

Tidings



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

Advent Hope in an Unpredictable World

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

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low...and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Luke 3: 4-6

Advent is here, which means Christmas Day is nearly here. December 25 arrives in just weeks. We anticipate this day with familiar rituals: lighting Advent candles, singing carols of the Messiah's birth, and gathering for feasts with loved ones. As a church family, we will share special services, music, liturgy, missional outreach, and joy. This season feels both known and comforting.

But imagine if Christmas were unknown—a floating holy day arriving without warning. Consider this: In the North, the first snowflake drifts past a classroom window, and a child shouts, "Christmas is here!" In the South, rising winds signal a hurricane, prompting a first responder to declare the same. Or it comes with a newborn's cry or a beloved elder's passing into the Church Triumphant. A floating holy day—"Christmas is here!"

In This Issue

Advent Hope in an Unpredictable World.....	1-2
Advent at Trinity UMC.....	2
Trinity's Advent Devotional Offers Light in the Darkness	3
Memorials and Honorariums	3
Join an Advent Study This Season..	4
Onward Together: What We Learned, What We Heard, and What Comes Next	5
Denominational News	6-7
Remembering Dot Binger, Trinity's Poet Laureate	8-9
Special Music Events in December ...	9
BFC News	10
Preschool Update.....	10
Children's Ministry Update	11
Trinity Youth Happenings.....	11

Continued...

Advent, continued

How would unpredictability reshape our preparations? How might we face the unknown with faith? We certainly know we live in unpredictable times.

The original Christmas was exactly that—an Advent of unpredictable surprises. We will revisit those stories: Joseph's dreams, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, life leaping in wombs, shepherds beholding heavenly hosts, and Magi chasing a star. These all were ordinary people navigating uncertainty, trusting God's faithfulness amid the unforeseen. They authored the first Christmas narrative, not with scripted Hallmark sentiment, but with raw, divine interruptions.

This echoes the Gospel: "About that day and hour no one knows. ...Keep awake...for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour" (Matthew 24:36-44). Advent means "coming"—not just recalling Christ's birth, but longing for His return.

It can sound daunting. We prefer the known. Yet facing the unknown is our calling. We need calloused knees in prayer, contrite hearts in repentance, and lives ready to respond with gentleness, grace, peace, and hope.

Christian faith pulses with this hope: Christ's second coming. We may not discuss it often for it is mysterious and ineffable. Like the holy family before the first Christmas, we live in a world of unknown surprises and God's steadfastness.

We do not fully grasp why we need Christ's return. But we know the prophets' vision: Crooked paths will be made straight and rough places made plain. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares... nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). In a world of conflict, division, and heartache, we crave this peace. Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, alone can set it right. He will reign forever.

If He came today, because we need Him, because we have waited so long—would we be full of unspeakable joy? Scripture assures His arrival "when the time is right." Like that unimagined and unscheduled first Christmas, we would want to be wide awake, watching for the first sign, ready to shout, "It's here!"

As you shop, decorate, bake, and send cards for December 25, remember another celebration looms. It is a day and hour known only to the Father.

In all we do, let us heed the Prophet Isaiah: "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" (Isaiah 2:5).

Let us keep awake in hope!

Advent at Trinity UMC

November 30, 11:00 a.m.....Hanging of the Greens

December 6, 3:45 p.m.....Cookies With Santa

December 6, 5:00 p.m.....Youth Chili Fundraiser

December 7, 2:00 p.m.....Christmas Recital by Organist Douglas Chaplow

December 12, 7:30 p.m.....Handel's Messiah, a presentation of the
Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra (ticketed event)

December 14, 3:00 p.m.....Handel's Messiah, a presentation of the
Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra (ticketed event)

December 17, 5:30 p.m.....One Bright and Shining Star

December 18, 6:30 p.m.....Service of Hope and Remembrance

December 24, 3:00 p.m.....Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 5:30 p.m.....Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 8:00 p.m.....Lessons and Carols Service

December 24, 11:00 p.m.....Candlelight and Communion Service

Trinity's Advent Devotional Offers Light in the Darkness

By Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

The word Advent means “coming,” and it is the season of the Christian year when we wait for the coming of Christ. For some, this waiting is filled with joy—lights, music, celebration. For others, it brings reminders of loss, loneliness, or the weight of the world around us. If we are honest, most of us hold both joy and heaviness as we move through this season. We long for the hope that Christ brings, yet we look at a world full of conflict and wonder how something as small and fragile as a baby could bring peace.

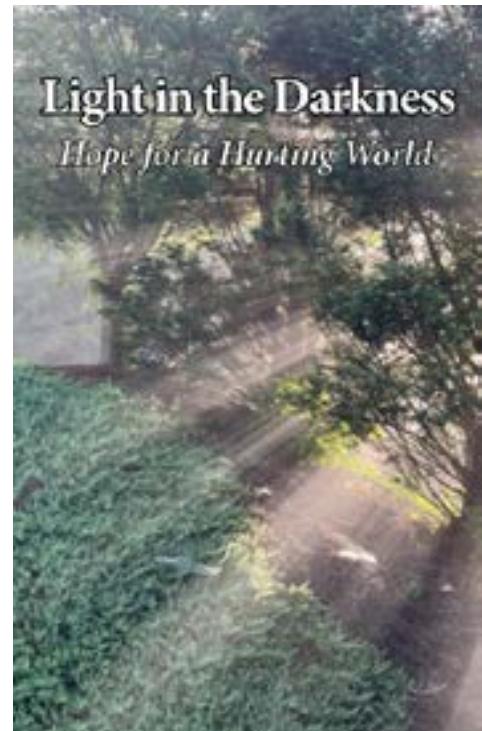
This year’s Advent devotional embraces both the joy and the ache of the season. Each week, we reflect on an Advent theme and how it meets us in our real lives:

Hope in the Shadows invites us to acknowledge our doubts and grief while trusting that God’s light still shines.

Peace in the Streets reminds us that Christ came to bring peace not only within us, but among us—across differences, identities, and experiences—because all people are God’s beloved children.

Joy for the Forgotten reflects on God’s upside-down kingdom, where the overlooked are lifted up and joy is found in unexpected places.

Love Made Flesh celebrates that God’s love is not distant, but took on flesh in Jesus, entering our world with tenderness and courage.



Copies of our Advent devotional, *Light in the Darkness: Hope for a Hurting World*, are available at the church. If you prefer to receive your daily devotionals via email, you can sign up on our app or website, or you can simply scan the QR code pictured on the right. If you received our 2025 Lenten Daily Devotion emails, please know that you are already subscribed to these Advent Daily Devotion emails as well.



Scan here to sign up for Advent Daily Devotion emails.

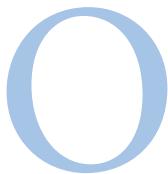
Memorials and Honoraria

November 2025

In memory of Peggy Bachnik from Mason Harris
In memory of Calynne Andrews Hill from Elizabeth Proctor
In honor of the Stephen Shiver Jr. family from Gail Melton

Join an Advent Study This Season

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education



ur small groups at Trinity provide an atmosphere where members can connect with others and grow in faith. During the Advent season, many of our small groups are embarking upon Advent studies. All groups are open to new members and will welcome anyone who would like to join in their Advent study!

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Early Risers | Library | *While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent* by Mary Lou Redding

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Agape and Aldersgate | Room 305 | These two classes are joining together for a study of *A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine

Just Us Gals | Room 220 | *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist* by Adam Hamilton

Wesley Bible Study | Library | Adult Cokesbury Advent Study

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Son Servants | Library | *What Do You Want for Christmas?* by James W. Moore

Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study | Library | *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* by Andy Langford and Ann Langford Duncan

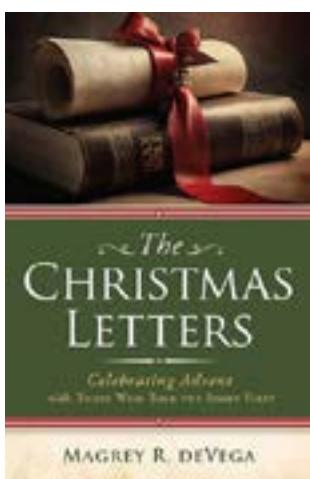
Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.

Men's Daybreak | Moor Hall | *Everyday Epiphanies* by James Harnish

Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m.

Richard Andrews' Bible Study | Library | *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope* by Matthew L. Skinner

In addition to the many Advent studies taking place during our regularly scheduled Trinity small groups, you are invited to join a short-term study group meeting at the home of Rev. Wayne and Mrs. Ramona Wiatt. See details below:



Advent at the Lake

This December you are invited to join an Advent Study at the home of Wayne and Ramona Wiatt, 24044 Lanier Street, Tallahassee, Florida, on Lake Talquin. This group will meet for fellowship and study on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Guests are asked to bring a snack to share.

Each participant will need a copy of *The Christmas Letter: Celebrating Advent with Those Who Told the Story First* by Magrey DeVega. Books will be available at Centenary United Methodist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, or at the Study. We will meet December 2, 9, and 16.

Please RSVP to waynewiatt1955@gmail.com

The Wiatts look forward to seeing you in December!

Onward Together: What We Heard, What We Learned, and What Comes Next

By Dr. James Hunt, Onward Trinity Visioning Committee Co-Chair

Last spring, our Trinity family embarked on an important season of listening and discernment. Through a congregational survey, the Strategic Planning Committee's external research, and our Onward Planning Day, you shared your hopes, concerns, and aspirations for the future of Trinity United Methodist Church. Your contributions helped paint a clear and thoughtful picture of where God is leading us.

From those efforts, Trinity now has a new five-year strategic plan designed to guide our growth, strengthen our ministries, and deepen our connection to the Tallahassee community and the world. Because this is a long-range plan, not everything will happen at once. Instead, new initiatives will be introduced steadily over the next several years, allowing us to move forward with intention, sustainability, and care.



Our Strategic Plan is based on three main goals, focusing on PLACE, PEOPLE, and WORLD:

- **Goal 1 PLACE:** Trinity UMC will be a trusted spiritual leader with physical presence, partnerships, and long-term resources that ensure ever-increasing positive impact.
- **Goal 2 PEOPLE:** Trinity UMC will be a diverse and vibrant community where all God's people are welcomed, included, and engaged in learning and living their faith.
- **Goal 3 WORLD:** Trinity UMC will be an exemplar of Christ's love and hope with extended reach to our faith community and the world.

Work on some early initiatives is already underway. One of the first is the Lay Academy Committee, which is developing new and creative ideas for our Wednesday night Lay Academy programs. Their efforts represent exactly what this strategic plan envisions—building on what Trinity already does well while imagining new possibilities for fellowship and spiritual growth.

New initiatives have also sprung to life. A Facilities Committee has been formed as a result of our visioning work, and Celebrate Recovery Open Share Groups have begun as well. A weekly women's Open Share Group has been established, and a men's group is being planned. The Senior Pastor has been ensuring consistent communication through weekly social media videos and monthly church emails.

As additional initiatives begin rolling out, we will continue sharing updates and celebrating milestones. The progress we make in the coming months and years will be a direct extension of the thoughtful engagement you offered last spring. That season of listening was not an ending—it was the beginning of a journey we continue to walk together.

You can visit the [About Us](#) page of tumct.org to read our mission and vision statements, review our core values, and find links to our [Strategic Plan Initiatives: Launch Portfolio](#) and Trinity's [Plan on a Page Strategic Plan Outline](#).

Through this work, we remain grounded in Trinity's vision: to be a diverse Christian community that leads as a shining beacon of God's love, actively engaging as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ in the world.

Together, we continue onward.

Denominational News: Ratification of Constitutional Amendments

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

On November 5, 2025, the Council of Bishops announced that annual conferences worldwide have ratified four constitutional amendments to The United Methodist Church. Each amendment received more than the required two-thirds aggregate vote and is now in effect. The amendments, initially approved by the 2024 General Conference, address membership, racial justice, clergy delegate elections, and our global structure.

Below is a summary of each amendment, including its historical context and implications.

1. Expanded Inclusiveness in Membership

Paragraph 4, Article IV of the Constitution now reads: "All persons, without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection."

This revision explicitly prohibits denial of membership on the basis of gender or ability.

Historical Context: Efforts to include protections for gender in the Constitution date back to 1988, led by the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women, which advocated for full inclusion of women and others in church life. A broader proposal in 2016, submitted by the same commission, sought to add gender, age, marital status, and ability to the nondiscrimination clause but failed to achieve ratification by annual conferences, falling short of the two-thirds threshold. Advocacy continued through groups like the Disability Ministries Committee and the Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries, culminating in the streamlined 2024 proposal that focused on gender and ability. This amendment builds on the church's longstanding commitment to inclusivity, rooted in Wesleyan theology, that affirms the sacred worth of all persons. This change ensures that every person is eligible for full participation in the life of the church.

2. Commitment to Combat Racism

Paragraph 5, Article V has been fully rewritten to name racism in all its form as sin that contradicts God's creative intent and damages human community. The text acknowledges historical and ongoing harm within society and the church itself. It commits The United Methodist Church to active confrontation and elimination of racism, racial inequity, and related systems of oppression in every aspect of denominational life and public witness. This is vitally important given the global nature of the Church and the contextual realities of being one church on different continents.

Historical Context: The United Methodist Church's opposition to racism traces to its Methodist roots, with founder John Wesley denouncing slavery as incompatible with Christianity in the 18th century. Early Black Methodist leaders like Richard Allen and Jarena Lee established vital communities amid segregation, leading to the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Article V itself was first adopted in 1968 during the merger forming the UMC, recognizing racism's destructive impact on church unity. The 1980 Charter for Racial Justice Policies further articulated biblical imperatives against racism, guiding actions on institutional equity. Recent revisions respond to societal movements like the civil rights era and post-2020 protests against systemic racism, proposed by the General Commission on Religion and Race to embed stronger accountability in the Constitution.

This amendment continues the denomination's legacy by embedding accountability into the church's constitutional framework.



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



3. Uniform Standards for Clergy Delegate Elections

Paragraph 35, Article IV establishes consistent educational criteria for licensed local pastors to vote in clergy delegate elections to General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences. Eligible pastors must have done the following:

- Completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved school (or its equivalent as recognized in a Central Conference, soon to be Regional Conference), and
- Served under appointment for at least two consecutive years immediately preceding the election.

These standards are fixed in the Constitution and are not subject to regional adaptation, ensuring equity and clarity across the global church.

Historical Context: The framework for electing clergy delegates has been outlined in the UMC Constitution since the church's 1968 formation, drawing from earlier Methodist traditions that emphasized educated leadership for governance roles. Paragraph 35, Article IV originally specified basic requirements like the Course of Study or an M.Div. equivalent, but ambiguities arose over what constituted an "equivalent" in international contexts and the two-year service minimum. These issues led to inconsistencies in delegate elections, as noted in Judicial Council decisions and annual conference practices. The amendment, submitted by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, clarifies these standards following decades of evolving educational norms, including the growth of the Course of Study program since the 1950s for part-time local pastors. It passed General Conference in 2024 with strong support (547–99) to promote transparency without altering access for qualified clergy.

4. Regionalization

The most far-reaching structural change creates Regional Conferences with equal authority to adapt paragraphs 101–605 of the Book of Discipline to their cultural, legal, and ministry contexts. Core doctrine, ordination standards, Social Principles, and connectional funding remain uniform worldwide.

For example, regionalization recognizes that a congregation in Harare, Zimbabwe, faces different social, economic, legal, and ecclesiastical realities than say one in San Francisco, California; Manila, Philippines; or Tallahassee, Florida. Local adaptation now occurs through an equitable process rather than centralized U.S.-based legislation.

With ratification, the United States becomes one regional conference among several, ending its default position as the governing center. This shift distributes authority more evenly across Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S. The existing U.S. jurisdictional conferences, originally drawn along racial lines in 1939, remain in place for now. Addressing their historical foundation will require additional constitutional and legislative work in the years ahead.

Historical Context: Discussions of regional autonomy began in the 1920s among Methodist bodies seeking to address global diversity, evolving through the 1939 formation of the Methodist Church, which included racially segregated jurisdictions. The 1968 UMC merger abolished the Central Jurisdiction but retained U.S.-centric structures, granting limited adaptation powers to central conferences per Paragraph 31.5 of the Constitution. Central conferences, established at the UMC's founding, have long customized elements like hymnals and policies for local contexts. Calls for full parity intensified in the 2010s amid growth in Africa and the Philippines, leading to the Christmas Covenant (2016) and proposals from the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. The 2024 General Conference approved the package by 78%, aiming to decolonize governance and reflect the church's shift to a majority global membership.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone, President of the Council of Bishops, stated: "These amendments reflect the church's rich diversity and deep commitment to live more fully into our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

As the pastor of a local church, it's important for me to remember that the UMC is not a centralized denomination. Though we are hierarchal with an episcopal form of government, Annual Conferences, Districts, and General Boards and Agencies most often are separate 501C3s, united together under the General Conference of the church. Change takes time and takes on many different forms in a global structure such as ours. Each step towards change reflects the heartfelt longing to see God's Kingdom come among us more fully.

The full text of the amendments, voting breakdowns, and explanatory materials are available at ResourceUMC.org.

Remembering Dot Binger: Trinity's Poet Laureate

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

Dorothy "Dot" Nelson Binger is fondly remembered as an educator, community leader, volunteer, credit union advocate, guardian ad litem, founding board member of Pace Center for Girls/Leon, centenarian, and longtime, active Trinity member. As an educator, she taught at several high schools and colleges and helped found Tallahassee State College. This diminutive woman left a monumental legacy.

At this time of year, as Advent begins and Christmas approaches, another facet of Dot's extensive repertoire comes to mind: her poetry. Each year, Dot Binger sent out an original poem as her Christmas card. Printed on cream-colored cardstock and embellished with small images from the natural world, Dot shared her art, and in doing so, shared her heart. Her Christmas 2021 poem exemplifies the wonder and joy she experienced and sought to share.



Dorothy "Dot" Nelson Binger
July 20, 1924 - December 3, 2024



Christmas 2021

From a window view of the slope expanse
I heard myself say, "Oh, no, it can't be snow
...my eyes are surely fooling me."
But on that early April day
I stepped down the slope
to find a patch of tiny blossoms...
...white...and sprinkled low like snow!
Then in one awesome magic moment
I felt the soul of that blossom sod
confront the soul of me and prompt a ponder
...how to transform these Advent Days
all to Wonder Days of Joy!



Having served on committees alongside her, I can attest to the fact that when Dot spoke, she imparted wisdom. Reminiscent of the old E.F. Hutton commercials, the room would fall silent and everyone would listen. When speaking to individuals, she made eye contact and was singularly focused on the person and matter at hand. Everyone whose life was touched by Dot Binger surely felt the gift of her presence. And when writing, she left the distinct impression that her words were being delivered as a personal gift to the reader.



Christmas 2022

Red Bird, Red bird, lounging on my feeder baffle
and with winged wisdom ponders: "Eat more corn or
take a fly?"
and tho short an invitation, still I shout, "I'll go too!"
Away we fly o'er tops of regal pines
into the sacred deep blue sky.
"Thanks, Mr. Cardinal, for this time with you,"
said I and leaned against a cloud, reflecting:
"Advent joy is found with kin and friends."
And so I eased on down to home
As I placed your name on an envelope to send
this year's Advent wishes, I spent that moment
just on special thoughts of *you!*



After Dot's passing, her daughter Norma Parish unearthed copies of a poetry collection printed in 1968: *Moments In The Mountains* by Dorothy Nelson Binger. Like her Christmas poems, these pages reveal a kinship with and appreciation for the natural world. However, as seen in "Plaudits" and "Sadness the Dunce," they go beyond the Christmas message of wonder and joy and highlight her keen understanding of human nature and the deep sense of humble faith with which she lived.

On December 3, 2024, Dot Binger passed away at the age of 100. All who knew her mourned the loss of this wise and wonderful woman. And all who treasured her annual Christmas poems mourned the fact that there would be no more.

But true to character, Dot surprised us by offering more than we expected. When—after her death—Dot Binger's Christmas 2024 poem arrived in the mail, I was both profoundly baffled and pleasantly surprised. As always, the poet communed with nature and sang of wonder and joy.

A few weeks after I received that last Christmas poem, Norma asked me if I noticed anything in it that seemed to indicate Dot knew her time here was coming to an end. Reading it once again, I was awestruck. Perhaps this wise and wonderful poet knew that she was about to "go elsewhere." How fortunate for us that Trinity's poet laureate left not only a great legacy and beautiful memories to savor, but also beautiful words to read again and again.

Plaudits

The crowd lauded
and clasped my hand;
My humble talent
was then in demand.
I was sad;
for they could not see
I had not glorified God,
only me.

Sadness the Dunce

Sadness in a corner,
sent there as a dunce!
It took fancy to my joy
and made confused
the discipline of my heart.
Then God re-entered
to take command,
And sadness succumbed
to its proper reprimand.



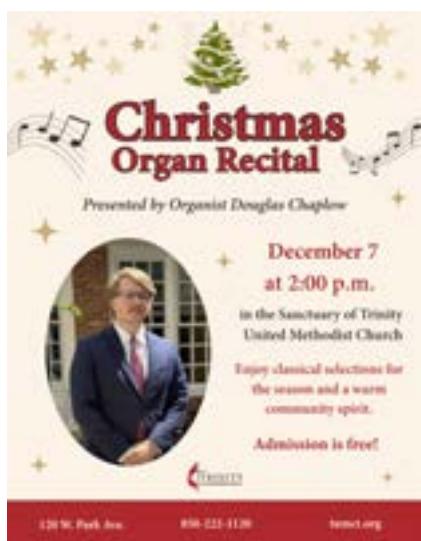
Christmas 2024

"Hello, hello! This is my year 100!"
I shout to all who live and thrive
in my beloved backyard garden space;
A downy woodpecker chirped back to me
"Awk, those furry squirrels are listening in!"
"Oh, yes indeed—they are my friends too!"
Just then I hear a crinkly whisper
from the fence line Anise Hedge,
"Please leave our blades a healthy green
if you decide to go elsewhere."
I whisper back "I'm sending to all my friends
Joyful Advent greetings
to fill that wondrous time
with the best I see in all of you!"



Special Music Events in December

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications



We have two special music events scheduled during December. On Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m., join us in Trinity's Sanctuary for a Christmas recital by Organist Douglas Chaplow. This event is free and open to the public.

On December 12 at 7:30 p.m. and on December 14 at 3:00 p.m., Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra will present Handel's *Messiah* in Trinity's Sanctuary. This is a ticketed event, and tickets must be purchased through tallahasseesymphony.org. Trinity members can receive a 20% discount on tickets by using the code TUMC. The discount will be applied at checkout.



BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) News

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

With the holidays here, it's time to wind down the BFC Ministry programs for 2025, but not for long. Mark your calendars! The last BFC Exercise classes and Pickleball session are on Thursday, Dec. 18, but be ready to join us and start your New Year off right on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, when BFC Ministry programs resume.

Reflecting on 2025, we can say BFC has had a great year! Regular attendees welcomed several new participants, which increased our overall attendance levels. A few of those new attendees also joined Trinity, becoming official members of our church! Our Pickleball team continued to grow and play weekly at FSU Wesley. The BFC Ministry Leadership Team expanded to include new members too. Various celebrations were held throughout the year. And our exercise classes were physically flipped from one end of Moor Hall to the other, improving our tech abilities and Zoom presence.

But—best of all, thanks to the generous and faithful contributions of our attendees—BFC Ministry was able to provide 40 waterproof mattress pads for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bunk bed build; partial scholarships for 14 FSU students' mission trip to Guatemala; 55 new jackets, 145 pairs of gloves, numerous hats, and countless pairs of socks for our unhoused neighbors; fresh bananas each week to go with Snack Packs; \$1,000 to help with the Guadalupe River Flood; \$1,500 to Head Start when federal funding was cut, and as part of BFC Ministry's Give Back to Trinity, two Blue Air filtration systems for use in Moor Hall; a fabric steamer for culinary services; and a new storage rack for Snack Pack Ministry organization.

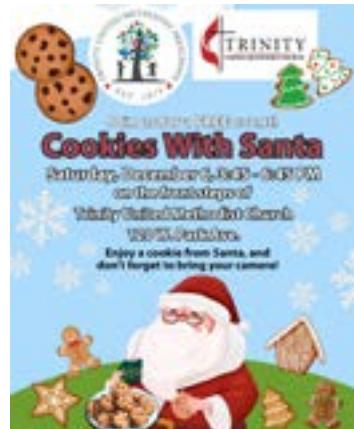
Our year has been filled with FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FITNESS, raising FUNDS—and even enjoying FOOD together! From the entire BFC Ministry Team we extend our gratitude to all who helped make this year a huge success. We hope to see both familiar and new faces in 2026 as we continue our mission: Together We Can Make a Difference! For more information about the BFC Ministry programs, see our [program flier](#) or contact the church office and ask for a call back.

Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

Our preschool students paraded through Trinity's office on Halloween. There were treats, costumes, and decorations galore, and everyone had a great time! These months are busy but filled with so much fun and togetherness. Our Thanksgiving feast was lovely, and we know that our students and staff enjoyed special times with family over the break.

We hope you plan to join us at Cookies With Santa! This free event takes place on Trinity's front steps during the Winter Festival on Saturday, December 6, between 3:45 and 6:45 p.m. Bring your camera, get a picture with Santa, and receive some delicious cookies. On Friday, December 19, at 9:00 a.m., we will be excited to welcome families to our Christmas program. We know that this season is filled with memory-making, and we are honored to share this time with our families!



Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

NETKids have been busy busy over the past month! They sang in church on Children's Sunday (when kindergarteners and third graders received Bibles), welcomed folks to church, and worked on lots of projects to help them prepare for their upcoming Advent presentation. We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m. as we present "One Bright and Shining Star."

Also, remember to visit the front steps of Trinity Untied Methodist Church on Saturday, December 6, between 3:45 and 6:45 for Cookies With Santa! Bring your camera, get a picture with Santa, and receive some delicious cookies. This event is free and open to the public.



Enjoy these photos of kindergarteners exploring their new Bibles, the NETKids Choir performing during Children's Sunday, NETKids creating edible art during our Wednesday afternoon program, and the MacKinnon children greeting people as they arrive at our church.



Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

The big news in the Stacey household is that baby Laney was born on November 15! Haley and I are adjusting to being new parents, but I can report that everyone is healthy and happy. You may not see me around the church much in the coming weeks, but youth activities are still going on!

Just before Laney was born, we enjoyed our Halloween party at the Hands' house and had a great Youth Retreat at Warren Willis Camp in Leesburg. Watch for many of our youth who will also be participating in the Hanging of the Greens at the 11:00 a.m. service on November 30. On December 6, our youth will be on the steps of the church serving chili. If you are interested in buying chili tickets, see Sally Huggins at church, or contact the church office. Looking ahead, we have our Christmas party on December 14 at the Coughlins' house and Rock the Universe in January!





Monthly Publication from
Trinity United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 222-1120 www.tumct.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

9:45 Contemporary Service and 11:00 Liturgical Service are livestreamed
on [YouTube@TrinityUMCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityUMCTallahassee)

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. E. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

CHURCH STAFF

Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*
Erin Casey, *Director of Preschool*
Douglas Chaplow, *Organist*
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*
Candace Duclos, *Senior Director of Christian Education*

Melanie Gonzalez, *Church Operations Administrator*
Chip Huggins, *Maintenance Technician*
Susan Koehler, *Director of Communications*
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*
Warren May, *Interim Director of Music*
Britton Stacey, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Heather Watson, *Administrative Assistant*

TIDINGS TEAM

Susan Koehler, *Editor*

Let's stay in touch!

- Sign up for our News & Notes weekly email newsletter on our website www.tumct.org
- Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUMCTallahassee) @TrinityUMCTallahassee
- Follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/umctrinity) @umctrinity
- Find our livestream on [YouTube@TrinityUMCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityUMCTallahassee)