

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 10

October 2026



October Calendar



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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 4 Freewill dinner at 4:30 | 17 1st UMC Quilt show 10-3 |
| 4 and 11 World Communion offering | 19 Bright and Cheerful at noon |
| 7 Worship meeting at 2:15 | 21 N.O.W. meeting at 6:30 |
| 10 Winterwear giveaway 9-1 | 24 Tshirt lunch at Brittany's at 12 |
| 11 Communion Service at Morningstar at 1 | 31 Set Clocks Back |
| 14 Trustee meeting at 6:30 | |

AA group meets on Friday evening

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



Chancel Servants for October



Altar Guild: Marge Zeller and Brenda Holliday

Communion Stewards: Pam Hill and Marge Zeller



Winter Wear Giveaway



Please help us clothe our neighbors by bringing in gently worn (or new) coats and jackets. We could also use boots, mittens, scarves, and other warm clothing. We especially need coats and jackets for children. Our give away will be **October 10th from 9am to 1pm.**

Thank you for any help you can give.

Support our Local UMC

Oswego First is having their annual **Quilt and Craft Show & Silent Auction** on **Sat., October 17th from 10am -3pm.** Come also for their delicious **Chicken BBQ, from noon to sold out!**

It's Another Tshirt Outing!

On **October 24th at noon**, we will gather at Brittany's restaurant, located at East 4th and Bridge Streets. Wear your United Methodist shirts and help spread the good news of God's love for all people, while enjoying good food and fellowship!

All Saints Sunday

Our **annual All Saints Service** will be held on **Sunday, November 1st at 11am.** If you have loved ones who have died in the past year who you would like to be included, please contact Pam or the church email by October 21st.



Needed...Food for our Neighbors



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

Birthdays:

- 3 Sam Stone
- 7 Chris Tucker
- 8 Diana McKenna
- 9 Marge Zeller
- 19 Charles Murphy, Sr.
- 23 Pastor Ruth Rosa Warner
- 31 Gaylon Oldenburg, Sr.

Anniversaries:

- 5 Jeffery & Melissa Lisk
- 10 Renee & Timothy Mulkerin
- 13 Kathy & Mike Flaherty



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



We will meet on the **19th 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! ☀️



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



Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

***Condolences to Lisa Langlois and family on the death of her brother,
David Stout on September 8th; and to Dan Warner on the passing of his brother-in-law,
Bruce Dschuden on September 5th.***

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: Lucy Pelequin, Wendy Geroux's son's family (premature newborn); Gail Eddy; Mary Seaton; Kathaleen DeMott; Martha Lyon (wrist surgery); Brenda Holliday; Angel Simmons; Mark Powell; Carrie Simmons; Dave Wadleigh; Billy's brother Lloyd (heart surgery); Lynne "Bunny" Phillips (car accident); Nancy Wadleigh; Toby Hill's sons, Josh and Logan who are healing from injuries; Mary Seaton's brothers; Rebecca's sister Leah and mother Donna; Mark Garlock's father-in-law Bob; Wuxin Shen; Gail's sister Donna; Nancy Sawyer and family. Those in assisted living: Bea Holliday; Betty Holliday; Ann Rockower; Judy Lake; Valerie Palmer; Gail Draper; Zeke Seymour. Continued prayers for Lisa Langlois and her family on the loss of David Stout, and for Dan and the family of Bruce Dschuden. 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, smart policies to slow our warming climate, the end of senseless wars, and leaders to be merciful and humble everywhere. Please pray also for those living in fear, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as in our country; and prayers for those affected by natural disasters worldwide. Prayers for all those doing God's work in the world; an end to racism, and the coming of world peace! Also, please pray for "Haven of Hope", as they reach out to the homeless in our neighborhood.

Pastor's Letter

Beloved Trinity UMC Family,

Welcome to the month of October; God has been good! Dan and I had a wonderful time during our Journeys of Paul cruise and look forward to sharing highlights, pictures and information with you on **Friday, October 16, 2026. The Getting Together Potluck at 5 pm in the Fulton First UMC Friendship Room.** Bring some goodies and come ready to share, learn and enjoy!

Our awesome Summer season has ended, and as we enter into the Fall, I pray we are open to new opportunities to fall deeper in love with God's Word and to better care for one other! I will be sending monthly letters to stay in touch with you and your family members and **look forward to hearing back about ways we can be praying for you and even to meet up** for hot cocoa/coffee or a meal!

We will continue with our 2026 Focus: **Disciples Make Disciples** and will emphasize on the theme "The Body of Christ is ONE" through the month of October. Please, plan to join us Sunday mornings for in-person worship at Trinity UMC 11:00 am and also via Facebook for Daily Reading Devotions Sunday – Friday at 6:30 am. (Chart enclosed as page 2).

Holy Communion services for Morningstar Nursing Home residents:

Wednesdays: October 7th / November 4th / December 2nd

1 pm to 2 pm at the Fellowship Room by the Lobby. Join us!

If unable to be with us for Communion the FIRST SUNDAY of the month, Dan and I would love to bring the Communion elements you. Please, let us know if you would like a visit by calling the church office or sending an email to PastorRuthRLW@gmail.com. Blessings!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Trinity UMC DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN



[1] Genesis 2:4-8	[17] Leviticus 20:6-8
[2] Genesis 2:16-22	[18] Leviticus 23:3
[3] Genesis 3:1-6	[19] Leviticus 26:1-6
[4] Genesis 6:9-18	[20] Numbers 6:22-26
[5] Genesis 7:11-17	[21] Deuteronomy 4:15-19
[6] Genesis 9:9-16	[22] Deuteronomy 4:23-24
[7] Exodus 1:1-22	[23] Deuteronomy 4:39-40
[8] Exodus 2:1-10	[24] Deuteronomy 6:1-9
[9] Exodus 2:11-15	[25] Joshua 1:1-9
[10] Exodus 3:1-5	[26] Joshua 6:1-6, 15-16
[11] Exodus 3:7-17	[27] Joshua 23:6-11
[12] Exodus 4:10-17	[28] 1 st Samuel 1:1-18
[13] Exodus 7:1-7	[29] 1 st Samuel 3:1-10
[14] Exodus 13:21-22	[30] 1 st Samuel 9:15-16
[15] Exodus 14:8-14	[31] 1 st Samuel 9:26- 10:9
[16] Exodus 20:1-17	



August 2026 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits \$4,262.24

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

Program Expenses \$0.00

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

Operations Expenses \$1,430.91

(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 August Expenditures \$6,763.33

Prepared 09/20/26 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects August 31 Paychecks



How Small Congregations Can Flourish

By Heather Hahn Sept. 21, 2026 | UM News

Small churches have distinctive strengths that The United Methodist Church should embrace, argues a new report from Wesleyan Impact Partners. That's important since most U.S. United Methodist churches, and Protestant churches in general, are small.

The report profiles nine congregations across the U.S. — most of which average 50 or less in worship but excel in community impact. The congregations, which are thriving in both rural and urban settings, share certain qualities. UM News is spotlighting thriving congregations and ministries that embody The United Methodist Church's vision to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

Most of the nine churches featured have an average worship attendance under 50. Nevertheless, the report establishes that they all have an outsized impact in representing the Kingdom of God — like the wee mustard seed Jesus described in his parable. What if the smallness of so many churches in United Methodism isn't a problem, but an asset?"

That's an important perspective given the current U.S. religious landscape. Nearly 70% of the country's Protestant churches — no matter whether they are part of a denomination or not — average fewer than 100 in weekly attendance. Most U.S. United Methodist churches are even smaller. As of 2024, the General Council on Finance and Administration reports, 12,607 U.S. United Methodist churches — 64.5% of those that reported their attendance — had an average of 50 or fewer people in either in-person or online worship each week.

"These folks are really committed," the pastor said. "They're saying, 'I'm not giving up on God. I'm not giving up on church. It's something I still want or need, and I think it could be different.'" All involved in the Wesleyan Impact Partners study acknowledged that financial sustainability remains a real challenge for small churches.

However, McShane sees value in releasing churches from the compulsion to grow larger. Such a move, she said, would empower congregations to live out The United Methodist Church's new vision to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously.

After all, early Christianity first grew across the Roman empire through small, intimate gatherings of worshippers. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free UM News Digest.

D.S. Sheri Rood Retiring Next Year

Earlier this summer, the Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood shared her intent to move to a retirement relationship at the end of the 2026–27 appointment year and transition out of the Upper New York Cabinet on June 30, 2027.

Rev. Dr. Rood currently serves as Superintendent for the Finger Lakes and Crossroads districts and as dean of the UNY Cabinet. Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood began serving as a pastor on July 1, 1992, marking 35 years of ministry. In 2011, she was appointed District Superintendent for an eight-year term before returning to the local church. In 2022, she was invited back to the cabinet for a second term. At the end of her tenure, she will have served 13 years on the cabinet, including six as dean. In her intent letter, Rev. Rood wrote, "It has been a joy and at times a demanding endeavor to serve on cabinet. Over the years I have been blessed to work with faithful and creative laity and clergy. I trust The United Methodist Church will continue to be a conduit of grace as we faithfully follow Jesus by serving God and all of God's people."

Rev. Dr. Rood has served the church and the cabinet with excellence. Her love for God and God's people is evident in all she does. Over the years, she has offered faithful pastoral presence and clear, graceful, visionary leadership. On behalf of the cabinet, I give thanks to God for her transformative leadership and the countless ways she has served the reign of God through the ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Please join me in celebrating the ministry of Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood and in praying for her and the cabinet during this year of transition. I will share more with the UNY clergy community soon about the discernment process for the next superintendent.

Thank you for the ways you make the love of Jesus Christ visible and tangible in the communities you serve—loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously—so that lives and whole communities encounter Christ's healing and liberating love.

Together in Christ's mission, *Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez*,

Luther and the Bible



Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

Administrative Council Meeting September 16, 2026

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

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (2 Samuel 22:7) and prayer at 6:30pm. The minutes from July 15th were reviewed. LaDonna moved to accept, approved.

The Current Expense report through August 31st was presented:

Income:	Expenses:
Received for budget: \$50,401.00	Personnel: \$34,727.93
Local mission: \$1,418.00	Program: \$432.65
Conference mission: \$6,408.00	Operations: \$14,614.36
Total income: \$58,227.00	Conference: \$8,561.44
Checking acct. balance: \$31,330.89	Total expenses: \$58,336.38

Pam moved to accept, approved.

Mike presented the Trustee treasurer report through August 31st:

Trustee: \$3,935.00
Restoration income: \$9,000.00
Memorials: \$75.00
Total income: \$13,010.00
Total expenses: \$63,563.50
Balance of all accounts: \$87,101.46
Sheila moved to accept, approved.

Trustee Report

The Abrams Hall project has been completed, and the bill has been paid. Mike will install wooden baseboard during the winter. The bathroom drain is sealed, and the floor and mopboard have been replaced. Thanks to all who helped move furniture and clean!

Pam will contact Russ Getman again, to install new survey markers on the north end of the property.

Mr. Pauldine still has not finished his wall. He needs to fill in where he removed soil by our bushes, and behind our shed where the cement pad collapsed. Pam asked Mike to contact him.

Nurture

We had 2 Sunday School students in August. Marge is teaching a class on Sundays after church and Wednesdays at 11, based on Adam Hamilton's book, "When Christians Get it Wrong". Bible King has been discussing videos at church by A. J. Levine while Burger King is being renovated, and Bright and Cheerful continues to send cards and prayers monthly.

Outreach

The August Freewill dinner served 13 guests, with 6 helpers, and the September dinner served 18 with 9 workers.

Our fall Nu2U sale made \$755.00 the first weekend. The bag sale will be Saturday, with \$5 a bag on clothes and half price for most other items. The Christmas sale is scheduled for December 5th. October 10th will be our Winterwear Giveaway from 9-1, so please save your warm clothing and coats.

Thanks to all our hard-working volunteers for these wonderful missions!

Witness

Our signboard message is "Jesus said, blessed are those who are persecuted unfairly".

New UMC tshirts and sweatshirts were ordered and distributed. We are encouraged to wear them in public, especially at the 1st UMC Quilt Show on October 17th, and at our tshirt outing breakfast at Brittany's on October 24th.

The Worship Committee has been meeting monthly, and the Discipleship prayers are appreciated twice weekly.

Finance

Sheila ordered the complete UM Hymnal CD set, at a cost of \$463.25. Since we only have \$300.00 in the Music line of the budget, Sheila made the motion that we put the CD Hymnal purchase under the Substitute Organist line, which has \$600.00 in it. Pam seconded, approved.

Ministry shares for 2027 are \$13,824, up from \$11,544 in 2026, but the retiree premium went down from over \$2,000 to \$1,392.

Our next meeting will be October 7th at 1.

SPPRC

Pastor Ruth and the committee will update the wedding forms. Charge Conference forms are due October 1st. Sheila and Pam are working on them. We voted on a 3% raise for all staff.

The Charge Conference will be held at Fulton 1st UMC on November 21st, time to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS

Our staff appreciated the Thank You cards that were given from the congregation in August. We discussed Bishop Hector's "10 questions", and we, as a church, are doing them.

NEW BUSINESS

The National Grid bills have been very high. Sheila suggested having an energy audit done, and recommended Michael C. Graham & Son from Syracuse, who perform free inspections, and could help with insulation/heat loss problems.

The next meeting will be November 18th at 6:30. Marge closed the meeting with prayer at 7:28pm.



Charging Forward in Stewardship



Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.



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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