

Tidings



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

Back to School and Church

Memories of childhood summers make way to back to school and church.

by Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt, Lead Pastor

I stood in line several Sundays ago with our children to get my backpack blessing! Yes, your pastor carries a backpack from time to time; and, yes, like everyone else, he wanted a "blessing!"

The scripture that Pastor Neal and Children's Director Allison Corrigan handed out on Backpack Sunday was a powerful one... "Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded" (2 Chronicles 15:7).

I picked up several extra tags for my granddaughters, Coraline Mae and Mariam Lily. I wanted them to have a backpack blessing too!

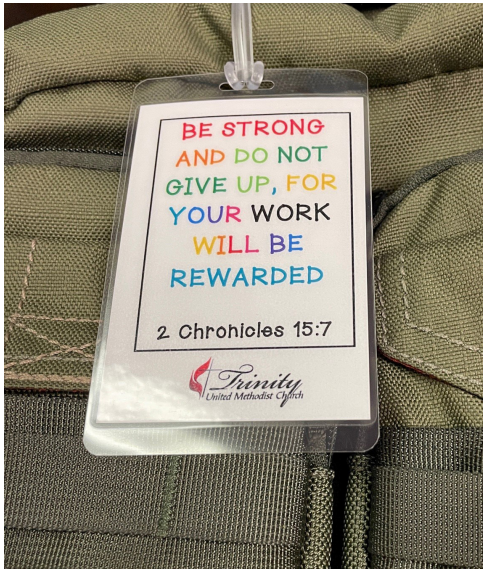
It's wonderful to have a person surround you with love and sup-

port. One of my favorite memories each summer while growing up was of the weeks I spent with my godmother, Ms. Rena. I would enjoy sitting on her kitchen counter, baking cookies, or spending time picking blackberries for a cobbler. It was fun to accompany her to the "office," where she did her accounting, and I would help her add numbers on her machine for the Rural Electric Company in Madison County. These were all vivid memories for a small child growing up in rural North Florida.

Everything with Ms. Rena was interesting. *(cont'd on page 2)*

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Even swimming in the same lake I grew up on was different with Rena. We swam at the 4H Camp rather than my family’s waterfront. Summer days seemed special and different from my “normal days” with my own family. Every day with Rena was an adventure and an opportunity to help her share her gifts of love with the children in our

neighborhood. I can’t explain it, but when I was with Rena, I felt like the luckiest kid in the world! Of course, there were others—Wade and Linda, just to name a few.

Summer became a time for all of us to make wonderful memories. Evenings were spent trying to learn how to play Canasta, though it was much more complicated than “Go Fish.” We loved to sit on the wooden swing that hung between two grand oak trees in the front yard. Our swinging helped conversations flow like a stream trickling downhill. Chores were something to look forward to, and what others might call work, with Rena, felt like fun and brought a smile to my face.

How is it that some people have a way of making you feel special? What is it about time well spent with others that binds us together as nothing else really can? It’s often

the quality of time spent with others

rather than the quantity that counts. Look into the heart of a child who was made to feel as if they were the most important person in the world, and you will see the gift of love at work.

When I think of grace, I think of the many ways God has gifted us to share our lives with others. I think of time well spent—in beach chairs, on docks, and swinging from swings. I think of arms reaching out in relationship to each other that are embedded in our memories for a lifetime. Rena is a reminder of the many persons I have known who loved unconditionally, gave sacrificially, and taught continually what it means to love a child.

May we all live fully into the meaning of 2 Chronicles 15:7 as we persevere through this pandemic, stay strong, and never give up on the work God has called us to do.

Letter From the Editor

Have you ever heard the advice to remember what you loved as a child when making career decisions as an adult?

As I put together this issue of Tidings, I was reflecting on this adage and my own childhood. In elementary school, I created a monthly newsletter with articles, family news, jokes, and the kind of advice that only a ten-year-old could give. One month there was even an art contest for kids in our neighborhood, complete with prizes. I convinced my younger siblings to pitch in as junior editors and production assistants, and we mailed out our newsletter to friends and family. Thinking about that now, it isn’t surprising that I have found a career in communications, marketing, and publishing!

I am so thrilled to join Trinity as your new communications coordinator. Some of my previous experience includes working at the Florida

Senate as an editor for their journal published during Session, directing the education center and summer camp at LeMoyne Arts, and interning at *The Southeast Review*, the literary journal in FSU’s English Department.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Tidings* and feel some of the love and joy I put into creating it! I am looking forward to meeting more Trinity members and am so honored to put my talents towards sharing all the important work Trinity is doing. Please feel free to contact me at gabriela@tumct.org.

Warmly, Gabriela



In Loving Memory

Trinity received the following gifts from May 10 – August 10

In memory of Persis Rockwood from Bill and Paula Smith.

In memory of Jack Mowell from Bill and Paula Smith.

In honor of Judy Levy from Warren and Judy Goodwin.



Photographs by Brett Ingram

Life Is Returning to Trinity!

by Brett Ingram, Facilities Director

The summer rains, the unbearable heat index, the extreme humidity—all parts of living in Tallahassee. I hear a lot of complaints about such, but did you know that all of this brings new life? The plants are blooming beautiful flowers and attracting pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. The lizards are running around looking like frantic miniature dinosaurs. The citrus trees

will ripen into delicious fruit. And the caterpillars are doing—well, what caterpillars do.

11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

24 And God said, "Let the land pro-

duce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

Genesis 1:11, 24

Come to Trinity and see what you're missing!

Greetings from the Welcome Center

by Trina B. Murphy, Office Assistant

As I think over the past year that I have been at Trinity, I think of blessings, solitude, and a peace that surpasses all understanding. While it was quiet, and we enjoyed just the staff, it was a refreshing time to see the church come alive again as people slowly started visiting and some of the volunteers came in to assist in their various departments. It is always a pleasure to see a warm smile or the crinkly smiles through masks when you see the glitter of joy in someone's eyes. Those are some of the things that I took for granted before the pandemic when we could see anyone and everyone anytime we wanted. Now I realize that "tomorrow is not promised, so appreciate the ones you love today!" I enjoy sitting here at the Welcome Center greeting everyone as they come in, and I appreciate all the love and kindness that I get to experience here at Trinity. I cannot wait to see you all!

Trinity Welcomes New Members

by Amy Leach, Programs Assistant



Dave and Lisa Alcorn (sponsored by Chris and Kellie Kraft)



Pat Biehler (sponsored by Nita Brown)



Sean and Diane Bower (sponsored by James and Holly Hunt)



Michael and Marilyn Duclos (sponsored by Jaqui Griffith)



John Koehler (sponsored by Gloria Colvin)



Cody and Karla Kraft (sponsored by Chris and Kellie Kraft)



Rick and Carol Powell (sponsored by Jerry and Ann Price)

On Sunday, June 6, 2021, Trinity welcomed a wonderful group of new members into our church family. In July, the new members and their sponsors gathered for a tour of Trinity and a dinner at the home of Chris and Kellie Kraft. The Discipleship Team would like to thank our Trinity members who are a part of our New Member Ministry and volunteered as sponsors for this new member class.

If you have been visiting Trinity and would like information about becoming a member, please contact Nick Quinton (nickquinton@tumct.org).

SEPTEMBER

Our Heavenly Father, kind and good,
Thank You for our daily food.
Thank You for our love and care.
Be with us Lord, and hear our prayer.
Amen

Psalm 150:6 – Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

The start of the school year means new school supplies, new shoes, new clothes, and for the preschool, it also means a new prayer booklet. We started compiling a prayer booklet about six years ago after we were lamenting in a staff

New Year, New Prayer Booklet

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

meeting that the children were reciting “the same old prayers” at snack and lunch time.

Each year we design a new booklet that is distributed to all of the preschool families so they can pray the same prayer at home. The result is that by the end of the school year, the children have all learned 10-12 different prayers.

If you would like a PDF docu-

ment of this year’s monthly prayers, please email me at sduggar@tumct.org, and I would be happy to share them with you.

As always, we covet your prayers as we go about the important work of teaching the youngest of God’s people!



**TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
PRESCHOOL**



Rocky Railway

We had an amazing week at Rocky Railway VBS, learning all about Jesus's power to pull us through all of life's ups and downs.

by Allison Corrigan, Director of Children's Ministries

It was a joy to have such a vibrant ministry return. The building was filled with songs of worship, laughter, and learning. We ministered to 70 children, ages 3-11, with the help of 26 youth and 25 adults. We are so grateful for the service of these volunteers who make this wonderful ministry possible.

Despite our limited capacity, we managed to raise more money for our mission project than we have ever done in my time as children's director at Trinity! I am so proud of all the children, youth, and adults for their generous hearts. We raised a total of \$927.41 to help purchase alpacas for families in Ecuador. For families in mountainous areas of Ecuador, an alpaca means up to 10 pounds of fleece every year! An alpaca's fleece is knittable, sellable, and profitable for needy families. Alpacas impact entire communities because they provide jobs for fleece spinners, herders, and shopkeepers.



Seventy children, ages 3-11, attended VBS with the help of 26 youth and 25 adults!

We were able to raise **\$927.41** to provide Ecuadorian families with alpacas that will warm their bodies, nourish their crops, and improve their financial outlook.



Think Orange! Sunday School

Come join us for Children's Sunday school each week from 9:45-10:45am.

by Allison Corrigan, Director of Children's Ministries

Our curriculum for the school year is Think Orange! Think Orange is a strategy of ministry based upon bringing the church and the family together in order to promote a common goal. That goal is to help children grow up to know, love, and serve Jesus all the days of their lives. The color orange is derived when we combine the light of the church (yellow) with the love of the family (red) to make a difference that will last a lifetime. This strategy is implemented in engaging, hands-on activities that allow our children to get an up-close look at who God is and how much He loves them. Parents will be provided with resources to help engage their children in spiritual discussions and activities throughout the week.



- **Preschool (Ages 3 & 4)**—First Look (Room 202). With Think Orange's preschool curriculum, our preschoolers are taking a first look at who God is and are building their spiritual foundation on three basic truths: God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever.
- **Elementary (K-5th Grade)**—252 KIDS (K-2nd in Room 201, 3rd-5th in Room 205). With Think Orange's elementary curriculum, 252 KIDS, our elementary children are learning the three powerful truths modeled by Jesus in Luke 2:52—I need to make wise choices, I can trust God no matter what, and I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

NETkids

Postponed start date; On-line registration for NETkids is still open!

by Allison Corrigan, Director of Children's Ministries



NETkids at Trinity is an exciting fellowship program offered to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We meet on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:30 p.m. During NETkids, children build their relationship with God and others through Bible stories, games, crafts, music, missions, woodworking, and more. There is a registration fee of \$25 for the year, which helps cover the costs of materials and special events.

After careful consideration, we have decided to postpone the start of NETkids until after Labor Day. We have been monitoring the rise in COVID cases in Leon County, particularly in our schools. This Delta variant is very serious and seems to be having much more of an effect on children. Since our children under 12 cannot be vaccinated, we really feel it is best to hold off on gathering children from so many different schools at this time.

If you have any questions about the program or concerns about transportation to NETkids, please contact Allison Corrigan. We work hard to solve all transportation issues, so please let us know! You can register by visiting <https://www.tumct.org/connect/community/childrens-activities/>. We are carefully monitoring the situation and will let you know when we determine it is

A Note From Lisa

It has been an awesome summer, and I am so proud of my youth for how they challenged themselves and grew spiritually this summer—even in the face of the ongoing pandemic.

by Lisa Prasse, Youth Director

Our youth were not only willing to challenge themselves personally, but they shared their gifts and talents with us during Vacation Bible School, and this sharing may have just changed lives in that one small, very fun act.

Did you know that according to research in 2017, 96% of unchurched people are at least somewhat likely to attend if they are invited? If we don't invite them, then who will? It's up to us to reach out to others and invite them to a Bible study, a Wednesday night dinner, a worship service, VBS, camp, or maybe a mission project! We were blessed to have lots of these opportunities this summer.



Headed to Warren Willis, 2021

While we might be done with COVID-19, we learned it is not yet done with us. We (a much smaller group this year) drove all the way to Warren Willis, filled with excitement and anticipation for the summer camp we love and miss, only to be turned away as there had been an outbreak at camp. We were devastated but made the most of our time together (eight-nine long hours on the road in the



Ryan Bower, Youth VBS Crew Leader, wore many hats that week!

church bus that day!) and decided then to have an awesome Youth Week together.



We finished off the summer being reminded that "Life is Good," and we are called to "See Good, Do Good, and Be Good": "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalms 23:6). In addition to fun events every night of the week, we were blessed by our special speaker, our very own Julianne Clayton! She reminded us that it is up to each of us to reach out into the world and share this year's Youth Week message with others, not just keep it here at church.

We've been delighted to continue meeting since last January with all safety protocols in place and look forward to more "face-time" as we head into another new school year. Please be reminded that we have Sunday school every Sunday morning in the Underground at 9:45 a.m.; UMYF every Sunday night from 6-8:00 p.m.; and Youth Bible Study resumed in August! We meet Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and would love to have you join us then! This is a great time for our youth to connect mid-week and pray, challenge, and fellowship together. Please contact Lisa Prasse (lprasse@tumct.org) with any questions or if you'd like more information regarding any and all things youth related!

Youth Events

September

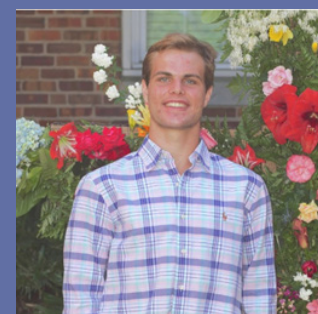
- Sept. 12: Youth Band & Choir Resume
Acolyte Training/Ice Cream Social
Sept. 19: UMYF @ the Lake (Dr. Wiatt's home)

October

- Oct. 2: Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 17: Youth/Children's Sabbath
Oct. 31: Halloween Party!

New Youth Intern

We are delighted to announce our new youth intern is one of our very own! Jacob Clark grew up here at Trinity, and we are delighted to have him on-board in this capacity! Make sure to give Jacob a nice warm Trinity welcome when you see him!



Hello from the Business Office

by Laurie Atteberry, Business Administrator

Hello to everyone from the business office here at Trinity. If you have not met me yet, my name is Laurie Atteberry. I was Laurie Batten when I started this position but have gotten married since then and am now part of the Atteberry family. I wanted to take a moment and thank you and your family for all of your support during these unusual

times. Your prayers as well as your financial gifts have kept Trinity and the staff together throughout it all! Please know that gifts can be made through our web site at www.tumct.org/give/; mailed in; dropped off; or just placed in the Sunday plate. You can also set up automatic account drafts through me directly. Trinity has a link on our [website](#)

should you be interested in a gift of stock.

We are here to help you.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions that you may have: LAtteberry@tumct.org or 850-222-1120 ext. 109. God bless!

FALL 2021

Lay Academy

CONNECT. GROW. LEARN.

Lay Academy is held every Wednesday from 9/8 - 10/20

The Lay Academy Committee has been hard at work, and this session has much to offer! Please see below for more information on each class.

This fall session will begin on Wednesday, September 8, and run through Wednesday, October 20. (Please note that the Spiritual Gifts class will conclude on October 13). Due to the rise of COVID cases in Leon County, and out of an abundance of caution, our classes will either be meeting via Zoom or outdoors (please check the class description for location). Zoom links will only be sent out to those who have registered, so make sure to reserve your spot.

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E45A4AF2DA0FE3-layacademy>

Spiritual Gifts

6:30 p.m. on Zoom, 9/8-10/13

Leaders: Steve and Diane Jacobs

We'll start with definitions of spiritual gifts and the discernment process. Participants will be invited to explore their spiritual gifts and God's calling as we build relationships, sharing our experiences and revelations. We will end with exploring how best to use our gifts individually and corporately to build up the body of Christ.

Becoming Fit Outdoors

6:30 p.m. in-person at various locations, 9/8-10/20

Our BFC program is going outside this session! Come join Jaqui Griffith each week for fitness and fellowship. The first week will be at the Miccosukee Greenway (entrance off Miccosukee Rd).

Parenting Village

9:00 p.m. on Zoom, 9/8-10/20

Put the kids to bed and come join us for some kid-free time! It has truly taken a village this past year, and we'd love for you to be a part of ours!

Conversations on Race: Where Have We Been, Where Are We, and Where Are We Going in Tallahassee?

6:30 p.m. on Zoom, 9/8-10/20

A variety of speakers from the Tallahassee community will lead us in examining our racial past and how we are confronting its legacy today and as we move into the future.

Conversations on Race: Where Have We Been, Where Are We, and Where Are We Going in Tallahassee? *Speaker Series*

Roots of Slavery, 9/8

FSU Professor Valerie Scoon, producer of "Invisible History: Middle Florida's Hidden Roots," will discuss her research on slavery and plantations in this area of Florida.

Segregation and the Civil Rights Movement, 9/15

Several speakers who experienced this tumultuous time will share their experiences.

Community-Based Efforts to Revitalize Tallahassee Neighborhoods, 9/22

John Baker, City of Tallahassee Neighborhood First Program, and Minjee Kim, assistant professor, FSU Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, will discuss the work FSU students have done with Neighborhood First and the City of Tallahassee to engage residents of Griffin Heights, Providence, Bond, South City, and Frenchtown in developing plans to revitalize their neighborhoods.

Community-Based Efforts to Revitalize Tallahassee Neighborhoods, 9/29

Residents of neighborhoods will talk about their role in developing plans for improving their neighborhoods through Neighborhood First.

Race and the Church, 10/6

Following a brief look at Trinity's history regarding race, Rev. Latricia Scriven, pastor of New Life UMC, will discuss her work with the Florida Conference's Anti-Racism Task Force and ways in which its recommendations are being discussed and implemented.

The Remembrance Project, 10/13

Learn about this program that seeks to remember and acknowledge past and present racial violence and injustice in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, and to inspire our community to come together for dialogue, education, understanding, action, and ultimately, for healing and trust.

Capital Area Justice Ministry, 10/20

Leah Wiley, lead organizer of the Capital Area Justice Ministry, will discuss its background and plans to work toward its goal of bringing people together across racial, religious, and socioeconomic lines to pursue justice in Tallahassee.



Variety Mix, 2019

BFC Exercise Celebrates 13 Years and Continues Staying Strong via Zoom!

Sept 2, 2021, marks the 13th anniversary of the BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Exercise program at Trinity. What a long way this ministry has come!

by Beth Curry, BFC Instructor

Beginning with just eight people in class on the first day in 2008 (two of those people STILL attend!), participation in this ministry has now topped over 300 Trinity members and their friends who have participated in one way or another throughout the years. But the biggest accomplishment is that through the faithful donations (suggested \$3 per class) of those who have attended, over \$60,000 has been raised for community service locally and globally. Thanks to our volunteer team of certified instructors, not only have participants improved their health—but together they've also made an impact around the world! Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this ministry!



Through hundreds of classes over 13 years, the BFC ministry has raised over \$60,000!

(Variety Mix, 2009)

All smiles at Staying Strong! (2018)



BFC Fall Schedule

While the much-anticipated return to in-person classes has had to be postponed a while longer, it has not stopped the BFC Instructor Team from planning some exciting things for the fall. New classes are being added, and we will continue Staying Strong via Zoom as we have for the last 17 months. Check the [website](#) or email BFCSeries@yahoo.com for all the fall details and the Zoom links.

Zoom Staying Strong

9:30 a.m. Tuesday with Beth Curry
9:30 a.m. Thursday with Ruth Ann High
easy, basic, gentle exercise

Zoom Variety Mix

11:00 a.m. Tuesday with Beth Curry
11:00 a.m. Thursday with Amy Leach
intermediate-advanced full body workout

Zoom Flexibility for a Better YOU

12:15 p.m. Thursday with Ruth Ann High

Becoming Fit Outdoors (BFO)

6:30 p.m. Wednesday with Jaqui Griffith
a NEW outdoor walking/hiking time for the whole family



Staying Strong, 2020



Variety Mix, 2020

Fifty-Year Marriages

by Rev. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

A number of years ago when we were doing a lot of renovations around the church, we decided to renovate both the Bride and Groom Rooms. They turned out beautifully, and we have had many compliments from newlyweds. To decorate the walls, we invited members of our church who had been married 50 years or more to give us a wedding picture to frame. We thought it would be a wonderful way to inspire future brides and grooms! We quickly filled up the Bride's Room, and we now have begun to fill up the Groom's Room.

We know there are many more fifty-plus year marriages in our congregation, and we want to continue this tradition. If you have been married 50 years or more, we would love to have one of your wedding pictures, preferably 8x10. We will have it nicely framed with your names and the date of your marriage as seen to the right. If you have any questions, contact Wayne Curry at waynecurry@tumct.org or just bring your picture to the church office.



Sam and Mary Margaret Rogers, June 28, 1958

Fifty-Year Marriages

The 50-year marriages that now grace the walls of the Bride and Groom's Rooms are:

Reid and Annie Laurie Nunn	June 6, 1936
Harvel and Olwen Dawirs	September 3, 1944
Josh and Nell Morse	May 28, 1946
Led and Oberly Brown	August 31, 1946
Julian and Jeanne Hamilton	December 24, 1946
Wayne and Margie Mixon	December 27, 1947
Bob and Linda Yates	June 19, 1948
Parker Lee and Velma Ruth McDonald	December 17, 1949
Dick and Joyce Peters	February 18, 1950
Buddy and Lillian Byrd	November 22, 1952
Austin and Rebecca Hollady	August 9, 1953
Theo and Martha Ann Proctor	November 17, 1953
Orson and Eleanor Smith	June 20, 1954
Jim and Liz Smith	August 21, 1954
Jim and Peggy Parkey	August 26, 1955
Harry and Nancy Waugh	May 19, 1956
Dalton and Tenilla Allen	July 29, 1956
Sam and Mary Margaret Rogers	June 28, 1958
Ron and Gail Hock	August 12, 1958
Jim and Betty Ashlock	August 8, 1959
Marshall and Donna Frinks	June 15, 1960
Warren and Judy Goodwin	January 27, 1961
Gerald and Mason Harris	October 30, 1965
Bill and Judy Levy	June 10, 1966
Bill and Germain Fritchman	April 15, 1967
Lynn and Julie Pararo	June 19, 1971



Books for Navigating Crisis

by Gloria Colvin, Church Librarian

These days the world seems rocked by one crisis after another—terrorism, gun violence, climate change, and most recently, COVID. You may find a number of books in the Trinity library helpful as they provide guidance and hope as we

confront the fear and anxiety that so often accompany the uncertainties and challenges we face.

The library is open on Sunday mornings, and staff can provide access to it during the week. To check

out a book, write your name and the date when you check it out on the card in the back of the book and place the card in the check-out file to the right of the reference section.

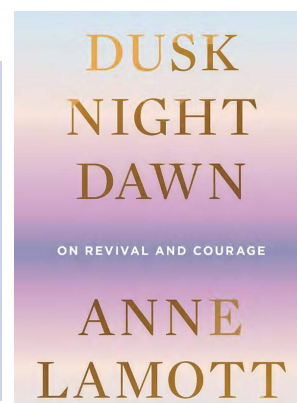
Unafraid: Living With Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times by Adam Hamilton 248.86 Ham

When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents and Worried Kids by Abigail Gewirtz, Ph.D. 155.41246 GEW

Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage by Anne Lamott 813.4 Lam

Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World by Harold S. Kushner 152.46 Kus

Let Go: Leaning Into the Future Without Fear by Matt Miofsky 248.4 Mio



Mindfulness

In light of Jesus's life, here are a few questions I'm asking myself these days about my own mindfulness.

by Neal Avirett, Associate Pastor



Mindfulness is paying attention to what's going on in you, the people around you, and the circumstances most in need of our full participation. It's observing everyone and everything and helping to bring all the pieces together for a bigger purpose than just yourself. It's really a spiritual concept. Listen to a few of these prayers from scripture and from a letter between a spiritual parent and child:

- "But I am afflicted and needy; May the Lord be mindful of me." – Psalm 40:17
- "For He Himself knows our form; He is mindful that we are nothing but dust." – Psalm 103:14
- "The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us." – Psalm 115:12
- "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelled in your grandmother Lois and your grandmother Eunice, and I am sure that it is within you as well." – 2 Timothy 1:5

Over the spring and summer months, I struggled to name that feeling of mindfulness. I had associ-

ated it with making mistakes, or not being smart enough to make better decisions. Instead, it's the potential of living into more of God's grace. Though it was difficult to name it, I bumped into moments that would help me.

When I ate a meal, there was a satisfaction with one plate, instead of hungering or competing for seconds. While walking, sometimes I found myself paying more attention to how I was feeling, really feeling as a human being, rather than focusing on a checklist when I returned to the office or home. I remember feeling somewhat relieved after receiving the first of two vaccinations for Covid-19, yet forgetting that the vaccine was still not available to everyone.

In light of Jesus's life, here are a few questions I'm asking myself these days about my own mindfulness:

- How am I putting people above personal schedule and ideology? – Jesus's brothers (Jn.7:5-7), and the criminals crucified with Him on the cross and the crowds looking on.

- When do I treat outsiders like the insiders they already are? – The woman at the well. (Jn.3)
- How many people of other religions do I invite to my parties? – The Magi. (Matt. 2)
- Can I keep silent when someone asks what is truth? – Pontius Pilate. (Jn. 18:37-38)
- How do I feel and treat uninvited guests? – The woman weeping on Jesus's feet. (Lk.7:38)
- Can I drink wine and walk away from a fight with my mother? – Mary. (Jn.2:4)
- How many people working for the IRS do I call friends? – Levi. Zacchaeus. All guests at the house party in Matt. 9:10.
- How much do I dwell on and tell others about what I've accomplished in the first 30 years of my life, rather than living each day for others like I have three years left? – Lk 3:23
- How am I treating people like children and children like people? – Matt. 18:2-4



What the Office Machines Are Teaching Me

The past 18 months have been wild, and while we aren't yet out of the woods, I find myself reflecting, beginning to piece together what I want to carry with me from this season of life.

by Julianne Clayton, Office Manager

As you might imagine, here in the Trinity office, we work with a lot of machines. Whether it's a computer, copier, printer, postage meter, folder, or paper cutter, each machine helps us do much of the behind-the-scenes work of ministry. And as you also might imagine, these machines don't always cooperate.

The paper will jam; the ink will run out; the computer won't communicate with the printer. It's in these moments that I often begin to personify the machines. I'll say things like, "She seems to have a mind of her own," "He is in a bad mood today," or "Maybe this machine needs a nap." Dealing with the machines can be difficult, and phrases like those often feel like a good way to cope.

However, I also realize that sometimes I do the reverse. Sometimes, instead of treating a machine like a person, I treat myself and others like machines. I value others based on what they can do for me or how well they perform. I often treat them like a commodity or a means to an end, rather than a living, breathing person made in the image of God. I fail to recognize the whole of their humanity. And the expectations I set for myself are similar. Like a machine, I base my worth on my productivity.

The past 18 months have been wild, and while we aren't yet out of the woods, I find myself reflecting, beginning to piece together what I want to carry with me from this season of life. As we head into a "new



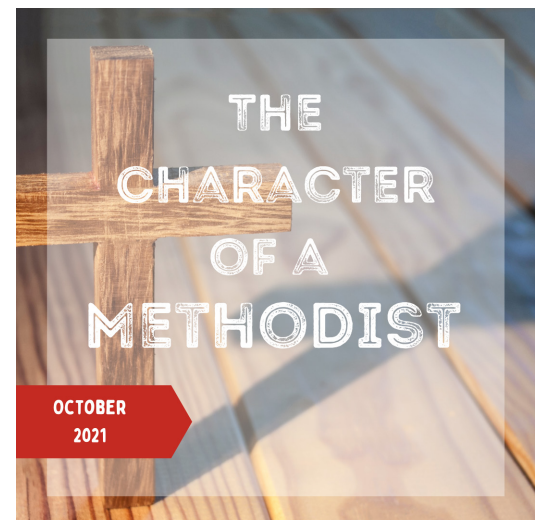
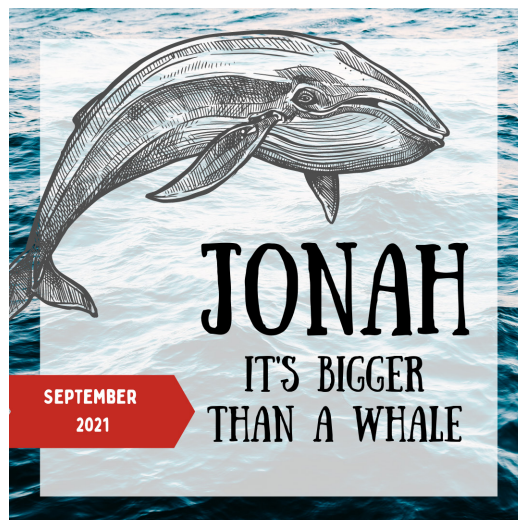
normal," what do I want to normalize?

One thing at the top of the list is I want to remember our collective humanity. I want to remember not only for myself, but for others, too. I want to be intentional about looking for the image of God in each person who crosses my path each day—the grocer, the server, the leader, the person on the other end of the phone, even those I vehemently disagree with. I want to remember that we are all human, with limits and needs, worries, and fears. And I want to treat people accordingly by choosing to offer grace, compassion, and kindness. It's a small shift, but I believe it could make a big difference. Will you join me?

Worship

Looking Ahead in Worship to the Fall

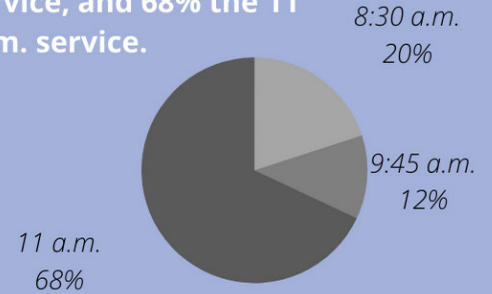
Take a look at the upcoming sermon series!





Worship Survey Results

Of the 130 that responded, 20% attend the 8:30 a.m. service, 12% the 9:45 a.m. service, and 68% the 11 a.m. service.



Worship Survey Results

by **Chris Titko, Music Director**

Many thanks to the 130 congregational members who responded to our worship survey.

Positive comments were focused on keeping traditional worship at the forefront of our traditional services. Many appreciated the variety our current services have taken on. The format of our worship was lauded as well as the preaching and music. A preaching style that reflects on scripture and applies it to our daily lives received the most support.

Recommended changes included returning worship elements as they were pre-Covid, encouraging more lay participation, making sure that children's sermons are given in such a way that children will easily understand, inviting more outside soloists and musical guests, and increasing participation by youth and children.

There were 35 hymns suggested, the majority of which were familiar. "How Great Thou Art," "In the Garden," and "It is Well with My Soul" were among the most requested. Many expressed that they enjoyed singing favorite hymns and agreed that those chosen should reflect the message of the day.

There is no way to encapsulate all the survey results. All combined, they equal five pages, single-spaced, typed. But this article reflects the salient points. Know that the staff and worship committee are carefully reviewing these facts and will continue to analyze our worship services so that worship is meaningful and centered on God.

75%

of those attending the 8:30 service prior to Covid indicated they would be willing to attend in the Chapel.

With this news, the staff and worship committee have decided to begin the 8:30 service on October 3, World Communion Sunday, in the Chapel.

90% would like to see the live streaming of the 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services continue





A special concert featuring the music of American composers will be held **Friday, September 10th, at 7 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Joyful and meaningful piano, organ, instrumental, and vocal music will be shared as a positive way to remember the sacrifice of so many as we commemorate the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. Performers include Yulia Billa, Viktor Billa, Marques Ruff, Warren May, Claire Williams, Patrick Ashley, and Christopher Titko. This is a great way to introduce a friend to Trinity Church.

Children's Time Volunteers Needed

by Allison Corrigan, Director of Children's Ministries

We could use help with Children's Time during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We need one volunteer each Sunday willing to be an extra pair of loving eyes, hands, and feet to keep our little ones safe! During Children's Time, we sing songs, play games, and eat snacks. It really is a wonderful way to serve and get to know the children in our congregation. I promise, you'll have a lot of fun! You can sign up to serve whenever you are able here: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d44acaf2ea7fe3-childrens1 Pick a week or two or three! We really appreciate the help!

Trinity United Methodist
Children's Time

Justice Ministry Update

by Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries



House meetings are coming for the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). It's been a long time and a

lot of work to get to this point. This fall each congregation in CAJM will host meetings where their members

can share what community issues keep them up at night worrying and praying. Trinity is answering the twin call to love mercy and do justice as we walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) and to love God and love our neighbor (Mark 12:30-31) by joining in the work of CAJM. We will host at least 20 meetings in September as part of the larger effort. The stories we tell in these house meetings are vital to work for justice in our community. Out of these stories members from all of the congregations who are part of CAJM will vote on two issues to work on in the coming year. Be on the lookout for your chance to share your story and join the work of justice.



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WORSHIP SERVICES

SUN Service (contemporary worship): 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Traditional Service: 11 a.m. in the sanctuary

Both services are live streamed
Please visit www.tumct.org for viewing links

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Neal Avirett, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. Nick Quinton, *Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

MINISTRY STAFF

Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Viktor Billa, *Organist*
Lisa Boyd, *Programs Assistant*
Julianne Clayton, *Office Administrator*
Allison Corrigan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Gabriela Denton, *Communications Coordinator*
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*

Mike Kasper, *Live Stream Coordinator*
Patti Groh, *Sexton*
Amy Leach, *Programs Assistant*
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*
Trina Murphy, *Office Assistant*
Hannah Prasse, *Contemporary Worship Leader*
Lisa Prasse, *Youth Director*
Chris Titko, *Director of Music*

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6, for Labor Day.

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

Special thanks to all the writers who contributed to this issue and to Pam Crosby for volunteering her editing expertise.