

Welcoming Reverends Joseph and Kathy James

Joseph and Kathy James will be arriving in Sumter at the end of June and there are several things that you can do to help offer a wonderful, warm, Trinity welcome! We will share some of those things in this month's Trumpeteer but be on the lookout for even more in the June Trumpeteer! It is important that our hospitality be a church-wide effort so we hope that you will make a point to find several ways that you can participate during this exciting time!

Mark Your Calendars for July 2nd:

Join us on July 2nd for **one worship at 11am** as we share in our first of many worship opportunities with Reverend James. Following our worship, there will be a reception in the fellowship hall with light refreshments to welcome Joseph and Kathy to Sumter and especially Trinity.

40 Days of Prayer:

You will find a 40-Day Prayer Calendar as an insert in this month's Trumpeteer. Beginning on **May 24th** (40 days from the first Sunday that we will share our first worship with Rev. Joseph James, we will join together as a church to pray for Trinity, for Reverends Joseph and Kathy James, our community, our leaders, and our ministry staff in the midst of pastoral transition. Make sure to keep the calendar on your refrigerator, in your Bible, or anywhere that you will be able to see it daily and offer your prayers.

Notes of Welcome:

Everyone is invited (and encouraged) to write a note of welcome to our new pastoral family, Reverends Joseph and Kathy James. Please include a welcome, information about yourself/your family, something that you are excited about at Trinity, and ways that you are involved in the ministries of Trinity. Once you have written your letter, you may put it in an envelope and then bring it to the church office. **We will mail all the letters from the church office.** Our goal is to make sure that Joseph and Kathy receive at least 2 letters each day of the 40-Days of Prayer. We would like to make sure that we include letters from people of all ages so please encourage your children and youth to participate also!

The Listening Tour:

The Listening Tour is a series of casual gatherings in the homes of congregation members to share in conversation (and maybe even a dessert). Each gathering will include 5-10 people connected to Trinity as we share in conversation to help Joseph learn the culture, context, history, and people of Trinity and Sumter – as well as provide you with the opportunity to meet Joseph in a small group setting. How can you help? We need people who would be willing to open their homes to serve as listening session locations. If you would be willing to open your home to host a listening session, please contact Angela in the church office for more details. Once the homes have been identified, invitations will be offered to anyone that wishes to join this exciting ministry opportunity.

40 Days of Prayer for Trinity United Methodist Church

beginning May 24th and continuing through July 2nd

Moses went to the top of a mountain to hear God. Jesus retreated to the wilderness. Yet for many Christians our most regular place for praying is in our pew on Sunday morning. On any other day of the week we find that life becomes overwhelming and prayer takes a back seat to other things that continuously climb higher on our list of priorities. But that isn't the way it is supposed to be. Our souls, like vines, will grow wild and weak when untended. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Just as prayer is as essential as breath, so prayer is essential to our shared life together as the Body of Christ.

So, let us join together and commit to 40 Days of Prayer for Trinity United Methodist Church in preparation of Reverends Joseph and Kathy James' first Sunday with us on July 2, 2017. As a church, we will pray for Trinity, our community, our leaders, our ministry staff, and our incoming pastoral leadership. You will find a prayer calendar (an insert in this month's Trumpeteer) that will guide us in our prayers. Our 40 days of prayer will begin on May 24, 2017 which will mark 40 days prior to Reverend Joseph James's first Sunday on July 2, 2017

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God's peace,
Angela

