



Vol. 59 No. 3

# Glad Tidings

MARCH 2026

*Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world:  
through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!*

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## Where the Breath Begins

Dry  
and dry  
and dry  
in each direction.

Dust dry.  
Desert dry.  
Bone dry.

And here  
in your own heart:  
dry,  
the center of your chest  
a bare valley  
stretching out  
every way you turn.

Did you think  
this was where  
you had come to die?

It's true that  
you may need  
to do some crumbling,  
yes.

That some things  
you have protected  
may want to be  
laid bare,  
yes.

That you will be asked  
to let go  
and let go,  
yes.

But listen.  
This is what  
a desert is for.

If you have come here  
desolate,  
if you have come here  
deflated,  
then thank your lucky stars  
the desert is where  
you have landed—  
here where it is hard  
to hide,  
here where it is unwise  
to rely on your own devices,  
here where you will  
have to look  
and look again  
and look close  
to find what refreshment waits  
to reveal itself to you.

I tell you,  
though it may be hard  
to see it now,  
this is where  
your greatest blessing  
will find you.

I tell you,  
this is where  
you will receive  
your life again.

I tell you,  
this is where  
the breath begins.

—Jan Richardson  
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of  
Blessings for the Seasons*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Communion</b>
March 1, 2026	Phillis Becker	In House/Zoom	No
March 8, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
March 15, 2026	Wendy Catera	In House/Zoom	No
March 22, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
March 29, 2026 - Palm Sunday	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Zoom	No

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on Zoom.  
Zoom Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 3158666474 Password: 13350

### **Update on Our SouperBowl of Caring**

Hi there Hunger Tacklers!

Trinity succeeded in collecting \$60 and 50 Soup Cans in our February collection for the SouperBowl Of Caring. Our donations this year were directed to the Little Falls Food Pantry, in Little Falls NY. Canned soups were delivered by JoAnn Blaise, and a check will be written shortly for Trinity’s cash donation. I have submitted our information to the SouperBowl of Caring national website, so a future Tidings should be able to have our Certificate of participation in it.

If you’re interested in checking out their website, it is: [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Thank you for participating!

Amy Manning

### **Easter Flowers**

How festive the church looks when the altar is filled with flowers for Easter Sunday! We are working with Price Chopper in Richfield Springs, and are able to take orders for lilies, tulips, and hyacinths. An order form is included in this mailing. Orders are due back to the office no later than Sunday, March 15, 2026. Flowers will decorate the altar for Easter Sunday and should be taken home by the purchaser following the service.

### **Zion/Trinity Brunch**

*All are welcome!* Members from Zion and Trinity would like to join together for brunch. Our first opportunity is Tuesday, March 24th at 11:15 AM at Denny's in North Utica (180 N. Genesee Street.) If you are interested, please sign the sheet in the Narthex. Lent is a wonderful time for fellowship and connection.

You may also be interested in joining the **Walking Group** which will begin walking weekly on Tuesdays at the Target entrance to Sangertown Mall. The first date is Tuesday, March 3rd at 10:00 AM. Kim Marscher at Zion is the organizer. If you would like details and updates text Kim at 315-794-6233.

### **Serving & Sharing**

It already seems like it has been a long winter. Even during this cold weather, we have been able to gather, whether in person or online.

We have served warm, take out, and frozen meals. God wants us to help with people less fortunate than us. I know God has many plans for us to share and serve.

Our committee hopes to meet to plan for this year. Date and time of the committee meeting will be in the Weekly Announcements. Contact the office if you need to sign up for the Weekly Announcements email.

This year we hope to have more socializing after church services with snacks and fellowship.

Enjoying collaborations with Herkimer Reformed Church to share food and facilities.

Lenten Lunches started on February 25th. Please see posters to let you know where to go at noon on Wednesdays during lent.

Please remember to thank our communication team for keeping us connected.

Blessings to all and wait to see the new things to come.

## DONATION FOCUS

For the month of March, our donation focus will be Meat - beef stew, tuna, premade meat ravioli, canned spaghetti. Each month we will have a different donation focus, but other items will always be in need and accepted. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

## WOMEN OF FAITH

“Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” (Psalm 30:5b) In our March 17th Women of Faith Bible Study, Max Lucado poses the question, ‘Does God have a word for the dark nights of the soul?’ We will join Mary Magdalene who knew a bit about weeping, tragedy and affliction; but she also discovered that joy comes in the morning as she stood in the garden on Easter morning. Join us on Zoom Tuesday, March 17th at 7 p.m. as we learn more about Mary Magdalene and how these words from Psalm 30 may have spoken to her. Yes, it's St. Patrick's Day, so WEAR SOMETHING GREEN and maybe we'll even weave a little of St. Patrick into our conversation.

In preparation for our time together, please read John 20:1 – 18. You might also want to read Psalm 30. Watch for the handout in early March.

## **Learning** BOOK GROUP

TLC Book Group will meet on March 13th at 10 AM at Trinity. Our book is The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer. It is set on Guernsey island south of England in the aftermath of WW II. Please join us for an interesting look at this time in history.

Looking ahead: April 10th with book choice to be announced.

## FAITH ALIVE

Easter, that joyful time, where the light of Jesus Christ shines brightly upon All of us, is suddenly upon us. It spiritually reminds us that God's awesome love shines brightly throughout the year. Let us thank the Lord continually for His saving Grace. So what is Easter and when does it end? IT NEVER ENDS!! It is one holiday that is celebrated continuously, and that is what Faith Alive is all about. Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for all of us at the CROSS, our SALVATION.

Want to learn more?.....share your own faith experience, then come to Faith Alive.....all ages are welcome....you might be surprised at what the children will teach us!!!....Yes, even me, Phillis!!

Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of the loving kindness of the Lord forever; to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth"....Now read the verse slowly asking ourselves the question, what is the psalmist by using the words "I will" twice stating what his action will be? Think of the words PRAISE and SHARE. Praise and share what?

Faith Alive gatherings in March will be the 1st and 15th 9am-10am. We will be making a new Easter banner for the sanctuary. Rose Snow has graciously offered to supply all materials needed including her personal instructions. Thank you Rose!!!

Come and join us during March FA gatherings to take part and share the joy of the Lord with each other.

Johnson Park Center located in Utica continues to be Faith Alive's outreach ministry.

Another mission added to FA will be Blessing Bags put together for the Loaves and Fishers organization. More information to follow so please keep checking the Tidings or see Phillis or Sheila with any questions on how you can help. Blessings!

Please remember our local food pantry by bringing a non-perishable food item for someone who just might need a little help. Thank you so much.

## BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday from 10 am to noon in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Knowledge of the bible is not required. If you have your own bible please bring it with you, if not we will supply one. With the Holy Spirit leading us we come up with some amazing topical studies. We presently are studying the book of Hebrews and continuing to discuss a different Psalm each week. As we grow together in our Faith, always asking the question, what is Jesus teaching us? With His arms opened wide Jesus invites us to "COME "and be blessed in His Grace and Love". Amen!

## **Worship, Music, and Prayer**

### BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 4:6,7).

### PRAYER NOTES:

In our "journey of life" we will encounter numerous valleys of adversity. Referring to the truths that God shows us in His Word as "hope signs" of encouragement can help us pray our way through these valleys.

Here are some:

1. There is another side - Psalm 23:4 is familiar to those experiencing adversity. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me." No matter the pain of the moment, our Shepherd will guide us through to the other side.

2. God can be trusted to do what is best -  
Read: Isaiah 55:8,9 God says, "My thoughts are completely different from yours" Praying through adversity means praying with the assurance that God knows what is best and that He can be trusted to turn our valley into a gateway of hope.

3. There may be a variety of "hope signs" along the way to encourage us, but Jesus is the answer of all that hope. It's important to keep focused on Jesus. Hebrew 12:2 tells us "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our FAITH, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God".

Let us find strength and encouragement as we hold tightly the hand of Jesus and pray our way through adversity.

In His Service,  
Prayer Ministry



# March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
Faith Alive			Lenten Lunches - location varies	Bible Study		
Worship Service						
Coffee Hour						
<b>8</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship Service			Lenten Lunches - location varies	Bible Study	Bookgroup	
Coffee Hour			Council meeting via ZOOM			
Faith Formation with Confirmation Option						
<b>15</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21
Faith Alive		Women of Faith	Lenten Lunches - location varies	Bible Study		
Worship Service				Worship and Music Committee Meeting		
Coffee Hour						
<b>22</b>	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Service			Lenten Lunches - location varies	Bible Study		
Coffee Hour				Loaves and Fishes Meeting		
<b>29</b>	30	31				
Worship Service						

## Volunteer Schedule

3/1

3/8

3/15

3/22

3/29

Counter 1	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise	Amy Manning	Amy Manning	Amy Manning
Counter 2	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker	Kylene Jordan	Kylene Jordan	Kylene Jordan
Reader	Amy Manning	Bona Staring	Sue Harkins	Phillis Becker	Dan Collins
Singer	Sue Harkins	TBD	Sue Harkins	Lori McKusick	Sue Harkins
Altar	NA	Kylene Jordan	NA	Amy Manning	Amy Manning
Worship Leader	Phillis Becker	Rev. Marie Duquette	Wendy Catera	Rev. Marie Duquette	Rev. McKusick

Please email [info@trinityherkimer.org](mailto:info@trinityherkimer.org) with any changes.

### **Did You Know:**

ELCA has full communion partners with the Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church of America, United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, The Moravian Church and the United Methodist Church. Full communion is when two denominations develop a relationship based on a common confession of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord's Supper. This does not mean the two denominations merge; rather, in reaching agreements, denominations also respect differences. These denominations worship together, may exchange clergy and also share a commitment to evangelism, witness and service in the world. Each entity agrees that even with difference, there is nothing that is church-dividing.

### **Our Church Family**

God's children in need of support through prayer, phone call or maybe a card or visit all expressing our Lord's love to them through us: Jim, Barbara, Edith, Gary, Ron, Richie, Sonya, Jonah, Rosemarie, Charlie, Karen, Allen, Scott, Peter, Sheila, Pat, Linda, Julie, Forest, Klaus, Nancy, Marie, Tim.

A Suggested prayer:

Jesus our Lord and Savior, please bless the work of our hands today. Let them be a true expression of Your unconditional love, mercy, grace and joy. May there be a bright light shining from our hearts that brings warmth to others and Glory to You. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

### **SHARING GOD'S GIFTS:**

Have you noticed the new coverings on the old special chairs which, after much use, were in urgent need of replacement. Well thanks to Deb (Sass) who had them refurbished and now looking so much better than when they were brand new. These chairs were originally purchased for members who needed a more comfortable place to sit and feel safe. Sass, we thank you again for your response of kindness and thoughtfulness of sharing your God given gift with all of us, a big heart!!!

Everyone knows Sara Manning, at least those of us who have been around long enough and remember her when she first started Sunday school. Now she has grown to be a blessing to all of us. Praise God! More to be said in April Tidings.

Prayerfully consider joining Trinity's prayer chain. You will find a great discovery full of love and joy not only praying for others but recognizing the presence of the Holy Spirit as He helps us in guiding our prayers for those for whom we pray. It's a great God happening in our own lives called FAITH. His Grace, Love always comes full circle and lands right back into the prayer's heart.

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal family matters, which are kept in confidence, please speak to Phillis or Pastor Marie or call the church office 315-866-6474.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kiya Snyder  
Patrick Roche  
Beth Ann Crouch  
John D. Sadlon  
Steve Kucerak, Jr.  
Charlee Mae Lyon  
Taryn Rackmyer  
Catrina Griewahn  
Dustin Sanders  
Laurie Heiland-Crouch  
Stanley Swienton  
Lisa Woods  
Paul Vanderwerken  
Marcy Miller

Mary Knoblauch  
Ty Rigo  
Amelia Whitney  
Cole DeLuca  
Edie Hermann  
Samantha Prosser  
Judy Burke  
Ella Wilcox  
Maegan Manning  
Ashley Hinckley  
Debra Devereese  
Jodi Rivers  
Jodie Farrington  
Nicole Benedict

Abe Stublely  
Amanda MacDougald  
Kevin Kirk  
Connie Engert  
John Keiser  
Stephen Manning  
Avery Hinckley  
Elaine Fleming  
Hunter Shaut  
Jared Levi  
Jennifer Burger  
Melissa McClouskey  
Riley Lyon  
Randy Snow

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Cindy & Mark Knoblauch

If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!

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### Council Contact Information

President: Wendy Catera	315-360-7447	wcatera@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: JoAnn Blaise	315-868-0291	jblaise@trinityherkimer.org
Treasurer: Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
Secretary: Laurel Becker		lbecker@trinityherkimer.org
Mike Marusic		mmarusic@trinityherkimer.org
Phillis Becker	315-866-2379	pbecker@trinityherkimer.org
Yvonne Winters		ywinters@trinityherkimer.org
Pastor Marie	315-316-1866	pastor@trinityherkimer.org
Office	315-866-6474	info@trinityherkimer.org

**Worship With Us  
From Anywhere!**  
**Call on your landline phone,  
use your computer or use  
your device!**  
**See Worship Schedule for  
details.**

If you would like to receive a copy of finalized Council meeting minutes please contact the office.

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## TLC Easter Flower Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note on the form if the flowers are given in honor or memory of someone.

Lily Plants

Quantity: \_\_\_\_ x \$7.99 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tulip Plant

Quantity: \_\_\_\_ x \$8.99 = \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinth Plant

Quantity: \_\_\_\_ x \$8.99 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be **received by** March 15, 2026. Please return this form and a check to the Trinity Office, 443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350. Plan to take your flowers with you after worship.