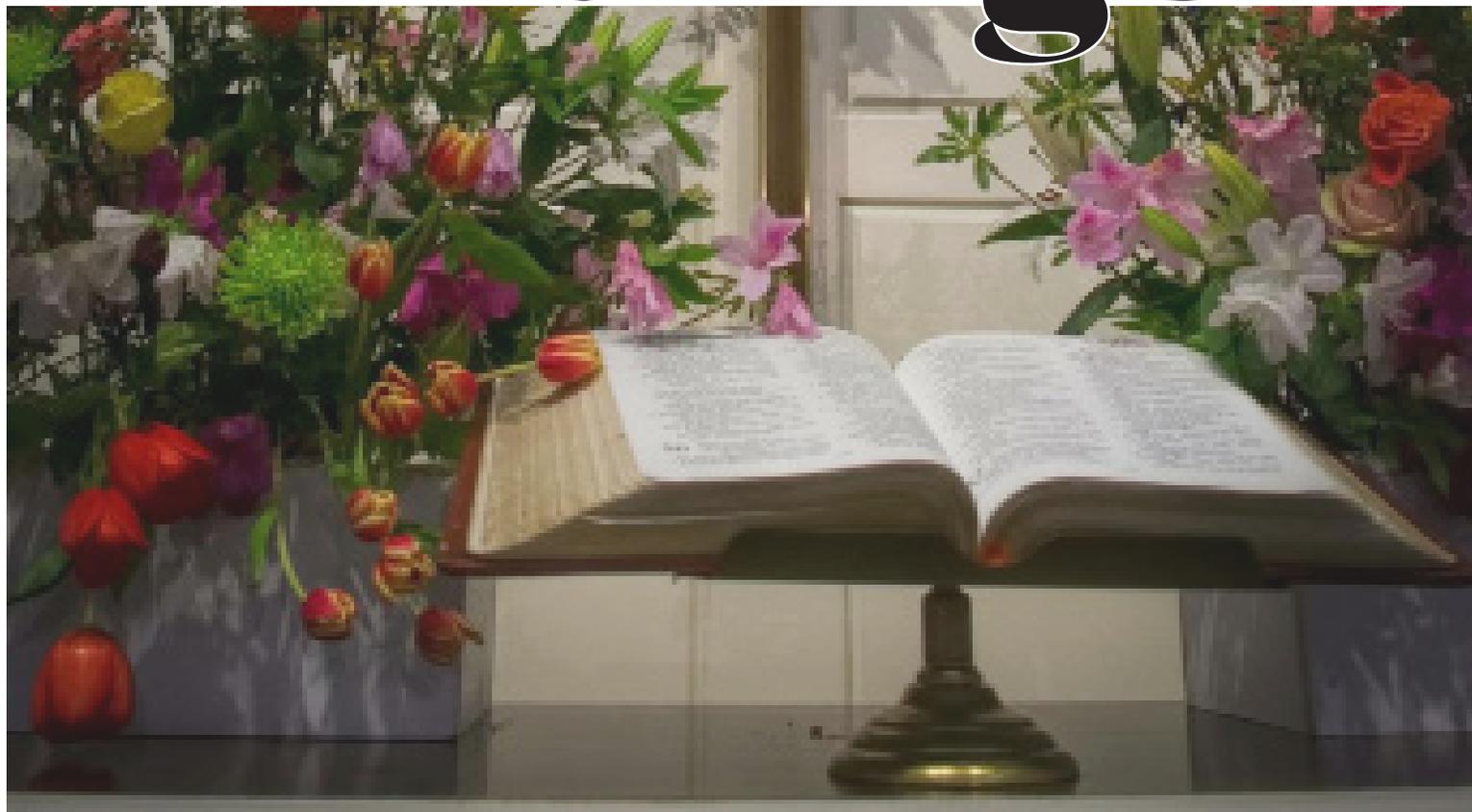


Tidings



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

Behind the Scenes of Sunday Worship

By Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

Every Sunday morning, our church comes alive through the faithful service of many individuals working quietly and joyfully behind the scenes — often before most of us have had our first cup of coffee.

Each of the ministries you are about to discover plays a vital role in shaping our shared worship experience. Whether through beauty, hospitality, ritual, service, or stitches of compassion, they reflect the many ways people offer their gifts to God and to one another. We are deeply thankful for everyone who serves in these groups, and we celebrate their commitment, faithfulness, and love.

Together, these ministries help create a worship experience that is welcoming, meaningful, and grounded in reverence. As you read this, you will see the names of those who serve in these roles, and we offer our heartfelt appreciation to each one of them.

Continued...

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Behind the Scenes, *continued*

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild blesses our worship through their care and creativity, proving that sacred beauty really does live in the details. From arranging flowers just so, to preparing the altar for special seasons, their work adds beauty and dignity to our sanctuary. Their careful attention to detail helps create a sacred tone that draws our hearts and minds into worship before a single word is spoken.



Altar Guild Members: Beverly Burleson, Mary Ann Moore, Lynn Barerra, Lisa Osteen, Julie Pararo, Marilyn Dean, Earline Adkison, Jimmy Richerson, Corbin Moore, Cynthia Smith, Linda Campbell, Gayle Webb, Elda Martinko, Linda Bianco, Cindy McDuffie, Linda Campbell, Renee White, Ann Melder, Meg Hilaman, Cindy Campbell, Midge Mercer, Mary Jane Portwood, Judy Green, Cindy Donelan, Linda Trammel, Susan Thomas, Kathleen Stinson, Becky Bishop, Sarah Teresa Haskell, Jamie Trulock, Julian Mathis, Diane Jacobs, Georgia Jordan, Valerie Dowell, Susette Crosby

Emeritus Members: Donna Frinks, Dot Hayward, Walli Beall, Debbie Hurley

Ushers

Our Usher Teams are often the first faces we see on Sunday mornings, and their ministry sets the spirit for the day. With warm smiles and gracious hospitality, they welcome worshipers, assist with seating, and help everyone feel at home at the most exciting church in Tallahassee. Their calm presence reflects the open and loving community we strive to be.

8:30 Ushers: Jayne Mittan, Larry Pendleton, Amber Pendelton, Glen Squire, Tanya Holladay;

9:45 Ushers: Edith Quinley, Karin Clark, Heath Annin, Gay Annin, Jim Henderson;

11:00 Ushers: Joe Miller, Betty Miller, Bob Lumsden, Glen Squire, Joe McGlothlin, Jean Glenn, Mason Bennett, Brent Chumbler, Billy Hilaman, Jamie Trulock, Scott Trulock, John Elliott, Linda Bianco, Mike Marschall, Sid Matthew, John Koehler, Karen Russell, Melanie Eppers, Rev. Patty Daniels, Rebecca Plagens, Rob Wicker, James Hunt



Jayne Mittan, Donna Ranner, Sid Matthew, and Jamie Trulock greet congregants at various services



Communion Stewards

Our Communion Stewards offer a ministry of quiet devotion and faithful preparation. On the first Sunday of every month, they lovingly prepare communion for all three services and step in during other occasions throughout the year. Their behind-the-scenes work ensures that this sacred meal is ready to be shared by the congregation, supporting one of the most meaningful moments in our worship life.

Communion Stewards: Linda Stamatoff, Ann Mowell, Anne Parker (*all pictured left*)

Acolytes and Crucifers

We are also grateful for our Acolytes and Crucifers, whose faithful participation brings depth and continuity to our traditional service. Through their careful movements and visible leadership in worship, they remind us that we are part of a long and living tradition. Their service adds rhythm, reverence, and meaning to our time together.

Acolytes and Crucifers: Michael Plagens (*right*), Chris LaFever, Chelsea LaFever, Lillian Watters, Mike Watters, Penelope Watters, Aubrey Recks



Bulletin Assistants

We are indebted to our faithful bulletin assistants. Each week, they prepare and mail bulletins to those who have requested to receive their bulletins this way. When there is additional liturgy or information to add, these volunteers place inserts in hundreds of bulletins, one by one, to be sure they are ready for worship.

Bulletin Assistants: Cecile Baker, Lynn McLarty (*both pictured left*)

Club Car Drivers

Our thanks extend as well to the Club Car Drivers, whose service ensures that all who wish to worship can do so with ease and comfort. By transporting worshipers from the library parking lot to the sanctuary, they offer a simple yet powerful act of care that removes barriers and extends hospitality before the service even begins. Think of them as providing first-class service for the shortest ride in town.

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



Donie Ann Henderson in Club Car driven by Ed Young

Livestream and Sound Board Assistants

We greatly appreciate the volunteers who assist our AV Technician during the 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services and occasional special events. These volunteers assist with sound, lighting, and the livestream broadcast of our Contemporary and Liturgical Services that allow for remote worship via our Trinity YouTube Channel.

Livestream and Sound Board Assistants: Melissa Young, Elizabeth Plagens, Zach Staubitz, Rachael Diaz, Alex Bell, Scott Nelson, Lizzy Parnell, Karen Taylor, Brody Jenkins, Cole Annin



Scott Nelson assisting Zach Cramer at the Contemporary Service (left); Melissa Young assisting Zach Cramer at the Liturgical Service (right)

Prayers and Squares Ministry

We are deeply thankful for our Prayers and Squares Ministry, whose members stitch together faith, love, and a whole lot of patience. Through the making of Prayer Quilts, they give our congregation the opportunity to pray for those experiencing various health challenges. Each quilt is prayed over during worship services before being given, wrapping recipients not only in warmth but also in the reassurance that they are held in prayer by their Trinity family — proof that sometimes the most powerful ministry comes with a needle, thread, and heartfelt prayers.

Prayers and Squares Members: Marilyn Duclos-Balliet Barbara Allen, Valerie Dowell, Donie Ann Henderson, Becky Lachance, Nancy Lachance, Terrie Lee, Beth Perry, Linda Shults, Barbara Ware



Our worship services are designed with intentionality to glorify God, strengthen the faith of individuals, and foster a sense of community among congregants. As you can see, it is through the faithful service of many that these goals are achieved.

If you see a ministry listed here that sparks your interest or feels like a place where your gifts might be shared, we invite you to explore getting involved. Please contact Rev. Curry at waynecurry@tumct.org to learn more about these opportunities to serve and support our worship life together. You might just discover a new calling — and a wonderful way to be part of the quiet magic that happens every Sunday.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

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



Lay Academy Offers Class on Unknown Women in the Bible

By Gloria Colvin, Lay Academy Committee Chair

Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski will lead a class on Unknown Women in the Bible during the month of March as part of Lay Academy (see schedule, right).

Drawing from both the Old and New Testaments, she'll introduce participants to women from various walks of life who were important in various ways in their times, but who rarely get a lot of attention today. Reading of scripture, descriptions of the women and their significance, and discussion of their roles and contributions will be part of each session. The class will run for five weeks, from March 4 through April 1, on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:15 in room 305. Registration is not required.

In addition to this class, Richard Andrews' Bible study will continue to discuss *Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry Into the Old Testament* on Wednesdays at 4:15 in the library. Parenting Village will continue to meet each Wednesday at 6:15 in the Conference Room.

Unknown Women of the Bible

March 4: The Judge

- Deborah

March 11: Women Within the Monarchy

- Shiphrah and Puah (Exodus 1:15–21)
- The Woman of Tekoa (2 Samuel 14)

March 18: Civilians

- Hagar
- Miriam (sister of Moses)
- The Wise Woman of Abel Beth Maacah (2 Samuel 20:14–22)

March 25: Gospel Women

- Anna the Prophet (Luke 2:36–38)
- The Syrophenician (Canaanite) Woman (Mark 7:24–30; Matthew 15:21–28)
- The Sinful Woman Who Anoints Jesus (Luke 7:36–50)
- The first preachers of the Gospel

April 1: Early Church Leaders

- Phoebe (Romans 16:1–2)
- Priscilla (Prisca) (Acts 18:18–26; Romans 16:3–5)
- Junia (Romans 16:7)
- Lydia (Acts 16:11–15, 40)
- Nympha (Colossians 4:15)
- Chloe (1 Corinthians 1:11)

Trinity Ministry Dogs Ready to Love



By Rev. John Willis, retired, and Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

We are excited to share with you a new initiative at Trinity Church — Trinity Ministry Dogs, or Trinity MDs. This ministry aims to bring comfort, joy, and companionship to members of our church community, especially our beloved seniors. We understand the importance of the human-animal bond and its therapeutic benefits. That's why Trinity MDs and their human companions have completed an extensive training to prepare them for sharing God's love with members who request a visit.

We are inviting you to participate in this program by having a church member and their furry friend visit you at your convenience. Whether you are a dog lover or simply enjoy the presence of a friendly pet, we believe that these visits can bring warmth and happiness to your day.

If you are interested in having a church member and their pet visit you, please let us know your preferred day and time. You can indicate your interest by completing the ["Request a TMD Visit" form](#) found on the [Serving at Trinity page of our website](#) or by contacting our church office directly at 850-222-1120. We will do our best to match you with a suitable volunteer and their well-behaved dog for a visit.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that the Trinity Ministry Dogs can bring a smile to your face and comfort to your heart. Thank you for being a valued member of our church community.



Trinity Ministry Dogs picture: Elena, Ziggy, Stevie Nix, Elliott, Chewy, Derby, Maggie, Sushi, Abbey, Belle, and Sophie (photo by Rev. Wayne Curry)

Lenten Resources in Trinity's Library

By Gloria Colvin, Church Librarian

Trinity's McKenzie Library has a wealth of books on many different topics that are available to all Trinity members and their families. As we move through the Lenten season and approach Easter, you can find books of devotions specifically for this time in the church year as well as books that will expand and enrich your understanding of Lent and Easter. Many are written by noted authors or theologians specifically for lay people. The children's collection has books about Easter for preschool and elementary school children.

All of the following books and others will be displayed in the library so that you don't have to hunt for them on the shelves. To check them out, please write your name and the date you check the book out on the card, usually found in the back of the book, and place it in the box to the right of the Reference section. You can search the online catalog for other books through links found on the [Adult Ministries](#) and [Children's Ministries](#) pages of our website, or by going directly to this URL: <https://subspl.sh/jzhtn55>.

A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent by Walter Brueggemann

Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent by Richard Rohr

Preparing for Easter: Fifty Devotional Readings from C.S. Lewis

Sensing the Passion: Reflections During Lent and Easter by Alvin Scully

Pauses for Lent: 40 Words for 40 Days by Trevor Hudson

Remember God's Covenant and the Cross by Susan Robb

A Beautiful Year: 52 Meditations on Faith, Wisdom, and Perseverance by Diana Butler Bass

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Midst by Bishop Tom Berlin

John: The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine

Trinity's New Members of 2025

By Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

Membership is an important way of living out who we are called to be. As our Book of Discipline reminds us, membership in a local church is a vital way of professing our faith in God, the Maker of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, and in the Holy Spirit. When people join a local church, they make known their desire to live their daily lives as disciples of Christ. And in professing this faith with the congregation, they enter into a covenant with one another and with God — to love God, love others, and live fully into God's redeeming grace.

For those who would like to become members of Trinity United Methodist Church, the process is simple and welcoming. We offer a New Members Class using *The Disciple's Path* by James Harnish, which helps us better understand what it means to live out our faith as United Methodists. This class is highly recommended and may be taken either before or after joining the church, as it offers a deeper understanding of Trinity UMC and our faith tradition. Anyone interested in joining or learning about what it means to be a member, please reach out to Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski at abopalinski@tumct.org. The New Member Sundays of 2026 are March 1, June 7, September 13, and November 8.

Let's extend a very special welcome to all of our 2025 New Members:

- Amanda Perez
- Kathy Voigt
- Teresa Sweeney
- Todd Gainey
- Debbie Willis
- Ashley Jordan
- Devin Jordan
- Alice Ervin
- Jay Ervin
- Victor Cardenas
- Stuart Tillman
- Kathi Tillman
- Adam Kramer
- Bryon Ehlmann
- Barbara Ehlmann
- Miriam Sellers
- George Sellers
- Evan Cato

Meet Gregory Hilliard

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

Gregory Hilliard began his role as Trinity's Director of Traditional Music in February 2026. However, while he may be new to Trinity's staff, Gregory's recent move is a celebrated homecoming. Many at Trinity remember Gregory as a vital part of our church and its music program in years past. One thing is certain: Whether you're just being introduced to Gregory or have known him for years, you are probably about to learn some things about him that you never knew.

Gregory, tell us about your background and upbringing.

I was a military brat who grew up across four U.S. states as the middle child of three. My father retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 22 years of service while we were living in Miami, and we remained in the area until my sisters and I graduated high school.

I auditioned and was accepted into the Vocal Music Division at the New World School of the Arts, a conservatory-based fine arts high school located downtown. After graduating, I went to Florida State University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Specialized Study Certificate in Sacred Music. After completing student teaching in Orlando and graduating from FSU, I taught K-12 music (but mostly middle school choir) for nine years at various North Florida schools, primarily in Tallahassee.

In 2018, I moved to Central Texas to earn my Master's in Choral Conducting at Texas State University. I finished my Master's during the height of the pandemic, and for about a year, my part-time delivery driver job during grad school became full-time.

In 2021, I landed a teaching job in Manor (east of Austin), where I quadrupled the enrollment in their middle school choir program, and this past August, I took over a new middle school choral program in Bulverde (in the Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio). While teaching, I was performing professionally as a contracted vocalist throughout Texas, and for the last seven-and-a-half years, I served as the Minister of Music at First Methodist Church in Lockhart, where I directed the choir, accompanied responsorials, prepared two annual cantatas, and regularly collaborated with the contemporary worship team.

From military brat to accomplished musician! That's fascinating. Gregory, tell us more about your music background and about your history with Trinity UMC.

Despite being born in a family of non-musicians, I found my niche in music class in every elementary school I attended, and I readily volunteered to sing in the choirs and praise teams at every church my family joined. Right before we moved to Miami, before I entered fourth grade, we inherited a piano and I started taking lessons. The next year, I started voice lessons, and in middle school I participated in several honor choirs and festivals.

In high school I won a few regional voice competitions, and I was selected for the Florida All-State Reading Chorus three times. During my first semester as a music major in Tallahassee, I discovered Trinity UMC through a flyer in FSU's Kuersteiner Music Building. I reached out to the contact, Director of Music Mark Repasky, and after visiting both the 11:00 a.m. service and the Chancel Choir rehearsal that week, I knew I was "home!"

A year later, Mark asked if I would serve as the College Music Intern, and over the next two years I served throughout the vast music program Trinity offers, including regularly singing in quartets at the 8:30 a.m. service, playing in College/Career Handbells, subbing in Trinity Ringers, and ministering in special performances and projects, especially recording the much-loved "Healing Hurting Hearts" CD. I first left Trinity when I completed my student teaching assignment but moved back to town after graduation to start teaching with Leon County Schools. Mark asked if I would come back on staff as Music Associate, and for the next nine years (minus one year when I took a temporary teaching position in Starke), I did almost everything within Trinity's Traditional Music Ministry realm.



Gregory Hilliard,
Director of Traditional Music

We're so happy you've returned to us. For you, what's the best thing so far about working here at Trinity again?

I love being surrounded by so many people, staff and congregants alike, who are incredibly devoted to their ministry! And I really enjoy having the opportunity to work with various ages and skill levels, helping everyone find their passion for worship through music.

You should know that our senior pastor often refers to Trinity as “the most exciting church in Tallahassee.” What excites you about this church?

I loved living in Central Texas, and I honestly did not expect to leave so soon. But once the opportunity to potentially come back on the Trinity staff presented itself, I couldn't turn down the chance to be a part of something greater than myself again. You can sense that everyone here cares not only for each other, but for the greater community — Trinity is, truly, "a church with a heart for the city," and I don't put it lightly that the legacy of this large music program has been an important part of this church's history!

What are your hobbies and interests?

Growing up, I was a voracious reader, and with the minimal time I have had over the years between teaching, studying, and performing, I try to pick up a good novel every now and then. With hour-long-plus commutes the last five years, I've gotten into audiobooks and entertainment/recap podcasts. I love trivia (it's my not-so-secret dream to win on *Jeopardy!* someday), and I play many of the *NYT* Games daily (Wordle, Connections, Spelling Bee, Sudoku).

Before we close, let's play a little game. It's not a NYT puzzler, but let's have fun with a lightning round of your favorites:

Favorite food? Bourbon chicken

Dream vacation? London during BBC Proms season, or a remote winter resort in the Upper Midwest (Note: I do NOT like hot weather!).

If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Time manipulation

Favorite sports team? I may be a former Seattleite, but I'm a proud "12!" Go Seahawks!

Favorite Bible verse? "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue



A New Platform for Giving

By Dori Barton, Financial Assistant

Trinity is getting a new Giving platform. We are shifting from TouchPoint, our current platform, to Subsplash, which is the platform we use for our app and website. This change is a step toward streamlining multiple processes by moving them to a single platform, which will ultimately improve our efficiency and effectiveness. Have you set up your Subsplash profile yet? Use the Giving menu icon on the app or find the Subsplash link on the [Giving page of our website](#). Instructional videos are also available on the Giving page to assist you. If you need help making any changes, please call the church office at 850-222-1120.

If you are a member who routinely gives by cash or check, nothing will change for you. It is only our online giving process that is undergoing change. This change will affect those who give by debit card, credit card, or ACH withdrawal. Whether you make one-time gifts or have recurring fund transfers, here are some important details you need to know:

- If you give by recurring debit or credit card contributions, you **MUST** terminate your TouchPoint withdrawals and set up debit or credit card withdrawals through Subsplash.
- If you give by monthly ACH contributions, your final withdrawal through our current system will be March 10. For April, you will need to set up your recurring ACH contributions through Subsplash.

Thank you for your patience as we make this transition, and remember to call the business office if you need assistance.

DEI and the Omnipresence of God's Love

By Pamela C. Crosby, DEI Member

"The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Working Group is committed to fostering a congregation grounded in understanding, connection, and affirmation. We recognize that true inclusion requires not only hospitality but also healing, and we dedicate ourselves to the ongoing work of repairing harm, cultivating a welcoming spirit, and building a church community where everyone feels the love of God."

The DEI group members seek to translate the above vision statement into the spaces, voices, and actions of the life of the church. The following examples are some of the ways we have worked to advocate for Trinity to embody this vision.

Spaces

First, the DEI working group has proposed policies and programs that would help to make all people feel welcome in our church building, on our campus, and throughout our areas of outreach. If God's love is present in every corner and crevice, then our hospitality should be also. In light of this holy presence, we have advocated for full accommodation for the physically challenged in regard to parking spaces, entrances, sanctuary seating, and other places relating to church life. In turn, we support ways that Trinity can provide warm and friendly spaces for the unhoused, where they can take refuge from the often harsh reality they encounter in outside urban life.



Shortened pews in the sanctuary provide spaces for those who need special accommodation for wheelchair access.

Voices

Second, as a consequence of God's welcoming love, we have requested that the voices of church leaders and congregants reflect this love in multiple ways. First we have urged that all people regardless of the stage in their faith journey, socioeconomic status, abilities, marital status, sexual identity, age, etc., be welcomed in prominent places in our church. Such voices include announcements, bulletins, newsletters, and outside signage. In addition, we have supported the publication and dissemination of stories that admit past failures of the church such as accounts of racist policies, the exclusion of women in leadership positions, and UMC's exclusion of LGBTQ+ persons concerning marriage and ordination.

Actions

Third, we know that action incorporates both voices and spaces. And those voices and spaces should not be confined to our church building. For example, our DEI Committee plans to attend the Tallahassee Pridefest on March 7, 2026. We will join with other supportive organizations (including other participating Tallahassee churches) at Cascades Park to advocate for the visibility and representation of the LGBTQ+ community. Wearing specially themed t-shirts, our group members will distribute water bottles with stickers displaying inclusive messages and also hand out ribbons and pins.

Finally, we attest that DEI is not only a group or message but also a tool used for commitment to Christ-like behaviors. In short, our working group is rooted in a powerful theological premise: If God's love is omnipresent, then our church should always strive to embody the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion in everything we do.

For more information, contact Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski at abopalinski@tumct.org.

Memorials and Honorariums

February 2026

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Earline Adkison

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Suzanne Hurst

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Cynthia Smith

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Bill and Paula Smith

In memory of Richard "Dick" Boyd Winchester from Circle One, United Women in Faith

International Women's Day

By Melanie Gonzalez, Director of Operations

The origins of International Women's Day trace back to the early 1900s. What began as advocacy for equal rights has blossomed into a global celebration of women's achievements across all seasons and facets of life. Over the decades, nations have embraced this day in diverse ways, some through official public holidays, others through quiet, heartfelt gestures that honor the unique essence of womanhood.

For me, the beauty of this day lies in those smaller, personal moments. I grew up cherishing the simple kindness that March 8 brought. Often this was a thoughtful message from relatives, those near and far, a bouquet of flowers, or a small piece of chocolate. These gestures left a lasting impression, inspiring me to carry on the tradition of honoring the women around me. We possess the power to transform our homes, our communities, and our society, yet we all thrive on encouragement and the warmth of being appreciated.

At Trinity, we are blessed by the caliber of women on our staff. Our team is comprised of individuals who are not only skilled and capable but deeply kind, generous, and dedicated. Each woman brings a unique gift to our team, whether on the frontline or working behind the scenes. I feel truly privileged to stand alongside them. Beyond our staff, we are equally grateful for our incredible volunteers whose devotion sustains our committees and ministries.

If March 8 hasn't previously held a place on your calendar, I encourage you to embrace it this year. Take a moment to remind the women in your life of their extraordinary worth. Happy International Women's Day to you all!



A Godly Perspective on Social Justice

By Margie Clay, Justice Committee Member

Social Justice involves changing laws, providing resources, and ensuring that those without a voice are treated fairly by the system. In America today, we often see justice through a dualistic lens: right and wrong, crime and punishment, win or lose. This is likely the way our homes were run as we were growing up, and it is the foundation upon which our social, political, religious, and judicial systems are largely based.

For Jesus, justice wasn't a legalistic "eye for an eye" system; it was Restorative Justice — the healing of the social fabric so that everyone has a seat at the table. He describes a justice that refuses to play the "enemy game." It is a justice that seeks to transform the oppressor rather than just destroy them. It aims for a "win-win" where the system is changed, and both the victim and the victimizer are liberated from the cycle of violence.



Restorative Justice: when everybody wins!

Are you ready to see justice differently? Would you like to understand Restorative Justice and how we can each play a part in achieving social justice for all through restorative versus retributive means?

Join the Justice Committee for a powerful evening of film and conversation as we explore the life of Albie Sachs — a man who chose reconciliation over revenge in the aftermath of apartheid. Through personal testimony and historical insight, the film *Soft Vengeance: the Story of Albie Sachs and the new South Africa* examines the nation's reconciliation process and the enduring principles of restorative justice that continue to shape democratic societies worldwide. His story is not only South Africa's story. It is a reminder that communities can heal, divisions can be bridged, and justice can be rooted in dignity and compassion. Make plans to join us:

WHEN? Thursday, April 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **WHERE?** Moor Hall

Staff Spotlight: Dori Barton

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

When it comes to Trinity's finances, there's someone working behind the scenes who may not always get recognized but is much appreciated! Dori Barton is the Financial Assistant in our Business Office. She is responsible for our membership database, receivable accounting, payroll, and member assistance.

Dori comes to us with a lot of administrative experience. She worked in the construction industry for nine years, first as a Bookkeeper, and then as a Project Manager. After that, she worked as the Office Manager at another Tallahassee church.

Born in Panama, Central America, she moved to Arkansas for around six years, then arrived here at age 13. Dori is married with two adult children, Trevor and Haleigh, and has a fur baby rescue dog named Clover. An exciting tidbit about Dori's family is that daughter Haleigh recently became engaged!

If given a choice, Dori will choose Mexican food over Italian and will tune her car radio to either Country or Classic Rock. On a cold, Tallahassee Saturday morning, you will probably find her still in her pajamas on the couch either crafting or watching crime shows.

We are grateful for all that Dori does for us. We hope she can find time to relax with some crafting and crime shows on the couch — maybe with a little Country or Classic Rock in the background!



Dori Barton
Financial Assistant

Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

Through engaging, educational experiences, Children's Week Florida partners with organizations statewide to remind leaders that every child deserves to thrive. As the largest state event focused on children and families, it brings together legislators, advocates, educators, business leaders, and families each year at the Capitol.

All of our classes participated in the Celebration of the Hands, creating artwork to remind legislators that the future of our children rests in their hands. Because of our prime location downtown, our VPK class even had the opportunity to walk to the Capitol and take part in this special event! They experienced storytelling, slime-making, and much more!



Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

Our Children's Ministry continues to grow and thrive! Families, please put our annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt on your calendars! We'll enjoy brunch in the Underground and then hunt for eggs on our playground. We ask that you register through the app, the Events page of our website, or by scanning the QR code on our Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt flyer (right). Also, please plan to bring a brunch dish and a basket for each child in your family. No need to bring eggs this year — we've got you covered!

Important Children's Ministry sign-ups are live on our app and on the [Events page of our website](#):

- VBS for children (and adult volunteers) is June 8-12
- Summer Camp for rising 4th graders and up is Week 5, July 13-18 (Register on Warren Willis website)
- Graduate Recognition Sunday is May 17



Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 -10:00 a.m.
Families, plan to join us!

- Brunch in the Underground
- Bring a brunch item to share
- Egg hunt on the playground
- Bring an Easter basket per child for hunting eggs

No need to bring eggs this year – our Children's Ministry will provide them!

Please scan here to register or visit the Events page of our website or app.



Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

Thank you to everyone who came out to Panera on the Parkway for our Share Night event! We raised funds for our Trinity Youth group while enjoying some great food and fellowship. Our next fundraiser is the **March 28 Spaghetti Dinner**, and there are a couple of ways you can help:

- **Please donate supplies for spaghetti.** We need donations of packaged spaghetti noodles, jars of sauce, baked goods, and drinks (soft drinks, water, etc.). Donations can be given to me or left in the church kitchen.
- **Buy your tickets!** Spaghetti tickets are \$5 each and will be available on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Graduate Recognition Sunday is May 17. If you are graduating in 2026, we want to honor you! We will be recognizing graduates during both the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services. Prior to the 9:45 service, graduates will be our guests at a special breakfast in their honor. Visit the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](#) to register.

Our summer Youth Mission Trip will be May 30 - June 4. We will be traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana. The cost is \$500. We will be organizing fundraisers between now and then to help offset the cost. The sign-up is now live on the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](#). Mark your calendar now, and sign up now!

Remember also that **VBS** volunteer registration and **Warren Willis Summer Camp** registration are both live, and we want you to join us for both of these great summer events. Find registration links on the Trinity app and on the [Youth Ministries page of our website](#).



The Watters family enjoying dinner out at our Panera fundraiser



Chelsea and Chris LaFever, Glen Squire, Haley and Laney Stacey, Jacob Tenison, and Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

