



Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

The Sail

Our Vision: *“To love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and everywhere we go!”*

June, 2026



Renewal Leave

The United Methodist Book of Discipline recommends that pastors take a renewal leave once in every four years of their ministry. I am in my 21st year of ministry, and I will be taking my second renewal leave this summer, from June 20 through July 31.

Part of that time (10 days) is vacation time, and the rest (all of July) is renewal leave. For vacation, I will be traveling to Berlin with a long-time friend. I have wanted to go to Germany for many years. When I was young and lived in Dublin, my brother Mark was in the Army serving near Frankfurt. I wanted to visit him there, but I didn't have any money for the trip, and I was too proud to ask him for the money. He had some money and wanted to visit Dublin, but he couldn't get the time off and was too proud to ask me if I would come to Germany. It seems ridiculous to us both now, and it is interesting how later in life we have been bound together by his disability and have come to share everything.

Our father was also in Germany for a time – he served in the war on the European front, and after the war ended he was sent to Germany and saw the liberation of one of the concentration camps. He didn't speak of it much – only to say he has haunting memories of people being told they were free watching them walk off into the countryside, with no money, no necessities, no homes and no place to go. My uncle was a prisoner of war in one of those camps for a time.

In this Issue

Pastor Leigh	1-2	These are my connections to Germany – otherwise my family
2026 Graduates	2	is one of the few in Iowa that has absolutely no German
Church Announcements	3	heritage. But I'm intrigued by the history, and even more
Mission Corner	4	intrigued by the culture – the art and the music in particular.
Inclusion Starts with I	5	We won't get to see everything in 10 days, but we will do
June 2026 Calendar	6	what we can!

Continued on next page...

Pastor Leigh continued...

In July I may take a couple of short trips to Iowa to see family, but I also will be at home, following a daily routine of scripture reading, meditation, reflection, and relaxation. Just as teachers and professors need renewal leaves to enhance their scholarship, pastors need renewal leave to enhance their relationship with God – to renew our spirits for preaching, teaching and care giving. I am grateful to everyone at Holy Trinity, and especially the Staff Parish Relations Team, for your encouragement and your prayers as I take this time away.

Local United Methodist pastors will be on hand for emergencies in my absence – if you need a pastor, contact Tina in the church office, or if the office is closed contact Don Oram, our SPRT chair and a care team member. They will contact the pastor on-call if needed. Of course, there will also be guest preachers on Sunday morning – Rev. Jennifer Hill Anderson, a navy chaplain who is affiliated with Glendale UMC, will be filling in for me in July. You will love her! Be sure to come to church on July 5 if you can – it will be Jen's first Sunday in the pulpit and she will share some of her ministry call and experience in the military.

I look forward to sharing my experience with you when I return!

Pastor Leigh



VBS 2026

Dates: 08/09/26 - 08/12/26
Location: Glendale UMC
Time: 5:30 - 7:30PM

Ages: pre-k through 5th grade + teen helpers
Rotation: music, story, crafts, science, recreation
Please contact Heather Zehnder to register your child(ren) or to volunteer. hczehnder@yahoo.com



Zachary Zehnder—son of Collan and Heather Zehnder, graduate of Tri City United High School in Montgomery. Zach will attend Michigan Technological University to study Ecological Engineering.

Kendra Lynn Kes—granddaughter of Marla and Steve Fulkerson, graduate of Prior Lake High School. Kendra will attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to study American Sign Language Interpreting.

Tyler Elsner-Calvin—grandson of Todd and Kelly Loose, graduate of Worthington High School. Tyler will attend the University of Minnesota Duluth to study engineering.

Anna Mestnik—daughter of Janean and Joe Mestnik, graduate of University of South Dakota with a Music Education Major and Computer Science Minor. Anna will be student teaching in the fall.

Joshua Sabin—grandson of Dan and Ardys Sabin, graduate of Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Outdoor Recreation. Joshua will be starting a Master's Program in Business Administration in the fall.



Pride Bingo

June 6

6:30-8:30pm



Holy Trinity, along with Scott County Pride, invite you to celebrate Pride Month with our Second Annual Pride Bingo Night. We hope for this to be an intergenerational evening celebrating ALL! There will be prizes, pizza, popcorn and fun times. We hope you can make it! Food donations to Hope Cafe & Pantry welcome!



United Women in Faith

**United Women in Faith
June Gathering**

**Tuesday, June 9 at 2:00pm
Music Room by Church Office**

All women are invited to connect with our circle as we gather for fellowship, study and put love into action to change the world.

First timers and others are always welcome!

Please contact Sharon Dougherty at 612-280-2103 or Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868 for questions.

Trinity Readers

**Tuesday, June 30
2:00pm Church Library**



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!
The book for June: TBD

Contact Sandy Feldhake if you have any questions.
(sfeldha1@msn.com)



Please Note:

The Church Office will be closed June 29—July 3.

HAPPENINGS – United Women in Faith

Laughter and fun filled the room as we made **sun catchers!** To spread love in action, some were given to the Hope Food Pantry, and some to family members and friends.

Several local UWFaith members (Lois Burkart, Sharon Dougherty, Sandy Feldhake, Nancy Iverson, and Sara Modders) sponsored a table for the annual **Emma Norton Opening Doors Gala** held April 23 in St. Paul. Joining our table at the event were Pastor Leigh Brown, Sandy Hjenvick, Nick Modders and Pat Dougherty. The evening included celebration of the work of Emma Norton, testimonials from Emma Norton residents, silent and live auctions, and dinner. Our support is important to Emma Norton.

Members gathered for an enjoyable lunch on May 12 at Crooked Pint Ale House in Savage.

Sharon Dougherty, Nancy Iverson and Sara Modders attended the **United Women in Faith’s 2026 Assembly** in Indianapolis May 15-17. This gathering is held every 4 years (Sharon & Nancy attended in 2022 so we were happy to have Sara with us in 2026!). A pre-event of a Soul Care Day was held on May 14 – we attended and enjoyed. It centered on rest, renewal, joy and being poured back into! The main event is a vibrant gathering of women from across the country and around the world who share a commitment to faith, community, and making a difference. It consisted of many inspiring speakers, powerful worship, and thoughtfully curated learning experiences. We met new friends and came home renewed. Several added local blessings were witnessing the Deaconess consecration of Connie Scott and the presence of Tonya Brownlow and Shawna Nelsen-Wills from Emma Norton conducting one of the many available workshops.

Check out uwfaith.org and uwfaithmn.com online!



April-June 2026 Mission Focus

The missions we are focusing on for the second quarter coordinate with the I-Team focus of *The Golden Rule: Domestic Violence, Bullying, Gender, and Pride*. All donations collected throughout the months of **April-June** will be divided equally among the following three missions.



Southern Valley Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing victims of domestic violence and their families with support, referrals, protection and advocacy.

They are a prevention and solutions-focused organization partnering with law enforcement, county legal systems, social services and healthcare providers to make the communities of Scott and Carver counties a better, safer place to live. They support and empower victims, survivors and their families, and create awareness to **End Domestic Violence**.



RECLAIM's mission is to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.

They serve youth ages 12-25 and their families by providing individual, relationship, and family therapy. They specialize in assisting youth with gender identity and sexual orientation exploration, in addition to treating other mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and pervasive trauma. They are the only non-profit organization in Minnesota that offers financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this population.

Beyond their therapy work, RECLAIM engages in community events and offers training and consultation services to help their partners improve their ability to work with queer and trans folks.



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations

Mission:

Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Vision:

Reconciling Ministries Network envisions a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the RMN strives to transform the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice and inclusion for all of God's children.

Our Role:

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations is RMN's Annual Conference Team for the Minnesota Annual Conference .

We will reach out in mission to members of the LGBTQ community to welcome them to our churches and to affirm them as children of God.



We always welcome donations for our Hope Café and Pantry. We are currently feeding approximately 60 families/week.

Here are some most needed items for Hope Pantry. Monetary donations are also appreciated!

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Ramen | Cooking oil |
| Pasta Sauce | Sugar |
| Pasta | Masa Flour |
| Canned Tuna/Chicken | Flour |
| White rice | Pancake Mix |
| Peanut butter | Syrup |
| Jelly/Jam (not grape) | Milk |
| Mac & Cheese | Eggs |
| Chicken/Beef/Veg Broth | Butter |
| Diced Tomatoes | Fresh Produce/Meat |
| Bread (white sandwich and medium size tortillas) | |
| Cereal (Honey Nut Cheerios or the like) | |

Inclusion Starts with I by Carol Ottoson...

Happy Pride! It is the greeting that is heard constantly at various Pride Festivals throughout the state during the month of June. Happy Pride! As you may know, Pride started out of the Stonewall Riots that took place after the police raid at the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969. The LGBTQ community rose up with six days of protesting and riots following the raid. This was the beginning of the Gay Rights movement, which is why June is recognized as Pride Month.

As I think about Pride and the LGBTQIA+ community, I think about how important our own identity is to us and how important it is to be able to live our authentic selves. In April, Holy Trinity hosted the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations' (MRC) Spring Gathering, featuring a panel of clergy, a conference superintendent, and an SPR member discussing that very issue. For years LGBT clergy had to hide their identity – their authentic selves – for fear of losing their livelihood and their identity of being a pastor, due to their sexual orientation. Since the United Methodist Church officially opened the doors for LGBT clergy in 2024, many of the people on the panel had been forced to hide their identity. Some came out before 2024; others did not. The pain and harm that they felt was palpable; the freedom and healing that they feel is beautiful. The video of the discussion can be found on the MRC website – (<http://www.mnrcumc.org>)

The “closet” metaphor is a very powerful metaphor. What if you had to hide your identity in order to survive? What if I had to hide the fact that I’m a teacher or a parent or a grandparent or any important part of who I am? Our son Andy came out to us twenty-five years ago this month. It was a statement of fact, a statement of “This is who I am.” We didn’t see Andy any differently. He’s our son, and we love him; however, this especially opened my husband’s eyes as to whether or not being gay is a “choice.” As Andy has said more than once, “Why would I choose to be marginalized?’ Why, indeed?

That’s the important lesson for all of us. No one purposely chooses to be marginalized, which is why some people have stayed “in the closet” far too long. Currently, the most marginalized members of the LGBTQIA+ community are transgender people.

(continued above...)

Laws are being made in many states to try to eliminate their identities. Imagine being arrested for fraud just for going to a public restroom. I can say from conversations with transgender people whom I know and from reading memoirs from others I haven’t met in person, that being transgender is not a choice. One constant story I’ve heard is that “I wouldn’t be alive if I hadn’t transitioned.” That is why we need to keep our hearts and minds open to all, why we need to hear people’s stories, and why we truly need to “do unto others as we would have them do unto us.” Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**



TWIN CITIES PRIDE FESTIVAL 2026

Saturday June 27th: 10am-7pm

Sunday June 28th: 10am-6pm

Twin Cities Pride Youth Night

Friday June 26th: 5:00pm-8:00pm

Twin Cities Pride Parade

Sunday, June 28 11:00am – 2:00pm

The parade starts at 3rd & Hennepin and proceeds down Hennepin to Spruce.

The Twin Cities Pride Festival is Minnesota’s second largest festival and the largest **FREE** Pride festival. Highlighting the best in LGBTQIA2S+ entertainment on 3 stages, featuring over 650 vendors, including LGBTQIA2S+ & BIPOC community resources, artists, and businesses.





June 2026

Holy Trinity UMC
 (952) 447-2990
office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	2 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	3 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's	4 11am Care Team	5	6  6:30-8:30pm Pride Bingo
7 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	8 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	9  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UW Faith 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	15 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> MN ANNUAL CONFERENCE </div>		18	19 	20
21 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 	22 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	23 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	24	25	26  PRIDE 5-8pm Twin Cities PRIDE Youth Night	27  PRIDE 10am-7pm Twin Cities PRIDE Festival
28 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10am-6pm Twin Cities PRIDE Festival 	29 Church Office Closed → 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	30  2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage				

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

Worship: 9:30am (in-person & online)

Pastor: Rev. Leigh Brown
pastor@htumc.org

Church Admin: Tina Chant
(952) 447-2990 office@htumc.org

Church website: www.htumc.org



Our Vision: *"To love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and everywhere we go."*