

Tidings



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

World Communion Sunday Festive Eucharist

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

Louis Armstrong first recorded "What a wonderful world" in 1967. It sings:

*I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.
I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.*

The world is an immense place. Some years ago, the latest census calculations from the United Nations estimate the world's population at 8.1 billion people. India, China, the United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Brazil are the top six countries with the highest populations. It is believed that between 700,000 and one million species live in the world's oceans and that there are 8.7 million known species of animal, aquatic, and plant life around the globe. Astronomers estimate that there are 100 billion stars in the universe. The world is a vast place. God, the Creator, who set the stars in orbit, also makes the tides ebb and flow, the bulbs spring up and bloom, and makes the sun rise and set.

World Communion Sunday serves as a celebration of God's creative world and as a reminder that we are not alone. God's grace is wider and deeper than our passing feelings. Creator God, through grace, lives in us. As Christians, we recognize this is in the breaking of the bread.

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There is one bread, one body, and one Lord of all. World Communion Sunday gives us space to celebrate God's great creation and the intimacy of following Jesus as co-creators with God in our world.



Jan Richardson, the Painted Prayer Book

Theologian Albert Outler said these words at Highland Park UMC in 1969:

This particular Sunday began twenty hours ago at the International Dateline in the western Pacific – and the earliest celebrations were in palm-thatched chapels in Fiji, Samoa, and Micronesia. Then, as the day fled westward round the globe, other Christians in other countries gathered in their churches to invoke the living presence of Christ in his sacrament and to receive his healing power in their hearts and lives – in Japan, the Philippines, Asia and Australia; in Turkey and Greece and Russia; in Africa, Europe and the Americas – Christians of every race and color, of all languages, dress and custom, in every conceivable circumstance of life and fortune. Christians, we now know, are a minority in the world, but on such a day as this, we loom larger than usual because of our self-conscious community, generated and sustained by this universal sacrament of God's love in Christ.

When we follow Jesus, he leads us out of the small worlds we create and into the immeasurable immensity of God's creation. We are invited on this Sunday to spin the globe and get lost in the vastness and wideness of God's mercy and love.

The Flood

by Irene Gonzalez, Director of Youth Ministries

Possibly sent by carrier pigeon from the Underground:

A lot has happened since I last wrote to you. The mission trip was a success... and we survived a flood. Unfortunately, the underground and part of the preschool did not make it. In the middle of the night, a pipe burst in one of the preschool rooms. Gravity did its thing, pulling the water through the floor and into the Underground below. Because of the damage, our youth group cannot use our usual meeting spaces until the repairs are completed. You may have noticed us popping up in random places all over the church. Right now, we are using whatever space is available for UMYF, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and our Wednesday night Bible Study.

Everyone here at Trinity, from staff to church members, have pitched in whenever they can. Our Preschool Director, many of the Preschool teachers, and our Sextons helped us pull things out of the water; even while it was still dripping from the ceiling. Our Technical Director is letting me use his office (which is incredibly small so this is incredibly generous). Our children's director came down and helped sift through the wreckage, while I sniffled because of whatever is making it smell down there. Our adult leadership team and lay leaders have let us use their space. We could probably write an entire Tidings issue on all of the work our Facility Director has had to do.

An insurance claim was filed and we are grateful for a favorable settlement that will allow us to renovate the underground. We are so hopeful that the repairs will be done quickly. We are praying that this is an opportunity to improve the space where our youth spend so much time and create a place that is even more inviting than it was before. We have several fundraisers coming up, and we would be so grateful for whatever support you could give us. We will need help cooking, serving, and eating chili. If you drink coffee, please consider buying it from us later this year. There also may be some stickers and t-shirts in the making.



If you see Dr. Nick Quinton and Amy Leach, take a minute to thank them for donating the arc! And when I say "arc," I am talking about this poster but also all of the rooms they have made available for us to use.

UWF Fall Kickoff Luncheon

by Nancy Bedford, UWF
Communications Officer

Join us as we "Celebrate Champions" at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, October 10th in Moor Hall.

Tallahassee is blessed to have many winning sports teams from soccer and little league to high school and college level including the national champions who showcase our city.



United
Women
in Faith



There are many "Children's Champions" that work tirelessly and lovingly to protect our smallest and often most vulnerable residents. They work quietly and diligently to better the lives of children who need a friend, a parent and an advocate.

We are blessed to have Dot Binger, one of our hometown youth champions, here at Trinity. We will be honoring her work as a Guardian ad Litem at our luncheon. Our special guest will be the Second Circuit Director of the Northwest Florida Guardian ad Litem Agency, Deborah Moore.

Mark your calendars and join us as we honor our "Children and Youth Champion" Dot Binger! Wear your favorite team colors and enjoy fun, food and camaraderie as we cheer on Ms. Dot!

You don't have to be a UWF member to attend! We welcome all Trinity women and especially new members. The cost of lunch is expected to be \$8 and reservations are required! Call Nancy Kerce 850-877-6546 before Friday, October 6th to reserve your lunch.



BFC Fall Options for Fitness

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

Do you know the five "F's" of the BFC Ministry? FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDS, FITNESS and even FOOD sometimes! BFC Exercise offers six weekly classes with all daytime classes in-person or via Zoom. BFC 10-10-10 on Thursday evening is in-person only.

One Hundred percent of daytime suggested \$3 donations go to community service. BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) meets on the second and fourth Saturday of the month for an outdoor cycling, hiking or kayaking event. Advanced registration required for both BFC and BFO. Email BFCSeries@yahoo.com. Check out the website for all the details: www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/



Here's the Fall Schedule:

BFC Exercise

Tuesday

- 9:45 am / Staying Strong
- 11:00 am / Variety Mix

Thursday

- 11:00 am / Variety Mix
- 12:15 pm / Flexibility for a Better YOU
- 1:30 pm / Staying Strong
- 6:30 pm / BFC 10-10-10 (in-person ONLY)

BFO

St Mark's Trail - cycle or hike

- Oct 14, 2023 - 10:00 am
- Nov 11, 2023 - 11:00 am
- Dec 9, 2023 - 10:00 am

Lake Talquin - kayaking

- Oct 28, 2023 - 10:00 am with Creation Care group

Turkey Trot

- November 23, 2023



Memorials

Given to Trinity UMC from August 11 - September 10, 2023

Memorials:

In memory of **Kathy Fields** from Karen Harrell-Long, Donald Davis, Linda Hilaman, and William Keels, Jr.

50 Reasons to Love Trinity Preschool

As we continue to reflect on 50 years of Trinity's preschool, I decided to gather 50 reasons worth celebrating!

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

1. Gold Seal Accredited for the past 15 years (since the inception of the Gold Seal Program)
2. High quality teachers; all lead teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.
3. Small class sizes; our teacher-to-child ratios are much less than the standard set by the Department of Children and Families.
4. Teaching children to pray is a meaningful part of our day. (Ask about our yearly prayer booklet!)

5. We plan our days with developmentally appropriate activities with an emphasis on fun while learning.

6. Children in the two, three, and four year old classes go to chapel each week where the Director of Children's Ministries teaches a bible story and shares some time together.
7. A long-standing tradition of sending home Corduroy (a stuffed animal bear based on the book series of the same name by author Don Freeman) with a student for the weekend to have an adventure together!

8. Large, spacious, and naturally lit rooms make for an inviting environment.

9. Thanks to a generous donor, we have an iPad in each classroom so that we can play music throughout the day or view a short video clip that relates to our lesson plan.

10. BOOKS, BOOKS and more BOOKS! We have over 3,500 books in our school library!



11. We are blessed to have enough markers, crayons, glue, glitter, and any other craft supply you can name!

12. Our shared playground is the nicest one in all of Tallahassee! Did you know that the basketball backboards are able to be cranked low for the preschoolers and then back up to standard height for our youth?

13. We are preschoolers on a mission! We have collected for Toys for Tots, participated in coat drives, collected items for snack packs, and collected donations for the local pet rescue shelter.

14. Traditions are important; we have been sending home a cross-stitch ornament for our 2-year-old children since 1999! (In memory of Mary Blackburn)

15. 50 years old and we have had only three directors! (Mary Blackburn for 23 years, Nancy Duncan for 8 years, and me! I have been director since 2004!)

16. Motorola Walkie-talkies help keep us in communication and safe at all times.

17. We walk to the Fire Station Number 1, Leroy Collins Library, The Challenger Learning Center, and the Florida Capital; we are lucky to be close to these enriching facilities.

18. Special programs for Moms (Luncheon) and Dads (Donuts with Dad) are always fun.

19. We provide free speech and hearing screenings conducted by graduate students and faculty from Florida State University.

20. We spread the love by sending Valentine cards to our Veterans.

21. Church music directors have conducted music class for preschool for at least 30 years.

22. We bring in Healing Hearts, a music therapy group, to sing with our infant and toddler classes.

23. Graduation and end of the year parties are always a special time!

24. Children are given many opportunities for creative expression; the proof is in the massive amount of glitter, glue, and paint that goes out the door each day!

25. The longevity of employees is remarkable – our longest employed staff member began in 1984!



26. Our photo albums are a treasure; we have a picture of every child who has attended TUMP.

27. Advocacy is important to us; a staff member from the preschool has been on the board of directors of UMAP, CPA, ELC, and Early Learning Leon for the last 30 years.

28. We are safe and secure; cameras and monitor were added in recent years and have made a huge impact.

29. Parents have access to the school during business hours and do not have to rely on someone admitting them into the building (Before key fobs, parents had to ring the doorbell and wait for someone to let them in.)

30. Class pets are a great way to learn about all of God's creatures; our list includes a turtle, butterflies, gerbils, hamster, fish, ladybugs, ants (that is not a joke!), and we even hatched chickens one year!

31. God's love shines through all of the 19 staff members who work daily with the children.

32. Wednesdays in the summer = Sno-cones and water days!

33. While some of our contemporaries offer full time care only, we provide many options for parents including half day, full day, and 2, 3 or 5 days per week.

34. A more recent event is Cookies with Santa, a community event held in conjunction with the City of Tallahassee's Winter Festival each year.

35. Each staff member is trained in First Aid and CPR.

36. It is a joy to sing each December for the members of United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women).

37. Our school is cleaned and sanitized nightly.

38. Our staff take 24 hours of in-service courses per year (the state only requires 10, but as a Gold Seal School, we have opted to require more training per year).

39. We developed our own curriculum.

40. The preschool has brought many families in to become church members.

41. We have former preschoolers who are now parents and have enrolled their children here!

42. Friendships that began at preschool have resulted in lifelong relationships!

43. Fun Friday is the place to be! Local performers, therapy dogs, and the FSU Women's basketball team are just a few of the groups who have come to play on Fun Friday!

44. We have a long history of immense support from our Preschool Advisory Board.

45. Through the years, we have offered extracurricular classes such as Spanish, French, dance, soccer, and gymnastics.

46. Just walk into the school and you too will feel the joyful and welcoming environment!

47. We have a scholarship fund to help currently enrolled parents who have lost a job or who are facing financial issues.

48. Our teachers take the time to tailor goals for each child in our care.

49. At the end of their 5th year, our kids are certainly kindergarten ready!

50. Introducing Jesus to the kids is the greatest blessing of all.



Blessing of the Animals

Prayer Garden, October 1st, 3:00 PM

Pimento Cheese Sandwiches and Infused Ice Water will be served.

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

Sometime between the years of 1210 and 1215, it is believed that St. Francis first blessed the animals. He was prayerfully walking and began to talk to the birds! How often have we found ourselves talking to the birds? From this, this Patron Saint developed an intimacy with the environment and God's creation. He began to see that everything was a part of an intricate web of life. At the Blessing of the Animals, we too recognize God's creation among our pets and all of creation. Beginning with singing the beloved hymn of creation, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, this joyful, simple, and abbreviated service from the United Methodist Book of Worship celebrates our commitment to the care of all of God's creation. Bring the birds, bring the cats and dogs, bring the turtles, and bring the ferrets!



The Albadawe Family Finds Hope

by Gloria Colvin, IRC Team Member

News reports about refugees in volatile parts of the world often seem distant, but opportunities to help refugees rebuild their lives are close to home. Through Trinity's Local Missions Committee, a team of volunteers led by Daniel Diaz began meeting last spring and agreed to co-sponsor a refugee family along with the local International Rescue Committee (IRC). The IRC is one of a number of NGO's (non-governmental organizations) in the U.S. that aids in refugee resettlement and provides training for volunteers willing to assist in this process. Trinity team members went through extensive training, background checks, and other certifications in order to work directly with the refugee family. As co-sponsors, our commitments included providing some financial support, furnishing an apartment, enrolling family members in English classes and schools, applying for Social Security cards, transporting them to medical appointments, familiarizing them with Tallahassee's bus system, and helping them transition to life in Tallahassee.

After weeks of preparation, we welcomed the Albadawe family in mid-June, and team members spent the summer getting to know the family and helping them get settled in Tallahassee. It's difficult to imagine having to leave your home, your country, and all that is familiar, knowing that you won't be able to return. For the Albadawe family this became a reality when they fled their native war-torn Syria for Jordan. Refugee resettlement can be a long process, and the Albadawe family lived with family members in Jordan for several years before arriving in the U.S. In moving to a country where the language and culture are unfamiliar, they've demonstrated tremendous courage, fortitude, and resilience.



"The Albadawe family's bravery in coming to a new country to start life over without knowing the language, or even the alphabet, is awe-inspiring." Cindy Phillips Donelan



"I can't imagine the many difficulties that moving to another country and not knowing the language presents. Being able to be the known thing in a world of chaos for this family has been a truly rewarding and humbling experience. I have become even more aware of my privilege and abundance and it has increased my desire to give generously in all aspects of my life." Rachael Diaz

The Albadawe family is a large family: father Mohamad, mother Fareha, grandmother Malk, and six children, Malak, Aya, Rukaia, Amirah, Yahya, and Noor. Finding affordable housing for such a large family on short notice proved impossible, so the IRC arranged for them to stay temporarily in an extended-stay hotel. Two hotel rooms for nine people made for a difficult and frustrating living environment, but the family managed for two months with patience and grace until they were able to move into more permanent housing.

Team members shared responsibilities for taking the family to medical appointments, a park, grocery stores and pharmacy and helping them learn to use the bus system, pay bills, and look at potential housing options. The family always expressed gratitude and generously offered hospitality to the volunteers. Through these encounters we came to know and love this family and to learn about their culture.



“The Albadawe family is in a vulnerable position and yet they are so open to our group and offer us hospitality despite having so little. I have this feeling of God’s presence and peace whenever we get together. Their courage inspires me to step outside my comfort zone!” Diane Fogarty



“When we got the message from Daniel that Yahya was running a fever and needed to see the doctor I didn’t hesitate. I imagined myself in a similar situation. How bewildering must America (and the medical care system) seem to a new immigrant family. Despite a long wait the visit went well and after picking up medicine from the pharmacy afterwards, Mohamad invited me up for tea, insisting that I join him. He wanted to thank me with tea, homemade sweet cakes and fruit. I’m not sure who benefitted the most from that day!” Jeff Spraggins

“It’s been such a pleasure getting to know the Albadawe family and sharing the differences and similarities in our cultures. Though they have a large family to feed, their hospitality is always generous.” Cindy Phillips Donelan

As faithful Muslims, family members pray daily and were eager to go to the local mosque. Initially team members took them to the mosque where they made connections with other Arabic-speaking people. On several occasions they went to events sponsored by the local mosque.



“I’ve been so impressed with the humility and graciousness of the Albadawe family. Their faith is very real and apparent. One day when we were driving them to an event hosted by their mosque, I noted to Mohamad that we were following a funeral procession with 6 cars with their lights on, and he said “God blesses us all; those above the ground and those below”. They are always grateful for whatever we do for them and frequently praise God for their blessings.” J. Fogarty



Since public school and adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes didn’t begin until August, several team members met regularly with the family to help them learn some basic English. By the time school started, most of the older family members knew the alphabet, numbers, colors, and common greetings; could answer simple questions and complete forms. We learned some Arabic vocabulary, too! Mohamad and Fareha are now taking ESOL classes and five of the children are enrolled in Leon County Schools. Team members act as advocates for the children in the schools and help with homework.



“I worked with the family this summer to help them learn English. It gave me an opportunity to get to know each of them, largely with the help of Google Translate, and we had fun in the process. They are such a sweet and loving family, always so receptive, appreciative, and hospitable. Getting to know them has been such a rewarding experience, and they’ve been a blessing to me.” Gloria Colvin

“We have had the privilege of doing homework with the kids as they have entered their new American schools. As I try to imagine what it must be like for these 5 children to be in schools where they don’t speak the language, where the customs and dress are entirely different, filled with students and teachers who are rapidly speaking this foreign language, I am amazed at their joyful, positive, grateful attitude.” Carol Powell

While the Albadawe family is just beginning their life in America and have a lot of adjustments to make as the parents take jobs and work towards becoming self-sufficient, team members will continue to work with them for another few months. For all team members, this has been a rich and positive experience that has blessed us in many ways.



“Every time I part ways with our client family, I can’t wait to go back again. Working through the challenges of resettlement together is often difficult, but knowing and serving our client has been an absolute joy.” Daniel Diaz

“The Albadawe family continues to teach me with their generous, kind, loving---and fun nature! What a gift they are to me!” Carol Powell

Plans are for Trinity to welcome a new refugee family in the spring. If you’re interested in being part of our team in the future, please contact the church office.



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11 a.m. in the sanctuary

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
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TIDINGS TEAM

[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

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