



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026



The Woman of Samaria at the Well (La Samaritaine à la fontaine) (1886–1894)

James Tissot (1836–1902)

Tissot centers the well as a meeting place where thirst becomes conversation and revelation. The bucket and drawn water become a ready metaphor for “living water” offered from deeper than the well’s depth.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wentz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

Dave Troche
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.



CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.



The HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

Young people come forward as the congregation sings a refrain. During this time, we learn about the liturgy together.

The song can be found on page 18.

Please kneel or remain seated.

The ministers gather at the baptismal font.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Confession & Forgiveness

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that
deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of
hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your
coming reign, and for hindering the
work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-
serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the
margin, and for distrusting signs of
your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-
pity and discontent, and for
disregarding Christ's call to come
forth to life: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (continued)

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE (continued)



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

*This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.*

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord,

"What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand
in body or spirit to
welcome the Gospel.

During Lent, we
sing the psalm using
metrical settings from
a variety of sources.

PSALM & GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 95

1 Come, wor-ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

Gm F Dm F G C

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

F B^b C F F/C C

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion,
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

Text: Michael Perry,
1942-1996

Music: O QUANTA
QUALIA
Antiphoner, Paris,
1681;
harm. John B. Dykes
1823-1876

Am Dm Gm C F B^b C7 F

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

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Jubilate Group, admin.
Hope Publishing
Company

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

SERMON

Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

HYMN OF THE DAY

As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW 331



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G.
Stuempfle Jr.,
1923-2007

Music: JULION
David Hurd,
b. 1950

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Inc.

*Together, we confess
the faith of the
Church.*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

*After the final
petition:*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Lisa Speece
- ♦ Family and friends of Barbara Gangewere
- ♦ Larry Kummerer
- ♦ Barbara Ketchum

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Ann Harnish
- ♦ Richard & Barbara Hartman
- ♦ Matthew Hayes
- ♦ Amy & Frank Heins
- ♦ Judith Hill

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Mary Ellen Coldsmith
- ♦ Matt Sawyer

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

OFFERTORY

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Evelyn Larter
(b. 20th c.)

The Mixed Ensemble

Sandra Sittler, piano & Amy Stewart-Himes, flute

Text found in ELW 338

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

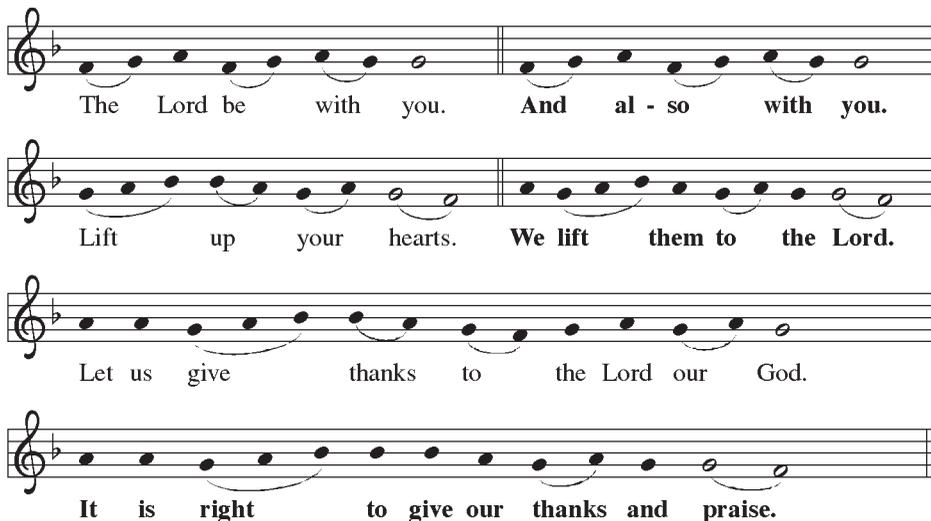
O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all
creation.

You send rain and sunshine to
nourish the earth and bring forth
its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and
wine, draw us into the death and
life of your Son, who calls us to bear
witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presider greets
the assembly and
invites all to give
thanks.*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son . . .
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

HE IS THE ONE WHO, HANDED OVER TO A DEATH HE FREELY ACCEPTED,
IN ORDER TO DESTROY DEATH, TO BREAK THE BONDS OF THE EVIL ONE,
TO CRUSH HELL UNDERFOOT, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THE RIGHTEOUS,
TO ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT, AND TO SHOW FORTH THE
RESURRECTION,
TAKING BREAD AND GIVING THANKS TO YOU, SAID:
TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

*During the Words of
Institution, the bread
and wine are elevated
for the congregation
to revere and adore
Christ's presence in
our midst.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (continued)

IN THE SAME WAY HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS,
AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING:
THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD,
SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection. . .
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*This hymn can be
found in the red
hymnal (ELW).*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we give you
thanks for this meal that restores
our souls, reconciles us to you, and
strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of
your Son, may we become Christ's

body in the world, bearing witness
to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always.

Amen.

*As a sign of God's
blessing, you may
make the sign
of the cross.*

*Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.*

SENDING HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 611



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

Text: Horatius Bonar,
1808-1889

Music:
KINGSFOLD
English folk tune



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Arr. © Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fuga in D-minor

José da Madre de Deus

(18th. c)

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP SONG

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first two staves are vocal lines with lyrics: "I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?". The third staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics: "Come and see! Come now and see!".

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

In-person: 83

Online: 42

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

In-person: 14

LENTEN OFFERING SUPPORTS LIGHTHOUSE

Through our special Lenten offerings, Trinity continues to support the ministry of the LightHouse Women's and Children's Center as we fulfill our pledge to sponsor a room. LightHouse Center provides a safe home and holistic support for women and their kids as they work towards healthy, independent living. <https://www.hopeforreading.org/lighthouse>



COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

USHERS

Amy Reinsel, Donna Osborne

ASSISTING MINISTER

Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf

MEDIA TEAM

Jennifer Smith, Danielle Smith,

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Steve Hofmann

LECTOR

Donna Osborne

ALTAR GUILD

Bob Hetico, Allison Kalbach,

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Virginia Biniek

Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody,

ACOLYTE

Declan Rosenbaum

Brooke Rosenbaum, Doris Strobel

GREETER

Brooke Rosenbaum

WORSHIP PLANNER

Mike Faust

WORSHIP SPONSORS

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

AMY YOUNG

In memory of our beloved mother, Thelma Johnson.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 9

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION AND PRAYER
Hintz Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

12:05 PM

LENTEN MIDDAY WORSHIP - Chapel

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

4:00 PM

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Bard House

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
OUTREACH AND SERVICE - Conference Room
MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.

