

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 4

April 2026



April Calendar



2 Maundy Thursday service at 7pm at
Journey of Faith UMC

3 Good Friday service at 7pm at
Minetto UMC

5 Have a blessed Easter!

8 Trustee meeting at 6:30pm
10-11 Nu2U and Bake sale 9-3

15 Worship meeting at 1pm
N.O.W. meeting at 6:30pm

18 Nu2U Bake and bag sale 9-3

20 Bright & Cheerful at noon

Choir meets on Thursdays at 7pm
AA group meets on Friday evening

Chancel Servants for April

Altar Guild: Connie LeBoeuf and
Diana McKenna

Communion Stewards: Marge Zeller and
Pam Hill



April Nu2U Sale



The church Nu-2-U and Bake Sale is planned for **April 10, 11, and 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** There will be a wide variety of items for sale; something for everyone, including delicious homemade baked goods. The Bag Sale (on most items) starts at 9 a.m. on April 18. A portion of the proceeds will be given to Haven of Hope for their homeless ministry. Anyone wishing to donate may bring the items to the church beginning April 7 until April 9 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, or call the church for arrangements. Thank you, in advance, for your baked goods and help with our fundraiser.



Bright and Cheerful



We will meet on the **20th 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!



Secret Siblings



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

Birthdays

11 Eleanor Lund
22 Rachel Pittenger
23 Dan Warner
24 Douglas Townsend
25 Rodger Adydan



Anniversaries

4 Gay & Lyle Battles
25 Lisa & Walter Langlois

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

Daily Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: Bea Holliday; Lisa Bartholomew; Lori Gibson; Jean Heagerty; Brenda Holliday; Mike Flaherty; Linda Lamond; Ed Downs; Lisa Langlois and her brother; Carrie Simmons; Angel Simmons; Dave Wadleigh; Mary Seaton and her brothers Glen and John; Nancy Wadleigh; Leah (Rebecca's sister); Bea Holliday; George Valentine; Paula Nelson (Marge Zeller's sister-in-law); Bob (Mark Garlock's father-in-law); Nancy Nixdorf; Wuxin Shen; Betty Holliday; Nancy Sawyer and family; Donna (Gail's sister); Those in assisted living: 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 Iran and Venezuela. Prayers that this genocide, and the elected officials who cause it will stop. Please pray for those living in fear, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as in 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.



Human Concerns Food Pantry Updated Hours



Good News for eligible families within the Oswego City School District! The Human Concerns Food Pantry will be open the 2nd & 4th Saturdays from 9a – 11a. Dates: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 6/12, 6/26, 7/11 (closed Harborfest weekend), 8/8, 8/22, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24.

These extended hours begin Saturday April 11, 2026 for a six month trial basis.

Regular hours are Monday – Friday 12n-3p. **To determine eligibility: call 315-308-8625 or stop in: 75 E. 2nd St., Oswego.**


**Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!**

The gospel began with such people — fishermen, mothers, tentmakers, letter carriers, innkeepers, and widows who prayed. The kingdom advances through hands like yours.

Your faithfulness is itself a sermon — preached not from a pulpit, but from a kitchen table, a nursing-home hallway, or a quiet prayer over a list of names. You are the embodied reminder that no one is truly homebound when love is on the move.

When we celebrate volunteers, we do more than thank them. We renew the soul of the church.

Gratitude has a ripple effect. When one servant is honored, others are inspired. When one story is told, a dozen others awaken.

So, this National Volunteer Week, let every congregation take time to pause and say, with full hearts: Thank you.

Thank you for every visit, every call, every errand, every prayer. Thank you for being the voice, the hands, the face of Christ in places the rest of us cannot go. Thank you for staying faithful when no one was watching.

Because of you, our homebound friends feel remembered. Because of you, the gospel keeps moving. From: <https://www.hometouchministry.com>.

There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There's something better coming.



Pastor's Letter

Beloved Church Family,

Joy and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

What a great joy to welcome in the Spring season along with the Holy week and Easter celebrations this April 2026! I pray and hope you and your family are able to come together in fellowship to celebrate this so important week: **Maundy Thursday** at 7 pm, worship at the Journey of Faith United Methodist Church (7721 NY 104 Oswego, NY 13126) and **Good Friday** at Minetto UMC (2433 Ct. Rt. 8 Oswego NY) at 7 pm!

This month's sermon series “Journey's End” themes:

April 5th “A New Start”

April 12th “Unless I See”

April 19th “Astounded Us”

April 26th “Knowing the Voice”

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” **Hebrews 12:1-3**

PASTORAL PRAYER: DRAW ME CLOSE TO YOU

Draw me close to You, never let me go!

I lay it all down again to hear You say that I'm your friend.

You are my desire; no one else will do.

For nothing else can take Your place - to feel the warmth of Your embrace.

Help me find the way; lead me back to You!

You're all I want! You're all I've ever needed! You're all I want!

Help me know You are near!

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth*

Dare to Take Risks to Move Church Forward By *Jim Patterson* 3/2/2026 (UM News)

The Rev. Stephen Handy in Nashville is helping 20 urban congregations between Nashville and Memphis get out in their neighborhoods. Partnerships with nonprofits offer a way to revitalize underused church space and bring people into the church building who wouldn't otherwise be interested, Handy says. He also believes it's time that churches were measured more by the effectiveness of their ministries and less by financial or membership statistics.

"I think the Methodist church is in the best position to reshape the values and culture of our world if we're willing to take risks," said the Rev. Stephen Handy, lead pastor of McKendree United Methodist Church in downtown Nashville. Handy has been pastor at McKendree since 2009, and earned his doctorate in ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary.

In an interview with United Methodist News, Handy explained why he considers himself the pastor of downtown Nashville, not just his church. "If we're willing to be open to hearing conversations that we've never had before, if we're willing to walk with people we've never walked with before, I think what we will realize is God is doing a new thing," Handy said.

If you're not feeding the hungry, if you're not clothing the naked, if you're not interacting with people unlike yourself, I would say you're not growing. Although your attendance may be good, your money may be good, there's a culture that lacks discipleship. I think most of our churches lack discipleship culture. Rev. Stephen Handy, envisions more United Methodist churches using the spare space in their buildings to build partnerships in their neighborhoods

Many of our churches just serve people and say goodbye. We serve and we sit because we want to know the names, we want to hear the stories, we want to understand the testimonies, the struggles, the celebrations. The best time to do that is over a meal, which is what Jesus did, right? Jesus spent more time around tables than he did in the temple.

The United Methodist Church is probably one of the few entities that have more space than we ever use. Most of our churches have underutilized space. So 15 years ago, we experimented with Monroe Harding's foster care division. They said they would love to have space in downtown Nashville, because that's where the bus hub is. And we said, "Why not?" So we've got 25 to 40 kids between the ages of probably 17 and 21 who are in our building Monday through Friday. Now, what the beauty of that is, they run social gatherings, and we get to mentor these kids who are looking for something more than they have, but they don't know what it is, and they wouldn't call it church. What they would call it is an encounter with a group of people who claim, "I have a faith" and they want to know more about them.

Why has there been a decline in church? Because people have slowly disengaged from local congregations, because they have felt we don't address needs well, because we're embedded in a culture called the church, and it's "**just us**" as opposed to "**justice**." Let's follow the example of Jesus to change that! **Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."** (Mark 12:33).

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/dare-to-take-risks-to-move-church-forward-pastor-says>

Addressed to God

A letter written in a childish scrawl arrived at the post office addressed simply to "God." Unsure what to do, a postal employee opened it and read: "Dear God, my name is Jimmy. I am 6 years old. My father is dead, and my mother is having a hard time raising me and my sister. Would you please send us \$500?"

Moved by the boy's plea, the employee shared the letter with coworkers, and together they collected \$300 to send to the family.

A couple of weeks later, another letter arrived. Jimmy thanked God for the money and added one final request: "Next time would you please deliver the money directly to our home? If you send it through the post office, they deduct \$200.

January 2026 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits \$4,562.27

(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)

Program Expenses \$18.60

(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshipping community)

Operations Expenses \$1,016.44

(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)

Conference Billing \$1,070.18

(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)

Total January Expenditures \$6,667.49

Prepared 02/02/26 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects January 30 Paychecks

February 2026 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits \$4,367.26

(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)

Program Expenses \$100.00

(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshipping community)

Operations Expenses \$1,133.50

(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)

Conference Billing \$1,070.18

(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)

Total February Expenditures \$6,670.94

Prepared 03/16/26 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects February 27 Paychecks

PEACOCK — The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.



Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.

Administrative Council Minutes March 18, 2026

Present: Marge Zeller, Mike Lund, Sheila Buske, Pam Hill, Diana McKenna, Connie LeBoeuf, LaDonna Tucker. Excused: Lisa Bartholomew.

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (Isaiah 33:15-16) and prayer at 6:30pm. The minutes from January 21st were reviewed. Sheila moved to accept, LaDonna seconded, approved.

The Current Expense reports through February were presented:

| Income: | Expenses: |
|---|---|
| ••Received for budget: \$11,437.00 | ••Personnel: \$8,929.53 |
| ••Local mission: \$1,292.00 | ••Program: \$118.60 |
| ••Conference mission: \$1,834.00 | ••Operations: \$2,149.94 |
| ••Total income: \$14,563.00 | ••Conference: \$2,140.36 |
| ••Checking acct. balance: \$37,706.84 | ••Total expenses: \$13,338.43 |

Pam moved to accept, approved.

Mike presented the Trustee treasurer report through February:

| | |
|--|--|
| ••Trustee income: \$825.00 | ••Total income: \$825.00 |
| ••Restoration income: \$0.00 | ••Total expenses: \$100.00 |
| ••Memorials: \$0.00 | ••Balance of all accounts: \$138,513.59 |

Sheila moved to accept, approved.

Pastor Report

Pastor Ruth discussed her joy at being our 30% pastor, working at getting to know us and work together in God's love. She has plans to reach out into the community in various ways, including studies with college students and worship and communion at Morningstar Nursing Home. She is eager to continue to collaborate in ministry!

Trustee Report

We have received one bid from Lakeview Remodeling, and are awaiting a bid from Burger Construction for the downstairs floor work.

The Trustees will schedule a time when the weather is warmer to rake the grass around the parking area and level the gravel. They will also install a temporary fence at the back of our property.

Pam has contacted Brennan Stained Glass to remove the damaged leaded glass door panels. They will come in the next 2 weeks.

A request was made to put survey stakes at the far end of our property.

Nurture

Sunday School continues to be offered each week, but there have been no children. Discipleship prayers continue to be sent twice weekly. Bible King meets weekly with 4-6 participants. Bright and Cheerful sent out 29 Easter cards at their March meeting. Our Secret Sibling Reveal was enjoyed by 7 members on January 17th, and 16 people have drawn new names. Sheila is leading the Lenten study, "Final Words" by Adam Hamilton, with 11 attending. 6 people enjoyed the Valentine Craft class, and an Easter Craft is planned for March 21st.

Outreach

The February Freewill dinner served 26 meals, with 6 workers, and the March dinner served 39 people with 7 workers.

Our spring Nu2U and Bake sale is planned for April 10th, 11th, and 18th from 9-3. Setup begins on the 6th from 9:30-12. Baked goods will be available all 3 days, and the bag sale will be the 18th.

Witness

Our signboard continues to proclaim "Jesus says:" messages, with "you are the salt of the earth".

The Worship Committee met on January 18th, February 11th, and February 25th to plan for Lent and Holy Week, and will meet March 25th to plan the Easter service.

3 Trinity members attended Common Council meetings to support Haven of Hope, who have been barred from using Trinity as a day shelter.

Finance

Giving is going well. The Internal Audit was completed and sent to Conference on March 11th. Many thanks to everyone who helped complete the yearly paperwork!

SPPRC

The committee met on March 11th. Pastor Ruth presented her Annual Report, and Staff evaluations were discussed, with most comments being very positive. Sheila will prepare and email them to the staff members. The next meeting will be June 10th at 11:30am.

OLD BUSINESS

The Ash Wednesday service went very well, with 18 choir members, and pastors and congregation members from our neighboring UM churches. We were pleased to have Kathy Flaherty play the organ for us.

NEW BUSINESS

We are hosting talks on the book, "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder, on Thursdays at 2:30. Dr. Virginia Cohen is leading these discussions about how we can overcome the negative issues in our country.

Pastor Ruth asked if she could move her office upstairs, as she is cold. The desk cannot be moved from the present office, but there is a desk upstairs. She would direct any visitors to go up. We have no objections.

We are urged to attend the ordination of Jeff Hodge at Annual Conference. Congratulations Pastor Jeff!

We are looking for someone to update our Facebook page.

Next meeting is May 20th at 6:30pm. Pam moved to adjourn, approved at 7:30pm.

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.”***

<https://www.facebook.com/OswegoNYTrinityUMC/>

<https://trinityumcoswego.org/>