

# Welcome!

## The Trinity Times

"Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

### March 2025

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

*I am  
with  
you  
Always*  
MATHEW 28:20

### March 2025

"Do All the GOOD you can in ALL the PLACES you can"

- John Wesley

"Serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts"

- 1 Peter 4:10

*The Chili Cook-Off was successful, and a good time was had by all!*

We had 7 chefs prepare some delicious chili. The fellowship was warm and the food spicy!  
Congratulations to:

Gail Hall- 3rd place with her Winter White Chili  
Liz Cavin- 2nd place with Darn Good Chili  
Claudia & Byron Burge Happy Pepper Chili



Thank you to:

David & Henrietta, Carol, Susie & Westley, Julie, Gail & Jason, Liz, Claudia & Byron, Bonnie & Joe, Shirley, Linda, Stacie, Alisa & Don, Sandra, Bertie, David & Tara, Harriet, Joanne, Laurie, Fred & Freddie.

We collected dozens of cans of food for our outreach program with The Arbutus Place, and over \$300.



# photo Gallery







REV. FEDERICO PEREZ, JR.  
Pastor  
fperez@riotx.org

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

**In Person** —  
You may wear your mask  
as you feel comfortable.

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m. is also available  
on Facebook Live, &  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

**Prayer Meetings:**  
- Wednesdays via zoom  
at 2:15 p.m.

Church office phone  
210-684-0261  
Business office hours:  
**Mondays—Thursdays**  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
or **call for an appointment**

e-mail:  
ofcadmin@tumcsa.net  
6800 Wurzbach Road,  
San Antonio, Texas 78240  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

## FEBRUARY 2025

### ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

#### IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

FEBRUARY 2	35
FEBRUARY 9	40
FEBRUARY 16	27
FEBRUARY 23	30

#### FACEBOOK LIVE – (PEOPLE REACHED)

FEBRUARY 2	88
FEBRUARY 9	79
FEBRUARY 16	78
FEBRUARY 23	84

#### \*TITHES & OFFERINGS

FEBRUARY 2	\$9,623.00
FEBRUARY 9	\$2,613.00
FEBRUARY 16	\$2,911.00
FEBRUARY 23	no report

(\*Tithes & Offerings report taken from  
**ONLY** the Sunday counters;  
online and text giving **NOT** included).

YARD SALE/FLEA MARKET SPOTS: \$75.00

#### Happy Birthday to:

ALISA ROBERTS	2-Mar
JOSE PEREZ	4-Mar
MARICRUZ PEREZ	6-Mar
MARCIA FOSTER	13-Mar
DEBRA PUTZ- TREVINO	14-Mar
JACK TOOLE	14-Mar
TOM PHILLIPS	20-Mar
DON DANCAK	22-Mar
SHIRLEY FERGUSON	24-Mar
HARRIET PHILLIPS	24-Mar
WARDINE WILCOX	28-Mar

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Simply scan this  
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phone's camera  
(or QR code  
reader).



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to:  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)  
then click on the  
“Donate” button.

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You may also **text**  
giving to:  
**844-210-1179**  
(Type in the  
amount you wish  
to donate, then  
hit send).



*If we have missed your  
special day, please notify  
Cynthia in the church office.  
Thank you!*

**May God shower blessings  
on you today and forever.**

# THIS & THAT ETC.

Let's celebrate "Pancake Sunday" after the worship service on Sunday, March 2nd, in place of Fat Tuesday! All you can eat Pancakes! We would love your help with setting up and decorating, serving, or cleaning up afterward.

If you're interested, just let us know or get in touch with Don Ketchum. It's going to be a fun and tasty time together!

It's Sunday!



Who wants pancakes?



## Trinity UMC Prayer Team †

**“God, help me navigate whatever challenges I encounter this day. Be my comfort and my rock. Guide me to do Your will and be an instrument of Your peace today and each day. Amen.”**

*Prayer team meets every Wednesday at 2:15pm via Zoom.  
Please join us or send us your prayer request at [www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)*



**PRAYER**  
*changes things*

Don't worry  
*God* is never blind to your tears,  
never deaf to your prayers,  
and never silent to your pains.  
*He sees, He hears*  
and He will deliver.

Let us pledge to uphold  
our church with our  
prayers



Please pray for our  
church every day at noon  
by simply saying  
**"JESUS I TRUST IN YOU"**

Let Us  
Pray

# YOU ARE WELCOME

During Lent Christians remember the events that lead up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our Lenten journey, leading to Holy Week and culminating on Easter Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

We invite you to join us for Lenten services at our church to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Ash Wednesday - March 5 4:30-5:30 pm Drive by Ashes 6:30pm Worship Service

Sunday Worship - March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 10:00 am

Holy Week Services - Palm Sunday, April 13 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday Communion Service - April 17 6:30 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 18 7:00 pm

Easter Celebrations - April 20 Sunrise Service 6:30 am Easter Worship 10:00 am

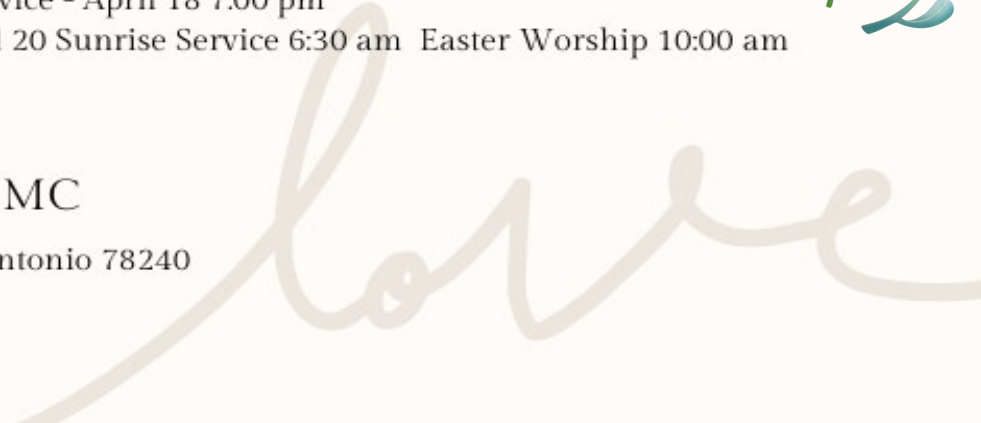


TRINITY UMC

6800 Wurzbach Rd. San Antonio 78240

[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

210-684-0261



**FREE FOOD** every **3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

**MARCH 15TH FROM 10 AM—12 NOON**

**ARBUTUS PLACE AT TRINITY'S PARKING LOT FACING NEWCOME**

## FLEA MARKET/YARD SALE/POP-UP MARKET



- ◆ Bring your tables.
- ◆ The cost is \$15.00 per space.
- ◆ You may bring your canopy and chairs.
- ◆ Invite your friends, and come and have a picnic.
- ◆ Either prepay at the church office (Mon-Thurs) between 11 am and 2 pm or bring in the day of – CASH Only and the exact amount.
- ◆ Great visibility on Wurzbach. Will advertise on social media and the church's electronic marquee.

MARCH 8, 2025 | 9 am-2 pm | EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Trinity United Methodist Church

6800 Wurzbach Road, 78240. 210-684-0261 church office.

GOOD LOCATION! PROMISE ☺



## What Is Ash Wednesday? Why and How Christians Celebrate It

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

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### Who Celebrates Ash Wednesday?

Have you ever noticed how once a year, usually in February or March, there are a lot of people walking around with an ash cross on their foreheads? You probably knew it had something to do with Lent, but you weren't sure why the ash cross was significant. Or maybe, you grew up in a Catholic or Protestant church that held Ash Wednesday services each year, so you're already familiar with the service but aren't too sure about the history of Ash Wednesday and Lent and what they have to do with the Christian faith.

The observance of Ash Wednesday is most common in the Western Christian tradition, including Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, and some Protestant denominations.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a unique Ash Wednesday service.

While most commonly observed by Catholics, Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day that carries significant meaning for all Christians as a turning of hearts towards God in repentance and prayer. The symbolism of Ash Wednesday and Lent is remembering our mortality, need for salvation, and the period of temptation and testing that Jesus faced in the desert.

The name "Ash Wednesday" is derived from placing ashes on believers' foreheads in the shape of a cross often accompanied by the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," emphasizing mortality and the need for repentance.

### What happens on Ash Wednesday?

During Mass (for Catholics) or worship service (for Protestants), the priest or pastor will usually share a sermon that is penitential (expressing sorrow) and reflective in nature. The mood is solemn - many services will have long periods of silence and worshipers will often leave the service in silence.

Usually, there is a responsive passage of Scripture, usually centered around confession, read aloud about the leader and congregation. Attendees will experience communal confession, as well as moments where they are prompted to silently confess sins and pray.

After all of this, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Usually, as the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

### Where do the Ashes Come from, and What do Ashes Symbolize?

In many congregations, the ashes are prepared by burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, churches bless and hand out palm branches to attendees, referencing the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when onlookers lay palm branches on his path.

The ashes that are wore on the forehead on Ash Wednesday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy" (The CatholicSpirit.com).

With this focus on our mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy to the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Hope you enjoyed reading.

**Rev. David Cervantez**

Kelly Givens  
Contributing Editor to Crosswalk.com  
(updated Jan 20, 2025)



## WHAT IS LENT ALL ABOUT, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**H**ave you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they're giving something up for Lent?

**D**o you want to understand what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.



### What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

### What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

Each day of Lent, a daily devotional will help you reflect and pray as you look forward to Easter. God bless!



## What Are You Giving up for Lent?

Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader



The Lenten season is upon us, and it's time to give up something in preparation. Are you giving up sweets, carbs, sodium, bread, meat, or just extra calories? It seems that we usually give up something involving our diets. Maybe you're giving up an hour of your time, or even a whole day to volunteer somewhere. That would certainly be admirable!

I'd like to propose that we all give up those intangibles that would benefit many people, not just ourselves. Why not give up anger, selfishness, prejudice, and/or fear, in general? I hope you all have heard that the opposite of love is fear, not hate! Try tracing all these negative emotions back to their origins, and you will find that they are all based on a fear of some kind. Seriously, think about what you "hate," and you will see that you actually fear that person or thing. Maybe you call it "jealousy" or "prejudice," but it is really fear. If you can give up these negative emotions for just six weeks, you might be able to give them up for good (yes, pun intended)! It would certainly be GOOD, and it would be FOR GOOD if we could all give them up!

Back to the volunteering idea, I believe we could all grow in our spiritual journey if we volunteered time to any worthy cause. Our church used to have volunteers to S.A.M.M., but we no longer do that. Maybe some could go to Travis Park and help with the homeless project there. Maybe some could go to the Battered Women's Shelter to volunteer. Maybe some could go to Haven for Hope and simply talk to those staying there. Sometimes all people need is to know that someone cares about them! If you don't have extra money to give to these projects, you don't need to feel obligated to give money. I believe more people give money than time to most charities. Don't misunderstand

me - money is always accepted and does a lot for these charities. If money is what you can give up, then, that is a worthy thing to give up for Lent. Yes, it's easy, but that does not lessen its impact.

The "cheap" things are really the most difficult to give up. Stop wasting your time being angry about things you cannot change! Give up anger and look for ways to make things better! I know sometimes when toddlers throw tantrums, they get their way; but in the real world throwing tantrums (or demonstrating or vandalizing) produce no positive results. Think about what you expect to happen by your actions. When you give up certain foods, you expect to lose weight or be healthier in some way. When you give up anger or jealousy or prejudice, you surely expect situations to be better. What will you accomplish by holding on to those extra pounds? What will you accomplish by holding on to your negative emotions?

Remember that giving up something for Lent is in preparation for moving your soul closer to Christ. It's not just something we're "supposed" to do. When you come to one of our Ash Wednesday services, think about what you will give up and why as you accept the ashes. God and Jesus Christ know your heart and will be very pleased when they see that you have chosen to give up something you should never have had in the first place.

*"One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us."*

*- John Wesley*

# What Does the Bible Say About Giving?

## Why do we give tithes and offerings in church?

We've probably all heard these common complaints and questions: Churches today only care about money. Why should I give? How do I know the money will go to a good cause?

So, what exactly does the Bible say about giving? Since money is a highly sensitive area for most people, let's take some time to explore.

### **Giving shows he is the Lord of our lives.**

First and foremost, God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17, NIV*

Everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us.

Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes everything we have and gives already belongs to the Lord.

God instructed Old Testament believers to give a tithe, or a tenth because this ten percent represented the first, most important portion of all they had. The New Testament does not suggest a certain percentage for giving, but simply says for each to give *"in keeping with his income."*

### **We are blessed when we give.**

*... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*  
(Acts 20:35, NIV)

### **When we give freely to God, we receive freely from God.**

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:38, NIV)*

God promises to bless us over and above what we give and also according to the measure that we use to give. But, if we hold back from giving with a stingy heart, we hinder God from blessing our lives.

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)*

Giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks to God from the heart.

### **The value of our offering is not determined by how much we give, but how we give.**

We find important keys to giving in this story of the widow's offering:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44, NIV)*

In God's eyes, the value of the offering is not determined by its amount. The passage says that the wealthy gave large amounts, but the widow's "fraction of a penny" was of much higher value because she gave all that she had. It was a costly sacrifice. Jesus said she put in more than *all* the others.

When we truly recognize all that Christ has done for us, we'll want to offer ourselves wholly to God as a living sacrifice of worship to him. Our offerings will flow freely from a heart of gratitude.

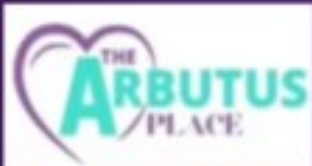
*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1, NIV)*

### **A Giving Challenge**

Give *something* faithfully and regularly. God promises to bless your commitment. If a tenth seems too overwhelming, consider making it a goal. Giving might feel like a sacrifice at first, but soon you'll discover its rewards. *God wants believers to be free from the love of money, as the Bible says in*

*1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (NIV)*

We may experience times of financial hardship when we can't give as much as we'd like, but the Lord still wants us to trust him in those times and give. **God**, not our paycheck, **is our provider**. He will meet our daily needs.



# 4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS FUNDRAISER

# THE HOPEFUL SERVANT

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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USAF RETIRED

"SERVICE BEFORE SELF"



PRAYER

EMCEE



PASTOR FRED PEREZ  
TUMC

ANGIE WHITE, PHD  
CEO, CASA



**ANIKA MILLER**  
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**MARIACHI DE AZUL**  
SAN ANTONIO



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THE PAINTED TREE BOUTIQUE

## SILENT AUCTION, MUSIC, INSPIRATION, AND MORE

Join us for an uplifting event filled with food, music, and fun benefiting The Arbutus Place, a non-profit that provides free food and clothing to neighbors in need in San Antonio's Medical Center area.

**Marriott San Antonio Airport**  
77 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**Come out and be blessed!**



Tickets  
**\$50**



Table of 8  
**\$400**

Zelle: thearbutusplace@gmail.com, Venmo: @TheArbutusPlace, Cash App: \$TheArbutusPlace, or Contact Sandra @ 210-480-2969 - thearbutusplace@gmail.com



# CALL FOR SPONSORS

## 4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS: THE HOPEFUL SERVANT

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