

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 3

March 2026

March Calendar

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Freewill dinner at 4:30pm | 21 Easter Craft Class from 1-3pm |
| 7 Set Clocks Ahead Tonight | 29 Palm Sunday at 11am |
| 11 Trustee Meeting at 6:30pm | Haven of Hope meets Mon.-Fri. 7:30-3 |
| 16 Bright and Cheerful at noon | AA group meets on Friday evenings |
| 18 Ad. Council Meeting at 6:30pm | Choir rehearsals are 7pm on |
| 20 Organ Tuning at 9am | Thursdays. All are welcome! |

Chancel Servants for March

Altar Guild: Linda Lamond and Brenda Holliday

Communion Stewards: Diana McKenna and Connie LeBoeuf



Lenten Services

Trinity hosted our joint Ash Wednesday service on February 18th, with pastors, choir members, and worshippers from our area United Methodist churches. **Journey of Faith UMC** will host the **Maundy Thursday** service on **March 2nd**, and the **Good Friday** service will take place on the **3rd at Minetto UMC, both at 7pm**. On **March 29th** we will celebrate **Palm Sunday at 11am at Trinity**. We hope you will join us as we move toward Christ's resurrection!

Lenten Study

The Lenten Book Study, "**Final Words**" by Adam Hamilton began at **12 p.m. on Sunday, February 22nd** and will run for six weeks. The same class will also run on **Wednesdays at 11 a.m. starting February 25**. All are welcome!

Craft Day

Come join us, **Saturday, March 21st from 1 – 3pm**, and make Easter crafts. No prior talent required! All materials supplied. The craft is recommended for ages 8 & up. Donations will be accepted, but not expected.

Bright and Cheerful

We will meet on the **16th at noon** to enjoy lunch and fellowship, as we write cards to our friends of Trinity. We would love to have more people join this wonderful ministry!

2 Tom Czerow
4 Heather Heft,
Wuxin Shen
7 Caiden Tucker
12 Jeff Hodge
13 Kathaleen DeMott



14 Ed Campbell
17 Gail Eddy, Mary Seaton,
Patrick Fragale
26 Pam Hill
31 Luke Mulcahey

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

 **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!!

 **Secret Siblings** 

Please remember your new 'Siblings' with daily prayers, monthly cards, and a small birthday gift!

***Congratulations and Welcome to Robin Brady,
in celebration of her baptism and becoming a member of our
Trinity Family on February 15th!***

 **Daily Prayers** 

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

***Condolences to Marge Zeller and her family on the death of her aunt,
Grace Truell, on February 7, 2026 at the wonderful age of 101 years.***

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: George Valentine; Pam's nephew David; 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; Betty Holliday; Cindy Abare; Donna (Gail's sister); Those in assisted living: Gail Draper; Ann Rockower; Judy Lake; Valerie Palmer; Cheryl Coe DeLoff; Zeke Seymour. Please pray for 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 cause 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

Beloved Siblings in Christ, HAPPY MARCH!

While the Lenten journey may seem overly familiar; yes, we have been here before! We all find comfort in the familiar, especially as many of the rituals and practices of this season are like “being home”. This season also invites us to walk the paths we have walked before together, encouraging one another as the body of Christ to gather, rejoice and grow together once again.

Over the course of this month, we will be looking at the Sermon Series: Renewed in Mercy and building one another's journey contemplating Jesus' path and response to those around Him in guidance, companionship, sharing grace and providing redemption.

If able, consider to come and join us in our Lenten Bible study entitled “Final Words from the Cross,” written by Pastor Adam Hamilton and led by Sheila Buske. We gather Sundays after worship and Wednesdays at 11 am.

If that time does not work for you, feel free to join us at Bible Foundations, a study where we get to know one another and our friends from Haven of Hope, while deepening our biblical roots studying the book “What the Bible Teaches” Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the basement with Pastor Ruth.

Lastly, know that we will be celebrating Holy Week with our neighboring United Methodist churches, gathering at **Journey of Hope UMC for Holy Thursday; and at Minetto UMC for Good Friday; BOTH at 7:00 pm! If interested in participating with the JOINT CHOIR reach out to Kathy Flaherty (organist) or Pam Hill (worship leader).**

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth*



A Letter from Our Bishop

Dear United Methodists of Upper New York,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

During the holy season of Lent, I give thanks for each of you and invite you to renew your commitment to personal and communal prayer. In a time marked by deep division, anxiety, and unrest in our nation and communities, it can be tempting to treat prayer as secondary. Yet Lent calls us back to what is essential. Prayer is not an accessory to discipleship; it is the heartbeat of the Christian life. Outside of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing.

In my latest pastoral video that you can watch [here](#), I speak candidly about the challenges of this season in our public life and the temptation toward cynicism, and I offer a reminder that cynicism is not a fruit of the Spirit. Prayer is how God reshapes us. Prayer is how we remain rooted in hope. Prayer is how we are formed into leaders and congregations who embody Christ's healing and liberating love.

I invite you to take a few moments to watch this message and to reflect on how God may be calling you more deeply into prayer. My hope is that it will encourage intentional spiritual renewal across the Susquehanna and Upper New York Episcopal Area and in your own life of faith.

We cannot offer Christ's hope to the world if we ourselves have stopped drinking from the well. May we lean into prayer—not retreating from the world, but leaning toward the Author and Sustainer of our faith. And as we pray, may we be transformed and empowered by the Spirit to become part of God's answer in a world longing for healing.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

The United Methodist Church, Serving the Susquehanna and Upper New York Episcopal Area

N.O.W. Minutes 2/11/2026

Present: Sheila Buske, Pam Hill, Connie LeBoeuf

Excused: Lisa Bartholomew, Barb Downs, Brenda Holliday, Linda Lamond, Diana McKenna, LaDonna Tucker, Dan Warner, Marge Zeller, Pastor Ruth.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs, it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, remind us that without love, all our achievements, knowledge, and faith mean nothing. Turn our 'clanging cymbals' into music. Help us to make Your priorities our own, knowing that while prophecies and knowledge may pass away, love remains forever. Shape us into a church defined by love, not just actions. In the name of your loving Son, Amen.

Glory – “We have no design but to promote the glory of God” – John Wesley.

How have you seen God’s glory in the world recently? The Olympic Opening Ceremony and Superbowl Halftime Show, which both showcased love of neighbor. Snow sparkling in the light, and Haven of Hope sharing our building.

Approve Minutes of 12/17//25 –Pam moved, Connie seconded – Approved

Nurture

The Advent Study, “A Child is Born”, by Amy Jill Levine was enjoyed by seven participants in December. Sunday School was held on January 11th with Abbie, Luke, Connie, and Sheila. The BibleKing small group continues to meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 at Burger King, and the Bright and Cheerful Circle meets every third Monday of the month to write cards for the congregation. All are invited to attend either or both! A Valentine craft was led by Shana Cory on February 7th, and was enjoyed by 6 participants, including two guests from Haven of Hope. The Secret Siblings Reveal party was enjoyed by 8 participants on January 17th, and 16 people have signed up to be Secret Siblings in 2026. An increase of six from last year!!!

We continue to nurture those on our email list with “Imagine No Racism” prayers each Monday and Thursday. And a Lenten Study, “Final Words from the Cross”, by Adam Hamilton will be offered on Sundays after church and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., running for six weeks. Additionally, Pastor Ruth will offer a Bible Study at noon every Wednesday for the Haven of Hope people downstairs.

Outreach

Our Free-Will Dinner in January hosted 29 guests with 6 workers, and our February Dinner fed 26 guests and 5 workers. Donations for the Salvation Army were provided toward the purchase of food and gifts for four families for Christmas, and they sent a lovely “Thank You” note. Some issues with trash and recycling were discussed with Rachel of Haven of Hope, and she was very willing to implement comprehensive recycling of all metal, plastic, paper, and glass. This should cut

down significantly on the volume of trash generated. She also offered to take extra trash beyond our trashcan's capacity to the dump.

We will hold a Free Will Dinner on March 1st, serving corned beef and cabbage, but no dinner will be held in April due to Easter Sunday. The people from Haven of Hope have generously donated their time and talents to help with the dinners, and have also volunteered to assist with the set up and clean up of April's Nu-2-U Sale, which will run on April 10th, 11th and 18th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Bake sales will run on both weekends. We discussed the possibility of including an informational and sale table manned by Haven of Hope staff.

Witness

The "Jesus said" sayings on the outdoor sign board continue to be posted for all to see! Currently, the sign reads, "Blessed are those who mourn", in honor of the two Americans killed during January by ICE. When the snow and ice melt enough to change the signboard, we plan to post, "Jesus said, You are the salt of the earth. "The Worship Committee met on January 18th, and February 11th to plan for Lent, and will meet at noon on February 25th to plan for Holy Week and Easter.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer – *Lord, we thank You for Your love. Help us to be patient, to be kind, not to envy, not to boast, not to be proud, and not to be selfish. Give us the grace to love others well as we go out to do your work in the world, in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

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**Easter Flowers**



If you would like to give a plant in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of please use the form below. **Please give the name(s) to Pam Hill by Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** to be included in the Easter bulletin.

**If you would like to purchase your own plant, it should be at the church by 10 a.m. Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you prefer, the Altar Guild will purchase the plant for you (\$8.00 each). Please send in your money along with this form to the office (in an envelope addressed to Pam). We also encourage you to take the plant home after the service, especially the lilies because they don't do well in our garden.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN CELEBRATION OF:

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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



**2026**

Worship and Church School: 10:00 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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