



# Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

## February 2024

Volume 36 ♦ Number 2

Join us February 14

**Ash Wednesday service**

7pm | Sanctuary

# Wandering Heart

*"Tune my heart"*

**Lent begins on Valentine's Day!** It's weird, and happens on occasion. But that got me thinking about hearts and love even as I was thinking about mortality and repentance. I'm not the only weird one, though— a few of the series I looked over for Lent had a nod to Valentine's Day. We have used A Sanctified Art's resources before, so I wasn't necessarily going to jump right in and use them again (I like to switch it up a bit), but I loved their theme idea this year. So we are going to be following the apostle Peter through Lent together, noticing his wandering heart and inspecting our own hearts. There might not be flowers and chocolate as well, but maybe this will be a time for us to bind our wandering hearts to Jesus.

### ***Here is the explanation of the series from A Sanctified Art's Team...***

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast

pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

### ***About the Theme...***

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agape love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.





## ASH WEDNESDAY

**Wandering Heart: "Tune my heart"**

PSALM 51:1-17

As we begin the season, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?



## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

**Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"**

LUKE 5:1-11 | PSALM 25:1-10

Jesus doesn't seek out trained rabbis to be his disciples; instead, he calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him and join his ministry. In this story, Jesus tells Simon Peter to drop his nets one more time, even though they've been fishing all night long and have caught nothing. To their surprise, they haul in nets bursting with fish. In response to this abundant miracle, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord!" And yet, Peter and his partners drop their nets and follow Jesus. What is the beginning of your faith story? When has God sought you out? Have you ever felt like your calling was pursuing—or chasing—you? Did you resist? Did you follow?



## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**Wandering Heart: "Rescue me from danger"**

MATTHEW 14:22-33 | PSALM 22:23-31

As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we're sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.



## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**Wandering Heart: "Praise the mount"**

MATTHEW 16:13-20 | PSALM 19

"Praise the mount of God's unchanging love. . ." This lyric represents Peter's mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, "This, I believe..." then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

**In This Issue...**

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| "Wandering Heart" Lent Series | 1, 2, 3 | Potato Drop                   | 4 | Ministry Team Leaders & Chairs | 7 |
| "Fat Sunday" Potluck          | 4       | Women's Bible Study/Holy Week | 5 | E-Newsletter, Office Hours     | 7 |
| Souper Bowl of Caring         | 4       | Monthly Calendar              | 6 | Easter Flowers                 | 8 |



**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Wandering Heart:**  
*"Proned to leave  
the God I love"*

**JOHN 18:15-27 |**  
*Peter denies knowing Jesus*

Find the word "no" in as many places as you can in your home.

loves him.



# "Fat Sunday" Potluck Breakfast

February 11 @ 8:45

Everyone Please Come  
& bring a breakfast yummy to share



The AFC Champions will be taking on the NFC Champions in the **Super Bowl on February 11, 2024**. It's also an opportunity to help feed hungry people in Frederick.

If you're going to watch the game, please plan to donate at least \$1 to the Souper Bowl of Caring during worship on February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday)

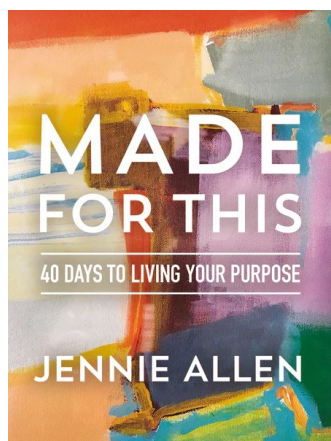
<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[c]</sup> with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'

-Matthew 17:5-7



Saturday, March 30. Stay on the lookout for more info in the March Monthly Cloverleaf.





### UPCOMING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...

For our Lenten focus, we will be using Jennie Allen's *MADE FOR THIS*, starting Monday nights at 6:30pm starting on February 5 and Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am starting on February 7.

#### A synopsis:

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why am I here?" Recognize your calling, find your place of service, and follow God to a life of purpose. This 40-day journey is for you—and it might surprise you. What if God hasn't hidden His purposes for your life from you? That life doesn't have to be so exhausting and heavy and confusing all the time? That God has given you everything you need to live out the calling He has placed on your life right this minute as you read this? In *Made for This*, a beautiful blend of best-selling books *Anything* and *Restless*, join Bible teacher Jennie Allen on a 40-day inter-

active journey that takes you through a step-by-step process to guide you in answering life's ultimate question.

- Stop living afraid and insecure by discovering how God can use your dreams and passions for a greater purpose
- Identify the threads in your life and how they intentionally weave together
- Trade control and safety for a life of God-honoring adventure by praying one prayer

Discover how to fully surrender to God and identify the threads of gifts, passions, places, relationships, and sufferings in your life—not to get what you want, but to find what God wants of you.

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## Holy Week Services

📅 **March 24** | Palm Sunday | 10am

*Easter Egg Hunt...be on the lookout for more info!*

🕯️ **March 28** | Maundy Thursday | 6:30pm | Multipurpose Room

🕯️ **March 29** | Good Friday Service | 7pm | Sanctuary

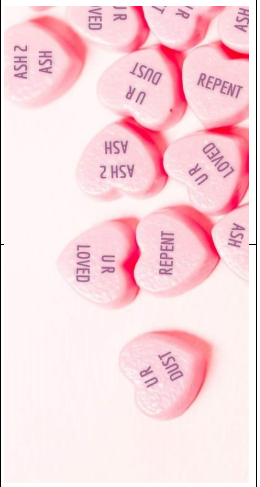
💖 **March 31** | Easter Sunrise | 6am | Clustered Spires Cemetery

Easter Service | 10am | Sanctuary

(MT=Ministry Team)

## February 2024

### TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

| <i>Sunday</i>  | <i>Monday</i>  | <i>Tuesday</i>   | <i>Wednesday</i>  | <i>Thursday</i>                              | <i>Friday</i>   | <i>Saturday</i> |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|-----------------|
| <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b><br>8:45 am   Grow Time "Open Door"<br>10:00 am   Worship Service<br>11:30 am   Youth Grow Time                  |  |  |   |  |   |                 |
| <b>SUNDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE</b><br>11:30 am   Trinity Brass<br>5:00 pm   Chimes, Songs & Drums<br>6:15 pm   Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir |  |  |   |  |   |                 |
| 4  | 5<br>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Church Council   | 6<br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study                         | 7<br>9:30 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:00 pm Chancel Choir<br>6:30 pm Praise Team                          | 8<br>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry                | 9   | 10              |
| 11   | 12<br>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study<br>8:45 am Fat Sunday Breakfast Potluck<br>5:00 pm Confirmation Class<br>6:00 pm Youth Group | 13<br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study                        | 14 ASH WEDNESDAY<br>9:30 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:00 pm Chancel Choir<br>7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service | 15<br>7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance MT       | 16  | 17              |
| 18   | 19 PRESIDENT'S DAY<br>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study  | 20<br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study                        | 21<br>9:30 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:00 pm Chancel Choir<br>6:30 pm Praise Team                         | 22<br>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry               | 23  | 24              |
| 25   | 26<br>5:00 pm Confirmation Class<br>6:00 pm Youth Group  | 27<br>11:30 am JOY Club<br>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 28<br>9:30 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:00 pm Chancel Choir<br>6:30 pm Praise Team                         | 29<br>6:00 pm Monthly Virtual Prayer Service |  |                 |

-OR-  
TEXT "GIVING" TO: 301-265-289





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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# Easter Flowers



We invite you to order Easter lilies or tulips to honor or remember your loved ones. They will be available to take home after our Easter service.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies (6" pot)      \$12 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (6" pot)      \$12 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark if you are including  
your payment by:

☐ CHECK      ☐ CASH

please memo: Flower Fund

**Check appropriate box:**

**In Honor of**      **In Memory of**      **Name:** (As you want it to appear on the list)

☐☐

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**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 10. YOU CAN CALL THE OFFICE OR GO ONLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!!**

Make checks payable to: TUMC (memo Flower Fund) drop off at the office mailbox or mail to:  
703 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701.