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TOUCHSTONE

March/April 2026

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Trinity United Presbyterian Church
79 W. Fayette Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
www.facebook.com/trinityupc

Phone# 724-437-2709
Website-www.trinityupc.com
Email-trinityupc@gmail.com

Worship | Service | Proclaim | Discipleship | Community



⁵“But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

Matthew 28 5-6 NKJV



DISCIPLESHIP
PATHWAY

The Path of Discipleship with James Vlosich

"Wherever We Go, God is With Us"

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear... Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:25-26)

In February, I read a couple of books about Negro League Baseball. What stayed with me most was how uncertain and unglamorous the travel was for Black baseball players in those days. Many of them stepped onto the field not knowing where they would eat or where they would lay their heads that night. Because of the color of their skin, hotels and restaurants were often closed to them. Teams carried a Green Book (a small guide that listed the few places where Black travelers might be welcomed). Even with that book guiding them, there were still very few places to go.

Sometimes these players slept on the bus. Sometimes they were welcomed into the homes of kind families. Sometimes they found rest in church basements. As they traveled from town to town, they had to trust that someone would show kindness, that someone would see them not just as athletes, but as people.

In a life like that, faith becomes more than something you say; it becomes something you live. When you don't know where you will eat or sleep, you begin to understand what Jesus means when he says, "Do not worry." Not because the road is easy, but because God is present on it. You learn to trust that even when the world turns you away, God does not.

I know in my own life, there were seasons when hard moments shook me to my core. It wasn't until I began to lean on Jesus as my source of strength and hope that I found I could not only get through those struggles, but I could grow through them as well.

Those players I read about carried more than gloves and uniforms from city to city. They carried hope. Many of them carried a quiet faith and a belief that wherever the road took them, God was already there ahead of them, preparing a place, stirring a heart, and opening a door.

And that is where their story meets our faith. So often, we don't know what lies ahead. It can be hard to live with that kind of uncertainty. But Scripture reminds us of this simple promise: wherever we go, God is with us.

God is with us on the long road. God is with us in the seasons that wear us down. And even when we do not know the destination, we can trust that God walks the journey with us.

James Vlosich



Notes From The Bench



From Lenten Restraint to Easter Joy

As we move through Lent, into Easter, and toward the turn of the church year, sacred music teaches us something the world is not always very good at teaching, how to wait well.

For me, these seasons are not just names on a calendar. They shape sound, pacing, color, and even restraint. Lent invites a kind of holy simplicity. The music is not meant to be plain for its own sake, but intentional, prayerful, and focused. In these weeks, we listen for depth rather than brilliance. We allow space for repentance, reflection, and longing. The Church does not rush to Easter, and the music should not rush there either.

Scripture gives us this pattern. Lent echoes the call of Joel, “Return to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12), and the plea of Psalm 51, “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10). We also follow Christ on the road toward Jerusalem, toward suffering, and toward the cross, as passages like Luke 9:51 and Philippians 2:8 remind us. In that light, sacred music in Lent becomes a companion to prayer. It helps us dwell in the season’s seriousness without losing hope.

At the bench, this affects both repertoire and registration. I find myself choosing music that emphasizes clarity, sobriety, and warmth rather than sheer brilliance. Chorale settings, quieter meditations, and pieces with a more transparent texture often serve the season well. The goal is not to flatten the emotional life of worship, but to support the liturgy’s character and let the text, especially congregational hymn texts, carry their full weight.

Registration choices follow the same logic. During Lent, I generally lean on gentler foundation stops, soft principals, flutes, and strings, often centered on an 8' tone with modest support rather than a full principal chorus. These colors can sustain singing beautifully while preserving a sense of reserve. The sound remains supportive and expressive, but not triumphant in the Easter sense. Even small decisions, a quieter accompaniment manual, fewer couplers, a more restrained pedal line, can shape the congregation’s sense of the season.

One especially meaningful practice in this season is the intentional holding back of certain festive sonorities, particularly reeds and mixtures, until Easter Day. In organ terms, reeds (such as trumpet or oboe stops) add brilliance, edge, and proclamation, while mixtures add upper-work sparkle and brightness to the principal chorus. They are wonderful colors, but part of their power lies in timing. By refraining from those sounds through Lent, we preserve a real musical contrast between penitential seasons and festal ones.

Notes From The Bench (Continued)

That restraint is not arbitrary, and it is certainly not about making Lent joyless. It is about telling the Church's story truthfully. The liturgical year forms us through contrast. We fast and then feast. We kneel and then stand to sing with renewed strength. We hear quieter, more inward colors, and then on Easter morning the room blooms with sound. The organ becomes a teacher here, not by words, but by disciplined choices that help the congregation feel what the season is saying.

Then Easter arrives, and the musical palette opens in a wholly different way.

The Resurrection changes the soundscape because it changes everything. The women hear at the tomb, "He is not here, but has risen" (Luke 24:6), and the Church answers that proclamation not only with speech, but with song. "Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20), and "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Easter music should sound like that kind of news, not generic happiness, but astonished, full-bodied joy.

For the organist, this means the resources held in reserve can finally return. Reeds and mixtures, absent through Lent, now serve their proper purpose in proclaiming resurrection joy. Principal choruses can be fuller, hymn introductions can carry more radiance, and postludes can speak with the kind of confidence and brightness that belong to the feast. Manual changes become more dramatic, the pedal can take a stronger role, and the full ensemble of the organ can be used in a way that feels liturgically earned. A festive registration on Easter is not simply louder. It is resurrection color, released at the right time. The contrast helps the congregation hear, and feel, that we have crossed into a new season.

This is one of the great gifts of sacred music in the church year. It is not decorative background. It is pastoral, theological, and deeply formative. It teaches the ear how to pray, how to wait, how to lament, and how to rejoice. The organist's choices, what piece is played, how it is registered, how boldly or gently it speaks, participate in that larger work of shaping the congregation's worship across time. Even beyond Easter Day, that sense of festal color continues to unfold through Eastertide as the Church keeps singing resurrection, not as a moment, but as a season.

And that, frankly, is one of the great joys of serving at the bench. We are not only playing notes. We are helping steward memory, expectation, and proclamation in sound.

After our beautiful Ash Wednesday service, I had a conversation with James and Caitlin Vlosich that stayed with me. We spoke about music, worship, and the privilege of serving the Church in this way, and I was reminded again how grateful I am to do this work at Trinity. Moments like that deepen my sense of calling and renew my desire to consecrate the gifts God has given me to His service.

Notes From The Bench (Continued)

I will be absent for four Sundays in March due to prior professional commitments. Trinity will be in excellent hands during that time: Lourie Stewart, former interim organist, will serve on March 8, and Huilin Shen, a piano performance D.M.A. student at West Virginia University and an organ studio-mate of mine, will serve on March 15, 22, and 29. I will also still be in the building part-time throughout March, preparing for Easter and continuing that work behind the scenes. I look forward to being back at the bench on Easter Sunday.

Rehearsals for Easter are already underway, and I am deeply grateful for the guest musicians who will be serving that day: Lilli Back, Bailee Beckett, Carson Cheskawich, Morgan Charley, Carissa Coffindaffer, Angelo Buffalini, Shaylee Groves, Jameson Loop, Jeff Martinec, Olivia Smith, and Aidan Swan. Please join me in thanking them for their time, preparation, and gifts. As rehearsals continue, please keep all who will serve in music this Easter in your prayers, that our work at the bench, in the choir loft, and in the sanctuary may give glory to God and help Trinity sing the Resurrection with joy.





Adult Sunday School

10:00 am.

MARCH LESSONS

- 3/1 Recognizing Our Debt to Others* (Mark 12:28-34; James 2:14-17)
3/8 Watching Our Consumption (Daniel 1:8-17; 1 Timothy 4:7-8)
3/15 Giving to the Community (Deuteronomy 15:4-11; Matthew 25:42-25)
3/22 Welcoming Others in Christ (Acts 10:9-15; Galatians 3:28-29)
3/29 Waiting for God's Peace (Isaiah 2:2-4; Acts 17:26-28)

APRIL LESSONS

- 4/5 Resurrection: The Future Hope* (1 Corinthians 15:13-20, 51-58)
4/12 Authority: Belonging to God (Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
4/19 Children: Gift and Model (Mark 9:36-37, 42; 10:13-16)
4/26 Family: Distinct and Obedient (Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Matthew 19:3-9)

MAY LESSONS

- 5/3 Christian Expectation of Grace* (Jonah 3:1-5; 4:6-11)
5/10 Work as Christian Duty (Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
5/17 Christian Manner of Justice (Deuteronomy 24:14-21; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
5/24 Christian Rhythms of Life (Mark 2:18-28) *5/31 Living in Christian Community* (Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 10:22-25)



Easter Flower Order:



Lily _____(\$11.00)

Mum _____(\$10.00)

Tulips _____(\$10.00)

Azalea _____(\$17.50)

3 Bloom Hyacinth _____(\$10.00)

Given in Memory of: _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Deadline for order: Sunday, March 22, 2026

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary for the Easter worship service and may be picked up after the service that day or during the week following Easter. You may contribute a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Our Lenten Services

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

March 29, 2026

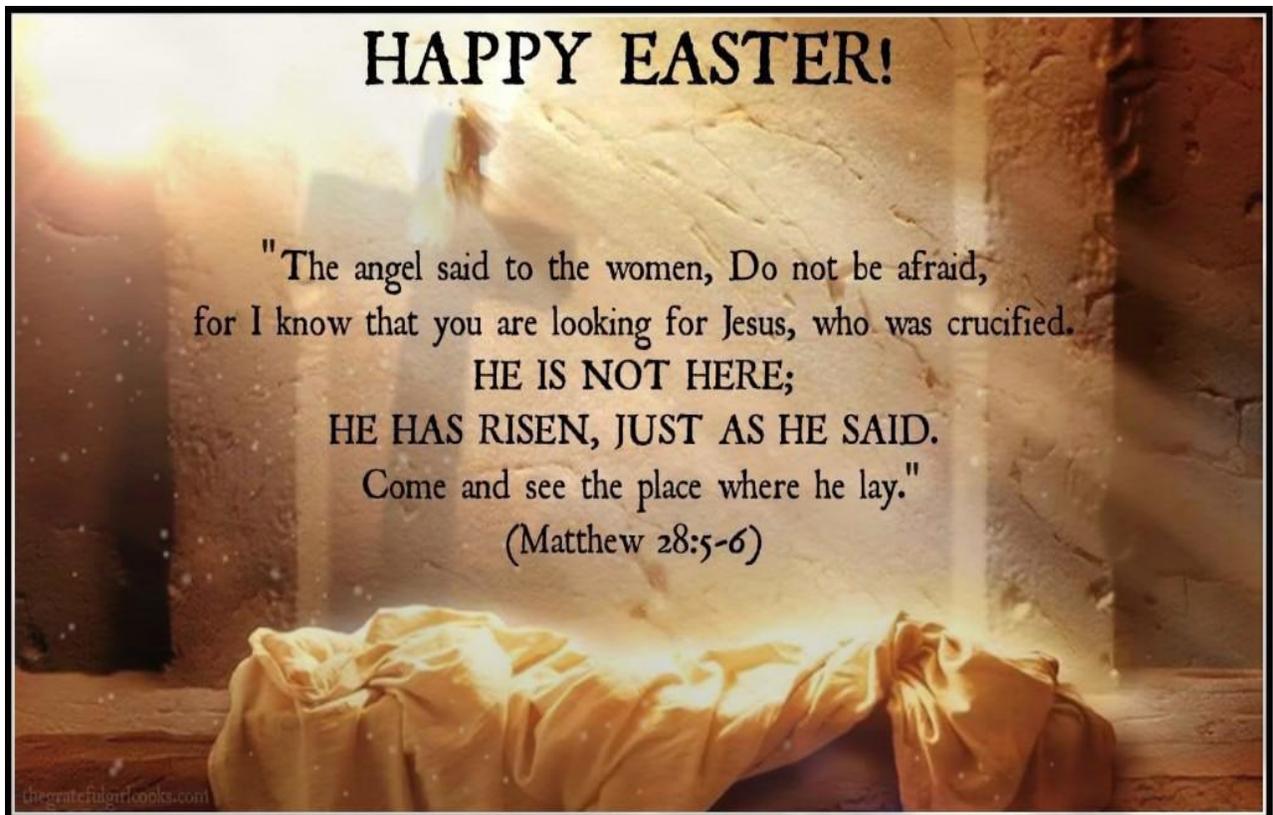
LIVE and ONLINE at 11:00 am.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 2, 2026

Live and on Line at 7:00 pm







Palm Sunday Potluck Breakfast - March 24th @ 9:00 AM in the chapel. Bring a dish to share (breakfast casserole, fruit or pastry). Place settings and beverages will be provided.

Following the breakfast, we will stuff the eggs with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt.

2026 Easter Flower Order:

Lily _____(\$12.00)

Mum _____(\$11.00)

Tulips _____(\$11.00)

Azalea _____(\$20.00)

3 Bloom Hyacinth _____(\$11.00)

Given in Memory of:

Given in Honor of:

Given by:

Amount Enclosed: _____

Deadline for order: Sunday, March 22, 2026

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary for the Easter worship service and may be picked up after the service that day or during the week following Easter. You may contribute a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please return the form with payment by **March 22, 2026**.



Easter Word Search



D Z V R E P U O T H E D D P W Y Z E X R
 A B P U V Y G E J E R G Z T C B S I L U
 D E C E L E B R A T I O N X N A M R V Z
 V A X L N U X Z E S F W I I M S E U O C
 Z N P U A S P R I N G Z C W U K C U I A
 O S B E Y M H T P O P K F G Z E H A W A
 G J E X K Z B Z L K L R R C J T I I V B
 B C H E E S E C A K E X H A Q E C A V N
 L T E X B X R K N S F N O N H G K Y F L
 W U A D O Y V F O H C A C D Z G S H N W
 R L J R H N S C L U W N M Y C S O F Z Y
 T I P Y J N B A C O S W P S J E C X G U
 G P E P L B U R G H W H T F I G J Y X E
 R S E R D C N R F U U E X X R M S D J U
 A W P C Q M N O V O M R R I A C E T O G
 S W S L Q L Y T T X H O C S Z L E A R U
 S D S N E J H U N T W G L H R P K I P K
 P G L C H O C O L A T E S U N D A Y O V
 Z B P K U H M U F S C F N F J Q L I L Y
 V Y Y I P U I Z Z S L X Q T M S M M S K

celebration
 chicks
 Sunday
 candy
 lamb

cheesecake
 carrot
 tulips
 grass
 lily

chocolate
 church
 spring
 beans
 bunny

flowers
 basket
 hunt
 peeps
 eggs

Junior Singers & Ringers

On February 15th, the children of Trinity blessed us in a special way as they took to the stage to play "Jesus Loves Me" on bells. For more than a month, they practiced faithfully under the guidance of Barb Slavin and Caitlin Vlosich. Week by week, their confidence grew, and their hard work truly paid off.

As the familiar melody filled the sanctuary, it brought smiles to everyone in attendance. Yet perhaps the sweetest sight of all was the joy on the children's faces when they finished.

We are so grateful for the leadership of Barb, Vickie, and Caitlin, and for the willingness of our children to share their gifts. This performance is just the beginning, and we look forward to many more joyful moments like this in the days ahead.



SMALL GROUP

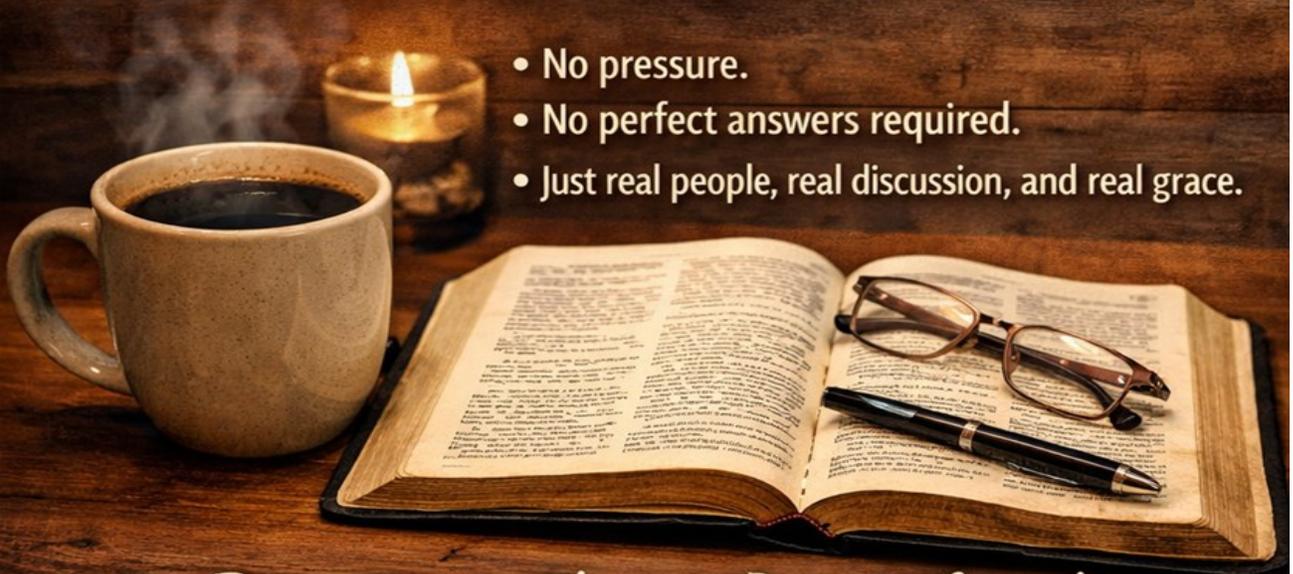
EVERY TUESDAY • 5:00 P.M.



Come slow down, share conversation,
and grow in faith together.

We gather each week around **COFFEE & THE BIBLE**—
asking honest questions, encouraging one another,
and learning how God's Word meets us in everyday life.

- No pressure.
- No perfect answers required.
- Just real people, real discussion, and real grace.



Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend!

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

Darts & Devotions



A vibrant poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds and a string of colorful triangular bunting flags. The title 'Easter Egg Hunt' is written in large, stylized letters. 'Easter' is in white with a blue outline, and 'Egg Hunt' is in pink with a white outline. To the left of the word 'Egg' is a colorful Easter egg with yellow, pink, and green patterns. Below the title is a yellow banner with the date 'Saturday, April 4th'. Underneath the banner, the time and location '10:00 A.M.- MT. MACRINA MANOR' are written in purple. Below that, the text 'Join us for a morning of EGG-CITING fun!' is written in purple. The bottom half of the poster features a white Easter bunny with pink ears and a pink nose, sitting in a field of green grass. The bunny is surrounded by several colorful Easter eggs with various patterns like polka dots, stripes, and zig-zags. There are two callout boxes: an orange one on the left and a green one on the right, both containing text.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th

10:00 A.M.- MT. MACRINA MANOR

Join us for a morning of EGG-CITING fun!

**Hunt for eggs
filled with candy
and prizes!**

**Fun for the
whole family!**



Interfaith Caregivers Style Show

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Proudly presents our

Annual Style Show

Sunday March 15, 2026

Uniontown Country Club

Featuring all the latest styles, our famous basket auction, local art work, the envelope game, 50/50 and all the fun you and your friends have been waiting for!

Doors open at 11:30am

Brunch buffet – 12:30pm

Style show – 1:30pm

Come join the fun. We can't wait to see you again!

\$40.00 per person. For more information or to make a reservation call 724-438-0709

Payment in advance, please.

Cash bar available

Please RSVP by 3/9/2026

Detach and mail to: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

79 W. Fayette Street Uniontown, PA 15401

Name(s) _____

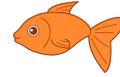
Amount enclosed (\$40 per person) _____ *Telephone number* _____



Interfaith Missions



Loaves & Fishes Ministries



A Few Feeding Many - Every Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.

Loaves N Fishes Ministries - St Vincent - 30 lunches

A Few Feeding Many - Every Tuesday @ 10:00 am.

Trinity's Blue Bird House: For those less fortunate than us.

The Bird House is filled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

Interfaith Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 9:00 am -2:00 pm.

Supplies Needed: Small Water Bottles (8-10 oz)



Kindred Souls

Kindred Souls meets for a luncheon, & time of fellowship. This is for single & widowed women. All women are welcome, not just church members.

The next luncheon is Wednesday, March 5th 11:30 am at Nae Nae's

For more information call Carol @ 724-438-0709



Book Journey will meet on Tuesday, March 17 11:30 am at Red Lobster.
The book is "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni.

Book Journey will meet on Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 am at Nae Nae's
The Book is "Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books" by Kirsten Miller.

All are welcome! Contact Susan Fox at 724-970-9066 or sefox55@gmail.com

OR

Cindy Jones at 724-437-7856 or cbjonz1@aol.com



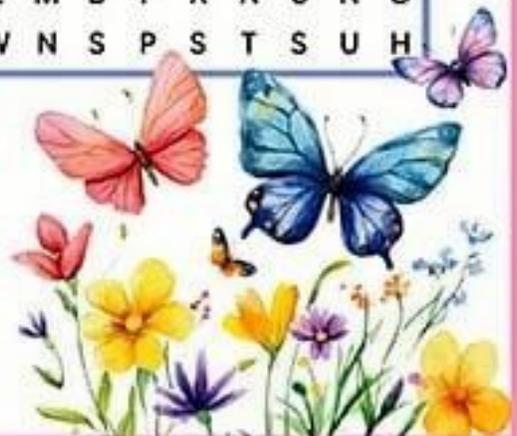
SPRING

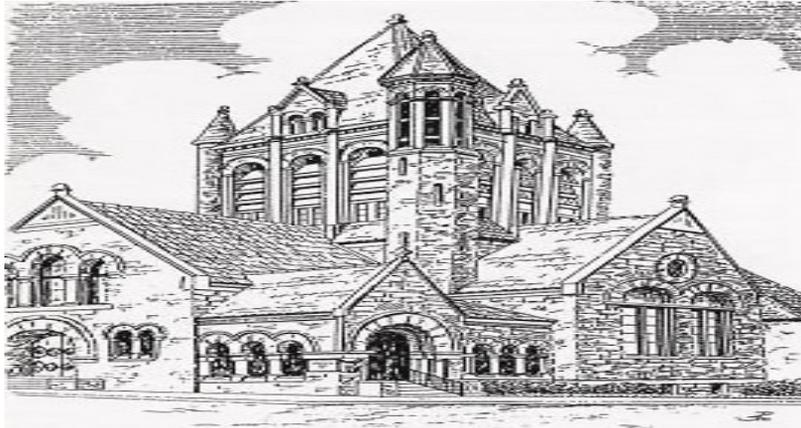
Z D L V Y Y Z Z S T U T U L I P W E L F A
 I Q K A N W B B P Q C V I P F K I E X V I
 D D Q E D H X R R T F L I O U Y E I Q I Z
 V O J G Z Y Z G O W I A I R Z P T P Q P X
 A W I B A E B J U B B T T D L E A F B U D
 U R S G L R E U T P L Y N N O R W L N Y P
 N P I X L G N R G U O H G I X F S C Z L Q
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 U T X I U E A J T R Q Q F Y L D C N P T N
 F S S C Y W M N G A Y A Z R H N P A G U I
 K R E W O L F G N I P R I H C O I G E B A
 D U C K L I N G I N I G M G M C E L N P R
 S E E D L I N G R B J N G N O S D R I B R
 N L V Y B D N C P O J V G A R D E N H S X
 N T T W A Q Y B S W T P U G G Y F M S L U
 I B H M O S S O L B J S V I O L E T N Q M
 Z U A B T C F G W O D A E M B F X N U N O
 T T W G D V Q I X X G E W N S P S T S U H

BIRDSONG
 BLOOM
 BLOSSOM
 BREEZE
 BUNNY
 BUTTERFLY
 CHIRPING
 DAFFODIL
 DUCKLING

GARDEN
 GRASS
 LADYBUG
 LEAFBUD
 MEADOW
 NEST
 PICNIC
 PUDDLE
 RAINBOW

RAINDROP
 ROBIN
 SEEDLING
 SPRINGTIME
 SPROUT
 SUNSHINE
 THAW
 TULIP
 UMBRELLA





The Staff

James Vlosich, Discipleship Coordinator
Bill Dreucci, Director of Music
Badyn Woodford, Organist
Barb Slavin, Office Manager
Pete Vlosich, Assistant Custodian

Check your email for updates.
Email the church office if you need
to be put on the church email list.