

Worship

Grow

Serve

# Monthly Tidings

Trinity United Methodist Church

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

Volume 48, Number 3, March, 2021

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

## Easter & Holy Week 2021

### **Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday**

**9:45am** - live-streamed contemporary service **11am** - In person and live-streamed traditional service.

Our children sing and process with palms, bells ring and choirs sing as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

### **Thursday, April 1st - Maundy Thursday**

In person and live-streamed service at 7pm

Hymns, anthems, scripture readings and a sermon by Rev. Bob Gibbs as we commemorate the Last Supper.

### **Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday**

A pre-recorded community service will be available online at 12 Noon as we remember the grueling pain and suffering of Christ's crucifixion.

### **Sunday, April 4th - Easter Sunday**

**7am** - Sunrise Service outside on the Portico with Pastor Neal Avirett. (Please bring a chair)

**9:45am** - Contemporary in-person service with Pastor Avirett.

**11:00am** - Traditional in-person and live-streamed service with brass, bells and choir. Dr. Wiatt will offer an inspirational message. (Our celebration of Communion will be April 11th)



# Pastoral Reflections on Religion, Race, and Relationships

Wayne D. Wiatt  
Lead Pastor

When I was a child growing up in Madison, Florida (Cherry Lake), I went to a one-room first and second grade schoolroom focused on the “Three R’s” of Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic. My family attended the wooden framed “Church in the Wildwood” at Cherry Lake Methodist until my third-grade year and prior to the Uniting part of Methodism with the Evangelical United Brethren in 1968. At Cherry Lake Methodist we had outhouses instead of indoor plumbing and a wonderful “Dinner on the Ground” for homecoming with the best fried chicken, desserts, and sweet iced-tea ladled out of brand new galvanized 20 gallon cans. (All off limits now to me today due to diet and type 2 diabetes!” – No surprise!)

From my sandy playground at Cherry Lake Elementary, I looked up in the sky and watched John Glen orbiting the earth in his space capsule, Friendship 7, and all seemed right with the world! When I went into town as a small child, the only thing I really couldn’t understand was why there were water-fountains and bathrooms labeled “White Only”.

I was fairly oblivious to racism and wouldn’t have understood it at that age anyway. I have always known that the family I was born into provided certain privileges that others did not have. Not having to understand racism because my life wasn’t at stake like children of color in my community was certainly one of them.

I began to understand and experience integration in Valdosta, Georgia, during 9th grade. We were sent to the black high-school and on my first day of school both the white and black students got rocks thrown at them from both sides of the street. I still didn’t understand it.

I remember being ushered out of the “white only” waiting room at my dentist’s office and told I couldn’t sit there. I purposely sat there anyway to the office manager’s great dismay.

In high school, I spent the summer before my senior year in a singing group called “His People” touring the South Georgia Conference, of the now United Methodist Church, with a stop in Brunswick, Georgia, where we sang in an historically black church. Our nine-member group stayed in church members’ homes and it was the first time I had ever spent the night in a person’s home who looked different than me and ate at their kitchen table for breakfast. I remember feeling a little apprehensive at first, but the mother and son tried very hard to help me feel at home and we got along just fine. The Dad stayed in the back of the house, but did come out to meet me when I was ready to leave the next day and head back to the church to continue our summer singing tour. I am reflecting on these years about religion, race, and relationships to better understand my own personal growth in what it means to be



anti-racist these days. I had to look up anti-racist this year to make sure I understood what I was seeking to become.

An anti-racist is a person who opposes racism and promotes racial tolerance (Oxford English Dictionary). Yep, that’s me! I think I’ve always been an anti-racist, even when I acted racist during integration in the 9th grade; yet, deep down, I knew that wasn’t me. I have also begun to understand more deeply what it means to grow up in a culture where the color of my skin brings with it a sense of rank in society that I did not necessarily earn.

When I think about who I am as a child of God, I lean into the understanding that we are all created in the Image of God (Imago Dei). I base that understanding in Genesis 1:27. “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.”

All of creation is a reflection of the nature of God. I continue to grow in my faith with an understanding of what it might mean to reflect God's nature through his love and with all that I meet.

That's where the relationship part comes in! I have been reaching out lately to our neighbors in downtown Tallahassee. As I shared in a recent sermon, I've connected with Dr. RB Holmes at Bethel Baptist and he and I hope to renew the partnership we used to have together in worship and shared ministry. I joined with Dr. Judy Mandrell last Tuesday night, pastor of Life Changers, COGIC, as we planned with other pastors in the area a time

of fasting and prayer to be launched on March 8, from 6am to 6pm as we commit to pray for Tallahassee and the unity of our area churches.

I am looking forward to where the Holy Spirit may lead our city as we join together with Capital Area Justice Ministry and the 30 congregations who are living into the vision of providing a way for the faith community in Tallahassee to do justice and love others throughout the Tallahassee and big bend area.

Some of our Trinity Leadership have committed to come together for a time of study and discernment as to how Trinity might best respond

to the ways in which we can help lead the way in anti-racism in Tallahassee. We will have a larger invitation to the entire congregation after Easter and I look forward to all that we can accomplish as together we truly love our neighbors and continue to care for the Tallahassee community.

Anyone who needs help with a Covid-19 Vaccine Appointment please call the Church Office and let your pastors know. We will be glad to help with appointments and transportation if needed. Call 850-222-1120 or email us at [trinity@tumct.org](mailto:trinity@tumct.org)

## Trinity Music Updates

*Chris Titko*  
*Music Director*

Special thanks to Viktor Billa for his production work on February 14th's and 21st's services and Ash Wednesday's devotional.

The Chancel Choir and Trinity Ringers are working diligently towards offering special music for Easter. This year the choir will share John Rutter's "Te Deum" with brass, percussion and organ.

The children's choirs are working diligently on their offering for Palm Sunday. On April 25th, they will share the musical "Unselfie" during 11am worship.

As we minister with these events, and many others from the past year, we ask you to keep the Music Enrichment and the Friends of Music funds in your thoughts and prayers. We have made every attempt to offer meaningful music during this strenuous pandemic. At the same time, we have not been able to conduct any fundraising activities and these funds are becoming depleted. Currently we have needs for bell repairs, plans for special music in 2021 and 2022, a concert series, commissioning of music for important worship events, a large timpani to complete our set, and many other smaller needs. Please

contact Chris Titko or Laurie Batten with any questions or to learn how you might give. Every offering matters



# Here's What's Happening with Trinity Kids!

Allison Corrigan  
Director of Children's Ministries



NETkids continues to meet both online and in person each week. You can join us online every Monday at 4:00pm. There is no need to sign up to meet with us digitally. A link is sent out every Monday morning, and all are welcome!

We meet in-person on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30pm. If you are interested in joining us in-person, please contact Allison Corrigan to register.

## Trinity's Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

We were so sad to cancel our egg hunt last year due to safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. So, we put our thinking caps on and came up with a safe and fun way to bring this tradition back! Things will be a bit different than previous years, but we feel these changes will only enhance your Holy Week experiences!

Join us Saturday, April 3 at 10:00AM at Tom Brown Park for an Easter Family Scavenger and Egg Hunt! Each family will embark on a photo scavenger hunt adventure that will lead them through the Easter story. Trinity will provide donuts, coffee and lemonade for all.



## Easter Egg Donations Needed!

We are so excited to have our annual Easter Egg Hunt this year, but we NEED YOUR HELP! We are in need of donations of Easter eggs filled with goodies! Eggs should be filled with store-bought, individually wrapped treats (Starburst, foil wrapped chocolates, etc). We will not be able to accept eggs filled with loose, unwrapped candies poured from a larger bag (i.e. jellybeans, M&Ms, etc.). Eggs may also be filled with stickers, stamps, bouncy balls, and other small toys.

Donations can be placed in the bins in the Welcome Center or Narthex through March 31st. Thank you so much for your contribution to the children's ministry!

## Save the Date!

VBS 2021

July 12-16, 8:45-12:15



Age 3 through Rising 6th Grade are eligible to attend.  
More info coming soon!



# Creation Care Ministry

Mary Ann Moore  
Arnie Rogers

Trinity United Methodist is joining with other Methodist churches in Florida and the U.S. in Creation Care. This ministry is to be in relationship with God's creation by caring for and healing the earth. This is integral to what it means to be a United Methodist.

The Church's Social Principles, #160, states: "All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the way in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings."

Today we understand more deeply than ever before the consequences of our failure to serve as caretakers of God's creation. Ecological crises and extreme poverty are a reflection of our inability to care for and share the abundance God has entrusted to our care.

We face many challenges. Among them are impact of environmental toxins; rising sea levels; growing intensity of weather patterns and changes, ie., stronger hurricanes, unrelenting snowfall in unexpected

places, ravaging wildfires, etc. Educating ourselves as to the cause of these events and effective responses to them is important. Over the past few years, Trinity has offered Lay Academy classes that dealt with these issues.

Creation Care is a Faith walk: one of trust and hope.

Where and how can you help, learn and enjoy being together? Be a part of Trinity's GREEN TEAM. The following are suggested ideas for involvement: Gardening and composting, Sustainable Trinity, Advocacy, (Keeping informed of Legislative bills), Creation Justice, Outdoor Recreation (Kayaking, hiking, birding), Blessing the Animals, Ladybug and Monarch Jubilee celebrations, Shoreline clean-up of lakes, riverbanks and beaches., Earth Day Movie Night

Use Sign Up Genius to become a part of TRINITY'S GREEN TEAM. A Zoom discussion and gathering will be held once you have signed up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E45A4AF2DA0FE3-creation>

United Methodists are modeling a new lifestyle and advocating for God's people and God's planet. Our prayer is that all of God's children can share in the goodness of Creation.

A new webpage has been set up to serve as a center of resources for Creation Care at Trinity: <https://www.tumct.org/serve/creation-care/>



Linda Rogers with two other volunteers holding greens harvested from the iGrow Garden



Trinity's Blessings of the Animals

## A Note from Lisa ...

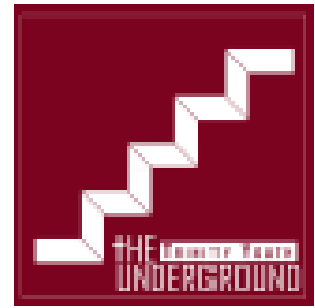
Lisa Prasse  
Youth Director

After a wonderful cold and rainy February, your Trinity youth are ready for some springtime!! The confirmation class has been busy these past few months. We took a virtual field trip to Temple Israel at the end of January, and in February we visited St. Thomas More on our second virtual confirmation field trip and learned a bit about Catholicism. We're having a great time learning how different denominations do things and why. Traditionally we take a photo outside of St. Thomas More when we make our field trip; this year, our photo is from our ZOOM call class that met the night we took our virtual field trip! What a fantastic group of youth!

As uncertain as the future is, we are pushing forward with hope for some fun summer plans.

We will miss out again on some of our favorite traditions between now and then, but we pray that a vaccine is coming for every person so we can once and for all be free from fear and sickness, or worse.

We look forward once more to being free to be together, face to face – safely. Please join us in praying for this. Pray that our Youth stay connected to their church family by whatever means are available until we can safely be back together the way we want to be. Pray for effective ministry even while we're safest apart. Kingdom work can still be done...I'm giving it all I've got as their Youth Director and covet your prayers alongside.



### SUMMER 2021 - Save the Dates:

June 13 - 19

Youth Week

July 11

VBS Training

July 12 - 16

Vacation Bible School

July 19 - 24

Camp! Week 6 at Warren Willis

(Registration is open! Feel free to go to [warrenwilliscamp.org](http://warrenwilliscamp.org) and get registered!  
More info coming soon!)

Check out the youth website for more information:

<http://www.tumct.org/connect/community/youth/>



**THIS WEEK**  
**THIS WEEK**  
**THIS WEEK**  
**THIS WEEK**  
**THIS WEEK**

<b>TIME</b> 6:30-8PM	<b>PLACE</b> In the UNDERGROUND!
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# Message from the Bishop

Ken Carter  
Resident Bishop

Blessings to you friends, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who journeys with us in these days of Lent toward a garden and a cross, and then an empty tomb and a risen life!

I write to share the news released today of the upcoming General and Jurisdictional Conferences. We live in an unprecedented season. COVID has changed how we work, gather, travel, eat meals, worship, see our families and friends. This week we noted that 500,000 Americans and 30,000 Floridians have died of COVID. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers!



This has disrupted the denominational gatherings held every four years that we know as the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Commission on the General Conference and the Council of Bishops have released the new dates for these gatherings, which are linked here and here. In addition, a Frequently Asked Questions document is provided here.

Three brief words:

1. The setting of dates for two General Conferences and two Jurisdictional Conferences over the next eighteen months allows the elected delegates, half laity and half clergy, the opportunity to serve the church which has called them. The setting of these dates is very healthy.
2. The scope of work in the General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be done first in a minimal way, accomplishing what is necessary and what is possible, in 2021. The in-person General and Jurisdictional Conferences, in 2022, will take up the weightier matters which can most appropriately be done when we are together.

A fundamental value in the call of the May, 2021 General Conference in particular was equity. It is simply not fair to make long-term decisions about the future of our denomination when many delegates across the world do not have equal access to technology.

3. We now have a sense, God willing, of a timetable for the next faithful steps in our denominational life. I encourage us, in this interim season, to focus on our most important commitments—to vital and sustainable local churches, on a path back to in-person gatherings; to the work of antiracism as a core matter of discipleship, mercy and justice; and to the health and resilience of our clergy leaders.

For those who want to learn more about the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, the FAQs above provide accurate and helpful information.

I am in prayer for you, and I depend on your prayers. Be encouraged and stay safe!



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-VJauOM5GmiYa-gUuGGbcQw/playlists>



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e45a4af2da0fe3-lenten1>

## Gifts to Trinity

# *In Loving Memory -of-*

January 11 – February 10

In memory of Dot Bradford from Rosemary McKenzie and Warren and Rita May.

In memory of Alma Jane Whitehead from Kevin and Paula Chambers and Mary Ann Hancock.

In memory of Larry Adkison from Doris Mathis and Carl and Charlotte Wier.

In memory of Linda Curry from Donie Ann Henderson.

In memory of Danny Morris from Donie Ann Henderson.

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

## Hannah Prasse approved as Candidate for Ministry

At a recent Staff Parrish Relations Committee meeting, Hannah Prasse was approved to move forward in the process of becoming a Certified Candidate for Ministry in the United Methodist Church. The journey toward ordained ministry always begins in the local church as the church affirms a candidate's "Call to Ministry."

Hannah grew up at Trinity and went on to serve at our Warren Willis Youth Camp in the summer months, and during the fall and spring, served on the FSU Wesley Foundation leadership team.

Hannah will graduate this year with a degree in music and plans to pursue a Master of Divinity at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in the near future.

Hannah currently is employed at Killlearn United Methodist working with their Children's Department and in the area of Missions. Her next step on the pathway toward ordained ministry will be to appear before the North West District Committee on Ministry for Approval as a Certified Candidate.

Pictured is Hannah Prasse serving on a Mission Trip to Guatemala with FSU Wesley.

