

Tidings



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

All Together Sunday

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

You hear it shared all the time: “Our church is growing!” “Good things are happening at Trinity!” “Our ministries are reaching the heart of our community!” “Trinity is the most exciting church in Tallahassee!” All of these sentiments are true.

Given Trinity’s unique vision and mission, the reality that we are a multi-generational and inclusive church, and that we are in the heart of historic downtown Tallahassee, we are poised to be the hands, feet, and body of God’s mission in our world. An expansive fabric of the Methodist family is that we are a connectional church and that we are connected to one another. In the simplest sense, we are connected with each other across geographical, racial, socio-economical, and age differences. Even in a large, expansive, and generous congregation such as ours - We Are One.

On November 12 we will host an All Together Sunday. We encourage everyone who is able – young and old, new members and seasoned members – to be at church on this Sunday and to celebrate in one worship service together.

It is important that we see each other – as many of us as possible – at one time. As you know, our congregation is spread across three worship services on Sunday’s and Wednesday evening activities. We are spread across small groups, missional work throughout the week, and in various community ministries throughout the year. We are seldom in one place at the same time, singing the same songs, hearing the same message, and responding to God’s grace in tandem.

In This Issue

All Together Sunday.....	1-2
A Message of Thanks.....	2
News from your Local Missions Committee	3
Children’s Ministries Check In.....	3
Renew, Revive, Thrive	4
Bicentennial Progress.....	5
Guest Clergy Schedule for 2024.....	5
Becoming Fit at Church	6
Hanging of the Greens.....	6
Memorials	6
Cookies with Santa.....	7

Cover photo is original artwork by Alice Stadin.

Unquestionably, offering different worship times and ministry opportunities is a missional choice that we make. Nevertheless, we read throughout the Gospels that the early church met together for inspiration, encouragement, and visioning. Following the resurrection, the church dispersed, and the Holy Spirit was poured out, and the love and mission of God was proclaimed to all the nations.

For one Sunday, we desire to be together – in one place, at one time – to experience the Spirit that has been poured out on all of us, and to give witness to the work of God in us and through us!

Following Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM, we will celebrate with an old-fashioned Cokesbury Hymnal Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary at 10:30 AM. These songs of hope and revival are sure to uplift your soul and encourage you to thrive in your relationship with God.

Both our traditional and contemporary music ministries will lead us in worship for the 11 AM service. Let's fill the choir loft! My sermon on this day will be one that informs us of all the great work God is doing through the people of Trinity, the State of our Church as a historic and missional institution, and the ways that God is speaking and leading us into our Bicentennial Year.

So do not just arrive early, arrive early and bring a friend.

Make some phone calls and invite those in our congregation who you have not seen in a while. Arrive early to meet and greet new members who you have not yet had a chance to meet. Arrive early to pray and reflect on how Trinity has been a part of your faith journey and a part of the tough times in your life.

We long to be All Together in this season of gratitude and Thanksgiving as we Renew, Revive, and Thrive in our relationship with God and God's church!

November 12, 2023

All Together *Sunday*

9:45 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 AM

Cokesbury Hymnal Hymn Sing

11:00 AM

*Renew, Revive, Thrive
Worship Service*

A Message of Thanks

*by Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski,
Associate Pastor*



As we engage in this time of turkeys, stuffing, and thanksgiving, I want to offer my sincerest gratitude to all of you at Trinity United Methodist Church. You all have made me feel so welcomed and loved in the five months that I have been here. You have been encouraging me as I find who I am as a pastor and as a preacher. You have been great friends who have helped me find a home here in Tallahassee. And I am so thankful to be serving with a church that cares for others the



way that you all do. Your kind heart and open arms live into our calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to the world.

This inclusive, loving, and engaged congregation is doing great things, and I cannot wait to see where God calls us to go in the future. Thank you for your time, your offerings, and your presence to make this church the most exciting church in Tallahassee and a new home for me!

News from your Local Missions Committee

by Pat and Lyn Bevis, Local Missions Committee Co-Chairs

As 2023 winds down, the LMC still has much going on in the community. We hope each of you have had an opportunity to participate in a ministry this year. If not, there is still time! This month sees the return of the popular Angel Tree to benefit the children and less fortunate of Leon County. There will be Angel Trees in the narthex and Moor Hall decorated with angel shaped tags that include gift information. Please take a tag and bring back the requested gift (wrapped) no later than December 10th to be blessed and distributed into the community.

Our refugee resettlement team, working with the International Rescue Committee, will be finishing up a six-month project with a family from Syria. You will hear all about it during the Missions Moment one Sunday this month. And our new accessibility build team will be working on their third project this month! Please consider making a donation to help fund the materials to enable us to continue helping those in our community who need special ramps and half-steps to stay in their homes. Your check can be designated to *Accessibility Build MN* or you can select *Accessibility Build MN-ABM* on the dropdown menu when giving online.

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we held our first committee meeting and started figuring out what local mission work might look like at Trinity. There have been ups and downs. Some ideas have been well received and others have fallen flat! But that is part of creating something new. The committee has grown and new people now come monthly with new energy and new ideas. It is always an honor to serve in the work of building up the community of our less-fortunate neighbors in small ways each month. If you are interested in checking out this work, please come and join us. We have room for everyone and love to hear new ideas.

May you each have a blessed Thanksgiving and be a blessing to those around you in whatever way you can, each and every day.



Children's Ministry Check In

by Candace Duclos, Director of Children's Ministries



Wow how the year has flown by! Our Sunday school and NETKids classes are supporting the missions of our church through donations. During the month of September we collected 13 bottles of children's vitamins for the Guatemala Mission Trip. In October, we have collected individually packaged food items for HEO's weekly snack packs. Our ministry continues to grow! We are also preparing our hearts for Christmas!

Finally, I know it is early, BUT mark your calendar now and plan to attend the NETKids Christmas Event, "Journey through Bethlehem" on Wednesday, December 13th, 5:30-7:00 PM. This will be a festival atmosphere for students to share the Christmas story with others. More information will be forthcoming, but please plan to come! Dinner will be available.

I am so blessed to serve the Lord with you all!

Renew, Revive, Thrive

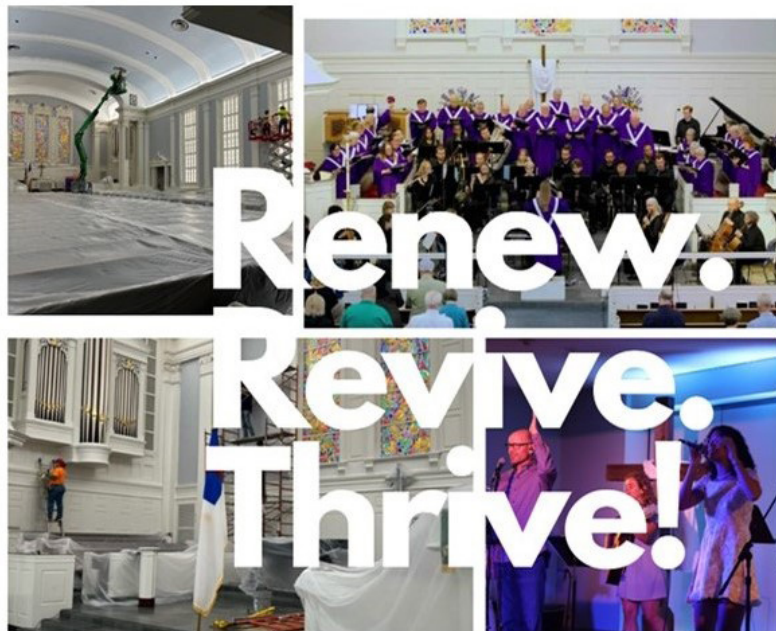
Stewardship Q&A's

Why invest in the life, mission and ministry of Trinity?

As Christians, we strive to follow Christ. Christ is our example of selfless giving. God created the world and all that is in it, and all that we have belongs to God. Therefore, we give back a portion of what we have been given to be used in God's Kingdom work, encouraging others to grow in faith and to become followers of Christ. As a community of faith, we are ever discerning God's will for us as a place of Christian worship and mission. Your investment keeps this work moving forward and enables us to be effective missionaries in our community and world.

Why Tithe and Pledge?

United Methodists practice tithing as set forth in the numerous biblical examples of God's directive to Israel to offer their first fruits to God - 10% of their harvest yield - and that unmeasured blessings would be poured out. Therefore, our Book of Discipline states that we strive for tithing to be our "minimum goal of giving."



At Trinity and in the whole of Christendom, we understand that pledging a tithe is a challenge, so we ask that you prayerfully consider a portion of your income to be given to the church for God's Kingdom work. Starting somewhere is a starting point. Not everyone is able to tithe 10%, but perhaps you can tithe 2%, 5%, or even 20%. The point is that you spend time with your family and with God and prayerfully discern a projected gift. In John Wesley's sermon "The Use of Money" he emphasizes three points: Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

Trinity uses pledges to assist in annual budgeting. By making a pledge, you help Trinity project funding for our mission and ministry from year to year. In addition, pledging is a good way to teach your children and youth financial stewardship. We encourage pledge cards from children and youth to help them learn to invest and save.

Can I give without making a pledge?

Of course! Though we would encourage you to prayerfully make a pledge to assist Trinity in budgeting, you can freely give and mark your gift to therefore receive giving statements in the same way as those persons who pledge.

Can I give to certain causes or funds and not tithe / pledge?

Of course! You don't have to tithe or pledge to invest in certain causes or special funds at Trinity. Though, we hope that you will invest in these numerous areas of need while prayerfully considering tithing / pledging as a part of your charitable giving. A directory of designated funds including our endowments are available from our Finance Office.

Oops! I pledged, but I cannot make my pledge. Can I change it?

Of course! You can change your pledge at any time. Again, pledging is a tool to help the church budget and manage our finances. All you need to do is contact our Finance Office and you can confidentially manage your charitable giving to Trinity at any time.

How can I give offerings to Trinity?

You can give offerings to Trinity through the weekly collection in the worship services via check or cash (giving envelopes are provided for record keeping), through the GIVE section on our website www.tumct.org/give, through the US Mail, through your brokerage firm or bank, through bequests, or by dropping off donations during office hours at the church office. If you intend to invest in Trinity in other ways, we will work with you to make it as easy as possible!



Bicentennial Progress

by Paula Smith, Big 200 Committee Chair

With the hard work of many volunteers, we can look forward to a wonderful year of celebration beginning in January 2024 with the visits of special speakers each month. Add in exciting music, special gifts, interesting history, and the persistence of a dedicated congregation for 200 years. Trinity has much to look forward to!

We will commemorate our 200-year history, not only with the updating of our church facility, but also with updating Trinity's history book and the commemoration of service to the community. A tithe (10%) of all gifts contributed to the Bicentennial Celebration during our Pledge campaign "Renew, Revive, Thrive", will be set aside for community service. A separate pledge card is available for your Bicentennial gift.

Are you enjoying the newly renovated Trinity with refreshed paint, new carpeting, improved security, improved WIFI, and a beautifully restored Memorial garden? Please add your gift to help us finish the job with a renovated kitchen and an exciting community project. We've come a long way. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for helping us finish strong!

Giving from your IRA may save you money!

Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and/or are you 70 years old (or getting close)? If so, you can give to Trinity UMC and produce tax savings for you.

When you reach 70 ½ you are required to take at least a minimum amount each year from your IRA which is called a "required minimum distribution" or RMDs.

Since you didn't pay tax on the money you put in to your IRA, you are required to pay income tax on it when money comes out. RMD's can push some people into a higher tax bracket – this can be avoided. How?

By making your tithes or offering directly from your IRA to Trinity, the tax benefit to you is your donated distribution is excluded from your taxable income. These are called "qualified charitable distributions," or QCDs.

So, consider making your tithe or offerings from your IRA and save on your income taxes.

Guest Clergy Schedule for 2024

by Amy Leach, Bicentennial Publicity Committee Member

Trinity is busy preparing for our upcoming 200th anniversary! While the big celebration will be in the fall of 2024, we have many exciting things planned throughout the year. Beginning in January, we will have guest clergy joining us once a month to lead us in worship. Many of these visiting pastors once served at Trinity and we are looking forward to welcoming them back.

On January 14th, we will kick off our year by welcoming Rev. Judi New, Archivist for the Florida Conference. The former District Superintendent of the Tallahassee District, Rev. Charlene Kammerer, will be our guest on February 11th. The spring will bring us several of Trinity's former associate pastors. On March 10th, we will be joined by Rev. Phil Roughton. Rev. Tony Fotsch will be with us on April 14th and Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller will be our guest on May 12th. Summer will bring us our most recent senior pastors. On June 9th, we will welcome back Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt and on July 14th, Rev. Wayne Curry. Rev. Dr. Mark Caldwell, former Trinity associate pastor, will finish out our summer on August 11th. In September, we are excited to welcome two guest clergy! On September 8th, former District Superintendent, Rev. Bob Gibbs will be joining us. Bishop Tom Berlin, our current Bishop, will close out the month on September 29th. We will end the year with three more guests. Bishop Ken Carter, our most recent Bishop, will join us on October 13th. On November 10th, our current District Superintendent, Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans will be with us. We will close out 2024 with former Trinity pastor, Rev. John Willis, on December 8th. **Please mark your calendars as this promises to be an exciting year!**

Becoming Fit at Church

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

How Much Physical Activity Do You Get Each Week?

Did you know the American Heart Association along with many other health agencies recommend adults get 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week, and perform muscle strengthening exercises at least two days per week? How close are you to reaching those goals?

Our BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry programs can help you get there. Attending just two BFC Exercise classes per week will provide 120 minutes of physical activity as well as general strength exercises too. BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) provides outdoor activities like hiking and cycling on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month for those who enjoy the fresh air. Attending even just one of the BFO events could put you over the 150 minute goal for that week.

Please check out the website at <https://www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/> to see how the BFC Ministry can help you become more physically fit. Class schedules, descriptions and the details are all there. Advanced registration is required for both BFC and BFO. Email Beth Curry at BFCSeries@yahoo.com for more information.



Hanging of the Greens

by Amy Leach, Programs Assistant

Even though fall has just begun, we are already preparing for the season of Advent! Please plan to join us for Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00 PM.

This service will help us celebrate Advent with music, readings and symbols of the season. Musicians of all ages, from our Cherubs to our Chancel Choir, will fill the sanctuary with music and our children and youth will offer symbolic decorations throughout the service. We are so grateful to all who participate in this service and we hope you will make plans to join us on this special night.

The service will be held in the sanctuary and be followed by a potluck dinner down in Moor Hall.



Memorials

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

Memorials:

In memory of **Lillian Byrd** from Rochelle Davis.

In memory of **William and Alice Grow** from Allison Grow.

COOKIES WITH SANTA

Free
Event!



Santa is visiting from the North Pole!
Enjoy a cookie while you meet him
and don't forget to bring your camera!

3:45 - 6:45 PM
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2023

FRONT STEPS OF
TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
120 WEST PARK AVENUE

HOSTED BY TRINITY UM
CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL





Monthly Publication from
Trinity United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 222-1120 www.tumct.org

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

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

MINISTRY STAFF

Dawn Adams, *Congregational Administrator*
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Viktor Billa, *Organist*
Yuliia Billa, *Director of Music*
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*
Candace Duclos, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*
Jack Falcon, *Financial Assistant*
Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Contemporary Worship*

Irene Gonzalez, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Melanie Gonzalez, *Office Administrator*
Patti Groh, *Sexton*
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*
Amy Leach, *Programs Assistant*
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*
Alexis McEntire, *Assistant to the Director of Children's Ministries*
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*
Dr. Nick Quinton, *Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries*

TIDINGS TEAM

[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

Let's stay in touch!

- Sign up for our News & Notes weekly email newsletter on our website www.tumct.org
- Like us on [Facebook](#) @TrinityUMCTallahassee
- Follow us on [Instagram](#) @umctrinity
- Listen on [Spotify](#) Trinity United Methodist Church Tallahassee