The Circuit Rider

Trinity United Methodist Church
100 N. Blake Ave. / P.O. Box 3697 / Sequim, WA

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From Pastor Vonda

This year is moving along at such a clip, it's hard to believe we are already in November! During Thanksgiving month, I like to read scriptures that focus on giving thanks. Psalm 100 is one of my favorites. Here it is from the Message Bible:

On your feet now—applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.
Know this: God is God, and God, God.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.
Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.
For God is sheer beauty,
all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.

Isn't that wonderful? "Enter with the password, "Thank you!" Thank God for your many blessings!

It seems so appropriate that, before we get to "the most wonderful time of the year", that we take a few moments to express our thanks to God.

For many people, Thanksgiving is a day to eat too much and watch football for the entire day. Though we may enjoy those things, yet, as Christians, we know it goes far deeper than that. It's important that we have a thankful spirit! We are to be grateful for all our blessings.

John Henry Jowett, a British preacher, said this about gratitude: "Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic." What did he mean?

He meant that gratitude, like a vaccine, can prevent the invasion of a disgruntled, discouraged spirit. Like an antitoxin, gratitude can prevent the effects of the poisons of cynicism, criticalness, and grumbling. Like an antiseptic, a spirit of gratitude can soothe and heal the most troubled spirit.

Philip 4:6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

With all that is going on in the world, trying not to be anxious is hard. Life isn't always easy. Perhaps practicing gratefulness will lessen some of the anxiety.

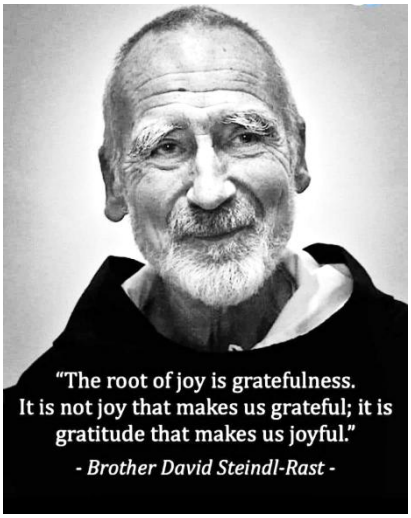
God's generosity knows no bounds. Let us be generous as well; with our words of thanks to God and others, and by sharing our faith and our gifts.

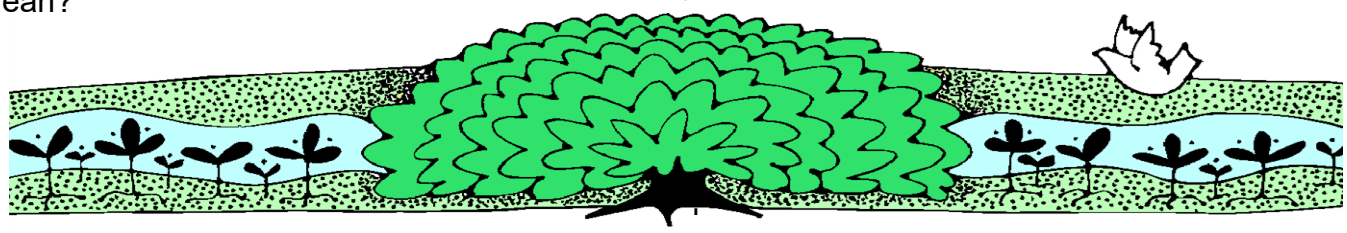
I am thankful for you, every single one of you; grateful for all the work you do in this community, in this church and for one another. I am honored and thankful to be serving with you.

I am blessed.

I'll look for you in church!

Pastor Vonda





Stewardship Series

This November 8, 15 and 22 we will be talking about our commitments as United Methodists. When we join the church, we commit to participating by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. Some of that sounds scary doesn't it? It's not. We'll be talking about all five of these commitments this month and we'll recommit to these five practices by filling out a commitment card on November 22 and bringing it forward during Holy Communion. We will have a box that you can place your card in. We won't be looking at your commitments. This is a covenant between you and God. All five of these practices are important in the life of the church. Join us as we recommit to our membership vows.

Birthday Celebrations

We love celebrating birthdays! We want to celebrate everyone's birthday. We will continue to sing "Happy Birthday" each week but we'd also like to celebrate with cake each month. We will celebrate birthdays with cake on the third Sunday of the month beginning November 15. Pastor Vonda will be bringing Strawberry Cake to share in honor of all November birthdays.

The Hospitality Committee will add this to the bakers' sign-ups for each month. We are asking bakers to bring cakes in 9 by 13 inch pans, because they are easier to serve.

Changes to Online Worship

Beginning November 8, we will be making some changes to our online worship experience. There have been several viewers comment that the service seems sterile with only showing the Pastor and Choir. We will be showing the first three rows from behind, so no faces will be online. We will not show people during the children's time or communion. If you do not want the back of your head online, please do not sit in the first three rows. Please speak with Pastor Vonda if you have any questions or concerns.

Annual Conference 2026

This year, our Annual Church Conference will be held on November 15 at 2:00 p.m. You are invited to join us as we celebrate the church's ministries for 2026 and look forward to 2027. All are welcome to attend; only members will be able to vote.



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY - November 1

UMC Student Day is normally celebrated on the last Sunday in November. However, because that is also a Noisy Can Sunday, TUMC will observe Student Day on Sunday November 1st. Student Day is a denomination-wide Special Sunday dedicated to students' education and faith development. The day emphasizes the importance of education in shaping future Christian leaders and providing opportunities for service, leadership, and spiritual growth.

Contributions go directly to scholarships for United Methodist students, helping remove barriers to higher education at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Checks can be made out to TUMC; write "Student Day" on the memo line.

Handbell Concert at TUMC

Join Rainshadow Ringers Handbell group on Sunday, November 22nd at 3:00 p.m. as they perform songs such as *Sweet Caroline, Yesterday,* and *Phantom of the Opera*. There are 12 members including our own Tom McFadden. Come share an hour of beautiful music.

Hanging of the Greens

We are looking for ten people to join us in Hanging of the Greens. No, we are not hanging Mr. and Mrs. Green! We are decorating the church for Advent. We will gather at 10:45 on Monday, November 23, to decorate and fellowship together. If you would like to join in the merriment, there will be a sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. A soup lunch will be provided by Pastor Vonda.





NOISY CAN OFFERING

November 29, 2026

Clean Water for the Methodist Primary School, Larteh Akuapem, Ghana

Trinity UMC has a long-standing custom of having a Noisy Can Offering (NCO) when there is a 5th Sunday in a month. For the first time ever, the Missions Team is nominating the same project twice in the same year. The Clean Water Project at the Methodist Primary School in Larteh Akuapem, Ghana, is the recipient for November's NCO.

There is a reason for this departure from tradition. In the past, a number of Methodist congregations from the Southeastern United States have supported Rev. Dr. Jean Claude Masuka Maleka's ministries. However, they have all left the United Methodist denomination and are no longer supporting its ministries. Sequim TUMC may be the only congregation in the United States supporting the Ghana Clean Water Project. The total cost of the project – drilling the well, building a water tower, and installing solar panels – will be $10,000. The school and the local Ghana community have raised $700. The first NCO for this project raised $2,116.96. This leaves a little over $7,000 to be raised.

Hundreds of students at the school begin each day eager to learn and build a brighter future. However, the lack of reliable potable water presents a constant struggle. Students often arrive at school without enough drinking water and are sometimes compelled to walk long distances in search of water during school hours. This not only disrupts teaching and learning, but it also exposes children to health risks associated with unsafe water sources.

The Clean Water Project would have a transformative impact. It would improve student health, reduce absenteeism, enhance concentration in the classroom, and create a more beneficial learning environment for both pupils and teachers.

Coins are the noisy part of the Noisy Coin Offering. However, paper currency and checks are gratefully accepted. Checks should be made out to TUMC and please note "Clean Water Ghana" on the comment line.

Puget Sound Honor Flight

All veterans will be the focus of a brief presentation on the Puget Sound Honor Flight at our November 8 Ministry Moment during worship service. Be sure not to miss this opportunity for an all-expense free, three-day visit to our nation's capital in Washington, D.C. Veterans will be celebrated as they visit many of our nation's memorials including World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial as well as the Arlington National Cemetery to name just a few. This impactful, once in a lifetime experience, provides an opportunity to share experiences with fellow veterans and find healing and camaraderie. Fellow veterans who have taken part in this amazing experience will be in the fellowship hall after the service to answer your questions.

When Do I Change The Sheets?, a book co-written by TUMC member Tom Maschhoff

At last! After almost two years of writing, consulting, editing, page layout and cover design, Charlie Couch and I are happy to announce that our book, *When Do I Change The Sheets? : A Guide for New Widowers Learning to Live Again* is now in print. This is a book written by widowers, for widowers, with stories and comments from widowers. "Sheets" contains first-hand experience and understanding of what happens in a widower's life after his spouse or partner is gone. Widowhood is a fast-growing, and very exclusive club that no one wants to join by choice. It takes the death of a spouse or partner to become a member.

Charlie and I are neighbors; we live about a block apart and our wives died within two days of each other: both from cancer. We relied on each other during our entry into widowhood and struggled to simply make it through the next day. As days and weeks passed, we started to deal with the challenge of trying to figure out what needs to be done next.

It was exhausting, and emotionally draining, but together, and with the support of other widowers, we moved forward. We found the "to do" list was long. Death Certificate, Social Security, investment account mergers, banking challenges, automatic payments from credit and checking accounts, and the battles with city, county and state bureaucracies.

The reality is, most widowers are not equipped to deal with the rapid changes required when a spouse departs, and everything now rests with the widower alone.

If you are a widower, know someone adjusting to widowhood or simply want to offer a widower or widow support; *Sheets* will be a welcomed reference, and we encourage you to share what we have written with them. The book is now available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and most other platforms.

Our web site will also be available shortly at www.whendoichangethesheets.com.



Taizé Prayer Service

Dates Changed to Third Wednesday for November and December

Because Thanksgiving and Christmas occur in the fourth week of November and December, we are changing our Wednesday evening Taizé services to the *third* Wednesdays, November 18th and December 16th. By doing so, we invite you to escape the holiday hustle and bustle and feel the richness of God's peace. The service is very meditative and encourages you to step away from the commotion of life and experience a meaningful connection with the Lord.

A candlelit setting, signifying the light of Christ, welcomes you as you listen to prayers, readings, soft music and simple repetitive chants. These chants help ease your mind and quiet your soul as you begin to sing along. The periods of silence are true acts of trust as you reflect on the Bible passages and chants and listen for God's voice speaking to you. You may also decide to light a candle, bringing your prayer needs to the Lord.

Join us for our Taizé service, as we deepen our faith – opening our hearts to welcome God's love this holiday season.

THE WIRED WORD

Faith Meets the Front Page

Thursdays, 12:00–1:00pm

What does Scripture have to say about what's happening in the world right now? Join us each Thursday for The Wired Word, a lively discussion class that connects current events with biblical wisdom.

Each week we dig into a timely news story and explore it through the lens of faith — asking hard questions, wrestling with Scripture, and discovering how the ancient text still speaks to our modern moment. Bring your questions, your curiosity and your lunch. Just an hour of thoughtful conversation with friends. Facilitated by Lewis Godby.

Come as you are; leave a little wiser.
All are welcome.



TUMC: Little Free Pantry Needs for November

- Cans of hearty soups
- Cans of chili
- Milk (single serve & shelf stable)
- Healthy snack bars (individually wrapped)
- Cans of chicken, tuna, pork

Large or small donations are greatly appreciated. If you have questions about our Little Free Pantry, contact Jan Kreidler at janet2.kreidler@gmail.com .

Safe Parking Update for November

The primary goal of the TUMC Safe Parking Program is to provide a place where people can reset, develop healthy routines, and become more stable and self-sufficient so they can pursue employment, education, health care, and stable housing.

By mid-October, 18 people had applied to the program. Thirteen have been accepted, and 8 have participated. Five of those accepted have not started yet for a variety of reasons. One is pending. The first four have found stable housing.

Between February and September, there were 346 guest-nights and over 900 hours of volunteer time. Cash contributions amounted to $1087 and in-kind contributions included a refrigerator, a microwave, a Keurig, shelving, paint, etc.

OlyCap is looking to hire a person for one hour a day to help staff the program. This would be ideal for a retired person looking for a little extra income.

Many thanks to the TUMC congregation for ongoing support.



The TLC Team Needs You!

On the first and third Fridays of the month, a team of men and women get together for light maintenance around the church—both inside and out—jobs big and small. **In November they will meet on November 6 and 20**.

They meet at **9:30am** beginning with prayer at the front of the church; all then go to their various assignments from a list compiled by Karen Eldridge. At the end, everyone sits down to enjoy coffee and delicious treats while socializing. Won't *you* join the TLC team? If interested, call Karen at 360-504-2650... or just show up! You'll be welcomed!

TUMC Finance Report

Operating Fund

	September
Giving/Income	$ 20,232.88
Expenses	$ 36,943.94
Difference	($ 16,711.06)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Finance Chair Scott Owens, 626-833-4183 or email: financechair@sequimtumc.org

Donate Online

Donate Online Here

On the TUMC website is an opportunity to donate electronically. Find the Donate button at the bottom of the Home Page or click on the Donate page tab. Then click on the button where you will find several options for making your donation.

Or...Use this QR code. It links you to the Donate page on the TUMC website. Use the camera on your cell phone. Hover over the code and *myvanco.com* appears. Click on this link and you are at the Donate page.

Upcoming in December: KIDS Christmas Party at TUMC, 2026

We will be having our second community Christmas party on December 10, preparing at 4:00, open at 5:00, and closing at 7:30. Activities will include music, crafts, games, food and maybe a Christmas movie. Volunteers needed: Set up/clean up, kitchen help, hall and tables monitors, song leader, cookie bakers, someone able to play a movie on the fellowship hall screen.

The first Kids Christmas Party was a real success, so we hope to reach out to the community and church again with this gift. Please help and have fun.

This is sponsored by the Missions Committee. Questions? Call Nancy Baer at 360-477-4513

Cub Scout Pack 4490 Wreath Orders



starting November 22 through Mid-December

Wreaths Prices & Sizes:
1. Small, 12in, $35.00
2. Medium, 16in, $40
3. Large, 20in, $45
4. XL, will probably be 24in, and $50

*100% of proceeds go to Pack activities, supplies and awards. Cash, check or Paypal (sequimpack4490@gmail.com) Venmo @sequimcubscoutpack4490

Contact our Scout Liaison Jim Stoffer at jamesstoffer@wavecable.com or Scoutliaison@sequimtumc.org 360.775.9356 for details.

TUMC CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Vonda McFadden
Organist: Pauline Olsen
Accompanist: Donna Grubbs
Choral Director: Dr. Jerome Wright
Music Coordinator: Betsy Noland
Sight & Sound Coordinator: Lawrence Charters
Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Marian Needham
Ministry Assistant: Molly Bishop
Ministers: Congregation Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Church Office, 360-683-5367 church@sequimtumc.org

Church Website: www.sequimtumc.org
Pacific Northwest Conference Website: www.pnwumc.org
Official United Methodist Website: www.umc.org

OUR MISSION

Welcome • Grow • Empower • Serve

Trinity United Methodist Church
Sequim, Washington

100 N. Blake Avenue / P. O. Box 3697 / Sequim, WA 98382