

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, Florida | 850-222-1120 | www.tumct.org

Vol. 46

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 19, 2026

No. 29

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

CHAPEL SERVICE

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

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

PRELUDE François Couperin
"Bass and Trumpet" from *The Convent Mass*
Carol Marchant, organ

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #694
"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Hymnal #881
The Apostles' Creed

†GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

OFFERTORY François Couperin
"Offertory" from *The Convent Mass*

†DOXOLOGY Hymnal #94

†SCRIPTURE LESSONS Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith
Genesis 25:19-34

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"Let both of them grow together until the harvest..."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
"Bethel in the Weeds"

†RECESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #418
"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

†BENEDICTION AND BLESSING
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†POSTLUDE François Couperin
"Postlude" from *The Convent Mass*

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

9:45 a.m.

†WORSHIP SONG "Blessed Be Your Name"

†WORSHIP SONG "Living God"
by Alex Taylor

†WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY HYMN "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

†SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Genesis 25:19-34
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"Let both of them grow together until the harvest..."

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
"Bethel in the Weeds"

†WORSHIP SONG "Goodness of God"

†WORSHIP SONG "This Is Amazing Grace"

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

*During the worship songs, you are invited to utilize the Prayer Station
by the stained-glass window and light a candle as you pray.*

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

LITURGICAL SERVICE
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

† Please rise in body or in spirit.

11:00 a.m.

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

"Bass and Trumpet" from *The Convent Mass*
Carol Marchant, organ

François Couperin

INTROIT

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

Clark Kimberling

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Hymnal #694

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal #881

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is the one true church, both apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith let us now reverently declare:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #71

† OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

† PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

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

ANTHEM

"The Gift of Love"

Hal H. Hopson

† SONG OF PEACE

"The First Song of Isaiah"

TFWS #2030

**Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 28:10-19a

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

George Whelpton

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Offertory" from *The Convent Mass*

François Couperin

†DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #94

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Rev. E. Wayne Curry

†GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

"Let both of them grow together until the harvest..."

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

SERMON

"Bethel in the Woods"

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†RECESSIONAL HYMN

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

Hymnal #418

†BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Go Now in Peace"

Natalie Sleeth

†POSTLUDE

"Postlude" from *The Convent Mass*

François Couperin



Thank you to Carol Marchant, our guest organist today.

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.

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



Sunday School



Serving



Fellowship



Giving

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today! We're glad you are here. Please sign the pew pad to register your attendance. 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...

Doug Bevis

Julian Mathis

Rhonda Work

MONTHLY COLLECTION

During July, Local Missions is collecting school supplies for Frenchtown and Griffin Heights. Donations can be left in the collection bins in the Welcome Center and Narthex.

YOUTH WEEK

Youth Week 2026 will be July 26 - August 1. Plans include a trip to Bear Paw, a pool party, an Escape room, a service project, and a lock-in. Each day also includes food, fellowship, and worship. You don't want to miss this! Scan the QR code to sign up.



JULY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Crucifer: Michael Plagens

Ushers: Joe Miller, Betty Miller, Bob Lumsden, Glen Squire, Joe McGlothlin, Jean Glenn, Mason Bennett

Altar Guild: Marilyn Dean

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

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, July 19

8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
8:30/9:45/11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.

Chapel Service
Yates Heritage Center Open
Contemporary Service
Sunday School
Liturgical Service
Youth Praise Band
UMYF

Monday, July 20

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

Snack Pack Distribution
Centering Prayer

Tuesday, July 21

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

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

Wednesday, July 22

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

Dinner and Luau
Praise Band

Thursday, July 23

11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

Snack Pack Distribution
BFC Variety Mix
BFC Staying Strong
BFO Pickleball

Friday, July 24

10:00 a.m.

Friday Study Group

Richard Andrews' Bible Study will not meet for class on Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, August 9, we will have one service at 11:00 a.m. with Blessing of the Backpacks, as well as our annual Ministry Fair from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.! Trinity Ministry Groups are invited to participate. Groups requesting to set up displays must register. Scan the QR code to sign up.



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

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



Bethel in the Weeds

A Personal Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

July 19, 2026

A Bible Study

Genesis 28:10-19a / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

"God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful and painful." — Henri Nouwen

Opening Reflection

Hold in mind a place where you encountered God unexpectedly. It was not in a sanctuary or a moment of clarity, but in the ordinary, compromised soil of your actual life. Let this image accompany you through this study.

Part One: Jacob's Midnight Encounter

Read Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob flees as a fugitive and deceiver. He has nothing but the clothes on his back and stones for a pillow. In this moment of utter displacement, God appears and makes a covenant promise with him. God does not wait for Jacob to repent first. God commits himself unconditionally. Jacob's response is remarkable. He says, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." He marks the spot with a stone pillar. He does not build a temple or wait for better conditions. He names it Bethel, the house of God, right where he lies on the hard ground. Then Jacob makes a vow, and this is where his humanity shows most clearly. He says, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God." He negotiates with God. He sets conditions on his faith. Yet God does not rebuke his conditional faith. God remains with Jacob through all that follows.

What does it tell you that Jacob encounters God while fleeing, afraid, and uncertain rather than after he has gotten his life together?

When have you made a vow to God that was conditional, doubtful, or negotiated? Did that doubt disqualify you from God's presence?

Part Two: The Master's Patience

Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 13:36-43

A farmer sows good seed in his field. An enemy comes during the night and sows weeds among the wheat. When the servants see the weeds growing, they ask urgently if they should pull them up now. The farmer refuses their request. He tells them to let both the wheat and the weeds grow together until the harvest. Jesus teaches through this parable that the kingdom of God exists now in a state of mixture. Wheat and weeds coexist. The separation belongs to the harvest, which is God's future action, not to our present effort.

What is your instinctive response when you see weeds growing in your own soul, in your family, or in your church? Do you want to pull them up now?

What would it mean to let wheat and weeds grow together in one area of your life right now?

Part Three: Where Bethel and the Weeds Meet

God meets Jacob not in purity but in displacement. Bethel happens on hard ground, in the dark, as a refugee sleeps on stones. Jesus teaches that the kingdom grows in a field of mixture. It is not a kingdom of purity. Yet the Master tends it. He allows growth. He promises that a harvest is coming. The connection between these two texts is this: God meets us where we are, not where we wish we were. Bethel is built in the weeds, not elsewhere.

Where is the sealed, barren soil in your own life or relationships? What would it look like to trust God's presence there?

Part Four: Closing Reflection

We live in constant temptation to separate ourselves from the mixture. In our own souls, we try to purify ourselves through self-condemnation. In our families, we protect ourselves from disappointment through withdrawal. In our churches, we try to create purity through division. But Jacob teaches us that conditional faith does not disqualify you from God's love. The Master teaches us that growth happens in the mixture, not in separation. Both texts teach us that Bethel, the house of God, is being built right here in the weeds, where we actually stand.

What stone pillar might you set up in your own life? Where in the weeds might you practice saying, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it?"

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we come to you as we are, with our doubts and our mixed fields. Teach us that your presence does not depend on our purity. Bethel is here, in this moment, where we actually stand.

Grant us the courage to mark the places where you meet us, even when we did not expect to find you there. And grant us the patience to let wheat and weeds grow together, trusting that the harvest belongs to you and not to us.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who made his home among us in all our mixture and weakness, and who promises to be with us always.

Amen.

