

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, Florida

850-222-1120 | www.tumct.org

Vol. 46

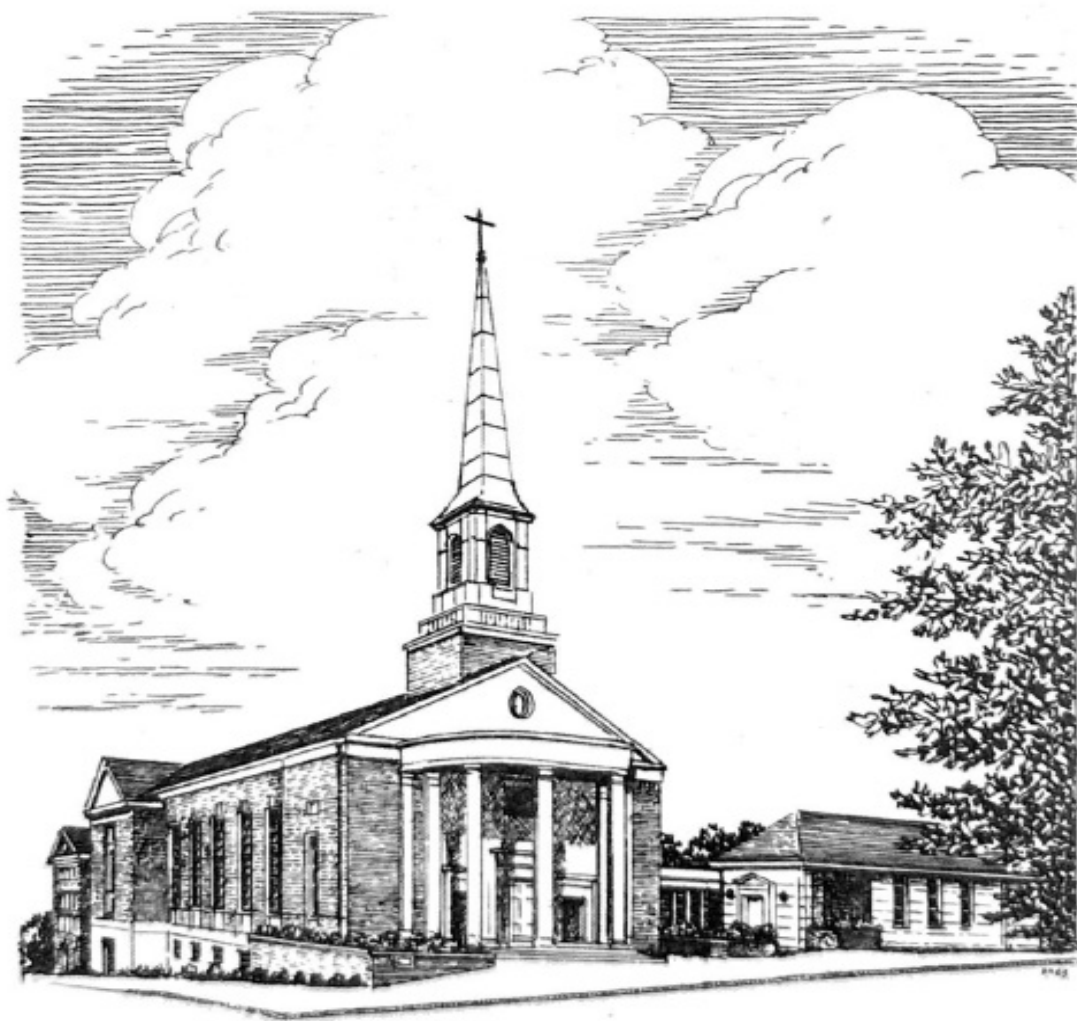
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

No. 32

AUGUST 9, 2026

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Service at 11 a.m.



Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.

LITURGICAL SERVICE
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

"I Thank God"
Praise Band

WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

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

PRELUDE

Douglas Chaplow

INTROIT

"Prepare Ye the Way"
Gregory Hilliard, voice/handbells

Clark Kimberling

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

TFWS #2004

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, A MODERN AFFIRMATION

Let us unite in this confession of our Christian Faith:

**We believe in God the Father. Infinite in wisdom, power, and love.
Whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man.
The gift of the Father's unfailing grace.
The ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, Whereby we are kept in
perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love, as set forth in our example
of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

†GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #71

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

†SONG OF PEACE

"Cornerstone"

Crucifer | Michael Plagens | **Ushers** | Brent Chumbler, Billy Hilaman, Jamie Trulock,
Scott Trulock, Linda Bianco, Mike Marschall, Sid Matthew

Altar Guild | Linda Campbell, Beverly Burleson, Georgia Jordan, Ann Melder

Club Car Drivers | Edward Young, Ben Gilleland, Jimmy Henderson, Ed Dowell

Call the church office at 850-222-1120 to reserve altar flowers for the Sunday services in the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Insert

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited to Kids' Praise in Room 205.

"We Are Marching"

TFWS #2235-b

ANTHEM

"Sicilienne"
Douglas Chaplow, organ

Maurice Duruflé

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS / CHURCH NOTICES

OFFERTORY

"The Blessing"

†DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

†GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

"Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him..."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Hand That Reaches First"

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Stand By Me"

Hymnal #512

†BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Go Now in Peace"

Natalie Sleeth

†POSTLUDE

"Postlude in D Minor"

Johann Christian Heinrich Rink



Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, Associate Pastor | Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

Alex Taylor, Director of Contemporary Music | Gregory Hilliard, Director of Traditional Music

Douglas Chaplow, Organist

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today! We're glad you are here. If you're visiting, fill out a Visitor Connect Card or scan the QR code, and on your way out, be sure to see one of our ushers for a small gift to thank you for joining us!



PRAYER REQUESTS

May we pray for you? Prayer cards can be found in the Welcome Center and Narthex. Prayer requests are listed by **name** only. Please lift up in prayer...

Scott, Sydney, and Stetson Epting Betsy Gingery
Amanda Johnson Rhonda Work

MONTHLY COLLECTION

During August, Local Missions is collecting supplies for our preschool. Items in need are paper towel rolls, baby wipes, Clorox/Lysol wipes, Ziploc bags in all sizes, paper plates, Lysol Disinfectant Spray, and Magic Erasers. Gift cards to Sam's, Walmart, Costco, or Target also help! Donations can be left in the collection bins in the Welcome Center and Narthex.

FACILITIES RENOVATION SURVEY

As requested in the 2026 Visioning Plan, Trinity volunteers are beginning to create a campus Master Plan for needed renovations. Our Facility Renovation Committee has created a brief survey to gather information about the various ways that members and participants use our facilities. Scan the QR code to fill out your survey. We want to hear from you!



PRAYER QUILT

The Prayer Quilt this morning is for Amanda Johnson, Trinity's Assistant to the Director of the Preschool. Amanda is undergoing surgery this month. Please pray as you tie a knot in the quilt to let her know that she is surrounded with the love of our Trinity family.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, August 9

10:15 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.

Ministry Fair
Church Service
Ministry Fair and Activities
Youth Praise Band
UMYF

Monday, August 10

9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study
Snack Pack Distribution
Centering Prayer

Tuesday, August 11

7:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Men's Daybreak
BFC Staying Strong
BFC Variety Mix
Heavenly Chimes
Celebrate Recovery
Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, August 12 **Preschool Begins**

5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Richard Andrews' Bible Study
Praise Band
Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 13

10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:15 p.m.

Mats for Friends
Snack Pack Distribution
BFC Variety Mix
BFC Staying Strong

Friday, August 15

10:00 a.m.

Friday Study Group

BFO Pickleball is canceled on Thursday, August 13.

BLUEGRASS SUNDAY AND RECEPTION FOR REV. DR. IVY SMITH

Get ready, Trinity! August 16 is Bluegrass Sunday. We will have one service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a welcome reception in Moor Hall in honor of Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith. Come and enjoy finger foods and take a moment to say hello and welcome Rev. Dr. Smith to Trinity.

SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT TRINITY



Sunday School



Serving



Fellowship



Giving

Our Vision

The vision of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a diverse Christian community that leads as a shining beacon of God's love, actively engaging as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ in the world.

Our Mission

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

Litany of Blessing

For pencils and pages, for lockers and lunchrooms, for every new beginning inside these backpacks, **we give you thanks, O God, and ask your blessing.**

For the weights we can see and the weights we cannot, the books our children carry and the burdens no scale can measure, **carry them, Lord, as they carry these.**

When the winds rise and courage wavers, when any child begins to sink in hallway or classroom, **reach out your hand immediately and catch them.**

Send them out and bring them home, from the first bell of August to the last bell of May, **For they go nowhere your grace has not gone first. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer of Blessing

Lord Jesus, who walked across the deep water to reach your frightened friends, we place before you now these backpacks and the beloved children who will carry them. Bless every pencil and page, and bless far more the shoulders that will bear them, the minds that will wonder, and the hearts that will hope and ache and grow this year. Go before them into every classroom, for you are always the One who arrives first. Give them friends to sit with, teachers who see them, courage for the first day and for the hundredth. When the storms rise, and they will rise, teach them the shortest prayer, and when they pray it, keep your ancient promise, and let there be no gap between their cry and your catch.

And now, O God, we lift to you the ones who will spend this year reaching. Bless the teachers who will stand before our children every morning, who carry lesson plans in their bags and whole rosters of names in their hearts. Grant them patience when the day is long, wisdom when a student is struggling, and joy enough to remember why they answered this calling. Bless the administrators who bear the weight of whole buildings full of children, who make a hundred decisions before lunch and lie awake over the ones no one else ever sees. Give them clear minds, steady hands, and the courage to lead with both justice and mercy. And bless every member of the school staff, the counselors who listen, the bus drivers who are the first face of the morning and the last of the afternoon, the cafeteria workers who feed hungry bodies, the custodians who make every hallway ready, the nurses and aides and front office keepers of the door. Sustain them when they are weary, honor their labor when the world overlooks it, and let them feel this morning the gratitude of this congregation and the pleasure of the God they serve.

Make this church a steady boat that our students, our teachers, and their families can always climb into. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

“Cornerstone”

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Chorus

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Chorus

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Chorus

“The Blessing”

Verse x2

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace

Chorus

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

Verse

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace

Chorus

Bridge

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children

Bridge 2

May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you

Bridge 3

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you

Refrain

He is for you, He is for you (x3)

Bridge



The Hand Comes First

A Personal Bible Study in Matthew 14:22-33

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

August 9, 2026

A Bible Study

Matthew 14:22-33

“Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.”

Charles Wesley, 1740

Begin by reading Matthew 14:22-33 slowly, twice, once for the story and once for yourself.

Sent into the Storm

Read Matthew 14:22-24 with Psalm 107:23-30.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat, so the storm finds them in the middle of obedience, not off course. Matthew describes the boat with the Greek word *basanizomenon*, a word used elsewhere for torment, which tells you how the night felt from inside it.

Where am I currently treating hardship as evidence that I took a wrong turn?

What storm am I in right now precisely because I did what I believed God asked?

The One Who Comes

Read Matthew 14:25-27 with Exodus 3:13-14.

Jesus arrives in the fourth watch, the darkest hour, before anyone asks. His greeting carries two loaded words. *Tharseite* means take heart, take courage. *Ego eimi* means it is I, and it echoes the divine name spoken from the burning bush. The Wesleyan tradition names this prevenient grace, the love already moving toward us before we knew to want it.

When has fear disguised the approach of grace as one more thing to dread?

What might God be walking toward me across right now?

Stepping Out and Sinking

Read Matthew 14:28-30 with Psalm 69:1-3.

Peter walks until he sees the wind, and no one can see wind, only what it stirs up. His eyes shift from the One stronger than the storm to the evidence of the storm. His prayer is the shortest in Scripture, three words with no preamble and no apology.

What is my version of watching the wind this week?

What would my own three word prayer be, and can I carry it with me today?

The Immediate Hand

Read Matthew 14:31 with Deuteronomy 33:26-27 and Isaiah 41:13.

Matthew's word is *eutheos*, immediately. There is no gap between the cry and the catch. The hand comes first and the question comes second, asked of a man already safe. Even the question is gentler than we remember. Distazo means to waver, to be pulled two directions at once, not to disbelieve. And *oligopistos*, little faith, turns out to be enough faith to get caught.

Where did I learn to imagine a God who lectures drowning people before rescuing them?

When have I been caught before I was corrected, and whom might my hand catch this week?

Back in the Boat Together

Read Matthew 14:32-33 with Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

The wind ceases only when Jesus and Peter climb into the boat with the others. The storm ends in community, not in solo performance.

Who belongs in the boat with me that I have been keeping at a distance?

Whom will I actually tell about my storm this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you come to me across the very things I fear, and you speak your name into my darkest watch. Teach me to pray the short prayer without shame, to trust that there is no gap between my cry and your catch, and to believe that my little faith is still enough to be caught. Keep my eyes on you rather than on the wind, and put me back in the boat with your people, where the storms grow quiet.

In your strong name I pray.

Amen.

