

Worship

Grow

Serve

Monthly Tidings

Trinity United Methodist Church

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

Volume 47, Number 8, September, 2020

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

In-Person Worship to Resume September 20

*Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt
Lead Pastor*

***Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with tambourine and dance;
Praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals;
Praise him with loud clashing cymbals! - Psalm 150:1-6***



I love Psalm 150 as it reminds me of the joy of worship together! Although we will be unable to sing together in our sanctuary, we can still enjoy the beauty of our pipe organ and piano as well as the many musical instruments played by many of our members. I'm looking forward to gathering with you this month as we literally "pull out the stops" on the organ to welcome our Trinity family back into our beautiful sanctuary. Brett Ingram and our sextons have been deep cleaning and polishing everything to provide a safe and secure environment upon our return.

We will provide hospitality teams to guide you into the sanctuary and answer any questions you might have about worship.

We are encouraging everyone to bring their own masks, but we will provide one if you forgot to bring a mask with you to worship. Our recent reduction of virus infections in Florida has been attributed to a higher percentage of the population now wearing masks.

After waiting almost six months to the day through the COVID-19 pandemic, (March 22 – September 20), we are finally at a place where your pastors and the leadership of Trinity feel we can carefully begin to return to in-person worship at 11:00am in our sanctuary. On October 18, we will add our 9:45am service in Moor Hall. The truth is, Trinity never stopped worshipping.

We never missed a Sunday and have been online through our new live-streamed service since March 22. Since our first online worship service with two iPhones on tripods, we have installed a video control panel in the balcony of our sanctuary, made possible through the generosity of Dr. Orson and Eleanor Smith.

Our members continue to contribute to the improvement of our video and sound systems for video and radio broadcasts.

As we plan to gather for worship again on September 20 at 11:00am, many things related to our presence in worship will be different. Page 2 covers the list of protocols and expectations for those returning to in-person worship in our Trinity sanctuary.

Gifts to Trinity

In Loving Memory -of-

Trinity received the following gifts from June 11 - August 10:

In memory of Theo Proctor, Jr. from Nancy and Emily Waugh, Carrol and Mildred Dadisman, Bettie Jane Grant, and Vereen Smith.

In memory of Janet Brewer from Carole Beckham.

In memory of Bob Yates from Jim and Kitty Ball.

In memory of Oberley Brown from Carol Hoffman and family.

In honor of Lynn McLarty for HEO from Warren and Judy Goodwin.

In honor of Judy Levy for HEO from Warren and Judy Goodwin.

In honor of Erin Platt for HEO from Warren and Judy Goodwin.

In memory of Wayne Mixson from Mary Jo Morton

In memory of Bob Yates from Nancy and Emily Waugh

In honor of Mart Hill on her 100th birthday from Brooks and Almena Pettit and family.

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 of us 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

Update (Continued)

Sign Up Genius

1. Worshippers will need to register through Sign-Up Genius online at www.tumct.org and agree to keep a Covenant of established protocols. These will be listed for you to affirm when you register online for worship. Due to physical distancing, our total number of worshipers will be limited to 65 persons in the main sanctuary. Each person attending in your family will need to register through Sign-Up Genius and there will be no standing reservations. Each week registration will open on Tuesday and stay open until all slots are filled. When you arrive for 11:00am Worship, please plan to arrive early to check in at the Registration Table on Park Avenue under the portico. Touchless thermometers will be used to check your temperature before you can enter the narthex.

2. Temperatures will be checked by a touchless scanner before entering the building and will need to register no more than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

3. Hand sanitizing will be required upon entering and leaving the sanctuary. Please enter and exit through the double doors at the Park Avenue entrance.

4. All those choosing to attend in person worship at Trinity will agree to wear a mask.

5. Physical distancing of six feet or more will be required except for members of the same family.

6. All those attending worship in person acknowledge that there will be NO congregational singing.

7. Seating will be designated and guided by hosts from our greeting team.

8. We are unable to offer childcare at this time, but children are welcome to sit with their parents.

9. Persons may want to consider alternating their Sundays for worship to allow other persons an opportunity to attend. We will be able to add another 45 seats in Moor Hall when we open the 9:45am service on October 18.

Additional letters and instructions to the congregation will be going out weekly in September as we prepare to begin worshipping together on September 20. Thank you for your patience and care for one another as we enter into this time of renewing our call to worship together! Please send any suggestions and improvements to our protocols to Amy Leach aleach@tumct.org



New Office Procedures

As we transition into our “new normal” at Trinity, we would like to share new procedures for visiting the church and office during the week, beginning on September 21. We are hopeful that this plan will keep you, staff members, and the building as safe as possible!

- **Please make an appointment.**

If you need to physically come to the office for any reason, please make an appointment, preferably 24 hours in advance (even if you are simply dropping something off or picking something up). This will ensure that there are not too many people in the same area at one time. This will also be helpful to our Staff as they balance social distancing and working remotely when possible, with completing necessary in-person tasks. Lastly, this will ensure that the area is able to be properly disinfected before the next appointment. You can make an appointment by calling 850-222-1120 or by emailing the staff member you wish to see.

- **Please enter through the Welcome Center Door.** Upon arrival, please enter through the Welcome Center Door. Trinity has a large facility and using this particular entrance/exit will help our facilities staff keep the building clean and safe. We will also have a screening station set up in this area.

- **Upon entering, please wear a mask, sanitize your hands, have your temperature taken, and sign in.** Masks are required inside our building and we also ask that you sanitize your hands at the door. A staff member will also be present to take your temperature using a no-contact thermometer. Signing in will help us keep track of everyone coming and going, and will help us know who to notify in case we do experience a positive COVID-19 test at any point.

- **While in the building, please be mindful of restricted areas.** There are many areas in the building (rooms, bathrooms, etc.) that are currently restricted by our

facilities staff to ensure a clean and safe building. Please avoid those restricted areas on your way to and from your appointment.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation!

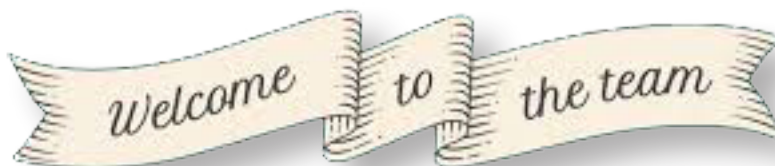


Welcome Trina Murphy! Our Amazing Office Assistant



On July 6, 2020, we welcomed Trina Murphy as our new Office Assistant! Trina moved to Florida from Baltimore three years ago, and after meeting her wonderful husband, Henry, she now calls Tallahassee home. She has two daughters as well, Ashley and Alicia. Trina loves to encourage and uplift people, earning her the nickname, “Smiley” from many of her friends and family.

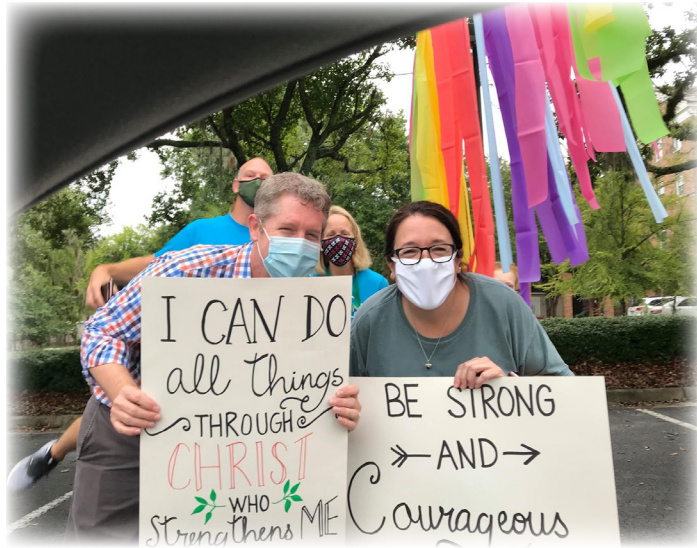
She has experience touring and speaking to groups of women, and hosts a weekly prayer gathering over Zoom. She also enjoys spending time outside, enjoying the peaceful nature Tallahassee provides. Trina is excited to join the Trinity staff and we are so grateful to have her as a part of our team!



Back to School Blessings

Allison Corrigan
Director of Children's Ministries

Our Back to School Blessings Drive-Thru was a wonderful event. It was such a joy to see so many of Trinity's children. We know this school year is going to be challenging, and we want each child to feel the encouragement, support and love of their Trinity family. During the event, families drove under a colorful archway as they were cheered on by Trinity staff and volunteers! Children received a goody bag filled with back to school essentials and beautiful blessings from their Trinity family. Everyone's smile was so big, they could be seen through our masks! It did us all so much good to be together, and we can hardly wait to come together again!



No Matter What...

You have what it takes to make this the best year of school.

You are the friend a friend will remember.

Follow Jesus because God loved you first.

Believe the good things others say about you.

Discover beauty in everyone.

Remember that love is bigger than anything in your way.

You belong to a great family, the family of God.

You give Trinity United Methodist Church a good name.

You are not your mistakes.


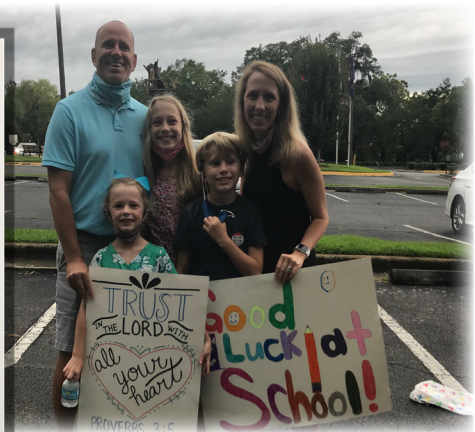
The Holy Spirit helps you to begin again.

Know that God believes in you.

Your best is enough.

You can finish this school year strong because God's got your back!

Always Cheering You On In Christ,

Trinity Music News

Chris Titko
Music Director

God transforming lives through the arts

Just a short list of all that is going on in the music ministry:

- Many thanks to Viktor Billa for all of his hard work on worship videos from March – July. Viktor’s keen eye and great ears provided a meaningful representation of worship during a difficult time. Fantastic job, Viktor!

- Many thanks to Brett, Patty and Chris for painting the Music Director’s office and the addition of a faster computer and web cam.

- While you watch our worship live-stream, notice the beautiful new music lamp on the sanctuary organ console.

- The music committee approved the purchase of a Wenger Music Storage System for the music library. Much like a library or doctor’s office, these shelves will allow us to carefully store all of the church’s choral music in closed boxes and leave plenty of room for new music. This purchase was made possible by the Rolland Music Fund.

- Constant adjustments are being made to make our live streaming worship services safe for those leading worship. When members of the congregation return, there will be no singing until leading medical and musical organizations give the “all clear”.



Shared Grace Update

Nick Quinton
Director of Discipleship

Since March your pastors have been attending [sharedgracetally.com](https://www.sharedgracetally.com) meetings on Zoom. Many new initiatives and connections have come from this gathering to address needs in our community since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though we hear hard stories and the challenges that our neighbors have, we also hear uplifting news from our friends in human and public services. I invite you to celebrate alongside them with some of the reports from our last couple of gatherings.

- Elder Care has cleared their waiting list! Now they are looking for volunteers to make phone calls to their clients.

- Kearney Center has received support money to get an unprecedented number of people into permanent housing. They are looking for help with Welcome Home Baskets for clients moving into their own place.

- Hope Community held a summer camp for the kids living there. They had activities each week, including regular Friday field trips.

- Capital City Youth Services (CCYS) recently completed a back-to-school supply drive to serve kids in neighborhoods where the need is great.

Be sure to check out [sharedgracetally.com](https://www.sharedgracetally.com) for the latest opportunities to help, details on what I’ve listed above, and so much more.



Welcome Back Students and Staff!

Stacey Duggar
Preschool Director

As we begin our 47th year of nurturing and educating the littlest of God's treasures, I would like to introduce the wonderful teachers and staff that we have on board for the 2020-2021 school year.

Victoria Tettey and Rosa Morris: Victoria began working at the preschool in 1984 and has loved on so many babies over the years. We love her enthusiasm and attitude. Rosa began working in the infant room in 1999. These two are the "Dynamic Duo" of infant care, and I would challenge any other center in Tallahassee to top the care that these two ladies provide!

Veronica Stewart: Veronica just passed her 15 year mark here at the preschool and the toddlers are so fortunate to have her as their teacher. She has more patience than most and provides a loving and nurturing environment for our 1 year old students.

Alison Jenkins and AnnaMarie Whitaker: Alison worked at the preschool when she was a student at FSU. After working several years in the public schools, we were fortunate to have her back! AnnaMarie begins her second year teaching the 2 year old class and brings with her an abundance of energy and positivity.

Our 2 year old classes are in good hands with "The A Team!"

Jennifer Hopgood and Zerrin Kurdak: Jennifer has been a member of Trinity for most of her life and has taught at the preschool since 2012. Her flair for the dramatic (she has a master's degree in Drama in Education!) and creative ideas have been a boost to our curriculum. Zerrin is a new teacher and joins Jennifer in teaching the three year olds classes. Zerrin is a graduate of FSU and has recently completed an amazing 6 month mission trip to Australia.

Ryane Egler: Hired in 2012, Ryane has been our VPK teacher and does an amazing job getting our kids ready for kindergarten. Ryane has a degree in early childhood from FSU and is our Curriculum Specialist. She provides a loving and nurturing environment for her students.

Mary Katherine Chatelain: MK, as she is known, is our administrative assistant, substitute teacher, and all around get-it-done teammate! We would be lost without her positive attitude and ability to get a great deal accomplished in a short amount of time.



Our teacher assistants are Pam McGoff (many of you may remember her from working in the church nursery for many years), Anna Craig, Anahi Sustaita, Anna Parsons (who was a student herself here at the preschool and is now old enough to work here), Delaney Rowan, and Mary Claire Griffith.

Corduroy: What can you say about this little guy who has been bringing smiles and joy to our preschoolers for 47 years? He is a great teammate!

As for myself, I am delighted to begin my 17th year as director and my 23rd year of employment here at Trinity. I would appreciate your prayers and support as we continue to navigate the safest way to operate during this Covid-19 crisis. I am so thankful to the staff for the way they care for our children and for how they show the love of Christ to all.



Youth Happenings in July

Lisa Prasse
Youth Director



A Note from Lisa ...

As I sit down to write this article, I must confess I feel somewhat at a loss. These are such strange times...this article heading into another new school year must be written so different from all those in years past. I can't report about all the amazing works our youth have done all summer long; the service projects and fun mission trips or weeks away at camp...for there were none this summer. Instead, we have practiced social distancing in an attempt to show God's love for one another.

It has been sadly quiet in the Underground – no noisy Youth Week activities, etc. We have learned to fellowship digitally- for which I'm grateful. At very least we can see one another, share our lamentations and laughter...that much hasn't changed. Personally, I've had time to do lots of online studies to continue my education in Youth Ministry and I'm comforted learning that we (Youth Directors all over the nation) are all in the same boat!

Though separated by distance, we have still managed to create our own fun! We welcomed in our rising 6th graders with a ZOOM party (virtually) and delivered goody buckets.

We want those incoming youth to know we're happy to have them! We have shared ZOOM Hangouts all summer long per each Sunday School class in an attempt to keep youth connected to one another, their church family and God. We have continued our Youth Bible Study (typically reserved for school year only) throughout the summer as well, as another offering to stay connected and to help reinforce our online Sunday School lessons.

Additionally, I've encouraged youth to join in online worship with us each Sunday morning at 11:00am. We sent postcards to youth members and delivered Graduation Goodies to our seniors, we've had daily devotions posted online and our Back-to-School-Drive-Thru-Blessing! While it definitely isn't the same, we've worked hard to stay connected and in relationship with one another – as Jesus taught us, we believe that's incredibly important.

In the past few weeks, youth will have returned to "school" – whatever that may look like for each student. Some are face-to-face in brick and mortar

classrooms and others are learning virtually.

This is a tough way to kick off an exciting new school year, but we want our youth to know we are praying for them – their physical, mental and emotional wellness and even though apart, we are very much still right here whenever they need us. For now, we are continuing our Youth Online Sunday School – which youth and parents receive every weekend; and our Youth Bible Study via ZOOM call on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm (beginning September 9). This is a great time for our youth to connect mid-week and pray for / challenge / and fellowship together – even virtually. Please try to dial in as often as possible while this is our only way to be together; I love seeing/hearing you on those calls! In the meantime, please contact Lisa Prasse (lprasse@tumct.org) with any questions or if you'd like more information regarding any and all things youth related and I will continue to pray I'll get to see each of you sooner than later.

Trinity Connections hosts first virtual event

Amy Leach
Programs Assistant

On Sunday, August 16th, Trinity Connections joined the virtual world and hosted their annual summer event! Thanks to Zoom, members were able to come together from the comfort of their homes and enjoy some fellowship time with their Trinity family. We were excited to see so many join us for this virtual event!

The Trinity Connections team prepared a "Getting to Know You" style event and the evening was spent in small groups answering a variety of questions (we learned that people definitely like to talk about food). It was a fun night of sharing and laughter...but we're not going to lie, we did miss our traditional ice cream making contest!

We know that finding ways to connect is especially important these days and we look forward to providing the congregation with opportunities to be with each other. Keep an eye out for upcoming Trinity Connections events!

A Good Conscience

Neal Avirett
Associate Pastor

A few weeks back, my family and I did some of our back to school shopping. So to not to increase our chances of contracting Covid-19, we shopped during low volume hours. Within a few days, one of us had a fever with accompanying body aches and pains. The doctor told us to quarantine in our home, and our loved one would need to further isolate to one bedroom.

I have diligently worn my mask in grocery stores, gas stations, emergency rooms, front porches, church offices, and worship services. What first felt almost smothering in the Florida humidity has become surprisingly second nature. I've even unconsciously worn a mask in the car without passengers.

It all came as quite a shock. We had followed all the rules: wearing masks, distancing ourselves from others by six feet, and creating a safe bubble with a few others who practiced the same. It felt unfair witnessing others lax about following CDC guidelines. I remembered feeling something in common with the psalmist who complained to God about doing the right thing, while others flaunted their freedom. We even questioned whether wearing a mask indoors at this point made any difference at all.

The encouraging words of Thomas a' Kempis kept coming back to me, "A good conscience is better than gold." We agreed this was enough for us and chose to wear a mask in our home. Whether or not we tested positive for Covid-19, our conscience was being tested. There's something golden about putting others before self. No regrets. No shame.

John Wesley taught us that there was a method to our Christianity when he said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." This is real wisdom because it still rings true today.

When our test results arrived by email, I gasped when my eyes saw the first bold word on the page, "preference." I thought it said positive, and I realized just how scary the week had truly been. Thankfully all of our results were negative.

A conscience is something we're born with. What makes it good is how it's informed by a God-view of love for our neighbor and our world. Like baptism, it's further shaped by vows made and vows kept. It's that part of us that says we're in this together.



Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Whitt, Senior Pastor
Neal Avirett, Associate Pastor
Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education
Spencer Schrowang, Director of Communications

Sign Up for Fall Lay Academy

September 9 – October 28, 2020:

Register by going to our web page at <https://www.tumct.org/grow/lay-academy/>

We are excited to bring you another virtual session of Lay Academy! This fall, we will not only have our usual Wednesday line-up of classes, but we are pleased to offer a new "At Home With" series of classes. These will be one night only offerings that will be led by members of our congregation and will give you a chance to learn something you can do at home.



Tuesdays
Things to Do at Home

At Home with Mista C
(Tuesday 9/29 at 7:00 p.m.)

Our new Director of Music, Chris Titko, shares about his faith, his children, theater, movies and the arts in an interactive format.

At Home with Marti Chumbler
(Tuesday, 10/20 at 7:00 p.m.)

Come find your inner bread maker at this fun at home class!

Wednesdays

BFC Fit Mix 7:00 p.m.

This class will be taught by our BFC Exercise team and will focus on strength training, stretching, and nutrition. If you

are new to the BFC program, Beth Curry at bfcseries@yahoo.com for a participation waiver.

Our Children – Our Future 7:00 p.m.
Children living in poverty are at greater risk for academic, health, and safety issues. Leaders of community organizations focused on addressing issues facing children explore what a Children's Services Council might do to improve the lives of children in our community. For session info, go to our web page at <https://www.tumct.org/grow/lay-academy/>

Parenting Village 9:00 p.m.

Leader: Amy Leach
It takes a village...especially in the middle of a pandemic! Put the kids to bed and come join us for some well-deserved adult time.