

Tidings



A Monthly Publication from Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, FL

We Would See Jesus

by Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams, Lead Pastor

“Sir, we would see Jesus.”

This statement is inscribed on a brass plate and mounted at the top of the pulpit of Trinity United Methodist Church. Each time I step up into the pulpit, I am literally faced with this statement. The statement is posted physically between the congregation and whatever words I have to say.

The Gospel of John has been commonly known as the *spiritual* gospel because it records intimate encounters that others had with Jesus and often notes how these encounters affected their lives. It is universal in scope in that whenever we read the Gospel of John, no matter who or where we are in our journey of life, we can find ourselves in the story. In John, chapter 12, we find meaningful accounts that Jesus had with others as he approached his way to the cross. It begins with Mary anointing Jesus's feet with costly perfume, then, Judas Iscariot questioning the whole encounter, a plot by authorities to kill Lazarus, Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and then—out of nowhere—some Greeks at the Passover Festival wanting to *see Jesus*.

These Greeks approach Philip from Bethsaida and say: “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”¹ The presence of Greeks at festival and of Greeks making this request means only one thing: The coming death of Jesus is universal in scope. The mission of Christ to redeem the world, and the love of God shed abroad in his life, death, and resurrection are universal. As the story of Jesus continues to unfold in the Gospel of John, we encounter people with unbelief, betrayal, humility, denial, and surprise. Jesus also physically appears to Mary Magdalene at the tomb and seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberius. Resurrection had happened. (*continued on page 2*)

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Memorial Gifts

Trinity received the following gifts from July 15-August 10.

- In memory of **Thomas Ott** from Bob and Kim Baudo, Jodie and Andrew Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Todd Carlisle, Alison and Charles Webster, Nancy Hewitt, Gerald and Yvonne Howell, Johnny Ott.
- In memory of **Eloise Harbeson** from Jill Bixler, and Dorothy Binger.
- In memory of **Bill and Alice Grow** from Alison Grow.

We Would See Jesus, *continued*

The disciple whom Jesus loved said, “It is the Lord!” But what about those Greeks? They came out of nowhere back in Chapter 12. Yes, the work of Jesus was for them, too. In fact, it was and still is for all of us.

As I have thought about my vocation over the years, I have realized many things. However, most notably, I have realized that I have about 15 minutes per week to share something with a congregation. 15 minutes. And in this 15 minutes, I am communicating with a group of people a message that is universal in scope. I have shared for 15 minutes all around the world to different kinds of people in different cultures, with interpreters, under trees, in the rain, in churches with dirt flooring and leaking metal ceilings, on beaches, in rivers, on boats, in airplanes, in vehicles, and at conferences and events. Everywhere and everybody is different.

Just think about our beloved congregation that is called *Trinity UMC*. We are people from all over; we have various backgrounds; we are surgeons, dentists, real estate agents, business owners, CEO’s, CFO’s, board chairpersons, community organizers, teachers, bankers, lobbyists, government workers, stay-at-home parents, married, divorced, wealthy, middle class, struggling, professors, learners—the list goes on and on and on. Yes, that’s who we are. And what connects us is the community of Christ’s Holy Church. At some point, we have joined the Greeks in their request. The community of faith provides avenues to discover the richness of the life and ministry of Jesus, to see how it connects to our lives, circumstances, and initiates our response to God’s love in sharing it with others.

But, 15 minutes. That’s my vocation.

Our worship together is patterned in a way that gives glory to God and lifts high the cross. As we begin worship services, a cross is processed and lifted above us, signifying that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are paramount to our faith. I am reminded of the refrain to the great hymn of our faith: “Lift High the Cross”:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
til all the world adore his sacred name.²*

A book that contains all four of the Gospels is also processed (carried) in, which details and accounts the life of Jesus and all of the stories that surround his life. As people of faith, we seek to discover how our lives connect with these stories, where we can find ourselves in them, and how we might discover ways of sharing them with others.

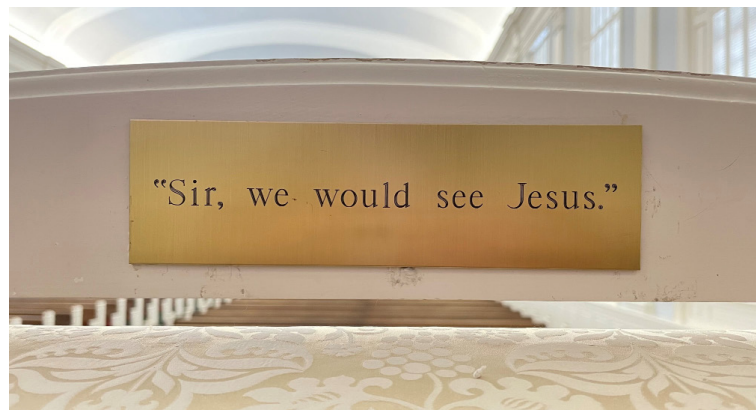
At one point in my ministerial vocation, I thought I needed to share everything I believed, knew, loved, and hoped for in a homily or a sermon. I realized that people aren’t that interested in those things, and that continually sharing these things is not my calling. Rather, I’ve learned to see that I have been given 15

minutes as a gift. It’s a gift to share that Jesus the Christ is Lord, that Jesus the Christ loves us all, that Jesus the Christ lived, died, and rose again so that we might have abundant and eternal life. And yes, it is universal in scope.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.³

Trinity will be abundantly serving in ministry in the coming year. Our vibrant ministries are moving full steam ahead. We have something for everyone; do let us help you get involved. May we keep fresh amidst all of our ministry and service that there are always people simply looking for Jesus. And we can introduce them to him. We all have 15 minutes.

“Sir, we would see Jesus.”



1 John 12: 21b, New Revised Standard Version.

2 George Williams Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

3 John 3: 17, New Revised Standard Version.

Trinity UMC & Wesley Foundation: A Close Connection

by Rev. Bryant Manning, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Since we moved to Tallahassee at the very beginning of the pandemic, Trinity United Methodist Church has been a home for our family in some way. We moved here in the summer of 2020 with the expectation of pastoring the Wesley Foundation at Florida State University & Tallahassee Community College. We knew of the many connections between Wesley and Trinity:

- Students have served as preschool teachers.
- Members have been Wesley board members.
- Spouses of former directors here at Wesley have served on staff at Trinity.
- Many current Wesley students grew up in faith at Trinity. Indeed, several former Wesley students are members of Trinity to this day.

Our oldest daughter, Collins, was a student at the preschool in 2020, and this August, our youngest daughter, Dylan, became a student there too. Our family is overjoyed to be part of the deep connection of United Methodists across our town.

When Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt called to ask if I would serve at Trinity for the summer as the interim associate pastor, I was ecstatic. I was excited about Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams, whom I had known through our United Methodist connection, leading this great body of believers, and I was hopeful for the direction he would take our congregation. I was humbled to be asked. While I have played an assortment of roles at Trinity this summer, my primary responsibility

was to preach at the S.U.N. Service at 9:45 a.m, a service with a vibrant history and a promising future. I love contemporary worship and feel at home in that style; this has been an excellent fit.

When I met Sofia, now our director of youth ministries and modern worship, I was awed by her spiritual maturity. Her deep reliance on the Lord's provision over her life and her energetic passion for a church she was only getting to know inspired me. The S.U.N. Service and our youth program are in great hands!

I look forward to a deep connection with Trinity United Methodist Church and the Wesley Foundation at FSU & TCC for years to come. You are

a welcoming, vibrant community that is passionate about the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ across Tallahassee and beyond; I could not be more humbled to have played even a tiny part this summer. Please know that we are not far away as I transition back to Wesley. The work we are doing on FSU's and TCC's campuses is an extension of the ministry you are doing at Trinity.

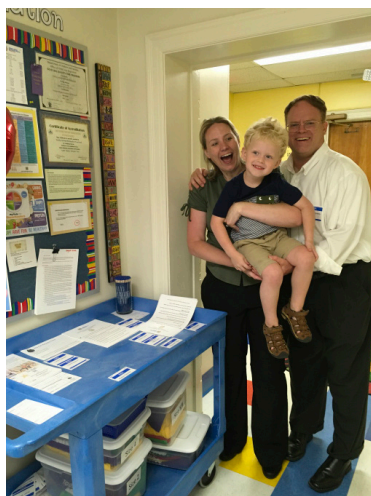
A wise teacher once told me, "Believe in the local church as the hands and feet of Christ's gospel, and its worth will be the hope for the world." Trinity is a shining example of such hope for the world, and I pray the connection between our two ministries will be an impactful part of that hope.

Preschool Orientation *by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director*

Preschool Orientation was held on Monday, August 8, 2022, in advance of the August 10th start day. We answered lots of questions, showed the children where their cubbies are located, where the toys are, who their teacher is, where the potty is located, and most importantly, helped them feel welcome in their new classroom! Orientation 2022 was a success! We are looking forward to a wonderful year in the preschool!



Kourtney meets her new teacher, Ms. Prasse



Will and family get all they need to start the new school year!



Meet our lead teachers. Standing: Kelly Forsmans – VPK, Lisa Prasse – PK3, Stacey Duggar – Director, Mary Katherine Chatelain – PK2 interim. Sitting: Jennifer Hopgood – PK3, AnnaMarie Whitaker – PK2, Alison Jenkins – PK2.



Parents meet and greet in Mrs. Hopgood's classroom.

Lay Academy Offers a Variety of Classes This Fall

by Gloria Colvin, Chair of Lay Academy Committee

Education is an important part of Trinity's program, and our Lay Academy offers classes on many different topics. Most of the classes take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, but this fall, there will be several classes meeting at other times. Dinner is available on Wednesdays prior to the classes. Sign up for any of the classes and dinner [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.



With the upcoming election in November, being informed about some of the issues facing elected officials at the local, state, and national levels is critically important. In a **special session on Sept. 7**, Trish Neely, president of the Tallahassee League of Women Voters, will explain the amendments that will be on the ballot.

The **Informed Voter class** is intended to help us better understand the issues at stake. Beginning September 14, the class will meet in person and on Zoom to hear from speakers on changes in voting laws in Florida; education issues at the state and local levels; research on gun violence and affordable housing (local issues that Trinity and other Tallahassee congregations have identified as crucial for our city); the Florida United Methodist Conference's work on child advocacy and racial justice.

If you enjoy crafts, consider the **Hats and Mats classes**, which are each three weeks. Nancy Lachance will lead participants in using a loom to make hats that will be distributed to homeless people, individuals going through chemotherapy, and others needing warm hats. In the Mats class, Rose Glenn will guide participants in making mats from plastic bags for homeless people. There are roles in this process for people who can crochet or want to learn how, as well as for cutting the bags and making "plarn."

They say it takes a village...come join our **Parenting Village!** This is a great time to get to know other parents at Trinity and have some discussion and support time. Bring your guitar and enjoy some casual playing time with other Trinity musicians in the **Guitar class**. Bill Fritchman leads a **Men's Group** that combines Bible study and fellowship. On Thursday evenings, be part of **Becoming Fit Outdoors** and join Jaqui Griffith as she leads hikes on various Tallahassee trails.

Two **Disciple Bible classes** are being offered on Monday evenings. One is a Disciple Fast-Track class that focuses on the Old Testament and lasts for 12 weeks. The other class, Disciple – Under the Tree of Life, will be taught by Rev. Bob Gibbs and runs through May. Participants in this class must have completed Disciple 1.

They're Back!

by Rev. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

After a long break, several important ministries are starting once again, and they are great places for YOU to get involved in the life of your church:

Prayers and Squares. *Do you like to sew?* This group makes beautiful prayer quilts for Trinity members and friends who need a special "comfort wrap" as they go through difficult times in their lives. The quilts are placed on the altar on Sunday morning, and all are invited to pray for the individual.

Trinity Chefs. *Do you like to cook?* This

group meets in our church kitchen and has a wonderful time cooking delicious meals for Trinity members and friends who need a special "comfort meal." The meals are frozen and are made available to anyone in our church family.

Helping with Funeral Receptions. *Do you like to serve?* Often following a funeral at Trinity, the family requests a reception in Moor Hall or the Parlor. This group makes the punch and light refreshments and then serves as hosts during the reception.

Disaster Team. *Do you like to help?*

This team gets together to help in times of natural disasters in our area. When Hurricane Michael came through several years ago, this team went into the affected area and cleaned up debris in homes and yards, did some minor repairs, and gathered clothing and other items the victims needed. It's important that we have this team organized BEFORE a disaster strikes!

So you see there's a place for YOU! Contact waynecurry@tumct.org and let him know where YOU want to be involved!

Helping People Make a Clean Start

by Warren Cave, executive director of the Clean Start Initiative

My name is Warren Cave. I'm the executive director of The Clean start Initiative, a non-profit based out of Tallahassee, Florida. We assist people with obtaining a clean start in life to impact their family, community, nation, and eventually the world. I'm a husband, father, grandfather, businessman, community leader, and minister. I'm also a proud member of Trinity United Methodist Church here in Tallahassee.

The earlier years of my life were troublesome. I had major addictions problems. I spent four years in the 10th grade. I was in and out of jails and prisons and eventually became homeless. I received my GED in 1989 while in prison at Avon Park Correctional Institution. I met Jesus in the backseat of a police car on 6/3/97. Since then, I have done seven years at a Bible College, and I have a master's degree in theology. I have taken numerous leadership classes and strive to learn and grow daily.



"Back to the Garden" Men's Conference, 2021

Over the last 15 years, I've helped countless men and women return from jail or prison, pursue and get a better relationship with God, have better relationships with their families, get employment, higher education, overcome addictions, start businesses, etc. More importantly, others and I have helped to reduce recidivism.

Trinity United Methodist Church has played a great role in the increasing success of this ministry. Pastor Nick Quinton has

partnered with me in such a mighty way. I have had the privilege of having four men's conferences, AA feet washing, and shoe giveaway, a couple of backpacks and school supplies giveaways, Christmas toy drives, Thanksgiving giveaways, feeding the homeless, etc.

I also have office space to have meetings at the church. Over the last year a lot of my energy has been directed at assisting inmates with a plan of action to succeed upon returning to society after being incarcerated. I've partnered with Leon County Sheriff's Office and Florida Department of Corrections to assist inmates with having employment within 72 hours of being released.

In October we're having a men's conference and re-entry summit. We plan on helping 150 families with Thanksgiving turkey and meals. In December, we plan on helping the kids from Pace Center for Girls, CCYS, Promise Land Ministries, and Families In Transitions with Christmas gifts. I do not receive government funding; I do not receive a paycheck or salary. I have been blessed to have donors help me to help make this world a better place as we bring honor and glory to God.

If you have a loved one incarcerated or who has been incarcerated, who is dealing with addictions or needs great mentoring or a great support group, then have them contact me please at warrencave@hotmail.com. If you would love to donate and use it as a tax write-off, you can make checks or money orders made out to the Clean Start Initiative.



Warren Cave bringing donations to the Pace Center for Girls

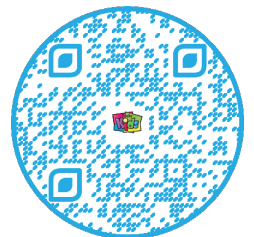


Trinity Kids Update

by Candace Duclos, Director of Children's Ministries

Thank you all for the warm, excited welcome to the church staff. It is so lovely to be "home." This month has begun rather busy. We started with the Blessing of the Backpacks and Promotion Sunday. As school begins and we all find our routines, it is time to begin NETKids.

If you have a child in kindergarten – 5th grade, then please sign them up for our Wednesday afternoon NETKids program. NETKids is an opportunity for your child to form meaningful relationships with our church family, friends, and Jesus. Please use the QR code in this article or visit <https://tumct.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/3591> to register now. We are also in need of more wonderful volunteers to help with this program. Please contact Candace Duclos at cduclos@tumct.org if you are interested. It is a pleasure to serve and help our Children's Ministry!



Becoming Fit at Church (BFC) Ministry Celebrates 14 Years at Trinity!

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

On September 2, 2022, BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry will celebrate 14 years since the very first exercise class was offered at Trinity. What started with two weekly classes has now grown to six weekly BFC Exercise classes and BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) Walk/Hiking, a weekly walking (and sometimes water aerobics class), which was added in 2021. Hundreds of Trinity members and friends have participated over the years in the various health/fitness opportunities that have been offered, and over \$68,000 has been raised for community service over the years through class donations. Visit www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/ or email BFCSeries@yahoo.com for more information.



Hear what some of our participants have to say:

I cannot say enough praises for our dedicated BFC instructors and appreciation to Beth for founding this ministry. Their combined giving of themselves to teaching and coaching us over the years has been a beautiful gift!

BFC has offered me a way to stay physically fit with regular exercise and instructors who guide us to do it safely, offering ways to adjust if our individual bodies and health require it (bad knees, osteopenia, and the like). Since many of us are retirees, we particularly benefit from the emphasis on core and balance to avoid falls. The social aspect is also very important. We know and encourage each other to attend classes regularly (even during Covid); staff offers taped classes when we are not able to participate; and support is offered to us individually for wonderful events in our lives, such as family visits and travel, and for health issues, family concerns, surgeries, and life events that impact our lives. When we get together for a class or social

events, such as a Christmas party or luncheon at church, it always involves sharing and laughing! I love that the class serves all ages, and I have enjoyed watching the young moms in our classes as they share their pregnancies and children with us!

Another positive of this experience is that our \$3 gifts per class come together to offer financial outreach for mission projects, emergency needs, and service to others.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! In Christian Love, Ann

§



I love BFC Exercise! It is tailored to my needs—the instructors give us options for every exercise to make even the most challenging moves possible for those of us with problem areas. And I'm so happy it's online, making it easy to attend. Thank you, BFC instructors, for making it fun to get healthy. Colleen

§



I have really benefitted from the BFC ministry. I appreciate the fellowship, and it has healed my arthritic knees! Anonymous

§

I have been exercising with BFC for over 10 years. I love the variety of exercises we do in cardio, balance, weight strengthening, and stretching. I love the friendship I have formed and the sense of wellbeing it gives me. Nan



Youth Week!

by Sofia Fernandez, Director of Youth Ministries & Modern Worship

During the first week of August, Trinity Youth celebrated our annual Youth Week. The theme for this year was “Embody.” We learned about what it means not only to know Christ, but to live out our faith using all our senses and our bodies to share it with the people around us. We had the pleasure of being taught by Julianne Clayton throughout the week and reflecting on how we see, hear, smell, taste, and feel God. We learned that we could use all our senses to help us remember God, who He is, and what He has done for us. One of the students’ favorite questions to ponder during the week was, “If your faith was a smell, what would it smell like?”



The winning group at the escape room!

Youth Week was also full of fun activities throughout the city. We started out the week by using our sense of sight at the movies, seeing *Minions*. We then used our minds and our sense of touch as we went to an escape room! There may have been a small competition between the girls and the boys. The photos will give a clue as to who won. The most thrilling event was on Wednesday when we went axe-throwing. (How does one take a group of teenagers axe-throwing, you may ask? Very carefully.) We closed the week playing games together at Urban Air & Flippin Great Pinball. It was a wonderful experience growing closer as a group and learning how to use all aspects of ourselves and our senses to glorify God and live out our faith.

Special thank you to all our adult volunteers who helped, cooked dinners, and gave rides during the week. We couldn't have done it without you!



Youth at the Urban Air & Flippin Great Pinball



All smiles at the axe-throwing night



Monthly Publication from
Trinity United Methodist Church
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WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
SUN Service (contemporary worship): 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Traditional Service: 11 a.m. in the sanctuary

SUN Service and 11 a.m. Service are live streamed
Please visit www.tumct.org for viewing links

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Rev. Bryant Manning, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Dr. Nick Quinton, *Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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