

## Sunday March 3 through Sunday March 10

- The Youth Fellowship will be meeting this evening at 5 pm.
- The Apprentice Study Group at the Parsonage will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday evening.
- The Ugly Mug Study Group will be meeting Tuesday morning at 11 am.
- The NOW Team **WILL BE** meeting Tuesday evening at 7 pm. Everyone that is interesting in helping to expand and build on the outreach for children need to make an effort to come to this meeting.
- Wednesday night Bible Study will still be held.
- There will be a special Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm.
- The ladies of the Susanna Wesley/Wesleyan Circle will not be meeting Thursday.
- The Administrative Board Meeting will be meeting next Sunday at 7 pm.



"I know the Lord told Peter, 'A person who had had a bath needs only to wash his feet,' but He didn't mean you just take one bath in your whole lifetime!!"

## This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789  
trinityumc.bsg@gmail.com

### Sunday March 3

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF

### Monday March 4

6:30 pm—Parsonage Study Group  
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

### Tuesday March 5

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group  
7:00 pm—NOW Team

### Wednesday March 6

6:00 pm—Bible Study  
6:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner Canceled  
7:00 pm—Choir Practice Canceled  
7:00 pm—Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday March 7

11:00 am—Susanna Wesley/Wesleyan Circle  
canceled

### Friday March 8

9:00 am—MEOC

### Saturday March 9

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### Sunday March 10

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF  
7:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting

## Decisions of The General Conference

The Traditional Plan, with amendments, was adopted by the General Conference. The Judicial Council shall render decisions on the constitutionality of several amendments to the Book of Discipline. We should hear their decisions by the end of April 2019.

Many are leaving our denomination. Plans are still being made for “a graceful exit.” I take this to mean that some people want to take their money and property with them. Others want to use the money and property as instruments that force unity. Yes, this is my interpretation. I have been wrong before! We will not truly know until May of 2020 when General Conference decides how shall we proceed.

### **What you can expect of your Pastor.**

I am resolved to keep my vow to uphold the 2016 Book of Discipline. Like the Law of Moses, the Book of Discipline convicts persons of violations that harm the Church. You must know that the Book of Discipline applies to clergy and laity. Both may be charged for violations that harm the Church Body.

When violations of the Book of Discipline occur, I shall use it to state the infraction. Then, I shall lay the Discipline aside to take up the full canon of scripture. Friends, we have been given the Ministry of Reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5: 11-21) Therefore, I walk with those who violate the Law of the Church. When individuals refuse to confess their infraction and/or walk with two or more witness through the Ministry of Reconciliation, that person shall be put out of the Church, especially as leaders and teachers.

The history and tradition of the “Ban,” that is to put people out of the Church, was for one purpose. The Holy Spirit always seeks to return the lost sheep, or the prodigal daughters and sons to fellowship, **first with God, and then the Church.** (See Matthew 18 and read to the end of the chapter. If you do not understand the parable, pray till the Spirit teaches you!) Unfortunately, Leaders circumvent this order by acting as the Head of The Church. Christ is the head. Leaders bring violators, first and always, to the Grace of Christ and then to Church.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, The General Conference “stands” on the Word of God. I ask, in the name of Christ Crucified, Dead, and Resurrected: Do we have unction to now walk by faith to fulfill the Holy Scriptures with our very lives? Or, as it says in Hebrews 6:6, shall we crucify Christ all over again?

God called me to equip the willing for a life of ministry! (Ephesians 4: 12) The fields are ripe for harvest, but few are willing to go among the least, the lost, the addicted, the divorced.... Rather, we have been told to give money and build programs. To our own shame, this looks more like corporate America and Civic Clubs than the Body of Christ. (This is what I saw watching General Conference.)

I know by experience why people refuse to come to church. The Church has not taught the praxis of Discipleship. We have taught people to confuse facts for the Truth of the Gospel. James calls us to be not merely hearers of the Word and sermons that validate our opinions and comfort. We are also called to be doers of God’s Word.

Doers of God’s Word confess, receive forgiveness by faith in Christ, forgive self, and then neighbor. Yes, that especially and in particular, means those who claim to be “saved!” We are called to deny our self-rightness to let the Holy Spirit transform our beliefs into faith in Christ's glorious Grace. (Ephesians 2:8) Until faith in self-rightness dies, we shall never rise to faith in Christ. But when we do, God gives us eyes to see the joy of the Lord with us in our various trials. When we become doers, God gives us eyes to see hope in the addictions that rips our families and community apart. They need Christ, not our self-rightness!

Let us stand on God’s Word. Let us ask God to grant us unction to be doers who fulfill the full canon of Scripture. Let us have the same mind and heart of the Son of Man who saved our souls. Where we see suffering; let us we see Christ on the Cross. Where we see mercy at work; let us celebrate the death of sin. Where we see people living by faith in God’s Grace; let us see the risen Christ, the Church who brings God’s will from heaven to earth. Let us be hears and doers until the whole world is full of His Glory. (John 3:16 and 17) Amen

One in Christ,

Pastor Robert