



The Trinity Window

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

November 2023

Pastor's Corner



Gratitude

I have heard it said that there are really only two prayers, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" and "Help me, help me, help me!" While a tongue-in-cheek statement, I think there is some real truth to this. As we head into the month of November, the month of national Thanksgiving, let us focus on the first prayer, "Thank you."

Gratitude is an important part of our faith. Not only do we need to open our eyes and hearts and be able to thank God for the things going on around us, we need to thank each other for being a reflection of God to each other. I believe that God chooses to work most often through people. Recognizing that and thanking others for demonstrating a glimpse of God is important. In doing so, we not only acknowledge God's work in the world, we affirm the individual's response to God's prompting. Maybe that turns into a moment of faith reflection for all parties involved.

I thank each and every one of you at Trinity for exactly that. You continue to reflect God to the world. You continue to offer ourselves to the community. You continue to show the world that 1) God is not dead, 2) God is love, and 3) God works through us to make a difference. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Let us open more fully our hearts and minds to see God at work more clearly. Thank God and thank each other, not just in November, but constantly. We are God's people. Thanks be to God!

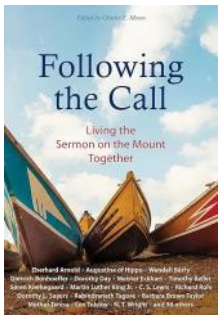
Yours in Christ,

**"We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's
Blessing"
Trinity's Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 22
7 PM in the Sanctuary**

Come join us as we gather together to remember and give thanks for our many blessings. Our speaker this year will be Mr. Bill Pike, whose title is "In just a blink."

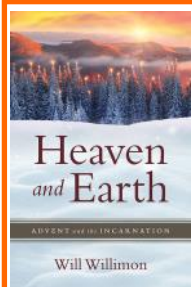
Please bring non-perishable food items as an offering which will go to Sherbourne Food Pantry.





New Study

Starting Monday November 6, the Dillard Bible Study Group will embark on a study of *Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together*, a collection of writings by over 100 people from the first century to the present. Over the next seven weeks we will study Part 1: Kingdom Character (Matthew 5:1-16). We meet on Mondays at 7 PM via Zoom. Contact Dianne Moore for more information.



3M to study "Heaven and Earth" by Will Willimon

Our Wednesday Night Study Group, 3M, will study "Heaven and Earth" by Will Willimon beginning Wednesday, November 15. From the back cover: "In 'Heaven and Earth' Will Willimon will introduce us to the God who brings heaven to earth, changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way." The 4-week study will continue November 29, December 6 and December 13. Our class meets 6 – 7:30 PM, both in person and on Zoom. Books are available through Cokesbury for \$12.00. Contact Judy Oguich to register and to get the Zoom link. We would love for you to join us!



Honoring Trinity's Veterans

On **Sunday, November 12**, the Outreach Class will present a program in Trinity Hall from 9:50-10:50 AM to honor our Trinity Veterans. If you have a Trinity Veteran that you would like to have recognized at this program, please send the name and branch of military that he/she served to Bill Pike at bpiketrinity@trinityumc.net or call the church office. Deadline for submitting names is **Wednesday, November 8**.

This year's program will be focused on stories from Trinity's Veterans and family members. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 8 – 2 – 3:30 PM in Trinity Hall. Come join us as we travel to the Holy Land with our host Owen Taylor! We will see the significant places of Jesus' ministry. Come and bring a friend!



Wednesday, December 6, 10 AM – 5 PM



Day trip to see the matinee performance of "Miracle on 34th Street" at the Riverside Theater in Fredericksburg. Cost is \$75, all inclusive (lunch, play, tax and gratuity). Come join us as we get into the holiday spirit with one of the most beloved Christmas classics! Registration deadline: **Sunday, November 26**. Friends and family are welcome!



**November 19
4-6:30 PM
Trinity Hall**

**Trinity's Community Fair
Capital Campaign's Celebration Event!**
Free Food, Games, and Dance Contests
Casual attire!
Sign-Up so we know how many "dogs" to grill!



You are Invited to our Capital Campaign's Celebration "Let them praise Him with dance." Psalm 146:3 **Sunday, November 19, 4:00 - 6:30 PM** in Trinity Hall. County fair atmosphere with free food, games, dance contests and jeans are even the suggested attire! Sign up, so we know how many "dogs" to grill.



Pub Theology

The next Pub Theology will be **Tuesday, November 28**. We will meet at Kindred Spirit Brewing. The brewery is in Goochland County at 12830 West Creek Pkwy. Ste J. Start time is 6 PM. The brewery's community room is reserved for us. The church will order pizza, and we will ask each person in attendance to give \$5.00 to offset the cost. Come for the fellowship and conversation about a topic of interest.

Advent Sunday Evenings 4 PM

Advent will feature 3 weeks of being together for a meal and activities, all beginning at 4 PM. All activities are family-friendly and we encourage you to bring friends and neighbors with you as well.

Week 1, December 3:

“Create and Celebrate” returns for one night only with family-friendly Christmas crafts. A scaled-down version of the craft-filled craziness we so fondly remember. A covered-dish dinner will follow doing the crafts, so bring your favorite dish to share.

Week 2, December 10

“Lessons and Carols” This year’s program will feature several guest musicians and vocalists as well as Trinity’s handbell choir. A reception with a live jazz ensemble will follow, featuring special guest musicians from VCUarts.

Week 3, December 17

“Operation Christ Child”: A Christmas Play. Join us as we consider that it might have been like two thousand years as we look into life B.C. (Before Christmas). Come with us for a behind-the-clouds look at what might have been during the planning of Operation Christ Child. We will have the play at 4 PM, followed by a covered-dish dinner, come, eat, laugh, celebrate, and enjoy the season!

Operation Christ Child

There’s something brewing at headquarters. Nothing will ever be the same. Of course we all know that the shepherds were the first to know about the birth of Christ. Or were they? After all, there were a lot of details that needed attention to make sure that the first Christmas went according to Scripture. It’s up to an elite band of angels to make sure everything goes as planned, from arranging accommodations (or the lack thereof) for the holy family, to hanging the star, to informing everyone of the event, to ... well, you get the picture. Join us on **Sunday, December 17, at 4 PM** as we consider what it might have been like two thousand years as we look into life B.C. (Before Christmas). Come with us for a behind-the-clouds look at what might have been during the planning of ... Operation Christ Child.

We’ll have the play at 4pm, followed by a pot-luck (covered-dish) dinner. Come, eat, laugh, celebrate, and enjoy the season!

If you want to help with the play (and we need help), go to <https://www.trinityumc.net/christmas-play-2023/> !

Longest Night Service December 21 6:00 PM in the Chapel

Our Longest Night service acknowledges that Christmas can bring feelings of sadness, pain, and loneliness for those who have lost a loved one, struggle with feelings of despair and disappointment, faced life after divorce or separation, coped with the loss of a job, received an unwelcome diagnosis, or experienced other forms of loss. The service takes place just prior to the Winter solstice, a natural phenomenon that ushers in the longest, darkest night of the year, symbolic of the “dark night of the soul” that often precedes our Christmas hope.

This service will be reflective, a time for us to join together and acknowledge the range of emotions this season can bring. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey, you are welcome to join us for this service of prayer and reflection, as we remember together Jesus’ promise. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

A SERVICE OF
LESSONS & CAROLS
PRESENTED BY TRINITY’S
CHOIR AND FRIENDS
SUNDAY, DEC. 10 @ 4:00 PM
RECEPTION WITH LIVE JAZZ TO FOLLOW.

Be our guest!



Trinity's choir (and friends) will present a service of *Lessons & Carols* on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00PM in our beautiful Sanctuary. This year's program will feature several guest musicians and vocalists as well as Trinity's handbell choir. A reception with a live Jazz ensemble will follow, featuring special guest musicians from VCUarts.

The traditional "Lessons & Carols" service traces its roots to Victorian England, where it was inaugurated at King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The service includes select scripture readings and carols that tell the Christmas story with grace and power. We hope that you and your loved ones will join us for this most meaningful service.

Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate Christ's birth at Trinity. We will have five worship services on **Sunday, December 24**, for you and your family.

10:00 AM One Blended Worship Service, (no Sunday School)

4:00 PM Family Service with Instant Kids Pageant
We are so excited to share with you a reimagined Christmas pageant that focuses on telling the Christmas story using kits that will be provided and all voices singing our favorite Christmas carols! The pageant will take place during the 4 PM Christmas Eve Family Service in the sanctuary.

6:00 PM Modern Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))
During our 6:00 Christmas Eve service, we will sing carols led by our modern worship band, share Communion, and celebrate the joy and peace Christ brings. Our service will culminate in a traditional candlelight vigil. We hope you and your family will join us for this most meaningful celebration!

8:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))
A traditional format service with choir and organ, special Christmas Communion, and candlelight vigil. Come celebrate together this meaningful celebration of this most holy night.

11:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service (also online)
A traditional Christmas Eve worship service. This late night service is a more intimate format, featuring Christmas music, a special Christmas Communion, and candlelight vigil. Come, celebrate, as we bring in Christmas Day together.



Fall Retreat!

The Students Fall Retreat is coming up fast! We will leave from church at 6 PM on **Friday, November 10**. Students should plan to arrive at church **no later than 5:30pm**. After departing, we will eat dinner together on the road, before arriving at camp and settling in. The next day, we will have meals, activities, and plenty of free time for students to enjoy, before concluding the day with a time of worship and devotion. We will leave Sunday morning, and be back at church at **approximately 10 AM**. All students, grades 6-12, are invited, and can register online, using The Hub page on our website. Early bird registration closes October 27 at noon. **Registration is required for all who wish to attend.** Registration closes November 2. This is a hard deadline given to us by Camp Hanover that cannot be negotiated.



Come and join in this fun, faith-filled weekend away!



Water Matters Refuse, Reuse, Recycle

Currently there are 31,000 pounds of trash being dumped in our oceans every minute of every day. Storm drain systems in the USA contribute 242,000 tons of trash in the oceans every year. They are direct highways to the ocean for plastic. A big part of the problem is microplastics, first discovered in 1972. These extremely small particles average 2-3 microns in size; in comparison red blood cells average 5 microns in size. Recent university studies suggest that the average human has over 5 grams of microplastics in his/her body. We consume some 200-300 pieces of microplastics a day through food, drink, and air.

Should you try to cut down on plastics? Of course!! Especially single use plastics. How?

- Refuse unnecessary plastic items such as straws.
- Don't litter! Recycle or dispose of plastics safely.
- Participate in a clean-up.

For more information check out the American River Restoration at www.arrusa.org.

TRINITY Kids

What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

Kids Discipleship at 10am

Kids Discipleship during the 10am hour occurs in these locations:

- Nursery: Birth – 3 year olds
- Room 208: Preschoolers (3-5 year olds)
- Room 302: Elementary schoolers



This is what we are learning about in November:

Racers, start your engines! In a race, you might need to navigate obstacles, pit stops, and tight turns in order to stay on the right track. As you're zooming through the track, there's so much to think about and it can be hard to stay focused on what's most important! In this four-week series, we'll learn some important stories from Joshua about how obstacles are no problem for God and courage comes from knowing God's words. No matter how long the race, God can use someone like you because with God, there is victory!

TRANSIT

4th-5th Grade

Transit, our 4th and 5th grade ministry, returns this September! We are meeting on these dates this fall: November 5, 12, and 19.

We meet in the Welcome Center and then head upstairs to room 302 for a pizza dinner followed by games and activities.

Transit helps 4th and 5th graders grow friendships with each other to help them transition to the student ministry when they enter middle school!

November 5: Servant Leadership Focus – Helping in Kids Min on Sunday Mornings

November 12: Thanksgiving Focus & Fun

November 19: Christmas Focus & Fun

Register here for each week so I know how much pizza to order: <https://tinyurl.com/2j8wex9n>

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THANKSGIVING



Holidays are meant to be a break, a time when work and school go on the back burner, teams and clubs have a lull in the schedule (sometimes), families relax and enjoy extra time with the ones they love most. But we all know that holidays more often turn into stress-filled days trying to make everyone happy and counting down the minutes until you can go back to your normal 9 to 5.

This Thanksgiving, make sure you have at least one meaningful (and enjoyable!) moment with your kids. Block out a few hours or a whole day to enjoy age-old family traditions or make new ones with some of our favorite (and simple!) Thanksgiving ideas:

THANKSGIVING SCRAPBOOK – Have your kid pick their favorite family photo from this past year. Paste it to the middle of a scrapbook page and have each Family member write what they are most thankful for around the photo. Continue the tradition next year – and the next – by adding one page/photo each year!

THANKSGIVING PUMPKIN – On November 1st, place a pumpkin and a sharpie marker in the middle of your dinner table. Throughout the month, encourage your family members to write the things they are most thankful for on the pumpkin.

THANKSGIVING TRIAL-RUN - If your last Thursday of November will be a hectic gathering of second cousins and great aunts, plan a mini-feast with just your immediate family on the first Thursday of the month! Have your kids help out in the kitchen as you make smaller portions of your favorite Thanksgiving foods. Don't forget the pie!

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 Monday, December 11, 2023.

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: _____

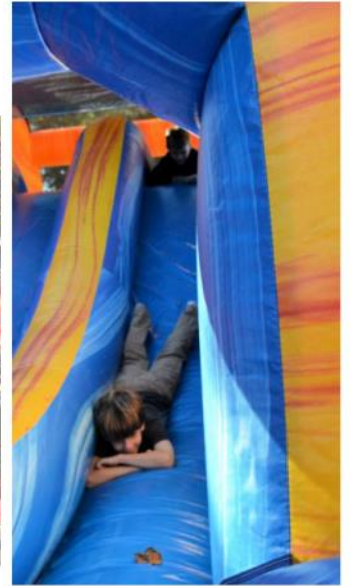
GIVEN BY: _____



Donor's Printed Name and Phone #: _____

Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229

2023 Fall Festival





From Trinity UWF President

Dear Trinity Sisters,

It's fall Y'all! I love the pumpkins and the glorious display of God's glory in the trees as they prepare for their winter sleep.

We have 3 big gatherings coming up and we need all hands on deck to pull them off.



First--our 70th annual **Harvest Day**. Circle 4 has been busy planning for a great day for us all. Please let Dianne Moore know you are coming. It's a bit tricky planning covered-dish events with no registration.

Theme: Love in Action Can Change the World.

Second--Trinity has the honor of hosting the **District Advent Service on December 2** this year. We will need lots of greeters, servers, ushers, bakers and warm smiling faces. We are asking Circles to bake holiday loaves to serve our guests with coffee and tea.



Third--**Service Day on December 14**. Again we need lots of hands to prepare gifts and treats for our recipients--UMFS, OakGrove, The Hermitage, Crossover, our food pantries and others.

I hope you can come and join in the preparations and enjoy the worship and the fellowship. We will have a special time of closeness to God and each other. We are definitely Better Together

Remember . . . you are loved,

Jo Lewis

**Harvest Day
November 9, 10 AM in the
Sanctuary**

Speaker: Julie Bilodeau
CrossOver Healthcare Ministry



Mini Loaves for Oak Grove

Join us in providing mini loaves of bread for Oak Grove ES 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.



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 - kmadams1711@icloud.net - 804-382-6477.

November Circle Meetings

Circle 1 – We will meet on Thursday, November 9 for Harvest Day.

Circle 4 – On Thursday the 2nd at 11 AM we will meet in the Student Center and finalize the plans for Harvest Day.

Circle 6 – In November we will meet on Thursday, November 9 for Harvest Day.

Circle 7 – November 16 at 7 PM in the Student Center - Rev. Daniel Guenther will share his faith journey. (This program was postponed from October 19 so that the Circle could volunteer with the Jill's Blankets event held that same evening.) TUMC staff Christmas gifts will also be created after Daniel leaves the meeting.

Circle 10 – At our October meeting, we collected \$375 for Sherbourne. On Thursday November 2, Daniel Guenther will be the guest speaker. We will meet at 7 PM at the home of Karen Shudtz.

Circle 11 – We will meet to make the 'Candy Cane Mice' for Service Day. Meeting details TBD.

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly

We are very excited to announce that UM Day at the General Assembly is happening in on February 1, in Richmond with Bishop Sue to advocate together! Faithful Virginia United Methodists from across our great Commonwealth have gathered in Richmond for over 30 years to advocate for our neighbors. When we gather together we arrange visits with our Senators to discuss issues that are relevant to our faith with direction from our friends and partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and other advocacy groups. If you are interested in putting your faith into action, register today at <https://vaumc.org/umday>. Registration is \$25 for early registration and \$10 for students.

You can learn more about the event and our schedule on <https://vaumc.org/umday>. Or if you want to learn more about the event before you register you can [sign up for our Preview](#) meeting on November 20 at 7:00 PM.

Trinity Stitchers Ministry

Workday Meetings: Third Thursday of each Month, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Room 323

Leaders: Janet Hill granhill4@aol.com
Gail Clelland gclelland@aol.com

The Trinity Stitchers Ministry is a group of persons who have a passion for sewing, crafting and creating items to share with others in need of comfort and support. We work closely with Rev. Judy Oguich, Minister of Congregational Care to provide items for persons on the church prayer list and others in need.

At our monthly workdays we work on designing and making lap quilts, tote bags, baby slings, pillows and many handicraft projects. Several of our members work at home on making and tying lap quilts; knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and scarves, hats, slippers and baby blankets and making handkerchief angels. Our items are made from generous donations of fabrics, yarn and other sewing needs. We welcome beginners and non-sewers for such tasks as cutting, sorting, organizing, ironing, designing and delivering items.

We share the items that we make with persons in our church, the Richmond community and beyond to provide comfort and encouragement during difficult times. A prayer of blessing is said for each item that we create. We have provided things for many individuals and organizations including, but not limited to, Trinity members, family and friends, the Honduras Medical Mission Team, CrossOver Ministries, The Doorways and Richmond area senior living communities.

We welcome anyone who would enjoy participating in our Stitchers Ministry. It is a blessing to those who receive these gifts along with our prayers for comfort and healing. It is also a blessing to those of us who are a part of this special ministry.

Questions, contact Janet Hill or Gail Clelland.

Staff Parish Relations

The past month has been a time of reflection for the TUMC Student Ministry. Through a series of listening sessions, staff-parish committee members along with Brian and Daniel have been gaining feedback from the congregation about the ministry, touching upon themes such as - what aspects are successful and where are the areas needing improvement?; what is our vision for the ministry?; and how do we view the director role? The feedback has been robust and will not only help focus the search committee effort for a new director, but has already helped leadership become more attuned to the needs of this important demographic within the TUMC community.

We have a large, energetic, and joyous group of youth that regularly attend service and engage with the church. This is very evident and is a point of pride for TUMC. In an effort to ensure this is maintained and to provide continuity in leadership for students, Daniel has accepted the role and responsibilities of the interim director for Student Ministry effective immediately and through the remainder of the school year. The staff-parish committee will engage in a formal search for a permanent director in early 2024 with the goal to fill this position by the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

TUMC is blessed to have Daniel not only as our Associate Minister, but as someone willing and well-equipped to fulfill this duty. He is excited and energetic about this challenge. In response, I call upon TUMC to do your part to support Daniel and the Student Ministry. No matter what demographic you fit into, the youth welcome your participation and communion. This is an important and fun element of our church community. I encourage everyone to partake in the experience, whether that be helping with Sunday morning worship at the 10 o'clock hour, helping to provide dinner on Sunday evenings or volunteering in the many student-oriented activities throughout the year.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Brian, Daniel, or SPR Chair, Eric Zimmerman.

Thank You Notes

The congregation and staff appreciate the time and work Betsy Estes gave in organizing the Youth Center. Trustees appreciate the work from Mike Eunice and David Priest with a small project in the Welcome Center.

Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies to...

*The family of Carl Robinson who died October 22
Dave Clelland whose mother Shirley Hagerty
died October 10*

*The family of Rev. Wesley Draine, Jr. who
died October 3*

*The family of Bessie Manz who died October 1
Barbara Murray whose husband Jim Murray*



Trinity Preschool

Trinity Preschool and Parents' Morning Out is a comprehensive half-day, weekday program for children between the ages of 1

to 5 years old. It is a developmental program offered in a loving and nurturing environment to help children grow mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Trinity Preschool/PMO is an outreach ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC).

We have a few 4 year old spaces available 2023-24 school year. Your child must be 4 by September 30, 2023 to enter these programs.

Please apply online through our [website](http://www.trinityumc.net/preschool).
(www.trinityumc.net/preschool)

The Museum of the Bible Recap

Wednesday, October 4 was a wonderful day! We had 56 persons from five different churches (Trinity UMC, Third Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal, Beulah UMC and Asbury Memorial UMC) journey to The Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC via a chartered bus, driven by our own Pastor Brian Siegle!

We have received thank you notes from folks who joined us from other churches which we wanted to share with you:

Dear Judy,

I am so grateful that you invited members of Third to accompany Trinity to the Bible Museum. What a beautiful day! The bus trip was comfortable and enjoyable. The driver was so careful and so pleasant. The Museum visit was inspiring and interesting. Again thank you for your invitation, communication and hostess job on the bus. Blessings, Kay Martine

Dear Rev. Judy,

Thank you for all you and the church have done to arrange such a lovely outing to the Museum of the Bible. It was an outstanding time of faith and learning. Your congregants were welcoming to me and my friends from Third. Rev. Brian's friendly personality was appreciated too. May you have a blessed holiday season. Yours in Christ, Judith Glatt

Thanks also to the members of Young at Heart Steering Committee for helping to make this event a success!

Congratulations!

Bill Burch and Bob Burton have been recognized by two local nonprofits for their dedication and support. In September, Bill was recognized by Habitat For Humanity, and Bob by Crossover Clinic. Both organizations were very complimentary of their work and years of service.

Please join us in congratulating Bill and Bob.



Coffee Ministry

It's a new season and that means a new sign-up for our Coffee Ministry on Sundays. It just takes a couple of people to get things all set up each Sunday. It means a lot to our church members to have that service each week. We appreciate all of your help each week. If you have any questions, contact Mary Beth Utley at maryb.utley@gmail.com. To sign up go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094fa8ab22a5f85-trinity3#/>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, November 20 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.