



The Trinity Window

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. James 1:17-19 (NRSV)

I love so many of the messages found in the book of James. If I could sum the book up quickly, James reminds us that hearing the Word and doing the work of God belong together. James does not let us separate faith from action, belief from practice, or words from witness.

As we begin this new season together at Trinity, I am especially drawn to James 1:17-19. Verse 17 reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from above, from God, the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or change in faithfulness. I believe that is a beautiful word for a congregation in a season of transition. Even when senior leadership changes, even when circumstances shift, even when we are still learning one another's stories, God does not change. God is steady. God is generous. God is faithful. And because God is faithful, we can move together into this season with both confidence and hope.

Then, verse 18 speaks to God giving life by the word of truth, forming us into the "first fruits," the best in creation. In other words, God is always at work shaping a people who reflect God's amazing grace, God's truth, and God's unfolding purpose for the world. Finally, verse 19 gives us a clear and practical instruction: "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger."

In this new season, I am trying, with God's help, to live that out as your pastor. And I will admit that "slow to speak" does not always come easily for a pastor, since we are accustomed to having much to say! But in this season, I believe the better gift is listening. As many of you know, I am spending strategic, intentional time listening to you, both individually and in our listening session groups, so that I may better understand your hopes, your concerns, your gifts, and God's dreams for Trinity. This is not simply a season of gathering information. It is a season of building relationship, deepening trust, and seeking sacred discernment together.

It is important to note that listening is a gift that Jesus modeled well. He noticed people. He asked questions. He made room for conversation. He paid attention before he spoke, and he often revealed God's heart by honoring the person in front of him. He demonstrated that a shepherd learns the sound of the flock by being with the flock, not apart from it.

So, I want you to know that these weeks of listening are an important part of how we begin to build a shared future. The conversations we are having are helping me see the strengths of Trinity more clearly, and I am grateful for what I am learning. I truly see a congregation with many gifts, deep faith, and meaningful strengths, and I look forward to how God will knit those strengths together for this present moment and for the days to come.

Please know that I am praying for this important time as I am eager to further understand with God's help. My hope is that God will use these conversations to build our hearts together, clarify shared hopes, and guide us into faithful, Spirit-led ministry together. With that, I am entering this season with great joy and anticipation, and I give thanks for the grace we share as we move forward.

With much grace and peace,

Pastor Gina

Rev. Gina Anderson-Cloud, Lead Pastor



YOUNG AT HEART—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Young at Heart has wonderful programs coming up! Registration for these events is on Sunday mornings or with Judy Oguich at joguich@trinityumc.net. These are open to everyone; come and bring a friend!



Save the Date:

Tuesday, September 29—Trip to have lunch at Michie Tavern with a stop at Carter Mountain (apples and apple cider donuts...oh my!) Hours are 10:45am to 3:30pm.

Tuesday, October 20—Trip to visit the Poe Museum here in Richmond (BOO!) with a stop for lunch afterwards. Cost of admission to the museum is \$10, and cost of lunch is paid on your own. Hours: 10:30am to 2pm.

Tuesday, November 10—“Getting to Know Our New Lead Pastor—Rev. Gina Anderson-Cloud”. Come join us as we hear about our new minister. Our own Bill Pike will be the moderator. We will be in the Welcome Center, 2:00-3:30pm.

Wednesday, December 9—Trip to Riverside Center in Fredericksburg to see “A Christmas Carol”. Cost is \$80, all inclusive of your meal, tax, gratuity, and the show. Hours are 10am to 5pm.

PUB THEOLOGY: SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



Thanks to everyone who came out and supported Pub Theology during this church year. That thanks also goes to the staff at WayGone Brewery, Sparrows Pizza, our community guests, and of course, our Trinity personnel. For August, we will take a break from Pub Theology. We ask that you stay tuned for a schedule of gatherings in the fall.

Many thanks, Bill Pike

LAKEWOOD CELEBRATION

Please join us on Tuesday, August 11 at 3:00pm for our quarterly gathering at Lakewood. We will meet in the beautiful Simms Center. We will have updates, a devotion, communion, and wonderful fellowship. Everyone is invited to join us! Any questions can be directed to Rev. Judy Oguich. We hope to see you there!

UPDATE TO OFFICE HOURS & PASTORAL EMERGENCY LINE

Beginning in mid-July, Trinity's office hours shifted. From Monday through Thursday, the office is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm; on Friday, the office will be closed. This change aligns our current staffing resources with needs of the congregation, which are highest Monday through Thursday. While most administrative needs can be well-managed on this Monday through Thursday schedule, we recognize that not all pastoral needs can be anticipated. For that reason, we are excited to launch a new **Pastoral Care Emergency Line**. This line will allow you to reach a Trinity pastor by text message or cell phone at any time that an urgent need, such as a crisis or hospitalization, occurs. To utilize this emergency line, simply text or call **804-250-5850**.



CREATION CARE CORNER

“If we start with something, work together, and stay ambitious, hope stops being a thing we wait to feel and becomes something we create.” —Malala Yousafzai

Start with something. Choose one or two easy changes to make, perhaps swapping single-use water bottles for a reusable one or refusing plastic bags. Commit to your action and allow it to lead you to another “something” you can do for Earth.

Work together. Join or create a local effort, perhaps to clean up a waterway or to help plant a pollinator garden. Or donate to a large-scale organization that can use your support to make a greater difference.

Stay ambitious. The goal is big change. Start with a small action, but keep your eyes, mind, and heart open to opportunities that move you—and those with you—closer to what you desire for the sake of Earth and all its inhabitants.

-Excerpted from UMCreationJustice.org

Earth-Friendly Back to School Tips

Shopping for back-to-school in a sustainable way involves making mindful choices that reduce environmental impact and promote ethical practices.

For packing school lunches:

- Swap single-use lunch ware items for sustainable ones
- Purchase foodstuffs in the largest package available, then divvy them out into reusable containers
- Pack whole fruit for snacks instead of highly processed, individually wrapped goods to cut down on waste
- Buy local products to reduce the carbon footprint from shipping and support our local economy

When purchasing school supplies and clothing:

- Invest in durable, high-quality items that will last longer. This prevents the need for frequent replacements and reduces waste over time
- Buy in bulk, when possible, to reduce packaging; think pens, pencils, etc.
- Choose products made from recycled materials

- Explore thrift stores and consignment shops for second-hand clothing and supplies

Back-to-School Sustainability Swaps



MY TRINITY STORY, PART 2—AND A THANK YOU

During my time at Trinity I estimate that I have produced over 2,500 bulletins! Wow. That includes Sunday services, special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, Lessons and Carols, Special Concert Series, Holy Week services (we did these several years ago), Mid-Week Summer services (for many years), funeral services, and even some wedding bulletins many years ago.

Do you know about all the various opportunities available through Trinity to serve and to help others? Several years ago I had the opportunity to serve alongside staff on 2 different Habit Builds. One was honoring Mary Elizabeth Brooks. It was a special time to work together in honor of Mary Elizabeth.



This past November I went with other staff members to Belmont UMC to work with others organizing food for their food ministry. We were also able to help organize their clothes closet.

Did you know that Trinity hosted a Jars of Clay concert many, many years ago? It was during Tim Craig's tenure as Associate Pastor (1995-1998). And I remember well when we began a Contemporary Service – it was in April 1998. It was a great addition to Trinity's ministries.

Have you been at Trinity during a renovation? I've been here for several over the past 31 years! Eaton Hall, the Library, the steeple, the Welcome Center, 2 new

elevators, the Parlor, the Educational/Preschool area of the church, the Sanctuary ceiling, Trinity's Memorial Garden, the Student Center, the parking lots, sprinklers, new hallway flooring, the Chapel, 3rd floor rooms, the Conference Room, and more.



I am grateful for all that I have seen and done at Trinity, and through Trinity. But most of all I'm thankful for all the people that I've known and met. I am blessed.



Thank you for all your notes, cards, hugs, words of celebration and encouragement, and the generous Love Offering that I received. The celebration reception on June 7 was outstanding! I am overwhelmed by your love and support. You will always be in my heart.



PINNACLE LIVING ARTICLE SAMARITAN AWARD

THANK YOU

Thank you for the outpouring of support you have shown, the notes, the love offering, the reception, and so much more. Trinity is a special place that will always hold a place in our hearts and souls. I hope our time together the last four years has mutually blessed us all. I look forward to watching what Trinity continues to do in the future.

Pastor Brian and
Holly Siegle

Trinity recently received notification that we are being recognized as a 2026 Pinnacle Living Samaritan Award congregation! This recognition is presented to the ten local Virginia Annual Conference United Methodist churches with the highest level of giving to the Samaritan program during the most recent fiscal year.

The Samaritan program offers financial assistance to those living at Pinnacle properties that have exhausted their resources through no fault of their own. Pinnacle has never removed someone from their home due to lack of ability to pay. The recipients of these funds have an average age of 95 years old and an average of 10 years living in their communities. Thank you for your generosity and support!

TRINITY VOLUNTEERS AT GOOCHLANDCARES

Ten Trinity volunteers joined GoochlandCares staff and board of trustees to host a picnic for approximately 100 of GoochlandCares' community members in need on June 23, 2026. The event was a tremendous success! In spite of the rain that afternoon, everyone had a great time and enjoyed a delicious meal together.

We are proud and grateful for these contributions made by Trinity members and friends:

- Approximately **60 volunteer hours** spent in shopping for food, setting up the picnic, preparing and serving the food, and cleaning up after the picnic
- **\$272 worth of food** served at the picnic
- **\$220 in cash donations** to GoochlandCares for future events that serve our community members in need

Here are the words of thanks we received from Whitney Asher, GoochlandCares' Volunteer Coordinator:

Thank you for helping to make the Client Picnic a success! It was inspiring to see the Trinity UMC community come together by volunteering in the service of others; I continue to be inspired by you and your congregation.

We had approximately 100 clients join us for the picnic on Tuesday! Trinity UMC served others by preparing for the event, setting up for the event, engaging with clients during the event, and helping to clean up. We appreciate your purchasing food and supplies, preparing food, and donating to GoochlandCares!

Meeting you and others from Trinity UMC reinforces my belief that good people make the world a better place. On a local level, the impact made on our neighbors in need is possible because of people like you. Please extend our team's gratitude to those who joined us at the Client Picnic. We are so grateful for their efforts and their teamwork...Your support and your leadership truly make a difference.

*Sincerely,
Whitney*



SHOES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL MINISTRY

The New Shoes for Back to School ministry is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Founded by Third Street Bethel AME in 2006, the ministry has evolved to include multiple churches and a synagogue in a region-wide annual tradition serving thousands of students annually. Trinity's involvement began in 2018.

The goal is to help families in need by providing new shoes to school-age children so they can start the year feeling confident and included.

Over the years, **the ministry has provided more than 120,000 pairs of new shoes** to Metro Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield area schoolchildren in need. A coalition made up of churches and synagogues work together to make New Shoes for Back to School possible.

Each congregation has been asked to donate 125 pairs of shoes. You can help by purchasing and bringing shoes to Trinity Hall by August 16.



Volunteers are also needed on the day of the event. Each church/synagogue has been asked to provide volunteers. To sign up, visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co448A8AD2DA31-64775867-newshoes#/>

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Each summer, students and families nominated by schools and community partners are invited to regional Bright Beginnings events across Greater Richmond. Our region serves the Shady Grove and Tuckahoe YMCA areas. Kids “shop” for brand-new backpacks, school supplies, clothing, hygiene items and shoes, all while enjoying hands-on activities and supportive interactions with caring adults. By participating, you help ensure every child starts the school year feeling prepared, supported and excited for what’s ahead. Together, we can help more than 2,800 students walk into their classrooms ready to learn and ready to shine! Volunteers must be 14 or older to participate.

Trinity, we want a big group of us to show up for the 9am through noon shift on Saturday, August 8! Please sign up here: <https://portal.ymcarichmond.org/opportunities/RsPqPvlzb9>

CONSERVE & CREATE AT BELLEMEADE PARK

On **Saturday, August 1**, visit Bellemeade Park for a Conserve and Create event! From 9am to noon, this is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with one of our mission partners. Families are welcome; just show up with your gardening gloves and water!

This month, we'll continue light maintenance in the Chicken Coop and Trinity Meditation Garden portions of the park. This will consist of spreading wood chips, weeding, pruning, and meeting the chickens. Children and youth always love feeding the chickens!





On the 1st Sunday of August, Trinity Kids will be hosting PJs and Popsicles Sunday! Kids are encouraged to wear their PJs to church and gather in the Welcome Center after the worship service to eat a popsicle and gather with other families!



Trinity Kids ministry is so excited to present our kindergarteners with their own Jesus Storybook Bible to ignite their love of reading God's word! Bibles will be presented at the 9:00 worship service on Sunday, August 30th. Please contact Jen at jwilliams@trinityumc.net if your kindergartener would like to receive a bible!



Transit is our 4th and 5th grade program at Trinity! It is open to all 4th and 5th graders at Trinity and in our community! We meet several times each month from August – November and January – March at Trinity from 5-7pm on Sunday evenings in room 302. Our program includes dinner and activities/games!

We will kick-off a new year of Transit on Sunday, August 30th from 5-7pm!

Why attend Transit?

As kids get ready to move into middle school, friendships become more and more important! Our goal is to help kids build friendships with each other while having fun and learning about God!

What do we do at Transit?

We rotate our meetings between events and activities that help kids grow in their faith and learn about God, and seasonal games and activities where we have lots of fun and kids deepen their friendships with each other! Kids are encouraged to invite friends to attend as well!

Upcoming Dates for Transit:

August 30
September 13, 20, 27
October 4, 11, 25
November 8, 15, 22



PENCIL-PALOOZA
A PRAYERS & PRAISES BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAMILY EVENT

Our back to school family event, Pencil Palooza, will take place on Sunday, August 23 at 10am! Get ready to kick off the school year with a sharpened focus on praising God! During this pencil-themed event, families will come together for a time of prayer, praise, and fun! Sign up here if you can attend:

<https://bit.ly/4hoCqv2>



AND ALL AT ONCE...SUMMER COLLAPSED INTO FALL

-OSCAR WILDE

This has been an exciting summer for Trinity! We've welcomed new staff members and a new Lead Pastor, we've launched the Joy Circle ministry, our Kids Camp was the biggest yet, and we embraced a season of togetherness with our combined summer worship.

This month, we begin our transition into fall. On **Sunday, August 16**, we encourage you to come celebrate the season with our final combined worship and a **churchwide potluck**! Trinity will provide the drinks and a main dish, and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share. Please register here:

<https://subsplash.com/trinityunitedmethod-3dkn/lb/ev/+7m5mvbw>

The following **Sunday, August 23, is Kickoff Sunday**! This special day includes:

- Return to two worship services schedule: modern-style at 9:00am and traditional-style at 11:00am
- Blessing of the Backpacks—teachers, school staff, youth, kids...this is for you! Bring your backpacks or totes to either service for a special blessing and prayer over your school year
- During 10am Discipleship Hour, the Kids Ministry will hold Pencil-palooza! This is an opportunity for families to come together for programming inspired by the back-to-school season
- Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Grace Han, will be offering the sermon at both services



TRINITY STUDENTS: FALL ORIENTATION MEETING & SAVE THE DATE!

Parents: Please join us in Trinity Hall after worship (around 11:30am) on **Sunday, August 9** for an orientation to this year with Trinity Students! All parents of rising 6th through 12th graders are invited to hear more the Student Ministry and ask questions.

Sunday night Youth Group kicks off on **August 23**!

Save the Date—Pumpkins are coming the morning of **September 19**! We'll need help to unload the truck!



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DEADLINE

Moving forward, the Window will be published every other month. The next edition will be distributed in early September. **Submission deadline is August 13.**

Submissions or questions can be sent to Laura Maher at lmaher@trinityumc.net. Thank you!

