

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Vol. 46

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 14, 2026

No. 24

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 J.S. Bach
"Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns Wend"
Douglas Chaplow

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #57
"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Hymnal #881
The Apostles' Creed

†GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7
The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY Hymnal #94

†SCRIPTURE READING
Romans 5:1-8
*"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were
sinners Christ died for us."*
The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
"Suffering, Endurance, and a Child Named Laughter"

†RECESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #568
"Christ for the World We Sing"

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†POSTLUDE J.S. Bach
"Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist"
Douglas Chaplow

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

9:45 a.m.

†WORSHIP SONG "Great Things"

†WORSHIP SONG "Goodness of God"

†WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERTORY PRAYER

†OFFERTORY "As the Deer"

†SCRIPTURE READINGS
Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7
Romans 5:1-8

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
"Suffering, Endurance, and a Child Named Laughter"
*"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were
sinners Christ died for us."*

†WORSHIP SONG "What A Beautiful Name"

†WORSHIP SONG
"Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me"

†BENEDICTION

*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
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT Rev. E. Wayne Curry
"Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve."

PRELUDE "Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns Wend" J.S. Bach
Douglas Chaplow

INTROIT "The Lord of Hosts Is With Us" Daniel Gawthrop

†CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 116:1, 10-17 Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Hymnal #57

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed Hymnal #881

†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.**

†OPENING PRAYER
Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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.

†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.**

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

ANTHEM "Let Everything That Hath Breath" Jeffrey L. Ames
Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Crucifer | Michael Plagens | **Ushers** | John Koehler, Karen Russell, Melanie Ethers, Rev. Patty Daniels, Rebecca Plagens, Rob Wicker, James Hunt | **Altar Guild** | Jamie Trulock, Valerie Dowell, Mary Ann Moore, 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams
Rev. E. Wayne Curry

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Allegretto,' Mvt. III from Op. 59"
Carol Marchant, piano

Malcolm Arnold/John York

†DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymnal #94

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

†SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:1-8

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Suffering, Endurance, and a Child Named Laughter"
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Christ for the World We Sing"

Hymnal #568

†BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

"God Be in My Head"
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

†POSTLUDE

"Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist"
Douglas Chaplow

J.S. Bach



*The flowers adorning the altar today are in celebration of the LGBTQ+ members
of our congregation from the Love in Action Committee.*



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. 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...

Katherine Moreton

Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

MONTHLY COLLECTION

During June, Local Missions will be collecting infant and toddler diapers for Refuge House and adult diapers/incontinence products for Elder Care Services. Donations can be left in the collection bins in the Welcome Center and Narthex.

PRAYER QUILT

The Prayer Quilt this morning is for Katherine Moreton, daughter-in-law of Alan and Susan Moreton. Katherine is recovering from spinal surgery. 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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome our newest members, Reba Scott, Laura Underhill, and Brian Underhill, who joined Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

SUMMER FUN NIGHT

Join us in Moor Hall for dinner and BINGO on June 24 at 5:30 p.m.! There will be prizes in addition to all the fun and fellowship! No cost for dinner, but a love offering will be accepted. Please scan the QR code to register in advance.



THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, June 14

8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
8:30/9:45/11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.

Chapel Service
Yates Heritage Center Open
Photo Directory Session
Contemporary Service
Sunday School
Liturgical Service
Photo Directory Session
Church Council
Youth Praise Band
UMYF

Monday, June 15

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

Snack Pack Distribution
Disaster Response Team
Centering Prayer

Tuesday, June 16

7:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:10 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Directory Photo Reviews
Men's Daybreak
BFC Staying Strong
BFC Variety Mix
BFC Flex on the Floor
Celebrate Recovery
Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, June 17

4:15 p.m.
4:15 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Directory Photo Reviews
Richard Andrews' Bible Study
Summer Mahjong
Love in Action
Trinity Ringers
Praise Band

Thursday, June 18

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

Directory Photo Reviews
Snack Pack Distribution
BFC Variety Mix
BFC Staying Strong
BFO Pickleball

Friday, June 19

10:00 a.m.

Juneteenth
Church Office and Preschool Closed
Friday Study Group

Directory photos can be taken today from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Today is the last opportunity to take a photo.

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.



*Suffering, Endurance,
and a Child Named Laughter*

A Personal Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

June 14, 2026

A Bible Study

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7) and Romans 5:1–8

Part One: The Long Wait

Read Genesis 18:1–15

The promise God made to Abraham was not new at Mamre. It had been spoken years earlier in Genesis 12. When we reach chapter 18, it has accumulated a long history of disappointment. The text is specific about their ages precisely because no human explanation remains.

Sarah is not standing at the entrance with Abraham, but inside and behind him. She is in the shadow. Her laugh is interior and involuntary. It is the sound of someone who has hoped before, who knows what hoping costs, and who has quietly decided that the gap between the promise and the present is too wide to keep crossing.

The question in verse 14 is the hinge of the entire passage. The Hebrew word translated “too hard” is *pala*, carrying the sense of something extraordinary, wonderful beyond ordinary capacity — the same root that gives the Psalms their word for “wonders.” She is being asked to reconsider the size of her God.

For personal reflection:

Sarah’s reasoning in verse 12 is entirely sound. Where in your own life has your reasoning been correct and yet God has been working outside the boundaries of what seemed reasonable?

How do you answer the question of verse 14 when considering a specific situation you may be carrying right now?

Part Two: What We Believe About Grace

Read Genesis 21:1–7

The United Methodist Church describes prevenient grace as “God’s love that works for us before we are aware of God’s love and acceptance.” Sarah did not manufacture the faith that kept her within earshot of the promise. Prevenient grace was holding her in proximity to God even when she had stopped expecting anything from that proximity. The Church also teaches that grace “awakens our longing for deliverance from sin and death” and “moves us toward repentance and faith.”

The Wesleyan tradition does not teach that God designs or inflicts suffering. Suffering entered through the fracture of free will or human freedom. What the Church affirms is that God does not stand apart from that fracture but enters it all the way to the cross.

At Isaac’s birth, Sarah says: “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” The laugh is still there but it has been transformed from the inside out. The name Isaac is *Yitzhak* in Hebrew, meaning “he laughs.”

For personal reflection:

Looking back over a difficult season, where do you see evidence that God was present and working before you recognized it? What in your own story has God redeemed rather than removed?

Part Three: Paul's Chain

Read Romans 5:1–8

Paul does not say we endure suffering or survive it. He says we glory in it (*kauchaomai*), the same Greek word he uses for glorying in God. Suffering and hope belong to the same sentence. The word for character is *dokime*, meaning something tested and proved genuine, like metal refined by fire. You do not know what you are made of until something has required everything of you.

N.T. Wright, in his commentary on Romans, draws the distinction that gives Paul's argument its full force: "When the patience is Christian patience, and the tried and tested character a Christian character, the result is neither shallow optimism nor settled fatalism, but hope." The phrase "hope does not put us to shame" addresses a specific fear. The Greek word *kataischuno* means to be humiliated, to have your hope exposed as foolish. Paul says this hope will not shame you, not because the waiting is easy, but because God's love has been poured out (*ekkechutai*), spilled in abundance. You are not hoping in your own capacity to endure. You are hoping from inside a love already given and already present.

The axis of the passage is the final verse: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

For personal reflection:

Where are you in Paul's chain right now — suffering, perseverance, character, or hope? Wright distinguishes the hope that emerges from suffering from both "shallow optimism" and "settled fatalism." Which of those two, if you are honest, is the greater temptation for you? How does Paul's chain address that temptation specifically?

Have you ever quietly stopped hoping for something because continued disappointment felt too costly? What would it mean to hope again from inside the love Paul describes?

Part Four: The Name

Read both passages again back to back.

God did not name the child *Promise or Faithfulness*. He named him after the sound Sarah made when she did not believe it was possible. The hollow laugh behind the curtain became the name of the fulfilled promise.

The United Methodist Church describes our ultimate hope as "the complete restoration and transformation of all humanity and creation to the image of Jesus Christ," and affirms that this restoration "begins here and now."

Faith worth celebrating is not faith that never doubted.

For personal reflection:

What does it mean to you that God named the promise after the sound of doubt?

Write a brief, honest prayer in response to the question of verse 14. Let it be as honest as Sarah's laugh and not what you think you should believe, but where you actually are.

A Closing Prayer

Lord, find me where I am. Whether I am at the entrance of the tent or behind the curtain, speak to me. Transform what I have held in doubt into what I will carry in joy. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

