

Tidings



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

March 29: Palm Sunday*

Traditional | 8:30 a.m. | Trinity Sanctuary

Contemporary | 9:45 a.m. | Moor Hall

Traditional | 11:00 a.m. | Trinity Sanctuary

**Children process with palms at the start of the 11:00 a.m. service*

April 2: Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. in the Trinity Sanctuary

April 3: Good Friday

12:00 p.m. in the Trinity Sanctuary

April 5: Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise | 7:00 a.m. in the Sewell Memorial Prayer Garden

Traditional | 8:30 a.m. in the Trinity Sanctuary

Contemporary | 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall

Traditional | 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Sanctuary

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

The Feast Above All Feasts: Easter at Trinity

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

Of all the seasons in the Christian year, none surpasses the sacred journey we are about to take together. Holy Week and Easter Sunday stand at the very heart of our faith. This is the axis around which all of Christian worship, theology, and hope revolve. These are not merely observances on a calendar. They are an invitation to walk with Jesus through the darkest valley of human experience and to emerge, breathless and trembling, into the brilliant light of an empty tomb. As one theologian has written, Easter is not a postscript to the story of Jesus. It is the story.

Continued...

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The Feast Above All Feasts, *continued*

The Principal Feast of the Christian Year

Every Sunday of the year is, in the ancient understanding of the Church, a ‘little Easter,’ a weekly remembrance that death has been defeated and life has triumphed. Easter Sunday itself is what the tradition calls the Principal Feast: the mother of all celebrations, the day from which every other holy day draws its meaning.

Before there was Christmas, before there were saints’ days or Pentecost, there was Easter. The first Christians gathered on the first day of the week precisely because that was the day the tomb was found empty, and that pattern of resurrection worship has never stopped.

Easter is a proclamation to one another, to our neighbors, to the principalities and powers of this age, that the last word does not belong to suffering, to injustice, or to death. The last word belongs to God.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” – John 11:25–26 (NIV)



Every Easter, congregants are invited to bring flowers for the cross in our courtyard — a perfect spot for Easter photos!

Walking Through the Holy Week

✠ Maundy Thursday | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

On Thursday following Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus gathered his disciples around a table, took bread and the cup, and said: “Do this in remembrance of me.” On Maundy Thursday — from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning “commandment,” recalling his command to love one another — we gather to observe the Last Supper, to recall the washing of the disciples’ feet in humility, and to receive the body and blood of our Lord.

Our service will conclude with the ancient and powerful Stripping of the Altar. As the chancel is gradually stripped bare, paraments removed, candles extinguished, and the cross veiled in darkness, we are confronted with the desolation of Good Friday bearing down upon us. We leave in silence. The bareness of the sanctuary holds vigil through the night.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” – John 13:34 (NIV)

✠ Good Friday | 12:00 Noon | Sanctuary

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Christian year. We gather at noon, the hour when darkness covered the land as Jesus hung upon the cross, to remember his suffering, to sit with the weight of what our sin costs, and to receive the scandalous grace that says, “Christ did this for you.”

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” – Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

✠ Easter Sunday: Many Ways to Worship

When Easter Sunday arrives, Trinity will be alive with worship from before sunrise until the late morning. We offer multiple opportunities to gather, and all of them proclaim the same magnificent truth: He is risen!

Our Trinity Sanctuary will be transformed into a vision of resurrection glory — white and gold paraments restored, the altar full of light, lilies cascading in celebration. Moor Hall will be set alive with contemporary praise. In our Sewell Memorial Prayer Garden, as the sun rises on Easter morning, we will stand under the open sky and proclaim what the angels declared on that first morning: The tomb is empty. Every worship space at Trinity will be beautiful on this day — but the greatest beauty will be found in the faces of God’s people gathering to celebrate the hope that does not disappoint.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a metaphor. It is not a symbol of springtime renewal or a poetic way of saying his memory lives on. The New Testament witness is unambiguous: On the third day after his crucifixion, the tomb was empty because Jesus had been raised bodily from the dead by the power of God. His resurrection body was real — touchable, recognizable — and yet transformed, no longer subject to death. This is the explosive claim at the center of Christian faith.

The Apostle Paul makes clear what is at stake: If Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile. But if he has been raised — and Paul insists, with the force of eyewitness testimony, that he has — then everything changes. Death is not the end. History has a destination. And the future of the cosmos has already been inaugurated in the risen body of Jesus of Nazareth.

“The resurrection of Jesus is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.” – N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

The resurrection is not merely a past event we commemorate. It is the first fruits — the opening movement — of God’s great renewal of all creation. What happened to Jesus on Easter morning is the prototype and promise of what God intends for the whole world.

We do not wait passively for resurrection. The New Testament dares to say that those who are in Christ already participate, in some real and present sense, in resurrection life. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. And because of that, we are invited to experience foretastes of resurrection in our daily lives — now, before the great resurrection to come.

We experience resurrection when a broken relationship is restored. When an addiction releases its grip. When despair gives way to unexpected hope. When a community torn by conflict finds reconciliation. When someone who has been invisible is seen, named, and loved. These are not merely nice moments — they are signs of the age to come breaking into the present. They are the risen life of Christ making its way through human hands and human hearts into the world.



John Wesley spoke often of the transformation God works in human hearts through grace — prevenient grace that seeks us before we seek God, justifying grace that forgives and reconciles, and sanctifying grace that makes us “perfect in love.” That journey of transformation is itself a kind of ongoing resurrection: dying to self, rising to God, being remade into the image of the One who died and rose for us.

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” –Romans 6:4

All of this is prologue to the great resurrection yet to come — when, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, the perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, and death will be swallowed up in victory. Easter morning is not merely a memory of what God once did. It is a preview of what God will do for us and for all creation.

A detail in the resurrection accounts deserves far more attention than it typically receives. In every one of the four Gospels, it is women, not the male disciples, not the religious authorities, not the Roman soldiers, who first discover the empty tomb. Women are first commissioned to carry the news.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, Salome — these women had followed Jesus throughout his ministry, supported him, remained with him at the cross when most of the male disciples had fled, and came to the tomb in the early morning, hearts heavy with grief, carrying spices to anoint a dead body. What they found instead changed everything.

The angel’s words — “He is not here; he has risen!” — fell first upon the ears of these faithful, attentive women. And they were sent. “Go quickly and tell his disciples.” They were, in the truest sense, the first evangelists. They were the first human beings entrusted with the greatest news in the history of the world. In a culture that largely did not recognize women as reliable witnesses, God made women the first witnesses to the resurrection.



The Angel at the Sepulchre
by Gustave Doré, 1866

Continued...

The Feast Above All Feasts, *continued*

From a Small Upper Room to 2.6 Billion Voices

When those women ran from the tomb and told the disciples, there were perhaps a few dozen followers of Jesus left in Jerusalem. They had no buildings, no resources, no political power, and no social standing. What they had was a testimony: we have seen the Lord. From that handful of trembling witnesses, a movement began. Within a generation it had spread from Jerusalem to Rome. Within three centuries it had transformed the Roman Empire. Within a millennium it had shaped the culture, art, philosophy, and law of entire civilizations. Within two millennia — today — more than 2.6 billion people on every continent of the globe identify as followers of Jesus Christ, representing nearly one-third of all humanity.

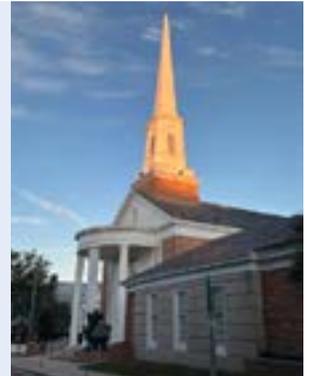
Christianity is the largest and most widely distributed religion in human history. This is not primarily a sociological fact. It is a theological one. No merely human movement survives the execution of its founder and emerges three days later more alive than before. No purely natural explanation accounts for what happened in Jerusalem and what has been happening in the world ever since. The spread of the gospel is itself a testimony to the reality of the resurrection. Still, the movement grows. It grows fastest today not in the comfortable West, but in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, among the poor and the persecuted, among those who have nothing to gain from following Jesus except, as the early Christians proclaimed, everything.

In a world that is so often acquainted with grief, Christianity offers something that no other philosophy, no political program, no self-help regimen can provide. It offers hope. Not mere optimism, but the grounded, resurrection-rooted conviction that the story is not over. Because of Easter, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We can face suffering without despair, because we know that suffering does not have the last word. We can love sacrificially, because we know that love is not swallowed by death. We can work for justice, care for the poor, forgive our enemies, and tend creation, not because we are naive enough to think we can fix everything, but because we know that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is making all things new, and we are invited to be part of that new creation even now.

This is the hope Trinity United Methodist Church proclaims every week, and never more gloriously than on Easter Sunday. Come. Bring your doubts and your grief, your questions and your joy. Bring your neighbors, your families, and your friends who have wandered. Come and hear again, or perhaps for the first time, the word that stands at the center of all things: He is risen.

“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? ...But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

—1 Corinthians 15:54b–55, 57



A Word of Gratitude

None of what happens during Holy Week at Trinity occurs by accident. It is the fruit of countless hours of prayer, preparation, and love offered by people throughout this congregation.

To our altar guild, who will dress our worship spaces in white and gold and fill them with the fragrance of Easter lilies — thank you. To our choir, praise band, and instrumentalists, who will lead us in song from sunrise to late morning — thank you. To our liturgists, ushers, greeters, sound and media technicians, and all who serve behind the scenes — thank you. To our clergy and staff, who pour themselves out in these sacred days so that the rest of us may encounter the living Christ — thank you.

And to every person in this congregation who will invite a friend, light a candle, bow in prayer, or simply show up — thank you. You are the body of Christ, and the world needs you to be exactly that.

May this Holy Week draw you closer to the One who went to the cross for you. May Easter morning find you standing at the empty tomb, heart wide open, ready to run — like those faithful women — with the best news the world has ever heard.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Looking to the Future With Trinity Facilities

By Paula Smith, Facilities Renovation Chair

At the conclusion of the "Onward Together" Visioning process in May of 2025, our Trinity community created a "Place" goal, stating "Trinity UMC will be a trusted spiritual leader with physical presence, partnerships, and long-term resources that ensure ever-increasing positive impact."

The initiative under that goal directed us to "Create a Trinity campus master plan including the preschool (develop committee, develop space goals, hire a professional, assess current facilities, and develop renovation plans including ADA and sustainability enhancements)."

That process has begun. Committee members are Heath Annin, Bob Burluson, Judy Green, Paula Smith, and Susan Thomas.



Do our facilities need renovating?

Absolutely. The last time the Trinity Education wing was renovated was in 1983... 43 years ago! Today, we have many changing needs — an active preschool, Sunday School class needs, growing youth program, high demand for usage of Moor Hall, the Library, and the Conference Room, office needs, ADA requirements, Welcome Center needs, security requirements, storage needs, etc. The education wing is seriously outdated, in addition to being in constant need of repair due to aging pipes and infrastructure.

Have other renovation plans been proposed over the last 43 years?

Yes, two separate renovation plans have been proposed, but neither went forward. In 1985, a recreation pavilion was planned. Instead, creative, talented Trinity members worked as volunteers to build the first playground. In 2018, architects developed a plan to build a Welcome Center extending into the courtyard area. Instead, the Welcome Center was developed as you know it today.

How will this current proposed renovation project proceed?

Step 1: The committee has discussed the process with two different architectural firms to learn best practices.

Step 2: Trinity staff members are bringing current needs to the attention of the committee.

Step 3: All Trinity committees and members will be invited to submit ideas and greatest needs. To further educate and stimulate new ideas, we look forward to offering tours of our existing facility, surveying the membership, and holding Q & A sessions open to all.

The Finance Committee has already created the "Onward Together Facilities Renovation Fund." This new account is ready to receive gifts of funding, large and small, to begin the preparation for Trinity's multi-year journey to its very exciting future.

How long will this process take?

Good planning is the secret to a successful project. We will use the next 3-5 years of planning to meet the needs ahead. Preparation for this multi-year journey has begun. Please join us. Your participation, with thoughtful input and generous financial contributions will determine the future of Trinity!

Please contact Paula Smith, 1005psmith@gmail.com with questions and suggestions.

Trinity has a new phone system!



You may notice a change when you call the church office. We now have an automated system that will prompt you to "Press 1" for the Church Office or "Press 2" for the Finance Office. If you call outside regular business hours, you will be prompted to direct your voicemail message to either the Church Office or Finance Office in the same way. Our phone number is the same, 850-222-1120, but we count on our new system to streamline calls and help you more easily reach the people you need.

Smile! Trinity is Getting a New Pictorial Directory

By Amber Pendleton, Church Directory Coordinator

It's Directory time: You've asked, and it's coming! Trinity has gone through lots of changes and growth since our last pictorial directory over ten years ago: clergy, membership, renovations, and our Bicentennial celebration. Now it's time to bring all members — across all three incredible church services — together in one place.

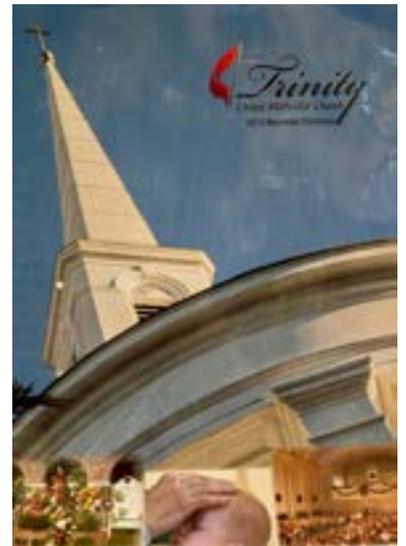
For your participation, you will receive a family portrait and a professional photography session. Should you purchase any portion of your photography portrait session (to be reviewed 2-3 weeks after sitting), you will receive an 8x10 portrait and a printed, bound directory.

If no portrait package is purchased, printed directories will be available for a minimal cost, and as a great addition, you will also have access to a downloadable mobile directory!

Sign-ups will begin in person on Easter Sunday, April 5, after each service. You can also call the church office at 850-222-1120 during regular business hours to set up your portrait session. Just be sure you've signed up by May 3.

Photography sessions will take place on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Sunday, May 17, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (once Saturday slots are full). Sessions will take place on the church property and only by appointment. Submittal photos will be accepted with details to follow, should you be unable to attend a session.

With your participation, we can create an amazing directory together!



Trinity's last pictorial directory came out in 2015, when Rev. Wayne Curry was our Senior Pastor.

Guatemala Garage Sale Planned for May 2

By Jayne Mittan, Guatemala Mission Coordinator

Greetings to all from your 2026 Guatemala Mission Team! It's springtime in Tallahassee, and that means it's time to start your annual spring cleaning. As you set aside gently used items that you've outgrown or no longer need, we ask that you consider donating them to our Guatemala Garage Sale.

We will have our world-famous Garage Sale, Spring Edition, on Saturday, May 2, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. **We have extended our drop-off times this year. Drop-off donations will be accepted on Thursday, April 30, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., and Friday, May 1, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** Donation drop-offs and the sale will be in Moor Hall. Due to lack of storage space, we are unable to accept donations at any times other than those mentioned.



We will gladly accept clean, gently used household items, small appliances, pots, pans, dishes, toys, games, puzzles, books, pictures, clothing, linens, fitness equipment, sporting goods, shoes, home decor, lawn/garden items, and furniture.

The Team appreciates all of your support of our past sales. This is our main fundraising project for our trip. We are raising funds to cover the costs of providing free medical clinics, construction of a house for an Indigenous family, and any special needs we may encounter. Each team member pays for their own travel, lodging, meals, and other in-country expenses. All of the funds raised go toward our mission of serving the lost, the least, and the last in Guatemala with Porch de Salomon.

So, get under those beds and into those closets, drawers, garages, storage units, sheds, nooks, and crannies to help support us in our mission.

We appreciate you so much!

What is a Celebrate Recovery Open Share Small Group?

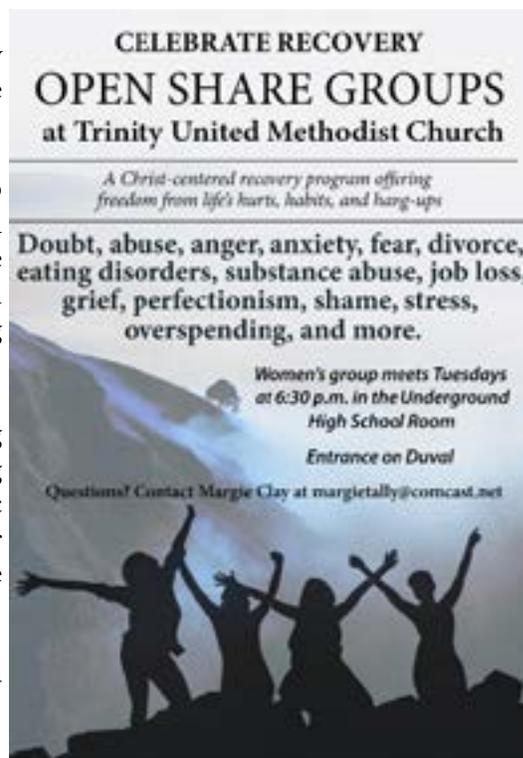
By Lori Simpson Keller, Open Share Group Co-Leader

You may have seen announcements for the Women's Celebrate Recovery (CR) Open Share Group. Possibly you've wondered, "What is Celebrate Recovery, and what is an Open Share Group?"

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step program designed to help participants heal from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. It combines the traditional 12-steps with eight biblical principles based on the Beatitudes. CR differs from some recovery programs by having a broader focus on all types of life struggles and an explicitly Christian foundation to help participants find healing and freedom relying on the power of Jesus Christ rather than willpower.

Open Share Groups are supportive environments designed for anyone struggling with life's challenges, including — but not limited to — substance abuse, eating disorders, gambling, anger, grief, abuse, or divorce. The groups are gender-specific and designed as a safe, confidential, anonymous space where we can share our struggles without others attempting to fix us. Through their sharing, we hear the experiences of others and how they use tools of recovery in their own lives.

The women's group meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Underground High School room. Questions? Contact Margie Clay at margietally@comcast.net.



Read what Celebrate Recovery participants have to say:

"It's amazing how I feel safe sharing my feelings week after week, not being judged, listening to others, and seeing the changes in me."

"One of my favorite CR slogans is, 'Keep coming back, it works if you work it.' Each week, we celebrate our victories as we keep coming back, thriving together in recovery."

"I am reminded that I am not alone nor need to walk this journey of healing alone."

"Being in a small group with just women is comforting for my healing."

"Hearing the group say, 'so work it, you're worth it' is a good reminder that I have worth despite my shortcomings."

"Knowing that anonymity and confidentiality are upheld in the group helps me feel safe sharing openly."

"It's great to be in a safe place where we can share honestly with other women who care and who understand."

Memorials and Honorariums

March 2026

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Mrs. Richard Winchester

In memory of Dr. J.C. Smith from Ann Selvey

In memory of Dores F. Crew from Linda and Jeff Crew Jr.

In memory of Nell Morse from Julia T. Parker

In memory of Nell Morse from Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club, Inc., in care of Joe Lambert

Caring for Creation: Trinity UMC's Commitment to Sustainability

By Stewart Fleming, Creation Care Chair

Earth Day 2026 falls on April 22, and the spirit of Earth Day should inspire us every day. Each person has the ability to make a meaningful difference. You can participate in community cleanups, plant native trees, join peaceful demonstrations, reach out to elected officials, share knowledge with friends and family, and make sustainable choices daily. Individual actions unite communities, and when communities advocate for change, leaders pay attention.

Our personal responsibility as stated in the UM Social Principles

"We affirm that all creation is God's and reflects His goodness and care. We are called to responsible stewardship, living in harmony with the Creator and all of God's creation. Rather than exploiting creation for our own purposes, we strive to nurture and protect it, as guided by scripture (Gen. 1:26-31; Matt. 6:26-30; Rom. 8:22-24).

Creation Care Mission Statement

Trinity UMC's Creation Care ministry recognizes that all creation is the Lord's. We work toward sustainability inside the walls of Trinity and outside in the Tallahassee Community.

Trinity's Creation Care Team has three main areas of focus:

- Supporting the community iGrow Garden on Dent Street through volunteer labor and by donating nonperishable food items to the free food box.
- Providing leadership and raising awareness about sustainable practices in our church, homes, and community.
- Promoting outdoor recreational activities so people can experience, value, and marvel at the beauty, interconnectedness, and wonder of God's creation, as well as indoor educational opportunities (environmental movies, book studies, etc.).
- You are always welcome to join us any time in any or all of our activities.



Stewart Fleming, foreground, with Creation Care participants on a recent hiking excursion

Join us for our next movie event on Saturday, April 25, at 2:00 p.m. in Moor Hall as we watch *Feeding Tomorrow*, a family-friendly documentary about sustainable, plant-forward, and regenerative food systems to inspire healthier, eco-conscious choices.

Sustainability in Practice

Trinity's Creation Care Team encourages all groups within Trinity to prioritize sustainability when planning changes to the facilities, and when organizing gatherings, events, meals, and other activities. We are thankful that many of you are already focused on sustainability and social justice issues.

Tips we can use for Sustainability

Go to www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips or scan this QR code for practical tips on simple ways to help the planet every day.



"The great lesson that our blessed Lord teaches is that God is present in all things, and we are called to recognize the Creator through every creature. We should neither use nor regard anything as separate from God, who infuses and sustains the entire created order and is, in a real sense, the soul of the universe" (John Wesley, *Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount*).

-*United Methodist Social Principles*



Creation Care volunteers working at the community iGrow Garden on Dent Street



Join us at the
Capital Area Justice Ministry Nehemiah Action
Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m.
Old West Florida Enrichment Center
2344 Lake Bradford Rd.

This year's unique Nehemiah InterAction will bring together local city and county commission candidates. By showing up with 1,000+ members of the Tallahassee community, we will demonstrate that our community cares about the issues of affordable housing, gun violence reduction, food insecurity, mental health, and immigration. Carpooling and meal available. Register at <https://trinityunitedmethod-xqfn.subspla.sh/g45f2m5> or scan the QR code.



A Call to Action: Steve Jacobs on Serving and Being Served

By Pam Crosby, Betty Phifer Class Member

While struggling with ALS, Steve Jacobs wrote in Trinity's collection of 2024 Advent devotionals that he hoped he could accept his dependence on others "with grace," by learning to be the "one being served" instead of being the one serving. Each day, Steve exhibited that sustaining grace he had prayed for, leading up to December 5, 2024, when he succumbed to the disease.

Steve and his soulmate, Diane, met at the University UMC Church in Gainesville, where they both sang in the choir as students at the University of Florida. They were married at Trinity in 1981.

Throughout their marriage, they assumed numerous roles in UMC churches they attended: For example, Steve facilitated the intensive Bible study course, Christian Believer, sang in the choir, and served as a delegate at Annual Conferences; Diane completed a three-year Academy for Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction Training; and also together they played handbells, taught the Disciple Bible Studies course, became Certified Lay Servants, experienced the Walk to Emmaus, and served as Stephen Ministers and Leaders.

A few years ago, Steve and Diane donated bookshelves and added book collections to our growing library in our Betty Phifer Sunday School classroom. Susan Mick and Teresa Sweeney, class members, organized the books and labeled the sections. On March 22, 2026, in a special ceremony, we honored Steve and Diane for these contributions — as well as their spiritual gifts to us — by naming our class library the "Steve and Diane Jacobs Library."

Steve's words in his Advent devotional were not of regret or complaint but a call to action to himself and to all of us: "Whether we are acting as the servant, being the hands and feet of Christ ministering to others, or we are one of the least of these being ministered to, may we strive together to bring more of God's kingdom on earth now."



Dr. Don Crosby, teacher of the Betty Phifer Class, presents to Diane Jacobs the plaque to be placed in room 307 and inscribed as follows: "Jacobs Library, Dedicated on March 22, 2026, The Steve and Diane Jacobs Library with Much Appreciation, The Betty Phifer Advanced Studies Class, Trinity United Methodist Church."

What Are People Saying About BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry Exercise?

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

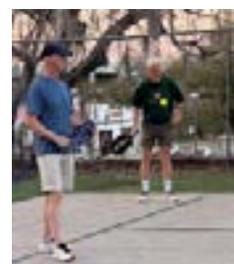
Here's what people said about the BFC Exercise classes when asked what comes to mind when they think about their class:

H

Challenging
Challenging, but fun!
Cheerful
Community
Encouraging
Energizing

Enlightening
Fellowship
Fun and challenging!
Fun - helpful - camaraderie
Healthy
Inspiring

Invigorating — Happiness
Satisfying
Strong
Trying
Useful
And ... Chewy, our very own
TMD (Trinity Ministry Dog)!!



Both BFC Exercise and Pickleball meet all year round. Please join us any time. BFC Exercise classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day, and Pickleball is on Thursday evenings.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for the class descriptions and schedule, and for registration forms. For more information email Beth Curry at BFCSeries@yahoo.com or call the church office and ask for a call back.

Hope to see you in class soon!



Staff Spotlight: Zach Cramer

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

Originally from Ohio, Zach moved to Florida when he was nine years old, so he considers himself a Floridian. He grew up here in Tallahassee from middle school on, attending Cobb and then Raa when his dad began teaching there. His family now consists of his dad, two younger brothers and a sister. NOT accidentally, there is a 15-year gap between his next younger brother and his last two siblings!

In college, he worked at Electronet, then became the AV tech at Killlearn Methodist (19 years) while working as the sound technician at FSU's theater department (16+ years). Because he worked with Matthew at Killlearn all those years ago, he was eager to come to Trinity and is now our AV Technician! Lucky us!

When not working, Zach loves hanging out on the couch watching the History Channel with his Weimaraner dog, Graycie May Von Night (named as such because she was adopted from the night kennels). I asked him what he would do if money were not an issue, and of course, he said, "Travel!" He wants to go back to Alaska and would move to Germany in a heartbeat if it wasn't so expensive.

When given a choice between going to the movies or attending musicals, Zach didn't hesitate. Musical! If he had to choose a superhero as a best friend, he finally decided on Spiderman because he likes his backstory.

You might not know that Zach plays the piano and took lessons from the late Dr. Myron Munday! Afterwards, he and his grandparents frequently took Myron to lunch at the old Radisson Hotel. Who knew?!

And by the way, Susan Mick says he gives GREAT hugs, so...



Zach Cramer,
AV Technician

Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

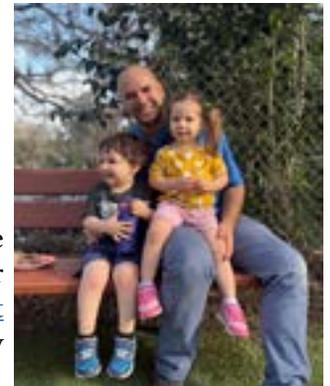


On Friday, March 6, we celebrated Donuts With Dads! This was a fun opportunity for dads to join us on the playground for coffee, donuts, and little play time. We had a GREAT turnout, and we've received lots of positive feedback. But the best feedback of all was the beauty of happy smiles on preschool faces.

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year has officially ended, but we still have a few spots remaining, mainly in our PK-3 program. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please visit the [About Our Preschool page of tumct.org](https://www.tumct.org/about-our-preschool) or call Director of Preschool Erin Casey at 850-224-8992.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. It was a great success! The funds we raised allowed us to purchase some new resources for our students and send several of our teachers to the Christian Preschool Association Conference at Lake Yale in Leesburg, Florida. It was a renewing experience filled with learning, praise, and worship.

We're excited about Easter and are getting ready for our big Easter Egg Hunts on April 1 and 2. Watch for pictures in the next edition of *Tidings*!



Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

Families, be sure to join us for the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, at 9:00 a.m. We'll start in the Underground with a delicious potluck brunch, and then we'll move onto the playground for our annual egg hunt. Be sure to bring a basket for each child, but no need to bring eggs — we will supply them!

NETKids are still going strong as we prepare for our Concert Showcase on Sunday, April 26, during the 11:00 a.m. service. We hope you'll be there to support our kids!

As the school year reaches an end, don't forget about VBS, June 8-12. Spots are available, so tell your friends, families, and neighbors. If you'd like to make a donation to VBS, please check out our Amazon wish list. We thank you in advance for your support!

And of course, remember that students in rising fourth grade and up are eligible to go with us to summer camp during Week 5, July 13-18. Sign-ups must be done through the Warren Willis Camp website. Find this link and others on the [Children's Ministries page of tumct.org](https://www.tumct.org/childrens-ministries).

Scan this QR code to make a Vacation Bible School wish list donation.



Scan this QR code to register a child for Vacation Bible School, June 8-12.



NETKids in Action!

Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

Thank you to everyone who helped our Trinity Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser! We appreciate all the donations of pasta, sauce, and desserts, in addition to everyone who bought tickets and allowed us to serve up some springtime spaghetti.



Looking ahead, we are getting excited about our Summer Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans, May 30 - June 4. We'll be working with Praying Pelican Missions to engage in both relational and missional opportunities. For example, we'll be handing out water bottles to the unhoused community throughout New Orleans. Also, we will participate in some clean-up and repair work still needed from Hurricane Katrina.

While in New Orleans, we will attend a church service with our host church and experience worship in a new environment. There will also be a recreational day included in the trip — details are forthcoming! Registration is open, but spots are limited, so be sure to register ASAP by visiting the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](https://www.tumct.org/youth-ministries) or scanning the QR code found here.



In other news...

- VBS volunteer sign-ups are still open. If you plan to help out and need volunteer hours, but sure to submit your form to me!
- Camp registration is still open on the Warren Willis site. Remember, we will be attending Week 5, July 13-18. Trinity Youth will receive a partial scholarship provided by the church. See me if you have questions.
- Youth Week plans are underway. Details will be revealed soon. Mark your calendars for a fun week, July 26-31.

Keep up with all Trinity Youth happenings and find helpful links on the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](https://www.tumct.org/youth-ministries)!



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P.O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 222-1120 www.tumct.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

9:45 Contemporary Service and 11:00 Liturgical Service are livestreamed
on [YouTube@UMCTrinity](https://www.youtube.com/UMCTrinity)

PASTORAL STAFF

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

CHURCH STAFF

Laurie Atteberry, <i>Business Administrator</i>	Gregory Hilliard, <i>Director of Traditional Music</i>
Ben Armstead, <i>Facility Steward</i>	Chip Huggins, <i>Maintenance Technician</i>
Dori Barton, <i>Financial Assistant</i>	Susan Koehler, <i>Director of Communications</i>
Erin Casey, <i>Director of Preschool</i>	Charlotte Mathews, <i>Facility Steward</i>
Douglas Chaplow, <i>Organist</i>	Anne Plagens, <i>Christian Education Assistant</i>
Zachary Cramer, <i>AV Technician</i>	Britton Stacey, <i>Director of Youth Ministries</i>
Candace Duclos, <i>Senior Director of Christian Education</i>	Alex Taylor, <i>Contemporary Music Worship Leader</i>
Betsy Gingery, <i>Culinary Director</i>	Heather Watson, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Melanie Gonzalez, <i>Director of Operations</i>	

TIDINGS TEAM

Susan Koehler, *Editor*

Let's stay in touch!

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