

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
804-288-6056

June 2020

Pastor's Corner



"But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Boy, I sure hope so. As I've mentioned from the pulpit a number of times, waiting and patience have never been my long suit. In point of fact, the truth is rather the opposite. I like to see things happen (and on my schedule). I am often disappointed and frustrated.

I know that many of you are wondering, "When will we reopen? When will we begin in-person worship?" While I can't give you a specific answer, I would like to let you know how things are unfolding.

Last week the Bishop released Protocols for a Plan of Return. These protocols are mandatory for all Virginia United Methodist Churches. Our protocols are in phases mirroring the executive orders of the Governor, *but* they are also more conservative. I want to say that I believe this is appropriate. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors and loving our neighbors must mean protecting not only the most vulnerable of our own congregation but also the community and our health care providers as well. The Bishop and her team lifted up the Three Rules of John Wesley:

- Do no harm.
- Do good.
- Stay in love with the Lord.

What follows is my own, very incomplete, synopsis of the plan (the full Protocol is some 65 pages) with comments for Trinity. We are currently convening a Healthy Church Team (HCT) as is every Virginia UMC.

Phase 1. (Starting May 24)

- Each District will have two "Pioneer Churches" that will re-open to in-person worship of no more than 25 persons and strict protocols. (Trinity is not a Pioneer Church.)
- All other churches will continue online or virtual worship.

Phase 2 (Start date determined by the Bishop. I personally would not expect this before mid-June.)

-Churches may reopen to in-person worship with strict Protocols that include (in part):

- No more than 50 persons in worship.
- Reservations must be made ahead of time.
- Maintain 6 ft. Social distancing.
- No singing. (No congregational singing, no choir, no soloist.)
- Mask worn at all times (including clergy)
- No children under age 7 present.
- No fellowship time or space.

Phase 3 (Determined by the Bishop.)

A "New Normal" aligned with prevailing state guidelines.

Friends, my purpose here is to give you a sense of where we are and how we will proceed. I know you will have questions and frankly I probably do not have the answers. We will have to decide how and when we move forward under such limitations. For now, I am so appreciative of the way we as a church have responded and carry on in the midst of this pandemic. Further, let me also say that the Church of Jesus Christ has been through much worse in the past (the Roman persecution, the Black Plague, the Spanish Inquisition, the Thirty Years War, just to name a few.) We will carry on. We will love our neighbors. We will proclaim the Good News to all who will hear it. We will be the Church. Be strong. Keep the faith. And the grace and peace of Jesus the Christ be with us all.

Blessings,

COVID-19 has suspended in-person events at Trinity for the time being. We are using a variety of methods and platforms to stay connected during these times.

Online Meetings & Events
(trinityumc.net/news/events-at-trinity)

[Trinity Church Chatter Facebook Group:](#)

Find the group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



Small Groups

Sunday Small Group Gathering

When: Sunday Evenings, 5 PM – 5:30 PM (June 9th, the first gathering) **Where:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 6243348408, email Hung Su Lim for password: hslim@trinity.net)

We want to invite you to join a small group gathering via zoom. In this time of social distancing, we'll gather to share life and have a meaningful conversation based on the message proclaimed on Sunday mornings. We will share scripture, prayer, and discussion questions.

Bible Reading Group—Job:

When: Friday, 11:00, weekly **Where:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 6243348408, email Hung Su Lim for password: hslim@trinity.net)

Some people call the book of Job as the jewel of fine gold because it covers the issues of dealing with human suffering. Job is a deep and rich book. So we'd like to invite you to join the Bible Reading Group gatherings. At the meeting, we read the Bible and share some questions and reflections. If you are interested in reading the book of Job and being part of discussions and fellowship, please join this zoom meeting on Friday.

Moses Bible Study:

Pastor Larry's Bible Studies are about to take up a 6-week study via ZOOM using Adam Hamilton's book, "MOSES, in the steps of the reluctant prophet." We will be discussing the life of Moses and viewing video segments Hamilton taped onsite in Egypt. Participants should order copies of the book.

Tuesday mornings, 7:00 AM beginning May 26 Or Wednesday afternoon, 1:30 PM beginning May 27

See the weekly connection email or contact the church office (info@trinityumc.net) for the link

Men's Group with F3RVA:

Trinity men's group in conjunction with F3 (<http://f3rva.org/about>)

When: Tuesday nights, biweekly, May 26th, June 9th, June 23rd, ...**Where:** Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 82270057337, email Paul Brooks for password: jpaulbrooks@gmail.com)

Serve

Trinity offers many opportunities to serve our neighbors. Participate in weekly food drives on Fridays. Help make masks or prayer squares. Give to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Find your way to serve online:

trinityumc.net/news/an-opportunity-to-help

Prayer

NEW-Thursday Evening Prayer Service:

Beginning **May 7 at 7:00 PM**, Trinity will begin a Thursday Evening Prayer service via our livestream. This contemplative service will include music, prayers, readings, and a brief reflection intended to draw us closer together as a church and help us find peace and solidarity in this season of social distancing.

Prayer Meetings:

We want to invite you to join the morning prayer meeting from Monday through Friday at 6:30 AM and 12:30 PM via ZOOM (a video/phone conference).

In this unknown and unexpected time, we will gather together to pray to the Lord, lift up our prayer concerns, reflect on God's word, and share our faith. Let us gather and be reminded of Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God."

You can join this from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/6243348408>.

Kids

We will be hosting two weekly Zoom gatherings on **Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 PM**.

We also are looking for kids who are interested in sending cards, drawings or notes to Trinity's shut-ins, contact Jen for more information.

Students

Middle School Zoom meeting **Tuesday afternoon at 4 PM**

<https://zoom.us/j/180210533>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 180-210-533

High School Zoom meeting **Wednesday evenings at 8 PM**

<https://zoom.us/j/606127490>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 606-127-490

College Zoom meeting **Thursday nights at 8 PM**

<https://zoom.us/j/324266277>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 324-266-277

Parent Zoom meeting **Monday nights at 7:30 PM**

<https://zoom.us/j/121358591>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 121-358-591

Music

Choir has online rehearsal Wednesdays at **7:03 PM via ZOOM**. <https://zoom.us/j/137482565>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 137-482-565

Charles Staples provides online music offerings via Youtube Live. Visit our online events page or our Facebook page, as the times and dates for these offerings fluctuates.

Small Group Ministry

We're excited to begin our small group gatherings through zoom in June. Even though we need to rely on technologies to get connected in this time of challenge, this will be a place of welcome, belonging, and growth in Christ. All are invited!

1. Sunday Small Group Gathering:

When: Sunday Evenings, 5 - 5:30 PM (June 9, the first gathering)

Where: Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 6243348408, email Hung Su Lim for password: hslim@trinity.net)

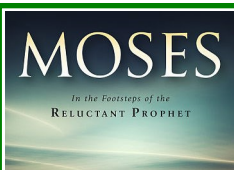
We want to invite you to join a small group gathering via zoom. In this time of social distancing, we'll gather to share life and have a meaningful conversation based on the message proclaimed on Sunday mornings. We will share scripture, prayer, and discussion questions.

2. Trinity men's group in conjunction with F3 (<http://f3rva.org/about>):

When: Tuesday nights, biweekly, May 26, June 9, June 23, ...

Where: Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 82270057337, email Paul Brooks for password: jpaulbrooks@gmail.com)

The purpose of this small group is to push men along their spiritual journeys in developing their faith. Participants are encouraged to share. It is not required to share (wise men learn by listening), but there is a requirement to allow others to share. What is shared in this group stays with the group; it is a circle of trust. None of us has a monopoly on the truth, though we are all truth seekers. It is fine to disagree. If there are no disagreements, then we are probably doing it wrong. The group will be peer-led. Materials (scripture, prayer, discussion questions) will be supplied to the leader each week.



Moses: Bible Study

Pastor Larry's Bible Studies are about to take up a 6-week study using Adam Hamilton's book, "MOSES, in the steps of the reluctant prophet." We will be discussing the life of Moses and viewing video segments Hamilton taped onsite in Egypt. Everyone is welcome to participate via Zoom. Participants should order copies of the book from Amazon, Cokesbury or other on-line retailers.

Tuesday mornings, 7:00 AM beginning May 26

Or

Wednesday afternoon, 1:30 PM beginning May 27

These Bible studies will take place over ZOOM— all are welcome, see the weekly connection email for the link or contact the church office and we will send it your way.

Bible Reading Group: Job

When: Friday, 11:00 AM, weekly

Where: Zoom <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 6243348408, email Hung Su Lim for password: hslim@trinity.net)

Some people call the book of Job as the jewel of fine gold because it covers the issues of dealing with human suffering. Job is a deep and rich book. So we'd like to invite you to join the Bible Reading Group gatherings. At the meeting, we read the Bible and share some questions and reflections. If you are interested in reading the book of Job and being part of discussions and fellowship, please join this zoom meeting on Friday.



Virtual Choir

To anyone who has been procrastinating about joining the choir, this may be the time. We are having weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7 PM via Zoom and we are working on several anthems and hymns that will be recorded virtually in the coming weeks. You do have to have a little skill to participate in these recordings, but you receive an audio and video with your part highlighted, and you have to sing along while listening through headphones. If this sounds intriguing to you, let me know via email at cstaples@trinityumc.net and I'll get you set up.

Church Charge Conference

**Monday, June 22
7:00 PM via Zoom**

**Members of the Church Council will be voting on the
2020-2021 Budget and Leadership.
Come join us for our Charge Conference!**



Kids Camp Update!

As a result of COVID-19, we are not going to be able to have Kids Camp this summer as we had envisioned it. However, we are going to be offering a Virtual Kids Camp experience this summer! We are excited about this opportunity to connect with kids and their families!

We will be asking families to register so that we can create a take-home kit for them to pick up at the church the week before our Kids Camp goes live! We are expecting to hold our Virtual Kids Camp the week of July 20.



Update From The Trustees

In the January edition of The Window, we shared with you an update on a number of projects related to our church facilities. Most notable among these was the renovation of the Mastin Room and adjacent space to create a home for our Student Ministries. As part of the design and bidding process for this work, the Trustees worked with the project architect (Jim Byerly – Huff Morris Architects) and winning general contractor (Century Construction) and determined it would be cost effective to add a renovation of the Trinity Hall corridor and restrooms to the project scope.

During the last year, the Trustees have worked collaboratively with the Trinity staff, Church Council, the Finance Committee, and Trinity Foundation to develop a plan of support. Funding for this project will come from two grants from the Trinity Foundation, a significant gift from an anonymous Trinity family, and the property reserve account. None of funding comes from the general operating budget.

In the coming weeks, we expect to finalize the construction contract, secure permits, and proceed with this work. Now, perhaps more than ever, our Church leadership groups believe it is essential to invest in our Students.

Additionally, you may have noticed the signs that identify the Welcome Center and Sanctuary. With the help of the Connect Committee, we are moving forward with installation of new signs throughout the building. The first phase includes interior signs, with new directional signs for the parking lots and walkways to follow in a second phase.

The Trustees want to thank everyone involved in setting the stage for these exciting improvements to our church home, from the initial work of identifying priorities, to developing project plans, and securing sources of funding. We are especially grateful for the financial support from the Foundation and the gift from the family, that are making these projects possible.

Did You Know This About the Trinity Foundation?

The Trinity Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation addressing needs outside of the church operating budget. There are a number of funds that make up the Foundation's assets. Some are designated for specific purposes, while others are for general use. You may be familiar with the college scholarship funds, Dillard Forum, and Friends of Barnabas, but there are many other great causes the Trinity Foundation supports. For instance, a new initiative leveraged the Foundation's support to substantially increase the 2019 Advent Offering for United Methodist Family Services. The Foundation matched up to \$5,000 in donations. A resulting \$28,000 was raised, eclipsing last year's total by more than \$12,000.

What makes these achievements possible? Your donations do. In the coming months, we'll be highlighting some of the fund allocations that are making a difference in our community.

Already in the first half of 2020, the Trinity Foundation has approved the following grant requests:

- **\$500 from Goodykoontz Fund to CrossOver Healthcare Ministries** The Goodykoontz Fund was established in 1993, to support missions for the poor by the C. Alfred Goodykoontz family (Jean, Alf and Claudine).
- **\$300 from the Moore Fund and \$200 from the Roop Fund for Grace Inside (prison ministries)**
 - o The Moore Fund was established in 2000, to support the mission of Christian prison ministry by the family of George E. Moore, Jr. (Jo Ann B. and George E. Moore, Jr.)
 - o The Ralph G. Roop Fund is a general fund established by a charitable remainder trust and bequest from his will in 2006.
- **\$50,000 for the Student Center.** This includes renovations of the Mastin Room, hallway, and bathroom and is in addition to \$76,000 previously awarded in Spring 2019. This support comes from funds earmarked for property and maintenance needs for the church.
- **\$4,550 for live streaming broadcast cameras to enhance quality of online worship.** This came from the Trinity Memorial Fund.
- **\$12,500 for scholarships,** which came from a variety of different funds. Stay tuned for additional details about the scholarship recipients and funds in an upcoming issue of the Trinity Window.

The Foundation accepts gifts of cash, securities and personal property. Gifts may be made on a current, deferred, or life income basis. Your financial advisor can help you decide which method is best for you. Learn more about [The Trinity Foundation](#). If you're interested in discussing a specific mission or need, call Trinity Foundation President Brian Ford at 804-347-4699. Thank you for considering making a gift today!



Bellemeade Park Volunteers Needed

Are you bored? Wanting to get out of the house? Then join Bob Argabright and volunteer at

Bellemeade Park. Bob is there every day from **8:30 AM-12:00 Noon** and would appreciate your help. It is beautiful and we can practice social distancing. They could help water, weed, spread mulch, pick up trash in the creek, create walking trails, and remove invasive species. This has given me an opportunity to keep my sanity and worship in God's creation. Interested? Reach out to Bob at rargabright@me.com.

A Cure for COVID-19 Boredom

As we continue to work through adjustments to COVID-19, I would imagine that boredom might be hanging out with you a bit. So, we have a cure, a few grounds and maintenance projects at Trinity.

If you have a power washer that needs some exercise, we have some sections around the exterior of the building where you could apply your skills.

Same goes for a chainsaw, and tree pruning tools.

If you prefer to uproot weeds with steel rather than a chemical spraying, we have multiple opportunities for you.

And, if you are a Rembrandt with a paint brush, and know how to properly prepare a surface for repainting, we'll keep you busy.

Of course, any of these projects will not be mass gatherings on our grounds. If you are interested in wiping out your boredom, e-mail Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Lenten Easter Mission Offering 2020

Our Lenten Easter Mission Offering (LEMO) offers many opportunities to encounter all kinds of people in need on the road of life. In recent years, your generosity has raised over \$160,000 for community outreach at the local, state, national, and international levels. During that time, nearly 60 organizations have benefitted from your kind hearts with children, youth, and adults experiencing the impact of your financial gifts.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the 2020 LEMO, our total at this point is \$25, 925.74. Considering our upside down world, we appreciate your kind hearts.

If you have an idea for a new mission project or looking to continue supporting an existing mission project, please apply for a grant by June 30, 2020. The application form to make your request is included in this newsletter and can be done electronically on our website.

Any questions related to the application process can be directed to Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Thank You

With COVID-19, we have worked to keep you involved with needs in our community. Our target has been food and personal hygiene donations, and you have been outstanding with each collection. You have donated 536 bags. I can't even begin to tell you how much your donations mean to the people in need. We will continue to monitor the needs around us, and we will communicate those needs with you as we move forward.

Thanks, *Bill Pike*

Many thanks for also stepping up and helping our sisters and brothers of the Swahili/French congregation. As of May 27 we have collected \$10,075 to help those families in need.

Trinity participates in giving to the Samaritan Offering each spring from Mother's day to Father's day. This offering benefits many United Methodist Homes including Cedarfield and the Hermitage. We have received toward this fund so far \$7,190.

Our congregation has a true servant's heart!

Trinity UMC Serve Ministry

2020 Lenten Easter Mission Offering Mission Grant Application

Completed applications are due by June 30 to Bill Pike, Director of Operations, (you can submit the completed application by e-mail, mail, or bringing a printed copy to the church office).

E-mail: bpike@trinityumc.net Phone: 804-288-6057 ext. 211

Mailing address: Bill Pike, Director of Operations, Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave., Henrico, VA 23229

Contact Information

Ministry name	
Contact person	
E-mail	
Phone number	

Please describe the ministry.

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Please describe the impact the ministry has on individuals and/or the community it serves.

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How does this ministry align with the mission of Trinity United Methodist Church? (*“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – Connect to God, Grow in Faith, Serve the World.”*)

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Will Trinity UMC members have an opportunity to serve with this ministry? If so, please describe available opportunities.

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What amount of LEMO funds you are requesting for this ministry? Please provide a detailed explanation of your request.

--

If this ministry received a LEMO mission grant last year, please provide a detailed explanation of how the funds were used.

--

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Serve Committee to help us with our decision?

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Submitted By:

Name (printed)	
Date	

Fabric – Needles - Yarn & Prayers History of our Ministry

Formed in 2006 under the leadership of Bernice Chatten and Janet Hill, the **Trinity Stitchers Ministry** mission is to provide items that convey our commitment to share God's love and grace. We have grown and evolved into a collaborative group of Christian women who stitch God's love into every item created.

The creations shared provide comfort and encouragement in various situations, reminding each recipient they are special to our family of faith. Our group of ladies certainly stays busy these days! So many items are being created each month during our workdays and all through the month. Several members knit and crochet items at home, creating beautiful scarves, hats, shawls, slippers, afghans and prayer squares.

The creativity coming from this group is amazing. Not only do we make one-of-a-kind lap quilts and prayer shawls, we sew baby slings, walker bags, decorative pillows, prayer angels from antique handkerchiefs, drawstring bags, fun tote bags and fabric bags for delivering items. We focus on individuals who are part of our church family or members of our community who may need a little uplifting during a difficult period, struggling with a disease or other illness. God's touch is ever-reaching and reminds each recipient they are united in Christian love with others.

We receive many Thank You notes from those who are remembered with an item: Recently someone who received a note and prayer square from our group shared how much the words in the card and the message of caring attached to the square meant to him. He showed the prayer square to someone who wanted to start making them to share with others too.

- *Your group has brought so much love and joy to me!!!*
- *I cannot express to you how much I appreciate your warm, loving care to me and also to so many in the community.*
- *You ladies and your prayer ministries do a great work. You touch so many people in a number of ways.*
- *A warm hug from people who have a care and a concern about you.*
- *Your gifted hands and your generous hearts have touched the lives of so many people making their world a little brighter in times when their world was so dim.*
- *Thank you so much for your prayers and your gifts! Love the pocket prayer shawls (what a cool idea!). Your kindness and kind gifts have been uplifting at a time when life has been a bit harder than normal. I admire you guys and how you work through God for others! How awesome is that--and isn't that what it's all about!*
- *What a lovely and thoughtful and so exquisitely beautiful quilt. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful your thoughts and prayers feel! Please know how much your prayers mean to us and thank you again for the beautiful quilt.*

Shared by a volunteer: A lady pulled her prayer square out of her pocket and said she didn't know who had made it, but that she carried it all the time, and pulled it out often to remind herself of the prayers being lifted up for her and the reminder that God is always there.

During this COVID-19 Pandemic, our group has embraced new projects to help our community to benefit those in need. We sewed 500 cloth masks for employees at a manufacturing plant to keep them safe and the company operational. In addition to those masks, we made 500 masks to give our families, friends and people at church. During Nurses Week in May, we distributed over 150 prayer shawl squares to nurses in our local hospitals, reminding them others appreciate their dedication and service to others. We also created more than 70 headbands for nurses at several local hospitals.

"Where two or three are gathered in my name . . ." proved so true as the Stitchers grew and prospered.

In the beginning, our ministry was small with 6 members creating 1 to 2 quilts a month. Our group has grown to 20 members and in 2019, we were able to give 107 quilts, 78 shawls and other knitted and crocheted items, 12 walker bags, 10 handkerchief angels, 25 baby slings, 281 prayer squares, and other handcrafted items not listed in this count of 500 items.

We hope to get back on our monthly schedule workday this summer. (*Look for return to work information in the Trinity Connection news.*) All are welcome to join us in Room 323 from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Please come for the entire time or any portion of the day. We have devotions at lunch which is a time of sharing concerns and joys. If you are unable to attend our group meetings, we invite you to work on projects at home. We have a vast assortment of yarn available for you to use for knit and crochet projects.

Our new brochure is available in the Welcome Center which explains this ministry in more detail. For additional information please contact: **Janet Hill** 741-4394 or Granhill4@aol.com

No matter what your talent, there is always a need for hands to create, minds to energize, and caring hearts to give. Join the "Stitchers" and give a little of yourself to provide comfort to others.



Joys and Concerns

Birth

Alexander Matthew Bitz born on May 1 to Amy and Jamie Bitz. His grandparents are Sara and Waddy Street.

Our sympathies to...

*Wanda Umphlet whose sister Patricia Vitito died May 12
Tom Crew whose father Roger Crew, Sr. died May 5
The family of Mrytle Mixon who died May 4
The family of Ralph Blackwelder who died May 4
The family of Harold Wainwright who died May 3
The family of Lou Hutcherson who died in April, 2020*



Old Cell Phones Needed

Please donate your old cell phones (with chargers, without service contracts, and with personal information removed) to be given to survivors of abuse to call 911. Bring them to Missions Central, the room down the hall from the church office toward the sanctuary, and leave them in the designated receptacle there. This is a great way to recycle and could save someone's life. (Anne Burch, 270-1661)

Thank You Notes

Trinity Family,
Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, cards and e-messages following dad's passing in March. They have lifted our spirits immeasurably during this difficult time when we could not greet each other in person. We miss you and hope to see you all soon!

In Christian Love,
Mary Ann and Don Boyd

Dear Trinity UMC,

The Welborne Community Food Pantry is very grateful for your recent donation. In the midst of the Coronavirus outbreak, the need in our community has grown. We are working to feed families who already were in need of food, as well as new needs created by job loss. Your donation puts food on the tables of families in our community.

Thank you,
Doris Bland, Pantry Volunteer

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all your expressions of caring concern and support to the Crew family for the passing of our father Roger T. Crew, Sr. Although he enjoyed a long life he will be greatly missed. The sustaining power of love and friendships can never be underestimated. We appreciate you very much.

Tom and Kathy Crew

Our Stewardship

"We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness."

Our Presence:

Day	5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24
Worship Service	558	530	670	472
Sunday School				

Gifts as of April 30:

Projected income to date:	\$ 1,351,370
Actual income year to date:	\$ 1,317,897
Excess (-shortfall)	\$ (33,473)

NewsLetter DEADLine NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, June 17 at 4 PM for events taking place in July.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing with the contact person's name to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.