

The Circuit Rider

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

FEBRUARY 2025

Volume 33 Number 2

From Pastor Desi

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Who doesn't love a love song? And who doesn't love a love letter? February is certainly a time when "love is in the air." Beginning in January, store shelves are already filling up with Valentine's Day candies and cards. Red and pink hearts are everywhere! My grandparents' favorite love song was Anne Murray's "Can I Have this Dance?" It was played at both of their memorial services:

I'll always remember
the song they were playing
The first time we danced, and I knew
As we swayed to the music,
and held to each other
I fell in love with you



After my grandparents passed away, my uncles found love letters my grandparents had written to each other tucked away throughout the house – love letters in between the pages of a Bible, in a drawer, behind a knickknack.

Love is essential and basic to our lives – with each other, with community, and especially with God. The Beatles sang it with great clarity and conviction, "All you need is love, love; love is all you need. All we need is love." All we need is love, and we need to show it and share it.

When an expert in the Law asked Jesus what the most important commandment was, Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." - Matthew 22:38-40

Jesus wants us to know, experience, claim and share love. He expects – indeed he *commands* – us to love!

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- John 13:34-35

How are we to love? We are to love each other as Jesus loved (and loves) us.

How does Jesus love us? I invite you this month to take a moment each day and reflect – perhaps in your prayer journal, or during your daily devotion – on how Jesus "loved" and continues to "love." What was he referring to when he was speaking to the disciples in John 13? How does he speak to you today?

There are many answers to these questions. Jesus loved by feeding, healing, teaching, and praying. As we draw closer to Lent and the Passion, we remember that Jesus loved by washing feet and giving his life. How do we love one another as he loved us? Sharing love letters and love songs is one way to show people we love them. But Jesus calls us into action deeper and more sacrificial. How is Jesus calling you to love?

Lord, Help us to love as you love. Fill us with your Spirit so that we choose to love you and others. Fill our lives to overflowing with the power of your love so we love in ways that transform this world and bring honor to you. Remind us that the most significant thing we can do in this life is to love you and to choose to love others. Amen.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Desi



Strategic Future Workshop:

February 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for an engaging workshop designed to equip Trinity UMC with tools and insights to move faithfully into the future. Led by **Gregg Sealey** (greggsealey.com), certified professional coach and consultant specializing in leadership development, this workshop will guide us in:

- **Strategic Directions:** Uncover where God is calling Trinity UMC, with clarity on purpose, structure, and future pathways.
- **Effective Leadership:** Strengthen leadership through better communication, conflict resolution, decision-making, and accountability.
- **Empowering the Laity:** Learn best practices for engaging and involving laity in the church's mission.
- **Navigating Conflict:** Develop a healthy framework for addressing differences and maintaining unity in our mission.
- **Course Corrections:** Assess and adapt current strategies for improved implementation.
- **Inclusivity and Collaboration:** Build a culture that values diverse perspectives and promotes inclusivity in decision-making.

Sign up in the fellowship hall by Sunday, February 9.



Pictorial Directory

The TUMC Directory is being updated. There will be a table in the fellowship hall on February 2, 9 and 16 where you can *sign up* for a photo appointment. If you have your photo in the current directory and are pleased with it, you may allow us to use it again. The people who attend church may have their *photos taken* on February 23, March 2 or March 9 at the church. You don't have to be a member to be included. It is also possible to have your photo taken on a Wednesday of the above weeks from 1 to 3 p.m. If you desire, you may bring your dog to be included in the photo.



Lay Servant Ministries

Growing in your faith

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection.

Through this system of equipping and empowering, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples. Lay Servant ministries can be a significant component of any discipleship system providing training in Hospitality, Offer Christ, Purpose and Engagement.

Training opportunities for laity

All laity are invited and encouraged to participate in Lay Servant Ministry courses. We recommend the "Basic Course in Lay Servant Ministry" as a great place to start. This course is also required as a first step for anyone seeking certification as a lay servant, lay speaker, or lay minister. The "Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry: The BASIC Course" is the foundational course for Lay Servant Ministries. This is the gateway course for those who are called to be Certified Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Lay Ministers. And can also be part of a person's discipleship plan to acquaint you with your gifts, calling, and responsibilities as a follower of Christ. Classes fill up quickly, so register early. To learn more, contact PNW Conference Committee on Certified Lay Ministry – Rev. Sheila Miranda, smiranda@pnwumc.org

See next page for *Discovering and Using Spiritual Gifts*, a Lay Servant Ministries Course led by Pastor Desi April 23 - May 21.



Boy Scout News

Troop 90 is celebrating their 100 years of service on February 8, 6pm at the Masonic Lodge and we are invited. Trinity has been home to Troop 90 over many years. For additional details, see

Jim Stoffer, our Scout Liaison.

UMC Scout Sunday, February 9 - Cub Scout Pack 4490 and Scout Troop 90 will be joining us for worship. We hope everyone will extend a warm welcome to these young people and their families.

Blue & Gold Banquet for Cub Scout Pack 4490 is on February 21 at 6pm. Please consider attending and share in celebration of the young Scouts advancing.



Discovering and Using Spiritual Gifts, a Lay Servant Ministries Course, will be led by Pastor Desi Larson on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, April 23 - May 21, 2025, on Zoom. This class is worth 1 CEU and counts toward either Lay Servant or Lay Speaker Certification. It is also a prerequisite for Certified Lay Minister Modules. Completing the BASIC LSM course as a prerequisite is strongly recommended. Register online <https://gnw-reg.brtapp.com/ForTheCommonGood> The registration deadline is April 9. Contact Rev. Sheila Miranda, smiranda@pnwumc.org, with questions or if you need assistance.

Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Desi

Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m., March 5 – April 9

Everyone is welcome as we journey through Lent to Holy Week and Easter together with Bible study and reflection. Watch for sign-up announcements and more detailed information in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins.



UMCOR Sunday – March 9th

(United Methodist Committee On Relief)

When disaster strikes around the globe (earthquakes, hurricanes, major floods, wildfires, etc.) UMCOR is prepared to act.

Our generous gifts to the UMCOR Sunday Offering help cover UMCOR's *operating expenses*, allowing 100% of our designated donations to get to those who need them most.

Please give generously on March 9th.

(For more information about UMCOR, go to: www.umcor.org .)

Note: Our TUMC volunteer team is going to UMCOR Depot in mid-March to help pack some of the kits that are sent around the world.



Ash Wednesday Service With Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, March 5, 1:00-1:30 p. m.

Join us as we begin the holy season of Lent with this service of repentance and reflection. Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day marked by fasting, abstinence, and prayer. The Ash Wednesday service includes prayer, song, meditation, and imposition of ashes as a sign of repentance.

Meditation Haven with Music During Lent



Each Wednesday during Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5, our Sanctuary will become a quiet peaceful haven of self-reflection. This is a time for personal meditation, not a structured or led service. It is entirely self-directed, allowing individuals to engage in their own spiritual journey.

A sheet with appropriate Scripture will be available on the table as you enter to guide your reflection. The Meditation Haven will be open from 1:30 to 2:00 pm and we will practice silence, with no talking, during this time.

Gentle, meditative music will be provided by Trinity's organist, Pauline Olsen, with occasional contributions from other musicians.

All Christians and seekers of God are warmly invited to make each Lenten Wednesday a sacred time for spiritual deepening. With reverent music in the background, this is an opportunity to prepare your heart for Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

Welcome New Members

*The following members joined in October.
Please extend a warm welcome to them!*



Tyson Atkins lived in Santa Rosa, California, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Ames, Iowa before settling in Sequim. He describes his family as “Me, myself, I, and God.” Tyson is self-employed. He enjoys playing with dogs and helping people any way he can. His faith journey began in 1989 with United Methodist Church memberships in Iowa and California.

Clay and Kate Baulch

moved from south Texas to Sequim six years ago. They have one son. Kate is a retired teacher, and Clay continues to teach. He is a former college professor. Together they enjoy travel and live music. Clay adds walking, baseball, and cycling to his list of interests. Kate attends the women’s Bible study at Trinity. In reflecting on their decision to join us at TUMC, she said they found like-minded people who dedicate themselves to serve God and community, who embrace all and support each other without reservation.



Linda Christensen was born in Los Angeles. She lived in the Bay Area and worked for Stanford Hospital and Clinic in guest services before retiring and coming to Sequim ten years ago. Linda has been active at TUMC for nine years. She volunteered at Lois’s

Legacy, Catholic Services, and with our music department, where she put her photographic talents to work decorating the music room walls. Linda also worked on the church history wall in our hallway. Her family is her cat, Snowflake, and she is blessed with many friends.

Born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, **Myrna Molinar** spent most of her childhood in Mexico City. After her father’s retirement, Myrna lived in southern California. She has been widowed twice. She has three children, three grandchildren



and one great-grandchild. Two of her children live on the Peninsula. Before moving to Sequim, her home was San Diego where she was a counselor at the University of California, San Diego. As a professor at San Diego State University, she taught Spanish literature and language. She has also taught ballet, powder skiing, gymnastics, and tennis. At Trinity, Myrna finds joy singing in the choir.

After living in Fort Collins, CO for many years, **Steve and Betsy Noland** became part of the Sequim community in May 2022. Originally from Newport Beach, CA, Steve is a retired telecommunications professional. Betsy, a retired



database applications developer, hails from Des Moines, Iowa. In 1990, they met through community theater in Fort Collins. They produced musical parody revues together, Steve as producer and Betsy, director/performer. Their family consists of son Ace, Jamie and his two sons. Betsy sings with Olympic Theater Arts Singers, The Messengers, and the TUMC choir. She is our new interim music coordinator, and volunteers at Tim’s Place. Steve enjoys woodworking and projects around their Diamond Point home. He is one of our TUMC sound techs and serves on the trustees committee. They have joined our church as associate members, maintaining their membership at Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where they were active in several ministries in Fort Collins.



Married 49 years, **Glenn and Debbie Patterson** have lived in England, New Mexico, and New Hampshire. They had five children (three living) and eight grandchildren, plus one great-grandchild on the way.

Glenn retired from the State of New Hampshire as a network engineer. Debbie is the tour coordinator at Shipley Center in Sequim. She enjoys reading and gardening and helping others. They came to TUMC at the invitation of friends and are currently helping to create our new 2025 pictorial directory.

(continued on next page)

Leslie Ringuette was born on Oahu, Hawaii. After serving in the Peace Corps in Nepal for two years, she returned to Hawaii, got her teaching degree, and married David, another volunteer who served in Morocco. They built their home in Waiahole where they raised their two children. Summers were spent experiencing cultures and watching wild-life as they traveled the world. Leslie retired after 27 years teaching eighth grade social studies. After traveling across the US for a year, she and David moved to Happy Valley in 2022. Leslie makes frequent trips to Hawaii. She says she's happiest in a church community and as an associate member at Trinity, she has two church families, one in Sequim and the other at Kahaluu United Methodist Church.



Penny Stalder was born in Monroe, Wisconsin and raised on a dairy farm. She moved to West Seattle to live with her brother and sister-in-law, Scott and Ann Wells, when she was in high school. For 24 years, Penny worked at Life-Care of West Seattle. Her experience there provided a special

relationship with the seniors who shopped at Metropolitan Market where she later worked. She enjoyed helping them. Her interests include artwork, walking, yoga, tai chi and meeting new friends. Sequim felt like "home" when her family moved here in 2021. She feels the same way about her new church home. She finds joy in her relationship with God and feels blessed every day.

After visiting Sequim from West Seattle for many years and making friends here, **Scott and Ann Wells** and Scott's sister, Penny, made it their home in 2021. Scott was born in Michigan City, Indiana and later lived on an Illinois dairy farm. He enlisted in the Air Force after graduation. Scott met Ann when he was stationed at McChord AFB. After 30 years, he retired from Seattle Transit. Post retirement, he worked for the Seahawks and Mariners supervising seating hosts at the stadiums. Scott is active with Masons and Shriners. **Ann Wells** was born in Spokane. With



her father in the Air Force, they moved all over the country, eventually settling in West Seattle. She was an assistant marketing manager for a wood company in Seattle after graduating from Pacific Lutheran University. Ann worked as a travel agent for 20 years and then at passenger check-in for Alaska cruises. She and Scott love to travel. "TUMC is home for us now."

Born in Petersburg, Virginia, **Keith Whitmore** lived in Wakefield VA until 1974, and made his home in Richmond, VA before moving to Sequim with his wife, Donna. He has one stepson who lives in Sequim. Keith was a sales representative for different companies, most notably Coca-Cola. He enjoys TV, listening to classical music, dinners out, and his beloved dog, Sofi. He came to Trinity to find a church home and to sing in a choir.



Lois's Legacy

We at Lois's Legacy have lost a dear friend to the ministry. Dr. Kathleen Charters made a massive contribution to our operation, to TUMC, and to the Sequim community. She will be forever missed. Our founder, Pauline Olsen, shared this:



We are grateful for her service on our Advisory Board, bringing in new ideas from her wealth of nursing and administrative experience. She made house calls at our request, accompanying me to many unusual folks. One incident was a request from a Sequim resident, non-church member, for transportation and caregiving help. She thought of and arranged a picnic lunch, served on the person's porch because of the hoarding issues that blocked opening the front door.

We frequently asked Kathleen for advice on how best to respond to a caller's request and she always tucked her head in at the office when passing and asked how she could help.

We miss your visits, Kathleen, your insight and your thoughtful questions, typically ending with a grin, and the words "Just Saying."

As Paul writes in Philippians 1:21 "for to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain"

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00–2:00
For more information call 360-683-4307
or email: loislegacy@sequimtumc.org

Volunteer for *Tim's Place!*



Tim's Place is continuing to grow quickly, and we are looking for more volunteers! If you are interested in learning how to become involved in this amazing program, please contact Rhonda Heyn: phone 360-461-3734 or email: timsplacesequim@gmail.com.

Tim's Place meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 2pm

Tim's Place is a respite care ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church.

For more information visit our Facebook Page: *Tim's Place* or Website: www.timsplace-sequim.com

Check our website for a short video to see what Tim's Place is all about. Includes inspiring comments from participants, volunteers and caregivers.

TUMC Finance Report

Operating Fund

December 2024 Year-End 2024

Income	\$ 62,494.50	\$440,159.67
Expenses	<u>\$ 35,097.70</u>	<u>\$452,464.43</u>
Difference	\$ 27,396.80	(\$ 12,304.76)

Please Note: Tim's Place Income and Expenses are now included in the Operating Fund.

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

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.

Saints of Trinity:

Thank you for the phone calls, visits, birthday cards, anniversary cards, Christmas cards, and well wishes cards, and soup, breads, cookies, candy, fruits and vegetables, and other gifts you gave Kathleen, our daughter Lykara, and me, over the past two years. Kathleen's illness started in January 2023, and on our 49th anniversary, she said she didn't think she would be at our 50th. She not only made it to our 50th in August 2024, but made it to 2025 as well. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, thoughts, and spiritual support. -- Lawrence Charters



To Our Trinity UMC Family,

We do so thank you for your kind and greatly appreciated messages of sympathy and your prayers. Russ would have welcomed your caring words and thoughts. You have eased the pain of this difficult time.

Thankfully,
Cathy McKenna

Little Free Pantry Needs

- Canned chicken, tuna, Spam, etc.
- Shelf stable soy/almond milk
- Canned tomato sauce
- Raisins – small snack-sized boxes
- Hearty soups

Whenever we come in contact with our guests using the LFP, they express their gratitude for the food made available to them. Some of our church neighbors also have said thank you for giving them the opportunity to make donations to the LFP. Our LFP team also is very grateful for the food donations from our congregation. Together we are making this important ministry happen!





The TLC Team Needs *You!*

Usually two Fridays a month, a team of men and women get together for light maintenance around the church—both inside and out—jobs big and small. This year we will meet on the first and third Fridays. **In February that will be the 7th and the 21st.**

We 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. (Pastor Desi will be joining them whenever she can.) Won't *you* join the TLC team? If interested, call Karen at 360-504-2650... or just show up! You'll be welcomed!

United Methodist Committee on Relief:
Emergency Responses to catastrophic events:
International Disaster: Advance #982450
US Disaster & Recovery: Advance #901670
PNW Conference Disaster Fund: #352
Checks can be issued to Trinity UMC, indicating the Advance Number on the check's Memo line.



Sunshine Festival Saturday, March 8, 2025

The Sunshine Festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 8 at the Guy Cole Center. Trinity United Methodist Church's application to participate has been accepted! We will be assigned a 2-hour time slot. It's a fun time to spend with kids! A few volunteers are needed to help. If you are interested, please contact Jan Kreidler at missions@sequimtumc.org

February Monthly *Coffee Connect:* Let's Mingle and Chat!



Friday, February 28, 2-3 pm
at Hurricane Coffee, 104 W Washington St .

This monthly meetup is an opportunity to connect with fellow coffee enthusiasts and members of our vibrant TUMC community. Join Randy Grubbs and David Ham this month to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere that encourages meaningful interactions. Let's sip, chat, and create a stronger sense of community together!

TUMC STAFF

STAFF

Pastor:	<i>Rev. Dr. Desi Larson</i>
Office Manager/Bookkeeper:	<i>Marian Needham</i>
Tim's Place Program Director	<i>Rhonda Heyn</i>
Music Director:	<i>Donna Grubbs</i>
Choral Director:	<i>Dr. Jerome Wright</i>
Organist:	<i>Pauline Olsen</i>
Sight and Sound Coordinator:	<i>Lawrence Charters</i>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone:	(360) 683-5367
Church E-mail Address:	church@sequimtumc.org
Office Hours:	Mon. - Fri., 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
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