

Tidings



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

Remembering All the Saints on November 1

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

"After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands."

Revelation 7:9 (NRSV)

On **Sunday, November 1**, we will gather as Trinity to celebrate **All Saints' Sunday**, a sacred day of remembrance for those who have joined the Church Triumphant over this past year. We have lost some real saints on this side of heaven. They were faithful people who shaped our congregation and the Kingdom of God in ways both visible and hidden. Before we gather in memory and thanksgiving, it is worth knowing where this day comes from and what it truly means.

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Remembering All the Saints, *continued*

The History of All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day has its roots deep in the Christian tradition and stretches back centuries. In the early church, Christians honored their martyrs and those who had died in faith. As the centuries passed, the church set aside the first day of November as a day to remember all the saints, both known and unknown. Perhaps you have heard of All Hallows' Eve—the night before All Hallows' Day, as it was called. What we now know as Halloween was originally a Christian observance, a vigil before the holy day of remembrance. The word *hallowed* simply means *holy*, so All Hallows' Eve was the evening before the day set apart to remember all who are holy. It was a day to remember all who have gone before us in faith.



Fra Angelico, The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs, c. 1423–1424, National Gallery, London.

The church has always believed in what we call the communion of saints, a profound theological truth that death does not sever our connection to those who have died in Christ. We do not pray to the saints in the Protestant tradition, but we remember them, honor them, and recognize that they remain part of the body of Christ. They are not gone from us in any ultimate sense. They are part of the great cloud of witnesses spoken of in Hebrews, cheering us on as we run our own race. This is distinctly Protestant in its understanding: The saints are not intermediaries between us and God, but they are part of a communion that transcends death itself.

The Eternal Promises of God

There is something profound in how we mark the Christian life at Trinity. We baptize people into the faith, and when their earthly journey ends, we lay them to rest in the faith, trusting always in the eternal promises of God. Baptism and resurrection frame the whole of it. For your clergy, speaking these words and proclaiming these promises is a hallmark of what we do. It is our hope that each time we baptize and bury that you will remember the eternal promises of God.

In the waters of baptism we are claimed by God. In death we are held by God. In between, we are called to live as people who belong to the communion of saints, both those walking with us now and those who have gone before.

You may not know this, but you sit next to saints every Sunday when you come to church. These are people always doing something in the Kingdom of God. This is not always visible, not always announced, but it is real and faithful. They are your neighbors in the pew, the ones who serve quietly in the nursery, who show up for prayer vigils, who visit the lonely, who give generously, and who love their Lord with steady and unremarkable devotion. Lesbia Scott captured this beautifully in the hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God."

"They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their life long.
And one was a soldier and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too."

*from "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,"
L. Scott, 1929, UMC Hymnal 712*

The Communion of Saints

The saints are not distant figures in stained glass windows or heroes from another age. They are the people sitting next to you, faithfully present, faithfully worshiping, and faithfully living out their baptismal covenant. Some were teachers and some were farmers. Some raised children and some served their communities. Some were known far and wide, and some were known only to God and the people who loved them. All of them, without exception, were saints because they loved their Lord.

This is what matters at Trinity. People come to worship. They do not come to maintain the machinery of a religious institution or to observe from the sidelines. They come because they have been claimed by God in baptism and because they belong to something larger than themselves. That faithful presence, worship, and willingness to show up week after week is what we see, feel, and know to be true about who we are as a congregation. The Protestant understanding of sainthood means this: You are a saint not because you are perfect or exceptional, but because you are baptized and faithful. You belong to the communion of saints now, in this very moment, and that communion extends eternally.

The saints we remember this year lived this out. They knew what it meant to love the Lord and to trust in the promises of God. They understood that being a Christian is not about perfection but about persistent faithfulness. Now, they dwell with God above, in the communion of saints eternal.

So we gather with solemnity and hope. We light candles in memory of those saints who have gone before us, letting that light remind us that death does not have the final word. Each candle is a small defiance of darkness, a statement of faith that God holds our loved ones in eternal light and love. **This year, we will hold our All Saints' services at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. There will be no 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service on November 1.**

Bring with you the names of those you loved, the stories that still shape you, and the ways their faithfulness continues to inspire your own walk with Christ. Bring with you the communion you share with the saints who have gone before and know that you are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who cheer us on.

Almighty God,
You have knit together your elect
In one communion and fellowship,
In the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord.
Grant us grace
So to follow your holy saints in all virtuous and godly living,
That we may come to those unspeakable joys,
Which you have prepared for those who sincerely love you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- from the *Book of Common Prayer*

Memorials and Honorariums

October 2026

In memory of Patti Oakley from Tom Pate, Jessica (Pate) Martin, Sandra (Pate) and Brian Benton, Richard and Donita Pate, and Adam Pate

Your Input Is Helping Shape Trinity's Future

By James Hunt, Church Council Chair

Thank you, Trinity! Your responses to our Facilities Renovation Survey offer an encouraging picture of our hopes for the years ahead. This work is grounded in our church's 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 facilities help put that vision into practice. They are places where children discover God's love, friendships grow, neighbors find welcome, and ministries take shape. Your input will help guide their future.

The survey included 164 responses, with 152 respondents identifying as Trinity members. Participants represented all three worship services, Sunday school, small groups, Wednesday activities, volunteer leadership, and community programs. These perspectives will guide the Facilities Renovation Committee as it considers how our campus can support ministry over the next decade and beyond.

One message came through clearly: **We value spaces that can serve many purposes.** Among those completing the space ranking, 90% placed flexible fellowship space in their top three priorities. Respondents envision rooms that can adapt for learning, meals, meetings, recreation, and activities across generations. Comments emphasized appropriate furnishings, nearby storage, and schedules that help groups share rooms successfully.

Technology was another leading priority. Nearly 73% of those choosing improvements for future ministry impact selected technology capability, closely followed by flexibility at 72%. Comments requested reliable internet, usable screens, clear sound, and equipment that volunteers can operate confidently. Better classroom functionality, easier access, and comfortable heating and cooling also received substantial support.

Investing in younger generations emerged as a strong theme. When asked which groups the Education Building should primarily support in the future, 65% selected elementary-age children, while more than half selected youth and preschool or young children. At the same time, 44% selected multigenerational activities. Comments emphasized keeping the building welcoming and useful for all ages, with rooms that can evolve as ministry needs change.

Accessibility deserves close attention. About half of respondents answering the ministry-impact question selected it as a priority. Written responses encouraged us to consider the entire experience of participating at Trinity: arriving, finding an entrance, moving between buildings and floors, reaching a restroom, and comfortably joining an activity. These everyday experiences matter to a welcoming church.

Comments also raised ideas about music ministry, fitness, outreach, storage, repairs, and responsible stewardship. Successful renovation begins with understanding what ministries need to thrive. These findings will help the committee explore room arrangements, hear more from ministry participants, and weigh different renovation approaches.

There is much to look forward to as these conversations develop. Your input helps us imagine facilities that make it easier to gather, learn, serve, and grow in faith together. Thank you for sharing your experiences, priorities and hopes. The excitement of this work lies in the opportunities ahead: welcoming someone new, helping a child feel at home, bringing generations together, and equipping Trinity for the next chapter of its ministry. We have a future worth planning for together.

A Full-Circle Preschool Experience

By Sally Huggins, Worship Committee Chair and Long-time Trinity UMC Member

In the October 2026 edition of the *Tidings*, Dr. Emily Snowden's article heralding Trinity United Methodist Preschool is introduced by a picture of the thirteen children who were part of the first preschool class in 1973. Thirteen three- and four-year-olds with big smiles on their faces, showing how much fun school could be.

There's a fourteenth child in that picture, a child who was already in kindergarten and just a wee bit taller than the other kids in the photograph. A little girl who happened to be there on the day the class picture was made—me!

My mother, Claire Nash, and her good friend Mary Blackburn are standing on either side of the group of children in that picture. They founded Trinity's preschool the year I started kindergarten. My mom and Mary were both graduates of Valdosta State University with degrees in elementary education, and both held the education of young children in high regard. It was important to them that children develop a lifelong love of learning and experience the expansiveness of God's love by learning in a school where they would be loved and cherished.



Trinity Preschool Class of 1973-1974 with Claire Nash, left, Mary Blackburn, right, and young Sally [Nash] Huggins wearing green



Claire Nash, left, leading a Trinity preschool class

Because Trinity did not have a nursery school during my preschool years, I attended another church preschool. It was a lovely school, still in existence today, but it wasn't at *our* church. A nursery school at Trinity was the dream my mom had for not only her own children but all the children of our church.

My mom directed Trinity's preschool for just two years before she was diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer. Ironically, her cancer was only discovered due to medical tests that were required of all who worked with children. After thirteen years of struggles with the side effects of her cancer treatment, my mom died in 1988.

Mary Blackburn carried on the vision that she and my mom had for more than twenty years after the preschool opened its doors. Under her leadership, the preschool expanded to include a half-day Mothers' Morning Out program for babies and toddlers, classes for two-year-olds, and additional classes that were added for those precious threes and fours. Every child that entered the doors of the preschool knew that they were loved and cherished by Mrs. Blackburn and each teacher they encountered.

When my son Matthew was born in 1998, there was no question where he would go to preschool. At just five months old, Matthew started in the baby room with Miss Victoria and eventually made his way through to the classes his grandmother once taught. He was soon followed by his sisters, Meredith and Claire, and finally his youngest sibling, Sean. Even my brother Noel, who spent his own preschool years at Trinity, sent his children Carter and Clayton to the same place where he'd been loved and nurtured.



Mary Blackburn

And now, the circle gets even larger as my own grandchildren, JJ and Ramsay, are a part of the preschool their great-grandmother founded. Like their mom, their aunt and uncles, and their cousins before them, they're learning their ABCs and their 123s and how to write their names. And they're learning in a high-quality environment that loves and cherishes them every day. I know my mom would be proud of them.

Mary Blackburn and my mom planted a small seed way back in 1973 that has grown into a wonderful place that touches the life of each child who comes through its doors. Fifty-three years later, Trinity United Methodist Preschool is a thriving place of love and learning, and a visible reminder of the vision held by Claire Nash and Mary Blackburn.

Please visit the [About Our Preschool page of our website](#) to learn more about Trinity's preschool or to [make a donation](#).

Touring the Camino de Santiago

By Lynn Baker, Camino de Santiago Participant

The Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) is a network of ancient pilgrim paths leading to Santiago de Compostela, where the relics of St. James the apostle are believed to be buried. People hike the Camino for various reasons. For example, there is a tradition that if you are carrying a burden, you leave it on the Camino. Some travelers carry a small rock with them to represent the burden they are carrying and then let it go along the way. In September 2026, a group of Trinity members traveled to Spain and walked along parts of several of these paths. We are grateful to Lynn Baker for sharing the details of her experience as one of the hikers.

“They are getting together a group at Church to hike the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Let's go!” This was my introduction to the trip. I knew we weren't walking the whole thing, but I feared we would be walking about 100 km. Do I really want to do this?!

I began to walk for practice. My fears were somewhat alleviated when I learned it was a tour of the highlights of the Camino, and I met all those who were going—what a fun group!!

We met at Bilbao on Saturday, September 19. There were 15 of us plus our two guides. On Sunday, we traveled to the north coast of Spain and hiked from the beach at Santander to the Broken Coast. It was a very steep uphill at the beginning, and then a walk along the coast known for its beautiful rock formations.



Camino de Santiago hikers

Lunch featured regional specialties, and we then traveled to Santillana del Mar, a medieval cobbledstoned city with a twelfth century church. We stayed at a parador, an old monastery owned by the Spanish government and converted into a hotel for tourists.



Hikers traveled an average of 4 to 8 miles per day. Maximum elevation gains and losses during the walks ranged from 500 to 1,900 feet.

This became a daily routine: Walk through beautiful northern Spain and stay in historic paradors. On Monday, we walked through fields along the Northern Coast of Spain, ate at a local cheese factory, and slept at another parador.

Pictured right, beautiful views encountered by hikers along the northern coast of Spain





Cobblestone streets in Cangas de Onis

Tuesday was our longest walking day—about nine miles outside the city of Cangas de Onis. Cobblestone streets and hot weather did not stop us!!! On Wednesday, we spent our last day walking the coastline and continued into Villafranca del Bierzo, a stop on the Camino. It is known as “Little Compostela” because its twelfth century church has a Door of Forgiveness for those unable to complete the entire pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

Our hardest day was Thursday. About 10 of our intrepid hikers walked along the Camino about 2,500 feet up a mountain. The rest of us met them about 1/3 from the top, and we all continued to O Cebeiro, a Galician village with a Royal Church built in the ninth century on top of an even older Christian temple.

Whereas Thursday we walked up the mountain, Friday we walked down towards Canon do Sil, a gorge carved by the Sil River. We walked through beautiful forests and vineyards about 1,500 feet above the river. Who knew walking downhill was still hard on your feet?!



Lynn Baker and Paula Smith overlooking the city of Monforte de Lemos



Left, Barbara Hynes ; Right Marti Chumbler and Gloria Colvin at 164.5 kilometers (about 102 miles) of the journey



Kathy Drake, Diane Maltby, Matthew Williams, Paula Smith, Corinne Porcher, Jana McConnaughay, Chad Henry, Laura Jensen, Gloria Colvin, Marti Chumbler, Barbara Hynes



We then visited the oldest traditional pottery workshop in Europe. On to Montforte de Lemos to our parador, a former monastery and fortress overlooking the entire city. More downhill!

Our final day of hiking brought us to the outskirts of Santiago de Compostela. We entered the city after following a beautiful stream passing through forests and abandoned mill sites. We arrived at the Plaza de Obradoiro in front of the Cathedral. The Plaza was filled with hundreds of tourists and pilgrims celebrating the completion of their journey to this historic city.

Our tour of the city included the Romanesque, Baroque, and Gothic cathedral built beginning in 1075. The magnificent cathedral included an altar made of of gold, silver, and precious stones. It was magnificent! Our last parador was on the Plaza and was built as a hospital/monastery by Ferdinand and Isabella to aid and house pilgrims.

What a week!! We watched our fitness trackers day by day, and by the end of the week we had walked about 50+ miles. Up and downhill, through beautiful forests, along rugged coastlines and through acres of vineyards. We saw medieval towns and churches, walked cobblestoned streets, and could really empathize with the pilgrims going to Santiago de Compostela. We were tired but felt a great sense of accomplishment.

Left, at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela: Guide Pol in front; left to right, Diane Maltby, Barbara Hynes, Marti Chumbler, Corinne Porcher, Laura Jensen, Chad Henry, Jana McConnaughay, Matthew Williams, Lynn Baker, Dan Drake, Joy Frank, Kathy Drake, Paula Smith, Gary Cherry, Gloria Colvin



This was not the first time that Rev. Barbara Hynes hiked part of the Camino de Santiago. On both trips, she collected stamps from points along the routes documenting her travels. At the end of the trip, she received two copies of a Certificate of Completion, one in Spanish and one in Latin.



Meet Corey McHugh

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

You may have seen Corey McHugh dashing around behind the scenes on a Sunday morning or a Wednesday night. He's often juggling cables and cords, testing out microphones, or working in the sound booth. Whether worship takes place in the sanctuary or in Moor Hall, Corey makes sure that church services are accessible for those on site as well as those viewing from home via livestream.

Corey only recently began working with us at Trinity as our Production Assistant, and we're happy to have him on board. Staff members have been getting to know him, but we knew that church members would like to learn more about him as well.

SK: I've done a very non-specific job of explaining what you do at Trinity. Can you give us the more technical version?

CM: I would describe my role at Trinity to be production support, which involves sound and audio for the building, maintaining the equipment that is being used, and troubleshooting ways for our church to have a great sound experience.

SK: Corey, we're so happy you've joined us. We'd love to learn a little about your background.

CM: I grew up in Largo, Florida, with my mom and older brother. I started attending Prince of Peace Lutheran Church when I was around eight years old. I was involved with the choir, bells, percussion, and guitar at the church throughout my childhood until high school.

I attended Tarpon Springs High School music conservatory and played percussion. After that, I attended St. Petersburg College for general studies in music.

SK: I've become acquainted with your technical skills; it's a nice surprise to learn about your talent for music! Music is a big part of our worship at Trinity. I'm guessing music is probably still one of your hobbies. What other hobbies do you enjoy?

CM: In addition to playing multiple instruments, my hobbies include bike-riding, cooking, and working on my Tiny House.

SK: You seem to stay very busy! Do you have time for any pets?

CM: I just got my beautiful new puppy a few weeks ago! Her name is Bloom, and she is a Blue Heeler/Chihuahua mix.

SK: Before we close, let's have a few lightning round questions:

Favorite food? Curry!!

Superpower you'd like to have? Omni Communication

Dream vacation? That would be around the South Caucasus region...Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan!

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us at church, and thanks for sharing a little about yourself today. Welcome to Trinity, Corey!



Corey McHugh,
Production Assistant



STEWARSHIP CAMPAIGN REMINDER

Did you remember to submit your pledge card during our 2027 Stewardship Campaign? No worries! You can still find pledge cards at church, and you can access our convenient online pledge card on the Trinity app, on the Giving page of our website, and by scanning the QR code found here. →



Family Resources in Trinity's Library

By Gloria Colvin, Church Librarian

Being a parent can be one of the most rewarding experiences, but also one of the most challenging responsibilities, for any adult. While there is no guidebook that covers everything one might need to know or that gives you instructions for handling every situation or each individual child, there are plenty of books that provide some guidance, inspiration, or support.

Trinity's McKenzie Library's collection contains several titles that are specific to raising a child and dealing with life situations from a faith perspective.

- *Parenting on Point: Leading Your Family Along God's Path* (248.844 Wil) by James Williams
- *Parents & Grandparents as Spiritual Guides: Nurturing Children of the Promise* (248.845 Clo) by Betty Shannon Cloyd
- *Giving Good Gifts: The Spiritual Journey of Parenthood* (248.845 Con) by George E. Conway
- *One Year of Dinner Table Devotions & Discussion Starters: 365 Opportunities to Grow Closer to God as a Family* (249 Gut) by Nancy Guthrie
- *When You Pray as a Family* (249 Job) by Reuben Job
- *Parenting Teens With Love & Logic: Preparing Adolescents for Responsible Adulthood* (649.125 Cli) by Foster Cline
- *When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents & Worried Kids* (155.41246 Gew) by Abigail Gewirtz
- *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America* (649.708909073 Har) by Jennifer Harvey
- *What Do We Tell the Children? Talking to Kids About Death and Dying* (259.6082 Pri) by Joseph Prime
- *The Switching Hour: Kids of Divorce Say Good-bye Again* (306.874 Fle) Evon Flesberg
- *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Pre-school to High School: How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence* (371.782 Col) by Barbara Coloroso

In addition to these books, there are books written for children that deal with difficult family or life situations.

- *Be Kind* (J Mil) by Pat Zietlow Miller
- *Good People Everywhere* (J Gil) by Lynea Gillen
- *You Can Change the World: The Kid's Guide to a Better Planet* (J 363.7 Bel) by Lucy Bell
- *What If Everybody Did That?* (J Jav) by Ellen Javernick
- *I Miss You: A First Look at Death* (J Tho) by Pat Thomas
- *Waterbugs and Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children* (J 306.9 Sti) by Doris Stickney

Check-out at our library is self-service. Cards on the back of books should be signed, dated, and left in the check-out box. Books may be checked out for three weeks and should be returned to the library when it is open or to the church office when the library is closed. [A link to the Online Catalogue](#) can be found on the [Adult Ministries](#) and [Children's Ministries](#) pages of our website.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS

Join us for the First Sunday of Advent:

November 29, 2026

8:30 a.m. | 9:45 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.

"For unto us a child is born..." Isaiah 9:6



Staff Spotlight: Amanda Johnson

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

Amanda Johnson is always in motion. If you want to have a conversation with her, you'll probably have to walk alongside her at a pretty quick pace because she is too busy to slow down! Being the very capable assistant to Preschool Director Erin Casey is only part of what keeps her so busy. She is the proud mom of two daughters, Jazzlin and Layla, who are active in Trinity's youth ministry, and she's cat-mom to a lucky tuxedo cat named Theodore.

Amanda finds joy in building relationships with the children, families, and staff. She earned an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and has worked with children for over 25 years. She says that working with young students is a privilege and a passion, and she feels blessed to have found her purpose in doing what she loves. In her own words, "I am grateful to play a small part in the children's lives, and I love watching them learn and grow."



Amanda Johnson
Assistant to the
Director of Preschool

When Amanda is not at Trinity, she likes spending time with her family, getting her nails done, and joining in Bingo Night with friends. Don't be surprised if you see her in garnet and gold because Amanda is a big fan of FSU. "Go 'Noles!" She enjoys dining on Mexican and Italian food, and when asked about her dream vacation, she says she'd like to go to either New York or Hawaii. If she could have one superpower, Amanda would like to have "a healing touch" that would allow her to take away pain, hurt, or sadness with just a touch.

When asked if she had anything else she'd like to share with us, Amanda said this: "I am thankful to be a part of the Trinity United Methodist Church family. There is no other place I would rather be." The feeling is mutual. We are so glad that Amanda Johnson is a part of Trinity UMC.

Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

It's hard to believe that November is already here! Fresh off the heels of our Halloween Costume Parade and Dance Party, we are making preparations for Thanksgiving. We will enjoy our annual Thanksgiving Feast (by invitation only) on Friday, November 20. There will be no school November 23-27. We hope our families enjoy Thanksgiving!



We're so thankful for God's beautiful creation, which is something we've been learning about lately. Our PK-2 students, pictured below, recently engaged in some fun styles of painting to reinforce what we've learned.

**God
created
the
wind:**



**God
created
the fall
trees:**



**God
created
the
vegetables
we eat:**



As we focus on this season of gratitude, we want you to know that we are so thankful for our families, faculty, staff, and church...and especially for the children.

Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

The NETKids have been hard at work creating set pieces for our December 16 Festival, "Christmas Comes to Ebenezer." Take a look at some of their impressive work!



Below, you can see Sunday school in action. In the first two photos below, see our Sunday school Imagination Station and Creation Station where our Bible story comes to life through crafts and play. The third photo shows Sunday school Bible Adventures, where our Bible story comes alive by acting it out!



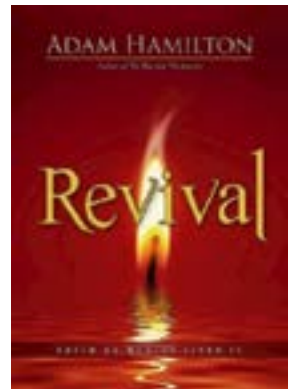
Trinity Youth Happenings

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Children's Education

We are still in the process of finding a new Director of Youth Ministries. We thank you for your prayers and patience as we work to assure that our program continues to thrive and grow with strong leadership. During this time, we are not slowing down! Be sure you are aware of all the ongoing ministries and upcoming events for youth.

Every Sunday

Our weekly schedule continues with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. each week, Youth Praise Band rehearsal at 4:00 p.m., and UMYF from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. In Sunday school, our study of Adam Hamilton's *Revival* will continue through the rest of November. For an introductory video and details about this study, visit the [Youth Ministries page of Trinity's website](#).



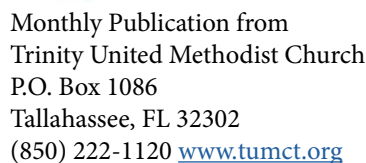
Fall Retreat

We are geared up and ready to travel to Camp Warren Willis for our **Fall Retreat on November 6-8**. This annual event is a time of FUN and spiritual renewal, and we are looking forward to a great experience.



Rock the Universe

Florida's biggest Christian music festival happens in January 2027, and we are ready to raise our voices, hands, and spirits in faith, fellowship, and fun. We plan to leave for Universal Orlando on Thursday, January 21, and return on Sunday, January 24. **The deadline for registration Saturday, November 21**, so [make sure you sign up](#) ASAP!



Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. E. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Ben Armstead, *Facility Steward*
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*
Erin Casey, *Director of Preschool*
Douglas Chaplow, *Organist*
Candace Duclos, *Senior Director of Christian Education*
Betsy Gingery, *Culinary Director*
Melanie Gonzalez, *Director of Operations*

Gregory Hilliard, *Director of Traditional Music*
Corey McHugh, *Production Assistant*
Chip Huggins, *Maintenance Technician*
Susan Koehler, *Director of Communications*
Anne Plagens, *Christian Education Assistant*
Alex Taylor, *Contemporary Music Worship Leader*
Heather Watson, *Administrative Assistant*
Matt Wright, *Facility Steward*

Susan Koehler, *Editor*

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