts allow us to continue to do God's work and ministry.

Pastor Lisa Wiedman's information

Cell phone 217-898-8403 Email pastorlisa@gmail.com

Trinity Facebook Page

Trinity now has a Facebook page. You can find us at [Milan Trinity UMC](#). Soon the Sunday sermon will be shown on the page. Share this Facebook page with your family and friends.

A New Parsonage

Hello fellow brothers and sisters,

The trustee and finance committees have been busy searching for a new parsonage. Our last two ministers owned their own homes so we had the luxury of not having to own a parsonage. But, with the arrival of Pastor Lisa, we need to have a place for her to live. The trustees have done their due diligence and have searched for a parsonage that will not only serve this pastor, but will serve future pastors. The house is big enough to house a family. We found a place that meets the requirements of a Methodist parsonage. We are in the process of closing on this house and hope to have Pastor Lisa moved around March 1st. If you would like to drive by the house that we are purchasing, the address is 1420 35th Avenue, Rock Island. Please feel free to direct questions to Pam Pearson(Versluys), Fred Flickinger, or Linda Armstrong.

In Christ, Linda Armstrong

In Loving Memory

Joseph "Big Joe" Eastman
August 22, 1944
January 13, 2021



Why Do We Celebrate Special Sundays?

United Methodists celebrate on Specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the church.

Human Relations Sunday-envelope attached. We are called to make an impact in communities where our brothers and sisters in Christ lack the resources to reach their God-given potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through volunteer programs, Community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.



Birthdays

Trinity- Terry Moore 2/12, Sandy Mallder 2/17,
Steve Gotthardt 2/17, Carol Muilenburg 2/19, Pearl Smith 2/28

Green River- No birthdays or anniversaries

Anniversary- Lori and Kevin Putnam 2/14

Knitting Group

The knitting and crocheting group will resume their weekly gatherings on Wednesdays, 9-10 am in Fellowship Hall. The group is making afghans and scarfs. Please use the front doors only, check temperature, wear a mask and social distance. All groups are limited to 10 people.

THANK YOU

I want to express my heart-felt gratitude to the good folks at Trinity UMC. You continued to fund me through the pandemic. You are a blessing of love and a light in these uncertain times. Thanks so much! Troy Harris

Food Pantry News

Thank you, Trinity for supporting the Milan Food Pantry. Your donations have kept the pantry moving forward and helped a huge number of families in the Milan area. Our next week to work is Monday, February 8, 8:30-11 am and Thursday, February 11, 2:30-6 pm. We are usually shorthanded on Thursdays. Invite a friend to come and work with you! Jody

The March newsletter will be mailed late. I will be on vacation the end of February. Jody

Trinity United Methodist Church
300 West 2nd Avenue
Milan, IL 61264

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #8
Milan, IL
61264

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Lisa Wiedman
Email: pastorlist@gmail.com
Church phone (309) 787-1362

Sunday Worship Schedule
9:00 am Limited Worship

Email: milantrinity@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.milantrinity.com
Facebook: Milan Trinity UMC



Trinity Facebook Page

Trinity now has a Facebook page. You can find us at Milan Trinity UMC. Soon the Sunday sermon will be shown on the page. Share this Facebook page with your family and friends.

Hi Church Family,

When I found out I was moving here, I realized there was something I need to do to get to know each of you and more importantly the church.

A little back story here is that in one of my past churches we had listening sessions. These were in groups of no more than 10 people and I asked the same questions of each group. Due to current conditions, I feel this is the safest way for all of us. This allowed me to learn quite a bit about the church. The answers to these questions helped guide me during the time I was there. I am asking for your help so I may learn and know Trinity and Green River better in order for us to move forward in ministry together.

You may call me, text me, email either me or the church with your answers. If you would like, just drop your answers off with your offering or send them into Trinity office. My number is 217-898-8403 and my email is pastorllisa@gmail.com. Please let me know what church you attend in order for me to have the correct information.

What is the one thing I need to know about this congregation?

What is one way we will reach new people in our communities?

What is one dream you have for our church?

What are you afraid I will do?

What is one thing you would like to ask me?

What would the community do if the church closed? (no, it isn't closing, just curious on your answer)

What traditions does our church have that I should be aware of?

I appreciate your help in this, the more answers I receive the more I will know. Thank you for being on this journey with me.

Pastor Lisa

BACKGROUND

Ash Wednesday is the day in the church year where we mark the beginning of the season of Lent. During this season, we are all invited to reflect on the things in our lives that may be causing us to be distant from God and distant from others. Beginning around the 11th century, the Ash Wednesday service became a way for Christians to physically mark and remember the beginning of the season.

Historically, during the service, ashes are prepared from the palm fronds used during the Palm Sunday of the prior year as a way to point toward the Gospel message of the upcoming Easter. The ashes are mixed with oil and placed with the sign of the cross on the foreheads of the service participants and the words, "From dust you have come and to dust you will return," are shared with each person. This can be a startling statement to hear. However, the purpose is not to alarm but to remind us that we have been created by God and that it is God who holds us in life and in death.



Perhaps it is because of our increasingly virtual world, Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent become powerful opportunities to reconnect with our families, friends, our faith communities, and most importantly our Creator. The scent of the oil, the scratch of the ashes, and the sound of song and Word all provide us with different ways to feel and understand the significance of the season.

DIRECTIONS

For this meditation, we will use the labyrinth page, the scripture refrain page, the Intentions for Lent page, and ashes or black paint.

For Individual Use

Please sit at a table or other flat surface. Place the labyrinth in the middle of the table or surface. Near the paper, have prepared ashes or black paint available for use and the scripture refrain page. Place your finger at the entrance of the labyrinth. Read through the first scripture, then move your finger through the labyrinth. When you reach the center, dip your thumb in the ashes or paint. Then make the sign of the cross in the middle of the labyrinth.

Say the refrain: From dust you came and to dust you will return. As you trace your way back out of the labyrinth, reflect on the scripture passage, and notice any intentions that come to mind that you may want to set for this Lenten season. Repeat with the rest of the scripture passages. When you finish your journey, write out your intentions, and say the prayer.

For Communal Use

If you are using this with a group, designate one or more readers of the scripture passage, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Gather around a table or other flat surface. Place the labyrinth in the middle of the table or surface. Near the paper, have prepared ashes or black paint available for use and the scripture refrain page. Invite each person in your group to use their finger to "journey through the labyrinth." If your group has more than 4, invite two participants to journey the labyrinth together. Start by placing one finger at the entrance of the labyrinth, and when the reader begins to read the scripture, move your finger slowly through.

When each participant reaches the center of the labyrinth, the participant will then dip their thumb in the ashes or paint and make the sign of the cross in the middle of the labyrinth. Together all will say the refrain: From dust you came and to dust you will return.

Pause between each of the four breaks after the refrains as the participant finishes tracing their finger through the rest of the labyrinth. When you finish your journeys, you may complete the activity by setting any intentions for Lent and closing with the prayer.

SCRIPTURE & LABYRINTH REFRAIN: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

Concerning Almsgiving

Reader: Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Refrain

Together: From dust you came and to dust you will return.

Concerning Prayer

Reader: And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Refrain

Together: From dust you came and to dust you will return.

Concerning Fasting

Reader: And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Refrain

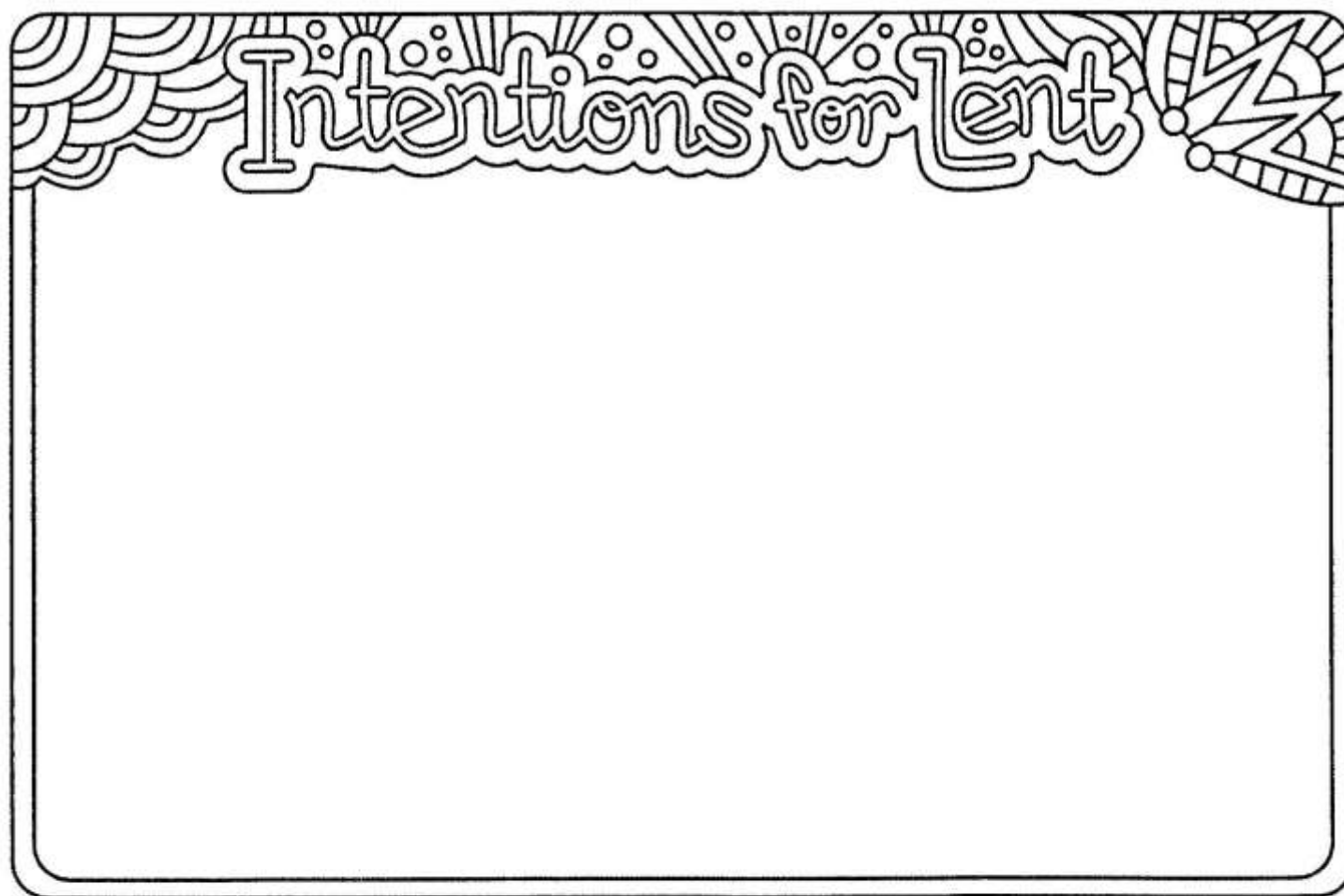
Together: From dust you came and to dust you will return.

Concerning Treasures

Reader: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Refrain

Together: From dust you came and to dust you will return.



PRAYER

Dear God of our whole selves,
As we journey through this season of Lent,
teach us how to give,
so that we can joyfully respond when you call us to serve.
Teach us how to pray,
so that we can be closer to you in all that we do throughout the day.
Teach us how to let go,
so nothing can stand in the way of our connection with you.
Teach us how to prepare,
so we can be ready to receive your love, wisdom, and blessing.
Help us to remember that in all ways we belong to you,
Amen.

Journey through the
LABYRINTH



Bishop Frank J. Beard is challenging the IGRC to be intentional in the New Year by memorizing scripture.

It just may save your life!

11/17/2020

It just may save your life!

Like you, I'm suffering with COVID-19 fatigue. I am so ready for this pandemic to be in the rearview mirror. I am praying that the early reports of at least two vaccines are reliable, and that by Easter, we will be nearing the "all clear" phase.

The suspension of our in-person gatherings is caused by the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. While no one wants to suspend worship in our churches, we know that this is necessary and the responsible thing to do. My hope is that we will find new ways to assist people with fresh expressions of worship and community.

It looks like Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas 2020 will need to be conducted quite differently than we've done in the past. I'm sure you all will join me in keeping as safe as possible as we endure this latest setback. Just remember that "love does not demand its own way!"

One way that I am choosing to "change my world" is through a commitment to memorize Scripture in 2021. I'd love to have you join me. Here's my plan:

1. Start with the 12 verses every Christian should memorize.

I call these "refrigerator verses." I have them printed on magnets and I paste them on my refrigerator. If you make as many trips as I do to the refrigerator, you'll have the verse of the week memorized in a short time.

2. Review or memorize for the first time:

A. The Lord's Prayer

3. Psalm 23

2. The Apostle's Creed

3. Twelve "new" verses selected from asking other folks, "what is your favorite passage of Scripture?" I'll share the results with you later.

had three brothers that proudly served in the military. Each one took delight and honor in serving our country. I was amazed that each one of my brothers could disassemble and reassemble his rifle with a blindfold over his eyes. I remember asking one of them

Why that was so important? I'll never forget the answer, "We need to know our weapon because our lives depend upon it!"

Psalm 119 makes a strong case regarding our need to know God's word. It helps in our growth and spiritual development. We learn more about God. The word of God influences us and helps us in making difficult decisions. The word of God strengthens our faith and helps keep us from sin. God's word provides light for our life journey.

My brother said it best, "We need to know our weapon because our lives depend upon it!"

God Bless,
Bishop Frank J. Beard

In this column, published in the December 2020 issue of The Current, Bishop Beard mentioned this challenge and several had responded wanting to know what scriptures he had in mind.

Psalm 119 makes a strong case regarding our need to know God's word. It helps in our growth and spiritual development. We learn more about God," Bishop Beard said. "The word of God influences us and helps us in making difficult decisions. The word of God strengthens our faith and helps keep us from sin. God's word provides light for our life journey."

The listing of Scripture verses which can be made into the magnets can be downloaded below. The list is by no means an exhaustive one.

REFRIGERATOR VERSES

January 10, 2021

1. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
2. Romans 3:23 – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
3. Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
4. 1 John 1:9 - “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
5. John 14:6 – “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
6. Revelation 3:20 – “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”
7. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
8. Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”
9. Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.
10. Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
11. Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
12. Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Additional Special Scriptures to Memorize:

- Psalm 23
- The Lord’s Prayer
- The Apostle’s Creed

ADDITIONAL VERSES:

1. John 1:12 – “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—”
2. Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
3. I Peter 2:2-3 – “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”
4. I Peter 5:8 – “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
5. Matthew 22:37-39 – “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
6. Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
7. ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”
8. Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
9. Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
10. Philippians 4:19 – “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”
11. Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
12. Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
13. Philippians 4:6-7 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”