

The Trinity Window

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

November 2021

Pastor's Corner



*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High."
Psalm 92:1*

Say "November" and most of the time our minds will think of Thanksgiving, and rightly so. The season is indeed changing. Fields and crops are being harvested. Pumpkin flavored everything is pervasive. This is indeed the season of giving thanks and we have much for which we should be thankful. Perhaps you will gather with family or friends this year for Thanksgiving. Perhaps it will be for the first time in a while. I keep hearing stories of grandparents reuniting with grandchildren they haven't been with for too long. We can be thankful that it appears that vaccines will soon be available for little ones. We can be thankful that we have survived, though some 700,000 Americans have not. We can be thankful for the saints whose lives have inspired us (and whose faithfulness we celebrate on November 7, All Saints Sunday.) We can be thankful that we are not alone; God has given us to each other. Best of all, we can give thanks that God is with us! Indeed, we have reason to be thankful. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

This year our celebrations of giving thanks will be framed by, if I may use this term, *risk management*. So many of us will be making plans with questions and conversations that either are happening, have happened or will happen: Is this safe? What is the risk? Is it worth the risk? Is there any way we can reduce the risk? We all have to answer such questions for our own families. But "risk management" is also the way I would describe the strategy of our Healthy Church Team. We want to relax covid-19 restrictions as soon as possible. But we also want to do so *responsibly*, protecting the most vulnerable in our church and community. There is still question whether covid-19 infection rates will continue to decline or whether we are about to experience another holiday surge such as last year. In the accompanying article, the Healthy Church Team announces first (baby) steps that we hope will be followed by further, larger steps when the answer to that question become clear. Risk management is important, but it has never been easy. Nevertheless, let us be strong, hopeful and let us remember to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the name of the Most High. This is a time for giving thanks!

Blessings,

News from the Healthy Church Team

The Healthy Church Team (HCT) announces the following updates to Trinity's existing covid-19 policies:

- Worship leaders (Preachers, readers, one soloist) may lead their part in worship without masks with the conditions that they, 1) Provide proof of vaccination and 2) Take a church-provided rapid covid-19 test on the day of their worship leadership. (Any worship leader who chooses not to do so can still lead masked.)
- The Healthy Church Team will hold "Listening Sessions" at 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon on Sunday, November 7 to answer questions and listen to your thoughts. The location of the sessions will be announced.
- Any group that wishes to hold an event and that has questions or ideas about covid-19 restrictions are welcome to submit questions and/or proposals to the HCT at any time. Such proposals should outline risks and the means by which such risks would be mitigated. The Healthy Church Team meets monthly.

It is the hope and expectation of the HCT that the covid-19 landscape will be improving. If this optimism is borne out we anticipate many more changes in the coming months.

Trinity's Healthy Church Team

Corey Booker, Church Council Chair
Jim Crowder, Trustees Chair
Alice Hirata, M.D.
Hung Su Lim
Larry Lenow
Mike McCullough
Sheila Pedigo, Pharmacist, VCU
Bill Pike, Dir. of Operations

A Community Conversation

Acolyte Recognition

I (Mary-Holland Thompson) began this role in January 2020, fully aware of the big shoes that I was stepping into following Linda Robinson. Just as I began to feel slightly comfortable with the role, the pandemic hit, and so the opportunities for the acolytes to fully participate in worship came to an abrupt halt. For nearly 14 months, the program sat in a relatively inactive state.

In June, when Trinity opened for in-person worship, it was a rude awakening to realize just how rusty the acolyte program had become! Recording acolytes for worship occasionally during the pandemic was quite different from a live service where they had to act within all of the other moving parts of a worship service AND they were still being filmed for those viewing the service at home!

Truly, though, it was that first service in June when we returned in-person, that I saw this acolyte program fully demonstrate its meaning -- these young people were, and are, helpers in every sense of the word. I was incredibly nervous that first Sunday back in person -- we suddenly realized that we had to think about where everyone walked, stood, sat, placed items, and so on! There were so many questions and I did not know the answers! But, these acolytes are excellent at asking about the details that I don't consider, and they are so good at digging deep into their memory banks and pulling out information from services two years ago and thinking through how things should be done. They are also forgiving -- we've had some mishaps and certainly confusion, but they graciously recognize the mistakes and learn from them. And so in the midst of a little chaos and confusion in June, they helped bring this program back to life after a hiatus.

This is an amazing group of young people -- they are respectful, considerate, kind, dedicated, and above all, they are here to serve their church and God. I commend each of them, as well as their parents and this church community that are helping to raise them!

So, it is with immense pleasure that I get to play catch-up and recognize our acolytes who have been in training and helping throughout the pandemic:

Meredith Avery	Erica Axtell	Gray Belding
Griffin Belding	Ann Turner Barricklow	Ella Birdsong
William Birdsong	JC Brooks	Rynn Case
Bradley Coats	Kate Cundiff	Nate Cundiff
Drew Danforth	Matt Danforth	Owen DeFrancesca
Natalie Dike	Sydney Duerson	Anna Estes
Matthew Estes	Adaline Glassman	Annabelle Glassman
Lucas Hawes	Ginny Kirkpatrick	Leo Kirkpatrick
Emmie Love	Ainsleigh Mancini	Allison McCullough
Lizzie McCullough	Kaleigh McPhail	Meghan McPhail
Duncan Monroe	Kate Sanne	Max Sanne
Mason Shepherd	Sophia Swartz	Annie Taylor
Amelia Thompson	Caroline Verdery	Lauren Winterhoff

Healing is an interesting word. We always hope for proper healing after a surgical procedure for our bodies. But, healing can also be associated with our mental stability and our emotional state too. Clearly, we Americans have had much to ponder over the last several months. Sometimes, healing is as simple as talking and listening.

All communities have an assortment of leaders who help to mold and shape our paths. Some leaders garner headlines frequently, some work quietly behind the scenes. This fall Trinity is introducing a new program designed to invite community leaders to our church for conversation.

No question the pandemic made each of us consider our personal health in addition the health of our families. Like communities around America, Richmond experienced the ups and downs in responding to the COVID-19 virus. Health also provides us multiple opportunities to learn about ourselves and our communities. On Tuesday, November 9, Dr. Danny Avula, Director of the Richmond and Henrico County Health Departments will be our guest. With Dr. Avula we will learn about the challenges he encountered in leading us during the height of the pandemic.

We hope you will consider attending these events, and we hope you will consider inviting a friend or neighbor to come along too. A Community Conversation will take place in the Sanctuary with a 7 PM start time. The last 15 minutes of the program will focus on questions from the audience. Additionally, we are planning to live stream each conversation.

Any questions, contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Tuesday, November 9 Dr. Danny Avula, Director of the Richmond City and Henrico County Health Departments

7:00 PM Tuesday, November 9 in-person & online



Dr. Danny Avula
Director of the Richmond City and Henrico County Health Departments

trinityumc.net/conversations 

Conserve and Create Day at Bellemeade Outdoor Learning Campus

Come join a dedicated group of volunteers in creating this outdoor learning campus for our community children and families. We will be creating and edging native plant beds in our youth garden, leveling wood chips in our nature play area, removing invasive plants and cleaning up our creek which is the favorite activity of our youth volunteers. The next work dates of **November 13 and December 11** from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. We will provide all tools that are needed, but request that you bring water and gloves. Parking is located at 1800 Lynhaven Ave., RVA 23224.

Giving Back to Our Communities

During the pandemic, opportunities to volunteer with local nonprofits has varied. Those with outdoor facilities have kept some options open for volunteers, while indoor settings were a bit more rigid about their options. Early in November, we hope to shed a bit of the pandemic.

On Thursday, November 4, Friday, November 5, and Saturday, November 6, our congregation will have the opportunity to give time and physical support to nonprofits and churches in the Richmond area. The time frame each day will be from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

All registration will be done on line-via the church's website. Some non-profits have site specific waivers that must be completed and signed before participating. These waivers might also include COVID-19 requirements.

At this point, the following nonprofits are holding slots for us on these dates:

- November 4 Shalom Farms, Westview on the James
- November 5 Habitat For Humanity, CARITAS, Pace Center at VCU, Food Pantry at Belmont UMC, Trinity special project, Westview on the James, UMFS
- November 6 Habitat For Humanity, Boulevard UMC, Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School, Woodland Cemetery Henrico County, Trinity special project

We hope that your November calendar has room for giving a bit of yourselves back to our communities. You can sign up now. Direct questions to Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Giving Back To Our Communities Project Descriptions:

- * **Shalom Farms:** please wear appropriate clothing for outside work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignments at this site can range from harvesting, packaging, soil preparation, seasonal staging.
- * **Habitat For Humanity:** please wear appropriate worn clothing for interior work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignments at this site will be working on putting drywall up.
- * **CARITAS:** please wear appropriate worn clothing for interior work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignment at this site will involve helping CARITAS staff to stage donations of all sizes and shapes to a different part of the warehouse, some team lifting will be required.
- * **Pace Center at VCU:** please wear appropriate worn clothing for interior/exterior work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignments at this site will involve grounds work, working with ceiling tiles, painting, organizing kitchen area.
- * **Food Pantry at Belmont UMC:** please wear appropriate clothing for interior/exterior work including sturdy shoes. Assignment will be working with all things related to distributing food to the Belmont community sorting, packing, organizing.
- * **Boulevard UMC:** please wear appropriate worn clothing for interior/exterior work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignment here will be working to get the building in shape for re-opening painting and working on grounds are among the tasks.
- * **Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School:** please wear appropriate clothing for outside work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignment here will range from a variety of tasks related to the grounds of the park.
- * **Giving :** proof of vaccine is required, and mask are required. We will be inside organizing and assembling work.
- * **Woodland Cemetery Henrico County:** please wear appropriate clothing for outside work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Community is working to get the grounds of this historical cemetery back in shape. Tools provided, bringing a weed eater to use is helpful, clearing brush, uncovering grave markers all part of this site.
- * **Westview on the James:** please wear appropriate clothing for outside work, including work shoes, gloves, hat. Assignment will focus on grounds work. Bringing your own tools is helpful.
- * **Trinity Special Project:** please wear sturdy shoes, gloves, hat, eye protection. Assignment will focus on a furniture building project for the church.



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?



We had a great evening at our Halloweenie Roast and Fall Festival! Thank you to all who helped make this fun evening possible!



We did an art project to decorate the 3rd floor of the kids wing (that's newly renovated)!!



So many kids came in costume!!



Families enjoyed a Halloweenie dinner thanks to Mary Beth Utley and her crew, Chris and Carol Butterworth!



Jonathan entertained everyone!!

TRANSIT

4th-5th Grade

Transit is our ministry for 4th and 5th grade students. We will be gathering for an evening of games, fellowship, and bible study once a month from 5-6:15pm on these evenings: November 14. This is a great opportunity for our 4th and 5th graders to gather together and invite a friend to join them! Watch for texts and emails about other opportunities for this age group!



Flower Tribute at Christmas

Advent is a time when we choose to honor and/or memorialize loved ones by listing their names in the bulletin during the Christmas season.

The cost to have a tribute “in honor of” or “in memory of” listed in the bulletins at Christmas is **\$20**.



The funds received will be used to offset the cost of flowers used to decorate the sanctuary and foyers for the Christmas season. Monies received above the cost of the flowers will be donated to Missions at Trinity.

The deadline for receiving contributions is Friday, December 10, 2021.

Place this form in the offering plate



Attached is my donation in the amount of: \$ _____



Please list the following tribute in the bulletin during the Christmas season:

In Honor Of: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

AND/OR

In Memory Of: _____

GIVEN BY: _____



Donor's Printed Name and Phone #: _____

Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229

**NOVEMBER
2021**

Trinity Students



THE BIG QUESTIONS

The Big Questions is a four-week series designed to help your youth find answers to their big questions about faith, identity, belonging, and purpose in Jesus. While your kid may not be outwardly asking questions about who they are, where they fit in, or what they're made for in this world, they're most definitely considering these things internally in this phase. This series will give them the foundation to build their sense of identity, purpose, and belonging as they grow and mature in faith.

MEMORY VERSE

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10, NLT

WEEK 4: NOVEMBER 7

1 Corinthians 3:5, 1 Corinthians 3:7-9

You matter more than you think.

FALL RETREAT: NOVEMBER 12-14

The Big Picture

No Youth Group

TRINITY STUDENTS THANKSGIVING: NOVEMBER 21

Psalms 34:1-8

Knowing about God is not the same as experiencing God.

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 28

No Youth Group

Trinity Students

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



MORNING TIME

As your middle OR high schooler starts their day, say something like, “I love you just the way you are,” to encourage them in the unconditional love that comes from both you and God.



MEAL TIME

At a meal this week, talk as a family about ways you can discover more about God. Then, choose one of those things to try together this week.



DRIVE TIME

On the go this week, ask your youth: “What’s something that was your favorite last week that you don’t love as much this week?”



BED TIME

Pray for your youth: “I pray that [insert your kid’s name] will begin to pursue their own faith. Give me wisdom to know how to nurture their desire to know You more.”



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**United
Methodist
Women**
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Harvest Day

“The Give and Take of Gratitude”

November 9 at 10:00

The Rev. Judy Oguich will lead us in a very special day of praise and thanksgiving for all the blessings that we have received personally, as a church, and as a community both here and around the world.

Everyone is invited. Come and bring a friend!



Circle News

We have seven circles – new members welcome! Check the Trinity website for meeting times and contact information. [UMW Circles | Trinity United Methodist Church \(trinityumc.net\)](http://www.trinityumc.net)

Circle 4 – we will meet via Zoom on Nov. 4. Karen Adams will talk about Trinity’s work with Oak Grove ES and Sherbourne Food Pantry.

Circle 6 – in October we welcomed members from the former Circle 9 and provided a meal for the Central UMC Kids Club. On Nov. 2 we will meet to share our favorite Thanksgiving traditions and dishes. Bring a favorite written recipe (easier ones preferred) and divulge your secret ingredients!

Circle 10 – Tom Allen shared a wonderful presentation, “My God Has a Sense of Humor” and we collected toiletries and other items for Doorways in October. In November our speaker will be Desda White, Senior Relocation Division Manager at D1 Moving & Storage. We will meet in the Welcome Center.

Circle 11 – we will meet to make the candy cane mice for Sherbourne UMC, date TBD.

October Unit Program

We were graced by Gail Clelland’s poignant program on “The Quilt Maker’s Gift” at our October meeting. We are certainly blessed to have such talent in our ranks. Gail also shared some of the quilts the Stitchers made. We look forward to another great program by Rev. Judy Oguich on Harvest Day!

Blessings,
Jo

Coming Soon Service Day December 14

All are invited to join us under the leadership of Doris Clements in working on special projects for various agencies that we support during the Christmas season. Stay tuned for more details!

Mini Loaves for Oak Grove

Please join us in providing mini loaves of bread for Oak Grove this holiday season. We would like to share a loaf of bread with each teacher, staff member, cafeteria worker and bus driver at the school.

One box of quick bread mix should make three small loaves of bread. Choose any kind you like – banana, cranberry nut, cinnamon or any other.



Pick up loaf pans and instructions on Harvest Day, November 9, and bring the loaves of bread to Trinity on Service Day, December 14.

If you have questions, please contact Karen Adams.

Online Shopping Good or Bad for the Environment?

As the holidays approach, many of us will increase our online shopping. But with online shopping comes a lot of cardboard boxes, bubble wrap, excess packaging – is this method of shopping good or bad for God’s creation?

Good – if done right!

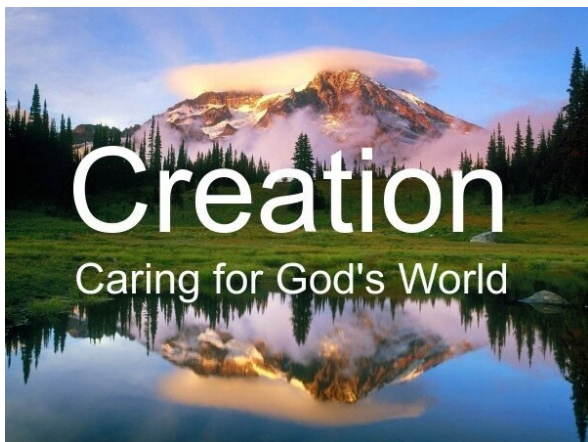
The main culprit in shopping is the carbon footprint. In terms of CO₂ emissions and vehicle-miles traveled, online is about 87% more efficient than in-store. One van delivering 50 packages is much more efficient than 50 people driving to the store.

But two behaviors can cancel these benefits: choosing fast shipping that leads to multiple deliveries to the same location and using both online and in-store shopping, thereby turning one trip into two.

How You Can Make a Positive Impact

- 1. Group your purchases:** Order multiple things at the same time. Retailers can pack all the items onto the same truck, so you’ve done all of your shopping in a single “trip.”
- 2. Choose slower delivery options:** allow e-tailers to consolidate orders and deliver on one day. Avoid the one- or two-hour deliveries that can cause delivery vans to drop from 80% full to just 20%.
- 3. Plan your errands in advance:** minimize trips by combining your errands and avoid backtracking on your routes.
- 4. Recycle boxes and packaging materials!**

Of course, you can walk, bike, or take public transportation for your in-store shopping. That’s the best way to help the environment with no gas-powered vehicles involved. And think of the exercise you will achieve!!



Thank You Notes

Many thanks for the outpouring of love and support during my recent surgery. Trinity has been a part of my family for over 60 yrs and I so appreciate your kindness and love.

Linda Latimer

The **Hill Family** would like to thank everyone who has supported our family through the death of our husband, father, grandfather and uncle; Doug Hill. We appreciate all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, emails, texts and messages on social media. Your thoughtfulness and help has made a trying time more bearable. It was wonderful to see so many of you during the visitation and memorial service. Thank you again for all you have done for us.

Joys and Concerns

Baptism

Elsie Adamiak

Our sympathies to...

*Kim Penberthy whose father Benjamin Plybon died
October 24*

*The family of Gladys Victor who died October 23
Alice Hirata whose father Don Kutteroff died October 14*

*The family of Rev. Ed Owen who died October 8
Alicia Cecil whose father John Todd died October 1
Colby Benton whose brother Vann Benton died
September 30*

*Sarah Hall whose father Antoine Hobeika died
September 20*

The family of Ernestine Dodl who died July 17

NewsLetter
DEADLINE **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, November 15 at 4 PM for events taking place in December.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.