



Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.

God's Church Never Closes!



Worship Plans throughout April

Bishop Carter and the Appointive Cabinet met to prayerfully discern their collective guidance to churches regarding public worship after April 1st. We recommend churches not hold any public worship through the month of April. This decision is based on the current CDC guidelines around public gatherings and the action of many local authorities to enact shelter at home restrictions. We encourage churches to continue to worship virtually and connect with people through other creative means.

We reflected together on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral's four aspects of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Christian Experience as a resource to make this decision.

We continue to affirm and support the live-streaming of worship by local churches across our conference. We are making mini-grants for technology to make this possible and offering coaching on how to begin offering worship in this way. This is an act of loving our neighbor, an attempt to flatten the curve, to care for the most

vulnerable and to protect health care professionals working on the front lines.

We are praying for all of those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and especially for our health care professionals.

We encourage churches to continue to reach out to their neighbors and find ways to show the love of Christ during this time. We will revisit public worship in the coming month and we look forward to the day when we can celebrate the resurrection of Christ together!

Gifts to Trinity

in Loving Memory -of-

Trinity received the following gifts from February 11 - March 10:

In memory of **Oberley Brown** from DeWitt and Neddy Summers, Rubie Butterworth, Linda Phillips, Joan Edenfield, Lynne Barrera, Joseph and Caroline Jackson, Bob and Myra Hannah, Ed and Kathy Witcher, Nan Ritchie, Warren and Judy Goodwin, Betsy Champion, Sue Baldwin, Cynthia Smith, Mary Gray, the Dorcas Foster Circle

In memory of **Bob Yates** from Vereen Smith, John and Pauline Yearty, David and Vanessa Zein-Eldin, Nan Ritchie, DeWitt and Neddy Summers, Rubie Butterworth, Joan Edenfield, Robert Porter, William and Jeanne Dibbert, Dot and Jim Skofronick, Tommy and Esther Harrison, Dorothy Roberts, Skip and Beth Poppell, Warren and Judy Goodwin, Mike and Kathy Brown, Cynthia Smith, Bob and Beverly Bureson, Carrol and Mildred Dadisman, Sheila and Dean Merlau, Josephine Newton

In memory of **Bill Grow** from Donie Ann Henderson, Linda and Kelley Phillips, Cynthia Smith, Vereen Smith,

In memory of **Alice Grow** from Linda and Kelley Phillips.

In memory of **Lee Everhart** from Matt and Glenarva Ryan.

In honor of **Erin Platt** for HEO from Earline Adkison.

Homeless Mats

Rose Glenn
Homeless Mats Chair

Many thanks to those who have taken the time to carefully fold the plastic grocery bags before turning them in. You don't know what a big help that is. It saves time for those who cut the strips.

I have had to change to a new e-mail server. In transferring the names, I may have left out some. If you would like to be on my e-mail list, notify me at the address below. Sorry if I missed you. Come and help us in this worthy mission to the homeless neighbors in our community.

Contact me at budsthorn@comcast.net

A New Normal

Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt
Senior Pastor

We are all finding our way to a new normal in our personal lives and the life of the Church in the wake of COVID-19! Many things have changed by necessity as social distancing has forced all meetings and small group studies to go online through an electronic communication platform called "Zoom."

Fortunately, our Church Council at Trinity was scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 24. We quickly adapted that meeting to take place on Zoom with our virtual technology. Matt Foster, Chair of the Council, explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to address the current pandemic crisis and its impact on the congregation and the finances of our church. He indicated that a six month plan would be developed to address current and future needs. He suggested we should "hope for the best and plan for the worst," asking everyone to think out of the box in the ways we can come together utilizing new technology and new communication platforms. Spencer Schrowang, our Director of Communications, along with Viktor Billa, our organist, worked tirelessly to get our worship service on Sunday, March 22, livestreamed on YouTube! We had a few technical challenges, but our congregation worked through them, many listening to the radio broadcast and viewing the livestream simultaneously to make a complete broadcast possible! Our miracle technical team used two iPhones and some remarkable ingenuity to broadcast the service.

Last month, we received a gift from Dr. Orson and Eleanor Smith of new livestreaming equipment, and we are up and running with better sound and a clearer picture, while we continue to learn how to operate our new equipment!

Dr. Nick Quinton has been training teachers and leaders on our virtual classrooms, and just about every Sunday school class or small group that is willing, has been trained to lead their small groups through Zoom! Nick has also been in dialogue with a group of 20 local clergy and service professionals regarding outreach to Tallahassee community groups and service centers. This resource group is



meeting weekly to share information and find ways that together, we can serve the city of Tallahassee and help meet many unexpected needs including feeding our children and housing our homeless.

Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Missions, Pastors, Lay Leaders and key staff will meet every other week to develop our contingency plan in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Warren May reminded everyone that Mark Repasky's last day as our Director of Music will be June 21, 2020. The Music Committee is planning a celebration to honor his ministry at Trinity for the last 25 years – what a tremendous accomplishment! Our search for a new Director of Music is well underway.

Reports on various ministries as the COVID-19 Pandemic unfolds:

- Music – Mark Repasky has been in touch with all the music groups and musicians seeing how we might plan and retool with the loss of onsite worship and our move toward Livestreaming our 11am service.

- Children and Youth are now meeting online in a variety of creative ways to keep connections strong. Facebook, Zoom, Snapchat, and other social media platforms are being utilized. Though we are unsure at this point, our hope is that Vacation Bible School will be able to take place as planned in June.

- Adult Discipleship continues to be strong in our new virtual community and a developing list of online classes should be available on our website this week.

- Missions – Dennis Smith expressed concern about serving the shelters during social distancing. His committee already met remotely and is addressing financial needs to our local missions and the need to postpone all foreign mission trips for the remainder of the year due to the many limitations on travel and safety concerns.

- The Historical Society met with Josh Goodman, Archives Historian with the Florida Department of State. He was very impressed with the quality and quantity of our preservation activities and offered to work with us on specific projects. The plaque commemorating the creation of the Florida Conference at the Trinity site is ready to be installed once we resume regular worship services. Plans for our 200th Anniversary in August 2024 are being formulated and everyone in the congregation will be expected to play a part in celebrating our **200 Years of History!**

As we move into Holy Week, I am reminded that although much is changing all around us daily, the Word of God never changes! As we focus on the Life, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ in the weeks ahead, I am reminded of John's Gospel when Jesus tells his disciples –

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. –John 14: 27

Although we are living through uncertain times, my hope is that we can all claim this promise of the Peace of Christ that surpasses our understanding for the living of these days!



Dr. Wiatt



Dr. Wiatt's home office in his kitchen!



Music & Holy Week

*Mark Repasky
Music Director*

Following Jesus

Many church musicians are more involved in Holy Week than the typical church goer. They prepare music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services weeks in advance and take their role as worship leaders through music seriously. We follow Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday, April 5) to his anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane at the Maundy Thursday Service, on to the Good Friday service and finally to services of great rejoicing on Easter morning. May this journey strengthen our faith and the faith of our congregation! Let us still embrace music in these trying times.



Annual Conference Changed to Virtual Meeting — June 6

April 02, 2020

Dear Florida Conference Clergy and Laity:

We are praying for each of you as we enter into the days of Holy Week and Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Governor has issued a safer at home order for the state of Florida for the next 30 days, we offer the following updates:

- We urge all churches to not hold public worship services through the end of April. Church is not canceled, but will use virtual platforms as you have been doing. We applaud your creative efforts! We invite you to fully engage with people through technology, and the Conference has supported this work through mini-grants for this purpose and coaching to learn basic skills.

- We ask you to abide by the spirit and law of this safer at home order. Encourage people to limit all activities outside of their home to only those things that are deemed essential. We love our neighbors as we seek to model what it means to flatten the curve. We know that some of you have already lost people in your churches from this virus. We stay home with hope that it will save lives. We are praying for all our people who are on the front lines of this pandemic.

- Many of you have asked what exceptions can be made since religious services are deemed as essential in the safer at home order. We ask you to practice shared leadership and be in consultation with your local officials and your district superintendent. If a handful of people need to go to church to record/stream services, this is acceptable as long as strict social distancing is practiced. It should involve as few people as necessary and stay within the state and federal guidelines. One or two staff or volunteers may need to occasionally ensure that essential financial matters are handled. According to CDC guidelines, a small gathering of less than ten people practicing social distancing is appropriate at a graveside service. Food pantries and ministries can continue in limited safe ways. Limited childcare services that follow the guidelines are permitted. We discourage drive in worship services, as the numbers often exceed the recommendations of safety.

- Bishop Carter has recorded a sermon for Easter, entitled "Easter, COVID-19 and the Contradiction of Resurrection Faith." It will be shared on our website very soon.

- We encourage all who are able to continue to give generously to the work of God through your local church. This is especially important during the month of April.



For a substantial list of resources related to COVID-19 and the mission of our churches, please visit here: <https://www.flumc.org/covid-19-virus-update>

We also wanted to give you an update on our Annual Conference meeting scheduled for June. The Cabinet and planning team have decided to make our June meeting virtual. We will share reports online and gather for a few hours virtually on Saturday morning June 6th in order to care for essential items of business (i.e. clergy session, budget, leadership nominations, etc.). Details will be forthcoming. We are also planning an in person gathering on Saturday, September 19th in Lakeland to recognize our retiring clergy, share in our memorial service, and celebrate commissioning and ordinations. The September gathering will not be required but all are welcome to attend. Please mark your calendars now for this significant event.

The epidemiological models describe this as a very difficult month for the state of Florida and the nation. We find hope, peace and reassurance in Jesus Christ. We draw strength from his presence in our lives, and in our connection with each other.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, be with you in these days.

*Faithfully,
Bishop Carter and the Florida Cabinet*



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Florida United Methodists Responding Well to Online Services

Joe Henderson
FLUMC

About 77 percent of people responding to a survey on flumc.org said that having Sunday church services online did not negatively affect their worship experience.

More than 35 percent of respondents completely agreed with that statement, while 45 percent somewhat agree. Only 8 percent completely disagreed.

The online survey has been available to respondents since the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church asked churches two weeks ago to suspend in-person worship because of the COVID-19 virus.

"We are in the midst of a profound shift. In the language of the Fresh Expressions movement, digital culture is a profound "third place". We are adapting from ministry mostly inside our buildings to significant presence in this new world of social media, not as an add-on but as something primary and fundamental. This is a more hybrid, mixed ecology of sharing in the gospel, which is already present in the lives of those searching for a spiritual home," Florida Conference Resident Bishop Ken Carter said.

"I'm deeply grateful to all who have found a way to bear witness through word and music. I've encouraged our pastors not to sweat the technical glitches—we are all taking the next faithful steps. My word of encouragement is to trust that God will use our efforts, speak in spite of our words, and give all of us what we need in this season of worship in ways we had not imagined."



Respondents to the survey were also invited to give personal comments.

"In some ways, I was able to concentrate on music and the message because I was not surrounded by distractions," one person wrote. "In other ways, I miss those distractions."

Another wrote, "Hope UMC in Cape Coral, Pastor Paul was inspiring. He did an incredible job participating in a prerecorded prelude to the service. He sang the worship songs and gave the sermon. Such a terrific effort to bring all of us a meaningful service."

While some churches have reported technical issues with live-streaming, 59 percent of survey respondents completely agreed that the video quality was for their service was good. Another 29 percent somewhat agreed with that, while 4 percent completely disagreed.

There were similar percentages of approval for the audio and internet quality.

"The live feed tended to freeze once in a while, and I had to sign out and sign back in. I loved the real time chat with other members who were viewing online. A pastor or ministry leader ought to be hosting this chat and encouraging communication," one person wrote.

Seventy-three percent completely agreed they would recommend their online service to others, while 21 somewhat agreed. "Christ Church St Petersburg's service was both spiritually and technically a beautiful experience," one commenter said. "We are so grateful for the abilities of our church staff/tech crew to create such a masterful and thoughtful worship service."

Churches have been asked to follow CDC and state guidelines by avoiding large gatherings, including Sunday worship. That likely will continue for several more weeks, including Easter Sunday.

"There is nothing quite like the church service in the sanctuary," one person said. "But in times like this it is good to worship, knowing that others are watching too, and that we are all praying together."



Keep Up with Our Daily Devotionals!

-- Subscribe to Our Youtube Channel

All three of our pastors at Trinity have been taking the time to sit down throughout the day and record daily devotionals during this time of distance. We find ourselves approaching Holy Week, and it is critical that we remain active in our faith and immersed in the Word.

You can find all of the Daily Devotionals on our Youtube channel titled 'Trinity UMC - Tlh.' There you will be able to see the entire Devotionals playlist. **Please go ahead and subscribe to our channel!**



Vacation Bible School — June 8 - 12

*Allison Corrigan
Director of Children's Ministries*

Exciting preparations are already underway for this summer's VBS! Come and join us for Rocky Railway—the summer event that puts kids on track for trusting Jesus!! At Rocky Railway, kids explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. During this awesome week, your child will visit thrilling, hands-on stations including Little Kids Depot, Sing and

Play Express, Imagination Station, Bible Adventures, KidVid Cinema, Chew Chew Snacks, Loco Motion Games and Rocky Wrap-Up as they are surrounded by God's word and love. VBS is available for children ages 3 (by 6/1/2020) through 5th grade (Fall 2020). Registration will begin on March 2nd. You can register online or by filling out a VBS brochure, which are available in the Welcome Center, Narthex, and Children's Hallway.

We are also looking for responsible youth volunteers in 6th-12th grade (Fall 2020) to serve as crew leaders and station helpers. You **MUST** be active in Trinity's youth group, commit to helping the ENITRE week, and attend a **MANDATORY** training in Moor Hall on June 7th at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact Allison Corrigan: acorrigan@tumct.org or (850)222-1120.



Youth Happenings in March

Lisa Prasse
Youth Director



A Note from Lisa ...

During this COVID-19 outbreak your youth are facing unparalleled sadness due the loss of face-to-face interaction and activities in the Underground. In the meantime, we're continuing to meet (virtually) to try to stay in touch with one another and keep our youth spiritually nourished. We have our Sunday lesson online being sent via email and in place of Sunday School and UMYF; we have an online video devotional on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and our Youth Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 4:00pm via Zoom. If you need any information on any of these meetings, please email Lisa Prasse, our Youth Director, at lprasse@tumct.org. We continue to pray for protection and healing for those already impacted, and an end to this horrible disease and the social distancing that accompanies it.

We want to thank everyone who donated spaghetti and sauces and/or bought a spaghetti dinner ticket to support our summer mission trips. Of course Springtime Tallahassee was cancelled, as was our Spaghetti dinner. Once we're allowed to be in the same space again, we will have spaghetti during a Wednesday night dinner where you can use those tickets

already purchased. As of right now, our youth are still slated to head to North Carolina to work with the Appalachian Service Project, as well as Port St. Joe for continued hurricane repair projects. But, we cannot commit to these or any other trips until we know how the COVID virus will play out.

Our confirmands made a trip to Warren Willis for our confirmation retreat where all their studies were affirmed and they made terrific memories connecting with one another and God. They are becoming more and more prepared to accept their confirmation vows in May, and it's a terrific process to be a part of! They ARE the future of our church!!!

At the end of February, we attended the Ash Wednesday service together and some of our youth even helped with the "drive-thru Ash" distribution that morning! We began and will continue our Lenten studies together (via Zoom) right up until Easter Sunday.

We pray all of you are well. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of help to you during this difficult time. We hope to see you at church again soon.



We have had amazing devotionals for the Youth as well!



Looking Forward with Hope to:

May 3.....Confirmation Banquet & Rehearsal

May 4.....Confirmation Sunday;
youth choir sings at 11:00

May 17.....Graduation Sunday

Meet Our New Youth Intern!

Hello, my name is Isaac Newton (no known relation to the scientist), and I've been a Florida boy all my life. During my summers in college at the University of North Florida, I would work at the Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center. Now, on top of my internship with the youth here at Trinity, I am a web developer at Brandt Information Services right down the road. I'm 25 years old and have been involved in youth groups since middle school when I was in one. I never intend to let go of the part of me that loves working with youth!



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Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Watt, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Brewster, Associate Pastor
Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education
Rex Adams, Director of Communications

Helping Children During the COVID-19 Virus

Jim Patterson
UM News

It's important to address the anxiety of children over the coronavirus, church leaders agree. Small children miss personal contact with their friends, while some teenagers wonder about more existential issues.

"Multiple of the youth have brought up about, 'Is this the end of days?'" said Matt Vollmar, contemporary worship coordinator and youth minister at Saint Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville, Illinois. "I didn't assume this was where they would go. ... So we clearly need to talk about it."

Vollmar said he tells the teens to read about the signs of the end times in Luke 21 in the Bible. He additionally advises them to "work on your relationship with God so if God comes back tomorrow, you're ready to go. But work for him as if he's coming back in a thousand years. So there's still work to be done."

Younger children also have a lot of anxiety around COVID-19, said the Rev. Kathy Pittenger, children's initiative coordinator for the Michigan Conference.

"For elementary-age school kids it's important to explain what's happening and why social distancing is important, because that's a hard thing for kids to understand," Pittenger said.

She said it's also essential for kids to have some kind of a schedule. "It can be a flexible schedule, but something that kids know is coming every day.

Exercise is also important, whether that be outside if they are able to, or inside their house."

Parents should also limit the news that children hear or watch on television and avoid making promises about when the crisis will end, Pittenger said.

"As adults, we can get stuck on having the news on 24-7," she said. "Not only can that be anxiety producing for us as adults, but it can be very stressful for children."

Pittenger is curating a webpage for the Michigan Conference to help parents through the crisis.

"There are so many resources that people are feeling overwhelmed and paralyzed," she said. "So I'm putting together some vetted resources that people can trust and can use."

One way churches are keeping in touch with children is by posting videos of pastors or youth leaders reading books on Facebook and YouTube.

"I had a little girl from our children's ministry that called, and she just wanted to check to make sure I was OK because they didn't get to come to church," Lindsay Vollmar said. "And so we just started thinking about how we can connect with the kids and the youth in the ministry."

Normally, Lindsay Vollmar reads a story to preschoolers before their Sunday school class starts. "So I thought (reading a story) would be normal to them," she said. "They could see my face." They plan to post two stories a week while

the crisis continues. Parents can help college students deal with the impact of COVID-19, too, especially those who were forced to clear out of their campuses on short notice.

"My daughter (Eloise) had a very sudden change in plans for her academic year," said the Rev. Christine Hides, a United Methodist deacon and director of Christian education at Kenilworth Union Church in Kenilworth, Illinois. "Letting her be sad and disappointed and upset about the unexpected change in plans, I think, has been most important."

Eloise had less than 12 hours to pack and find storage for her belongings before flying home to Illinois from California, where she is a student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Since she's been home, Christine Hides has tried to "focus on the positive, that we are safe and we're together. There are unexpected gifts in this new reality that we're living in."

At the church, Hides is thinking ahead to things she had never considered before, such as a drive-in Easter service or facilitating children seeing their friends through video conferencing.

"Even if we could drive (children) to a parking lot and be with each other with the windows up, maybe that's the kind of thing that we'll need," she said.

"I think that this is a marathon, not a sprint. As the weeks drag on, I think the financial implications for families will be greater, and I think that the social isolation will be even harder to take," Hides said.