

# The Circuit Rider

## OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 2

February 2026

### February Calendar

1 Freewill dinner at 4:30pm  
7 Baby Shower at 9:30 am  
Valentine's Craft from 1 – 3pm  
8 Special Offering for Camp & Retreat  
Ministries  
11 Trustee meeting at 6pm  
N.O.W. meeting at 7pm

13 “Love and Friendship Gathering” for  
Joint Leadership Teams at 5pm, Fulton  
First UMC  
16 Bright and Cheerful at noon  
18 Ash Wednesday service at Trinity at  
7pm

Haven of Hope meets Mon.-Fri. 7:30-3  
AA group meets on Friday evenings

Choir rehearsals are 7pm on  
Thursdays. All are welcome!

### Chancel Servants for February

Altar Guild: Mark Garlock and Carrie Simmons

Communion Stewards: Sheila Buske

### Craft Day

Come join us, **Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3pm**, and make a coaster or wall decoration for yourself or give as a homemade gift. No prior talent required! All materials supplied, including optional Valentine's theme. The craft is recommended for ages 8 & up. Donations will be accepted, but not expected. Light snacks will be available.

### February 8 is Camp & Retreat Ministries Sunday

On **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**, United Methodists across Upper New York will celebrate **Camp & Retreat Ministries Sunday**, a new annual observance approved by the 2025 Annual Conference to highlight the life-changing ministry of our camp & retreat centers. Congregations are invited to lift up this work during worship and receive a special offering to support scholarships, ensuring that children, youth, and adults can participate regardless of financial circumstances. With rising costs for food and essential materials placing added strain on our centers, your support helps keep these sacred spaces accessible, welcoming, and transformative for years to come.

### Ash Wednesday Service

Our joint Ash Wednesday Service will be held on **February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Trinity UMC**. It's always wonderful to participate in worship with our area United Methodist congregations!



1 Tammy Adydan  
5 Lyle Battles

14 Rachel Eddy  
19 Robin Brady  
26 Ann Rockower

If you would like other new dates added, please just send an email to the church office. 😊😊

### **Bright and Cheerful**

Bright and Cheerful will meet on the **16<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Please bring a lunch and join in writing cards to our Trinity family. We always welcome new people to our fellowship!

### **Secret Siblings Reveal**

Our annual reveal party was held on January 17<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed lots of yummy snacks, wonderful fellowship, and did a fun craft with Shana Cory. New forms were filled out, and we will draw new names soon! 😊

### **Condolences**

*to Sheila Buske and her family on the death of her sister, Barbara Buske, on January 24, 2026;  
to the Seaton/Simmons family on the death of Gordon Simmons, on January 15, 2026;  
and to Marge Zeller and her family on the death of her sister, Phyllis Glenn, on January 13, 2026.*

### **Daily Prayers**

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

#### **Parishioners, Friends, and Family:**

Those with health concerns: Ed Downs; Lisa Langlois and her brother; Mary's brother John Seaton; Becky Kandt (Pam's daughter); Carrie Simmons and Family; Dave Wadleigh; Mary Seaton and her brothers; Nancy Wadleigh; Nancy Nixdorf, Leah (Rebecca's sister); Bea Holliday; Paula Nelson (Marge Zeller's sister-in-law); Bob (Mark Garlock's father-in-law); Will Abare; Nancy Sawyer; Wuxin Shen; Gerrick (Brenda's nephew); Betty Holliday; Cindy Abare; Donna (Gail's sister); Kelly and Alana (Nancy Sawyer's nieces). Those in assisted living: Ann Rockower; Grace Truell; Judy Lake; Valerie Palmer; Cheryl Coe DeLoff; Zeke Seymour. Please pray for Megan Snelling to find a new home; all those who are homeless; all caregivers; and the health and safety of our families and friends.

#### **Community and World Concerns:**

Please pray for democracy, and leaders to be merciful everywhere. We ask for forgiveness for the murderous actions taken by the United States at home and across the world, both in withdrawing humanitarian aid which has caused the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent children, and in the unlawful attacks on Venezuela. Prayers that this genocide, and the elected officials who caused it will stop. Please pray for those living in fear; especially in Minneapolis, Venezuela, Ukraine and Gaza, as well as in other areas of our country. Prayers for all those doing God's work in the world; an end to racism, and the coming of world peace! Prayers for Pastor Ruth in her ministry; and for Alan Kinney, and Pope Leo XIV as they minister to others. Also, please pray for "Haven of Hope", as they reach out to the homeless in our neighborhood.

## Pastor's Letter

Hello Beloved Trinity Family,

This year's focus is Let Us BE Intentional.... "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" Matthew 7:33.

As we enter into the month of February, and looking realistically at the unfortunate events happening around us, thanks for shining your Light and choosing to do what the Lord requires - seeking justice, behaving kindly and walking humbly before God and others! (Micah 6:6-8) May we choose to be a vessel for His glory in the lives of all around us daily!

With great excitement, I invite you to come celebrate **Robin Brady's baptism** with us on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Together, we will renew our covenant before the Almighty God and recommit our ways to serving Him diligently and joyfully! We also plan to celebrate **Ash Wednesday** with friends from the Journey of Faith UMC, the Oswego First UMC and the Minetto UMC on February 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm. We look forward to the opportunity to spend some time with you and your loved ones.

Last month, the Oswego Methodist Pastors began a collaboration by offering the Lay Servant Basic Training: **online courses every Wednesday 6 pm – 9 pm, to prepare new Lay Servants.** The Introductory class was completed in January and the **Spiritual Gifts class** will be offered in February. Please, reach out if you have any questions and plan to sign up to have assurance of which are your Spiritual Gifts and how to use them for God's glory!

**This month's focus is "What Is Good!"** and great discussions are planned to unpack the goodness of God and how to share it with others. Remember that walking alongside you and your family, and serving you is my greatest desire. Please call or email me, if there is any way I can be of service in your setting! My home number is 315-297-4085 and my email is PastorRuthRLW@gmail.com.

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth*

### **December 2025 Current Expense Report**

|                                                                                                            |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Staff Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>                                                                       | <b>\$3,174.06</b> |
| <i>(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS &amp; Medicare taxes, &amp; some insurances)</i> |                   |
| <b>Program Expenses</b>                                                                                    | <b>\$998.00</b>   |
| <i>(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshipping community)</i>                         |                   |
| <b>Operations Expenses</b>                                                                                 | <b>\$1,238.42</b> |
| <i>(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)</i>       |                   |
| <b>Conference Billing</b>                                                                                  | <b>\$1,780.97</b> |
| <i>(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)</i>                                                |                   |
| <b>Total November Expenditures</b>                                                                         | <b>\$7,191.45</b> |

*Prepared 01/05/26 by Lisa Bartholomew*

*Reflects December 30 Paychecks*

## Haven of Hope

As of last December, and continuing through at least this coming June, we have been hosting a group called “Haven of Hope” every weekday .in Abrams Hall, on the lower level of our church building. They have been an absolute delight to work with, and we feel blessed to partner with them in their God-given mission. Rachel Hendricks is the director, and she shares the following information about the group:

***“Haven of Hope provides Christ-driven, peer-led support services in Oswego, NY. We are a tax-exempt nonprofit, which, with our dedicated team, offer a welcoming environment for those seeking guidance and support. Haven of Hope Oswego Inc. was created out of an urgent need to support individuals in our community facing homelessness, crisis, and substance use disorder. What began as a mission to protect people from Oswego’s harsh winters has grown into a vital lifeline for those in need of stability, healing, and hope. Haven of Hope has become so much more than just shelter. It’s a safe, inclusive, and judgment-free space where individuals can begin to heal, find direction, and reclaim their lives. At Haven of Hope, we provide:***

- *A safe space for people facing homelessness, crisis, or recovery.*
- *Advocacy and access to vital services for mental health, housing, and substance abuse treatment programs.*
- *Peer support, Bible studies, and recovery-friendly groups.*
- *Activities that bring joy, purpose, and connection.*

***Every day, people are finding hope here. Trauma is being healed, recovery is being supported, and lives are being rebuilt. ♡ Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we can be the hope someone is praying for.”***

Rachel and her team are tireless in their work to help others and our church family! From clearing unexpected (!) snow from our sidewalks and stairs, to helping our neighbors shovel their driveways, to moving tables and heavy items up and down stairs, and even cleaning up after a plumbing leak in the downstairs kitchen, they have truly been a blessing to us and the community! They have brought new life and Jesus’ mission back into our building and neighborhood! Praise God, and bless Haven of Hope!

**Jesus said,” “Love your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is nearly as important, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:37-39**

♥Thank You!♥

From The Salvation Army:

We are truly grateful for your gift of \$232.00 for the Christmas families. You choose to Give with Joy, and your gift is hard at work providing warm meals, shelter, toys, and critical support for those facing hardship in our community.

With heartfelt thanks,

*Tony Morales, Donor Services Director*



**Needed...Food for our Neighbors**



The Human Concerns food pantry is in need of non-perishable food items, especially tuna, peanut butter, and boxed mac and cheese. Just bring your items to church, and they will be delivered. Thanks!!



**The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to [umcreationjustice.org](http://umcreationjustice.org).**

Heating our water consumes much energy. **Consider these simple changes** to reduce the cost to Earth (and yourself): Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees, purchase a new Energy Star water heater, install the tank in an enclosed space, or add a water heater blanket.

Remember energy was used to produce all of the goods we consume, including food. **Simply, reduce consumption in general**, don't waste anything, and eat lower on the food chain, and you will save energy.

Avoid animal products from factory farms. In addition to being unspeakably cruel, these farms are public health hazards and pollute the land, air, and water. **Choose pasture raised animals** and eggs from pasture raised chickens. The United Methodist Social Principles speak to this issue.

It takes only about 160 gallons of water to produce a loaf of bread, but it takes about 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. Plus, conventionally raised red meat produces 150% more greenhouse gases than chicken or fish. Simply by reducing the amount of meat that we eat, we can have a much smaller environmental impact. **Have a meatless day each week.**

If you love dairy, simply **try products made from goat's milk**, which has been shown to have smaller ecological and carbon footprints.

Ask questions and learn where your food came from and how it was produced. Simply **read the label** and avoid foods with too many ingredients, especially those you don't recognize. Ask yourself, Would your grandparents recognize this product as food?

Skip the aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and baggies, and **put food into reusable containers**—preferably glass. Simply reuse what you have. When you cannot avoid packaging, choose metal or glass over plastic—and anything recyclable or compostable over items destined for the trash bin.

**Get in the habit of not throwing things away or replacing them** unless necessary, and fix them when broken. Check for leaks in your toilet and repair if necessary. Leaks are usually caused by worn out flapper valves and can be easily and inexpensively replaced. Replace any worn out washers in faucets to stop drips and leaks.



### **Spring Cleaning for the Soul**

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

## **Administrative Council Minutes. January 21, 2026**

Present: Pastor Ruth Warner, Marge Zeller, Sheila Buske, Pam Hill, Mike Lund, Connie LeBoeuf, Diana McKenna, Rachel Hendricks, J.T.

Excused: Lisa Bartholomew, LaDonna Tucker.

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (Rom 8:27-28) and prayer at 6:35pm. The minutes from 11/19, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 1/18 were reviewed. Diana moved to accept, approved.

Current Expense Report through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:  
Income:

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| ••Received for budget: | \$68,815.51 |
| ••Local mission:       | \$1,750.00  |
| ••Conference mission:  | \$7,805.00  |
| ••Total income:        | \$78,370.51 |
| ••Checking acct. bal:  | \$39,604.72 |
| Expenses:              |             |
| ••Personnel:           | \$39,816.11 |
| ••Program:             | \$1,519.06  |
| ••Operations:          | \$17,864.70 |
| ••Conference:          | \$17,083.89 |
| ••Total expenses:      | \$76,283.76 |

Sheila presented the completed Current Expense binder, and moved to accept Lisa's report, approved.

Trustee Treasurer Report through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| ••Trustee income:       | \$6,827.00  |
| ••Restoration income:   | \$15,120.00 |
| ••Memorials/misc:       | \$560.00    |
| ••Total income:         | \$22,893.00 |
| ••Total expenses:       | \$1,456.88  |
| ••Balance of all accts: | \$96,187.00 |

Pam moved to accept, approved. Thanks to our wonderful treasurers!

### Trustee Report

\*The sanctuary floor grate was repaired and installed before Christmas.

\*Art Jones has not started the basement work yet. Mike will contact Dave Burger, who has offered to do the work.

\*Scott Brennan has not started his work yet.

\*Dave Burger will send his invoice of \$3,000.00 for plowing.

\*Pullen's Plumbing was called to repair a broken pipe in the downstairs kitchen that flooded the bathroom.

\*Energy Savers did an energy audit last month, and said more blown-in insulation is needed in the attic. Mike Lund and Mark Powell have started to clean items out of the attic. Small chairs are in the first classroom, but need a good cleaning.

\*Mike has purchased more salt for the ramp and sidewalk.

### Pastor Report

\*Pastor Ruth has completed baptism and confirmation classes with Robin Brady. Robin will join Trinity on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*She is offering an online/Facebook class based on Mark Batterson's book "Draw the Circle", and has asked Shana Cory about leading crafts for a potential youth class.

### Nurture

\*We had 2 children for Sunday School in January. Sheila is showing them how to find scriptures in the Bible.

\*Bible King continues weekly with lessons from "Disciplines", and twice-weekly prayers are continuing to be sent by email.

\*7 Secret Siblings met on January 17<sup>th</sup> for their reveal, and Shana Cory led a fun craft. New names will be drawn in a few weeks.

## Outreach

\*Connie LeBoeuf has agreed to be the new chair, and we thank Diana for her many years of leadership.

\*The January freewill dinner served 29 people. 4 families through Salvation Army were provided with food, hats and mittens, and money for Christmas gifts, thanks to donations and the mission portion of the Christmas Nu2U.

## Witness

\*The Worship Committee met November 12<sup>th</sup> to plan for Advent.

\*We continue to wear our UM sweatshirts, and display "Jesus said..." messages on our signboard.

## SPPRC

There is no report, but the group will meet in February to complete staff evaluations.

## NEW BUSINESS

\*There is a problem on Sunday mornings with congregants of Christ the Good Shepherd using our parking places. Kathy Flaherty will have it announced during worship again, and maybe we can make a larger sign to post at the entrances.

\*Sheila hopes to rerun a Lenten study by A. J. Levine that was begun but never finished in 2020.

\*We will do an internal audit on February 15<sup>th</sup> following worship.

\*The Ash Wednesday service will be hosted by Trinity at 7pm. Kathy will play, and pastors and choir members from our area UM churches will lead worship.

Rachel Hendricks and J.T. gave a report on Haven of Hope. The group has been using Abrams Hall on weekdays since mid- December to provide a safe, warm place for homeless people. They provide meals and activities, and have, at times, extended their hours from 7:30-7:30 because of the cold weather. They would like to continue to stay at Trinity.

They receive many donations of food, clothing, and hygiene products from the community. They are fully insured, and trained staff and volunteers are always on site. They have helped to clean and to do odd jobs around the building.

Sheila made the motion that we allow Haven of Hope to continue meeting for the next 4 months.

They will provide a contract and insurance, and hope to donate up to \$400 a month toward utilities.

Pam seconded, approved.

Next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Marge closed with prayer at 8:15pm.



## Quote of the Day

*"In her voyage across the ocean of this world, the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on her course."* -St. Boniface

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**45 East Utica Street**  
**Oswego, NY 13126**



**2026**

Worship and Church School: 11:00 a.m. Sundays  
315-343-1715

***“Know the Love of God, Grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and  
Go into the World With the Power of the Holy Spirit.”***

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