

# Tidings



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

## Stand in the Gap for Justice

**Here are some hard facts about Tallahassee that are making us weep right now: There are more than 13,000 families making less than \$38,000 (family of 4) who cannot afford their rent and make monthly decisions about rent vs. medicine, rent vs. childcare, rent vs. gasoline, and more. Many do not know where they will live next month. In 2022, 19 people died, and 91 were injured from 108 shootings in Tallahassee. Each represents a family forever changed.**

*by Tisha Keller, Justice Ministry Team Leader*

Jesus was a “doer” not just a talker. His example of compassion and intercession for those who suffer wasn’t just to pray—it was to speak on behalf of injustices and to be in the spaces where injustices took place. Time and time again, Jesus calls us to pray with our feet by being advocates for and instruments of social change. In the synagogue or the street, Jesus was showing up to call out inequity and bring attention with his presence to the injustices that made his Father weep. Trinity’s Justice Ministry is committed to standing in the gap of injustice for those whose voices are not being heard.

Here are some hard facts about Tallahassee that are making us weep right now: There are more than 13,000 families making less than \$38,000 (family of 4) who cannot afford their rent and make monthly decisions about rent vs. medicine, rent vs. childcare, rent vs. gasoline, and more. Many do not know where they will live next month. In 2022, 19 people died, and 91 were injured from 108 shootings in Tallahassee. Each represents a family forever changed.

Trinity’s Justice Ministry exists to help create the Tallahassee that we want to see, one re-

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### Memorials

#### Honorariums:

In honor of Sean Bower from Philip and Lois Ann Bower.

flecting God's love for humankind and our church's "heart for the city." We are part of the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), a diverse faith community striving for social equity in our community. As part of this 16+ coalition of religious congregations—from Jewish to Unitarian—our Trinity Justice Team Leaders and members are working to bring voice to those who need it most in our community. Each year, the coalition undertakes a three-part social justice initiative based on faith that encompasses (1) listening to the community, (2) researching viable solutions with community and national experts, and then (3) publicly asking our local leadership to initiate change.

These are our issues for 2022-23: affordable rental housing for very low- and extremely-low-income families, an end to gun violence, and curbing youth arrest to stop the arrest-gun violence cycle in our city. You can support these efforts this spring by helping us turn out as many people as possible for the CAJM Nehemiah Action on March 27, where we will publicly call for our local leaders to make real impact on these issues through specific calls to action.

Trinity's goal for this turnout is 175 people. Will you show up and "pray with your feet"? Join Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams, Dr. Nick Quinton, Tisha Keller, and our many team leaders as we prepare to lend our *prayer and physical presence* to demand answers for the inequities in our community.

### ***Stand in the Gap for Justice and Pray with Your Feet!***

**Monday, March 27 – Nehemiah Action:** We need 175 Trinity members + friends to join us at this event! Be part of 1,000 people asking local officials for specific remedies for affordable rental housing and the youth arrest-gun violence cycle. Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 27 at Old West Florida Enrichment Center, 2344 Lake Bradford Rd.,

Please reach out to Tisha Keller at 850-241-8269 or [tishakeller@gmail.com](mailto:tishakeller@gmail.com) if you want to learn more. We are always looking for new justice ministry team leaders within Trinity, and any time is a good time to join the effort. If you'd like more information on our issues, the research, the potential solutions, or the process, please reach out to Tisha or visit [capitalareajustice.org](http://capitalareajustice.org).



**RSVP here for the Nehemiah Action**


## **Local Missions Spotlight** *by Pat & Lyn Bevis, Local Missions Committee Co-Chairs*



### **March Spotlight Mission—Legal Services of North Florida**

The LMC is looking forward to working with Legal Services of North Florida during March. We have invited them to present at our worship services on Sunday, March 19, and we will be hosting a legal clinic on the following Thursday. This is an opportunity for those in our community who do not have access to legal advice to come to our church and learn about what can be done to help them in many areas.

Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF) is a private nonprofit law firm serving 16 counties in North Florida. They provide civil legal help at no cost to vulnerable residents who cannot afford legal help and qualify for services. Civil legal assistance can be anything from accessing social security benefits, disputing tax issues with the IRS, fighting illegal evictions, protecting victims of violence, disaster recovery, and so much more. LSNF's mission is to provide an opportunity for justice for those in our communities who don't have access to the courts.



**Justice on the Block**  
**FREE LEGAL CLINIC**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2023 | 3:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. ET**  
Trinity United Methodist Church, 120 W Park Ave, Tallahassee  
Parking is on Duval Street in the Library

**AREAS OF LAW**

- Landlord-Tenant
- Family Law Issues
- Employment Law
- Bankruptcy/Collections
- Custody/Child Support
- Property Disputes
- Title Clearing/Probate
- Housing Law
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Violence

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

- We can help with legal information or help eligible clients apply for legal services.
- Services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis and on lawyer availability.
- Please bring documentation & paperwork related to your legal question.

**JUSTICE ON THE BLOCK**

 Legal Services of North Florida  
HOPE. JUSTICE. FOR ALL.

 LSC America's Partner for Equal Justice  
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

 THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

**WWW.LSNF.ORG**



## Other March Mission Activities

**IRC H.O.M.E. Team**—Our interest meeting will be held in the parlor on March 1 at 5:40 p.m. Please join Daniel Diaz and our International Rescue Committee guest, Leah Costigan, the community engagement coordinator, to learn more about this opportunity for person-to-person service to help resettle a refugee family, newly arrived to Tallahassee. Contact Daniel at [dfd09@my.fsu.edu](mailto:dfd09@my.fsu.edu) for more information.

**Capital Area Justice Ministry** will hold their annual Nehemiah Action event on Monday, March 27 and need all of our Trinity folk to turn out. We have committed to turning out 175 people, and this includes YOU! Bring your neighbors, friends, and all who care about our community and the issues that concern us. The event will be at Old West Florida Enrichment Center, 2344 Lake Bradford Rd. Contact Tisha Keller at [tishakeller@gmail.com](mailto:tishakeller@gmail.com) for more information.

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Big Bend**—Thank you for the warm welcome provided to Molly Lord, our mission guest in February. The opportunity to volunteer with this wonderful organization continues. Contact Molly Lord at [Molly@bbbsbigbend.org](mailto:Molly@bbbsbigbend.org).

We thank you all for this wonderful church with a Heart for the City and for the opportunity to be of service with the Local Missions Committee. If you have a heart for missions and would like to join us, please do. We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the parlor. You are welcome to just drop in, but if you would like to talk first, please contact Pat at [bevis.pat@gmail.com](mailto:bevis.pat@gmail.com). There is more work to do and we need you!



# Meet Our New Members

**On Sunday, January 29, we welcomed 12 new members to our church family. We are so thrilled to have them join us! Get to know them better in this article.**



## Bob & Nancy Sims

“Nancy and I grew up in Charlotte where we were high school sweethearts. After Nancy graduated from North Carolina State and I graduated from Furman we were married in June 1971. We both worked for AT&T companies for over 30 years. Job moves took us from Charlotte to Orlando to Atlanta and finally to Tallahassee in 1994. We’ve been retired for many years. We had no children by choice. Nancy is passionate about horses and is an expert rider, showing her Arabians around the Southeast. I play lots of golf, including many tournaments in Florida and Georgia. We both love dogs and have six, one Jack Russell and five rescues, mostly pit bulls.”



# Meet Our New Members, cont'd

## Brent & Stephanie Coughlin

Brent and Stephanie Coughlin are both lifelong residents of Tallahassee and proud graduates of Leon High School and Florida State University. They have been married for 28 years and have two adult daughters who currently live in Alabama and Tennessee. Brent is retired from the Leon County Sheriff's Office and is currently employed in the field of Risk Management. Stephanie owns an interior decorating business and specializes in home staging. Brent and Stephanie have a heart for local missions and have enjoyed serving their neighbors over the years through their work with Kiwanis, Manna on Meridian food distribution, Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed builds, as well as hurricane relief, and rebuilds in affected areas. They enjoy traveling and making memories.



## Joshua & Georgia Jordan

"We first experienced Trinity through our beloved next door neighbors, Jamie and Vernon Paramore (long time members of Trinity). We are so happy to be new members of Trinity, a church where all of God's children are accepted."

## Scott & Jamie Trulock

Scott and Jamie Trulock join TUMC after moving to Tallahassee in the summer of 2021. Scott is originally from Orlando and is the director of the health and performance units within athletics at FSU. Jamie is originally from South Jersey and is a teacher at Godby High School. They have two daughters—Corinne is a sophomore at FSU, and Riley is a junior at Chiles. The Trulocks spent time visiting various churches in the area and chose TUMC after finding a diverse membership in a traditional setting. They look forward to getting to know the leadership and members better, and exploring ministry opportunities as they settle into their new professional and personal lives here in Tallahassee.



## Brian & Jennie Wheeler

"We moved from Kissimmee to Tallahassee at the beginning of June 2022 to assist our son and daughter-in-law with their new baby daughter born on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Brian is a retired environmental engineer who managed water and wastewater utility in Osceola County. Jennie is a retired high school media specialist. We have a second son and granddaughter who live in Huntsville, Alabama.

We were previously members of the Kissimmee First United Methodist Church for 37 years. After visiting several United Methodist Churches in Tallahassee, we settled on Trinity. We felt welcome and at home in attending the church with so many varieties of programs."





## Frank & Midge Mercer

Frank and Midge are rejoining Trinity and have been part of Tallahassee for 30+ years. They are moving their membership from Madison First Methodist Church. About herself, Midge shares, “I worked in multiple settings as a medical social worker. I love travel. I love dogs and spend most of my time at our family farm in Lee, Florida with five spaniels and Frank. I stay active in outdoor activities: biking, kayaking, and snow skiing.”

# The Closeness of God in Lent

**As the days of winter fade away and the flowers of spring begin to sprout, so it is with our spiritual lives. During Lent, we practice various methods of devotion and prayer which connect us with our Judeo-Christian heritage of the past and our current practices of discipleship in the present.**

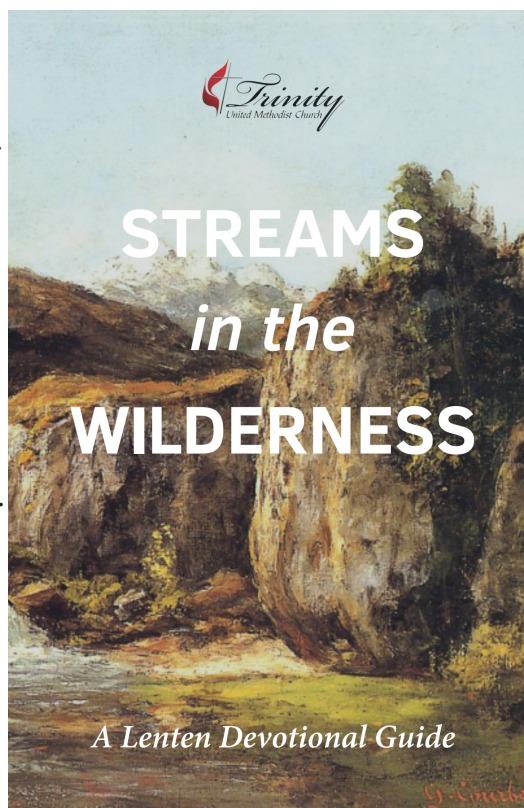
*by Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor*

**W**e are walking together through the season of Lent. Lent is a season that consists of 40 days and begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Given that in the Protestant tradition, every Lord's Day (Sunday) is a celebration of the Resurrection, Sundays are not counted in the day count of 40 days of Lent.

*Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” As the days of winter fade away and the flowers of spring begin to sprout, so it is with our spiritual lives. During Lent, we practice various methods of devotion and prayer which connect us with our Judeo-Christian heritage of the past and our current practices of discipleship in the present. Trinity is offering numerous opportunities to study, pray, and worship during this season. As you read this, many of you are participating in our daily Lenten devotional, *Streams in the Wilderness*, written by persons in our congregation. As we are journeying together, we are anticipating the *Via Crucis*, or the Way of the Cross, as we approach Holy Week.

Commonly known in Jerusalem as the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of the Cross traces the traditional steps and encounters of Jesus as He journeyed to Calvary. The steps and encounters have been marked as *stations* as they seek to convey specific interactions of Jesus's journey. All over the world, these *stations* have been depicted in cultural traditions that connect with the spiritual understandings of people.

Many who have visited Jerusalem as pilgrims have walked this narrow way through the bustling old city as an act of devotion. Throughout the entire world, people walk the Way of the Cross. Their journey includes prayer at each station to deepen their understanding of the redemptive suffering of Jesus as He walked that fateful journey. The Stations of the Cross draw us closer to the Savior as we realize that even in His human frailty, He accepted what He faced to redeem the world.



**Trinity is offering the Stations of the Cross throughout the season of Lent in the Glenn C. James Chapel.** Brett Ingram has created original artwork to mark each of the stations. With the stations surrounding the intimate worship space of the **James Chapel**, participants are invited to imagine and experience what Jesus endured for the entire world as He walked the journey to the cross.

The liturgy evokes personal connection with the sufferings of Jesus. At each station, the portion of the liturgy begins with a section entitled “Christ Speaks.” This is read aloud by the leader of the liturgy, whether clergy or laity, and is followed by those gathered in a response. Station Four is listed here to provide a fuller understanding of how the liturgy flows:

#### **Station Four: Jesus Meets His Mother**



##### **Christ Speaks**

My mother sees Me whipped. She sees Me kicked and driven like a beast. She counts My every wound. But though her soul cries out in agony, no protest or complaint escapes her lips or even enters her thoughts.

She shares My martyrdom—and I share hers. We hide no pain, no sorrow from each other’s eyes. This is My Father’s will.

##### **All**

My Jesus, Lord, I know what You are telling me.

To watch the pain of those we love is harder than to bear our own.

To carry my cross after You, I, too, must stand and

watch the sufferings of my dear ones—the heartaches, sicknesses, and grief of those I love. And I must let them watch mine, too.

I do believe—for those who love You all things work together unto good.

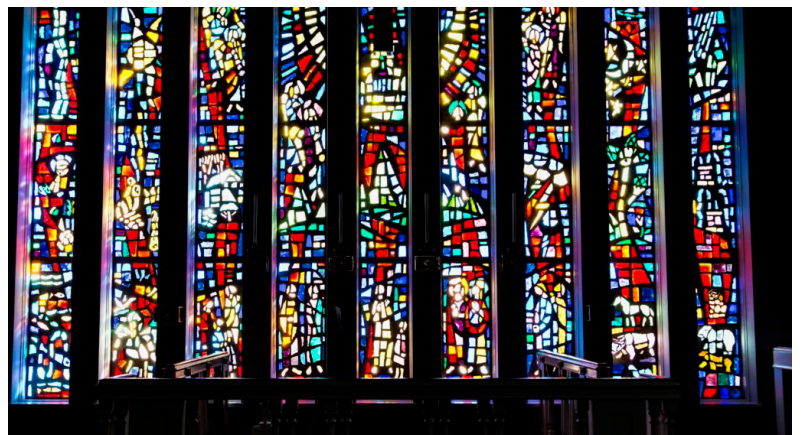
Jesus remember me, when You come into Your kingdom.<sup>1</sup>

The Stations of the Cross is an act of meditation that can be experienced with large or small groups, families, Sunday school classes; they can be led by clergy or laity; and they can be walked as an experience of private devotion. Please watch your Sunday bulletin and *News & Notes* for times we will offer the Stations of the Cross as a communal act of Lenten devotion.

Also, you can walk the stations at any time by coordinating with our church office. You may do it in silence, with speaking aloud, or we can play a recording of the clergy leading the stations for you. ***The beauty and sanctity of James Chapel is here for you.***

The **Chancel Window in James Chapel** is an illustration of the 148<sup>th</sup> Psalm. As we read in verse 14: *He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.*

Participating in the Stations of the Cross will deepen your affections for the experiences of Jesus. They provide a way for us all to sense the *closeness of God*.



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1 Taken from *Everyone’s Way of the Cross* by Clarence Enzler





A Paschal Candle with brass stand has been placed in the chancel of the magnificent Trinity Sanctuary as a new altar appointment in honor of Rev. E. Wayne Curry and Beth Curry. The candle will be used throughout the year as an ongoing reminder that *In Christ there is no darkness at all.*

# Ready, Set, Renovate!

by Brett Ingram, Facilities Director

Trinity is undergoing a facelift! We are well underway in the preparation of looking good for celebrating Trinity's bicentennial in 2024.

Right now the interior and exterior of the louvered windows in the sanctuary are undergoing repair and rejuvenation. A fresh coat of paint is being applied, and the resealing of the window panes is just one step in this project. The exterior of the sanctuary has already been washed and cleaned, and the portico, steeple, and most of the exterior trim have a fresh coat of paint. The wood molding has been removed in several places and has been taken to a millworks for duplication. The next step is to move our attention to the chapel to give it the same treatment.

Future plans being discussed are new carpeting and flooring in the nave under and around the pews, new carpeting in the hallways, and a fresh coat of paint in the hallways and some classrooms. In the upcoming weeks, the plan is to have the exterior of the education wing of the building cleaned and painted as well.

The youth area is also undergoing plans for new paint and furnishings. In addition, the preschool will be getting a new coat of paint in preparation for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you to all of the members generously donating to make this project happen. Come see the excitement!





# Preschool Conference

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

It was wonderful to attend the United Methodist Association of Preschools early childhood conference last month! Eight of our staff traveled to Leesburg, FL, for the conference which was held for the first time since 2020 (it had been canceled due to COVID). Lisa Hight, Kelly Forsmans, and Marylyn Berg all attended for the first time, along with veterans Pam McGoff, Jennifer Hopgood, and Victoria Tettey. Trinity's very own Children's Ministry Director, Candace Duclos, also attended with us and presented a session on how to use the fruits of the spirit to help with behavior in the classroom. Jennifer Hopgood presented a session titled "The Drama Train," which focused on using drama in the classroom. I was fortunate to lead a pre-conference workshop for directors as well as facilitating two workshops throughout the conference. A good time was had by all!





# Mark Your Calendars for Music Ministry Events

by Yuliia Billa, Director of Music



Looking a little ahead of time, I would encourage you to save some important dates in April. Steel Pans at Springtime in Tallahassee – April 1<sup>st</sup> around noon, Palm Sunday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Maundy Thursday – April 6<sup>th</sup>, Easter – April 9<sup>th</sup>, Orchestra Sunday – April 16<sup>th</sup>, Children’s Musical – April 30<sup>th</sup>. All these services have extremely interesting music and a strong message of God’s word.

## Steel Pans at Springtime Tallahassee

For many years, our two Steel Pans groups have played on the church steps during Springtime Tallahassee. This year, it’s **Saturday, April 1** and the time is around noon. Because of Covid, we couldn’t make it three years in a row. We missed it very much. For now, we have left only one group, combined from the previous two, which is called Sacred Pans. We are very excited to develop this group again and make a joyful noise with such unusual instruments. We will play arrangements of sacred music for Steel Pans. So, come to the corner of Duval Street and Park Avenue around noon that day and cheer us on!



## Chancel Choir Preparing for Orchestra Sunday

April 16, at the 11:00 a.m. service, a 27-member professional orchestra will accompany the choir and the congregation. This is a once-a-year event. This time we will perform favorite hymns with arrangements of famous composers such as “Bound for the Promised Land” and “How Firm a Foundation” by Mack Wilberg, “For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter, “Anthems of Love” by Dan Forrest, and “This is My Father’s World” by Craig Courtney. Our singers are very excited to share with you music that is full of love and joy.



## Play Drums

We are looking for two to three people who would like to become our church drummers on a regular basis. Yuliia will provide individual training and will help to learn the necessary techniques on African drums like djembe or congas and some auxiliary drums like shakers. This can be some youth, older child, or adult person. The most important thing is that you should love it and be available to play with Chancel Choir, Children, or other instruments. Interested? Come and ask. Maybe we are looking for you.

## Voice Lessons with Miss Yuliia

Would you like to sing in the church? Yuliia is looking for people who would like to learn how to sing and participate in church services. It can be a child or youth of any age. We can meet for lessons on a regular basis or just random vocal sessions in preparation for songs for services. You can sing alone as a soloist, or with your best friend, or even three or four friends could join in one song together. We can work on some little solos with the Children’s or Chancel Choir. Ask Yuliia for details. Everyone who has a voice can sing if they have a desire to it! Do not wait!



Feel free to reach out to Yuliia at [ybilla@tumct.org](mailto:ybilla@tumct.org)

# BFC Ministry Spring News

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

Come have FUN, FELLOWSHIP, get FIT with FRIENDS (and sometimes have FOOD too) by participating in the BFC Ministry fitness program! There is something for everyone. Join us outside, inside, or via Zoom. BFC Exercise offers six weekly exercise classes. Friends participate in-person or via Zoom—and all levels are welcome. BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) Walking/Hiking group meets outdoors at Cascades Park on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. for a walk around the park. The whole family is welcome (including furry ones on leashes).

Thanks to the FAITHFULLNESS of all our BFC Friends, the BFC Ministry has raised over \$70,000 for mission projects. All BFC exercise class donations (suggested \$3/class) go toward community service—locally and globally. Classes run all year long. BFO registration (\$10 per person/\$15 per family per session) goes to help offset BFC Ministry costs. Next BFO session starts March 2, 2023. Visit our webpage at <https://www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/> for all the details. Advanced registration is required for all participants in both BFC and BFO. Email [BFCSeries@yahoo.com](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com) for information.



*BFO Walking debuts on stage at Cascades Park.*



**BFC Exercise classes take the balance challenge: Variety Mix (left) and Staying Strong (right).**

## 2023 BFC Exercise and BFO Schedule -

Tues. – 9:45 a.m. – Staying Strong  
Tues. – 11:00 a.m. – Variety Mix  
Tues. – 7:30 p.m. – **NEW TIME** – Flexibility for a Better YOU – **Zoom ONLY**  
Thurs. – 11:00 a.m. – Variety Mix  
Thurs. – 12:15 p.m. – Flexibility for a Better YOU  
Thurs. – 1:30 p.m. – Staying Strong  
Thurs. – 6:00 p.m. – **BFO** – meets at Cascades Park  
Classes are held in Moor Hall in hybrid format except as noted.

*Staying Strong (gentle seated/standing), Variety Mix (intermediate/advanced with some floor work), Flex (all levels on floor only), BFO (all ages and levels)*



# News from the Children's Ministry

by Candace Duclos, Director of Children's Ministries

Spring is in the air! We are enjoying this Lenten season through stories, worship, and activities. Each Sunday we delve deeper into the life of Jesus as he ministered to those around Him. Please bring your child to join us. Our NETKids are continuing to enjoy woodworking, music, crafts, and FOOD recipes during our Wednesday afternoon meetings. Exciting things are happening in our Children's Ministry. Lifelong friendships are being made, God's truths are discovered, and a love of Jesus is found—please join us!



## VBS 2023

June 12 - 17

Get ready to blast off with us this summer! Vacation Bible School is on the horizon with this year's theme: Stellar—Where Jesus Shines! Come learn with us about the out-of-this-world love of Jesus. Registration is open now! Adult and youth volunteers are needed. Please sign-up now on our website at the Children's Ministry page.





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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

SUN Service and 11 a.m. Liturgical Service are live streamed  
Please visit [www.tumct.org](http://www.tumct.org) for viewing links

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## PASTORAL STAFF

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Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams, *Senior Pastor*  
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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## MINISTRY STAFF

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Dawn Adams, *Congregational Administrator*  
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*  
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*  
Viktor Billa, *Organist*  
Yuliia Billa, *Director of Music*  
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*  
Gabriela Denton, *Communications Coordinator*  
Candace Duclos, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*

Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Youth Ministry & Modern Music*  
Melanie Gonzalez, *Office Administrator*  
Patti Groh, *Sexton*  
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*  
Amy Leach, *Programs Assistant*  
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*  
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*  
Mary Kathryn Stevens, *Financial Assistant*

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## TIDINGS TEAM

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[Gabriela Denton](#), *Editor*

[Pamela C. Crosby](#), *Technical Editor*

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