

# Tidings



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

## A Culture of Call

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

Os Guinness writes in *The Call* that “God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service.” I have carried that sentence with me for years, and I have leaned on it again this spring.

Up until two years ago, when I realized that Trinity is an institution unto itself, and that it needs all of me, I sat on District and Conference Boards of Ministry that asked candidates one central question: what is your call? Of course, that meant they were expected to answer it. Candidates for ministry go through a great deal, including psychological testing, theological examination, and a commitment to the mission and ministry of the denomination, affirming our Articles of Faith and Discipline. But behind every candidate is an actual person. And that is what the Boards of Ministry ultimately do. They help us see people as they are. In turn, that helps us see the church as we are.

*Continued...*

### In This Issue

- A Culture of Call .....1-2
- Honoring Trinity’s Mission Churches .....3
- Memorials and Honorariums.....3
- Meet Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith .....4-5
- On Its Tenth Year, Historical Society Celebrates Its Founder .....6
- Reaching Toward the Future with Roots in the Past .....7
- Your City. Your Choice. The 2026 Nehemiah Action .....8
- Exciting News From BFC.....9
- A Friendly Reminder .....9
- Staff Spotlight.....10
- Preschool Update.....10
- Children’s Ministry Update .....11
- Trinity Youth Happenings.....11

# A Culture of Call, *continued*

## The Call to Serve

What you may not know is that your clergy and staff carry distinct and different callings. What is remarkable about it is that they work together, though the work is varied and what each one hears and carries is unique. It's truly a miracle. Your church staff can be having a perfectly regular week with things going strong, committee meetings planned, agendas set, and calls being answered. Your clergy are present, smiling, and serving. And then someone dies. Someone is struggling. Someone has a new child to be baptized. Someone on the staff has a crisis. And your clergy go to work. Our hearts melt.

This is not incidental to what the church is. This is exactly what the church is. The congregation is not the audience for ministry. The congregation is the reason for it, and the clergy exist to serve, sustain, and walk alongside every person who walks through these doors and many who never do. Your clergy also know that we, nor the staff, would have jobs without you. And we are grateful.

## The Call to be Present

I have done a great deal of reflection on calling over the years, and at the end of the day it comes down to one thing: presence. In the UMC, what I have learned is that showing up and being present matters more than almost anything else. Your clergy carry no different struggles than you do. We grieve, worry, wonder, and wrestle with the same questions about faith and life that you do. We simply have a different calling, and that calling is to you. It is a calling to know your name, to sit with you in the hospital room, to stand beside you at the graveside, to celebrate with you at the baptismal font, and to tell you the truth from the pulpit even when it is hard to hear. Trinity has always deserved clergy who take that calling seriously, and it has been my privilege to witness this congregation receive that ministry with grace, generosity, and genuine faith.

Nearing the end of my service on the District and Conference Boards of Ministry, I began asking a different question: *Will this person show up?* And not far behind it was another: *Will I continue to show up?* Showing up means being yourself, open and willing, not trying to be a hero, but rather totally dependent on Christ Jesus. That is the United Methodist Way, and I am proud to stand in a long line of Trinity clergy who have done and are doing exactly that.

## The Call to be the Church

This is where your calling becomes just as important as mine and all of your clergy. We are the church together. Trinity is not solely a building on Park Avenue. Trinity is a people who have chosen to follow Christ in community, and that community is held together not only by programs or budgets (Did I mention clergy have to be good accountants, too?) but by a shared conviction that we belong to one another and to God.

Your clergy will never have all the gifts you have, and the church would be impoverished without what you bring. But your clergy will always be there to carry you, honor you, serve you, and stand in the gap for you. Trinity's clergy will always be people of sound judgement, and we will always lean on you.

That is not a role. That is a calling. And it is one we do not take lightly. As you Senior Pastor, I'm just one person in a long line of persons who've said this:

*Thank you, Trinity, for giving me a place to live out my call as a United Methodist Pastor. I'm not me without you — the church — carrying me, and I trust you feel I am carrying you, too.*

# Honoring Trinity's Mission Churches

By Rev. Will Newton, Pastor of Abundant Grace UMC and Open Hearts UMC

**B**eneath the pines and live oaks of Rocky Springs, Florida, on March 22, 2026, the Northwest District's two new churches commemorated how new beginnings are made possible through our Florida connection and care. Open Hearts (Monticello) and Abundant Grace (Madison) United Methodist Churches were blessed with a visit from Bishop Tom Berlin, Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Alex Shanks, and District Superintendent Rev. Catherine Fluck Price. This gathering — culminating in a picnic lunch — celebrated the ministry of these two congregations across the past three years. Since launching in the wake of a difficult disaffiliation in both Monticello and Madison, Open Hearts and Abundant Grace at Rocky Springs have grown in ministry and attendance to offer a uniquely United Methodist presence in their communities.



*Representatives from Trinity UMC at Abundant Grace UMC on Sunday, March 22, as Open Hearts UMC and Abundant Grace UMC, Trinity's Mission Churches, are officially recognized by the Florida Annual Conference as successful and impactful New Church Starts.*



*Bishop Tom Berlin speaks at the March 22 combined service.*

Last summer, the hard work of these communities in Monticello and Madison was celebrated by Bishop Berlin and the Cabinet — as well as the Committee for New Church Development — by appointing their first elder. This was the beginning of a North Central District “Test and See” grant project to help these churches continue their growth in mission to Jefferson and Madison counties. During the festivities on March 22, it was announced that both churches had moved from a “Test and See” phase to being full-fledged New Church Plants this year. District Superintendent Fluck Price gave each congregation a plaque commemorating their work and encouraging their future mission, while applauding the leaders like the Messers, Boyds, Griffins, and Wardens (as well as countless others) who remained faithful to God’s vision during the early difficulties.

This celebration marks more than the promising future of these two churches; it also reminds us how the Florida United Methodist Conference — along with our Northwest District — came together to birth new ministries. Trinity United Methodist Church’s pastoral and administrative leadership has provided vital support, allowing these churches to gain stability and focus on ministry. Special thanks goes to Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Rev. Wayne Curry, Business Administrator Laurie Atteberry, and Financial Assistant Dori Barton for their hard work, which made the difference between these churches surviving or thriving in this season of development. This spring is a new step in this connectional work as both Open Hearts and Abundant Grace seek to grow as church plants and transform both of their communities by the grace of Jesus Christ. God be praised for the grace present through our Florida Annual Conference!

## Memorials and Honorariums

April 2026

In memory of Larry Baird from Nan Baird

In memory of Nell Morse from United Women in Faith Circle One

In memory of Nell Morse from Brooks and Almerna Pettit

In memory of Ted Steinmeyer from Mr. & Mrs. Ehrhardt

In memory of Carole Smith from Lynne Barrera

In honor of Laurie, Abbie Rose, and Watson Shiver from Gail P. Melton

In honor of Nancy Waugh's 99th birthday from Mary Moak

# Meet Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, Trinity's Newly Appointed Associate Pastor

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

Sunday, April 19, was Announcement Sunday. Across United Methodist churches, congregations learned of clergy appointments for the coming year. At Trinity, we are proud of and excited for Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, who has been appointed as Pastor of Temple Terrace United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. (We will hear from Rev. Opalinski in our next issue of *Tidings*, and we have several weeks to share enough love and well-wishes to last a lifetime.) And we also received the exciting news that Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith has been appointed as Trinity's next Associate Pastor.

Knowing that everyone at Trinity would be eager to learn more about Dr. Smith, we immediately set up an interview. Before any questions were asked, Dr. Smith offered a big smile and this warm greeting: "Hello, Trinity United Methodist Church! I am an elder in full connection with the East Ohio Conference, but I look forward to making Florida and Trinity my home on July 1, and I especially look forward to meeting everyone."



Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

**Thank you for the warm greeting! I know that everyone at Trinity looks forward to getting to know you. Let's start by sharing a brief overview of your background.**

I love my hometown of Mingo Junction, Ohio! It is smackdab on the Ohio River where Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio intersect. My family lives there, and in Columbus and Dayton, too. My husband passed in 2024 from complications of a massive stroke. While I maintain connections with my adult stepchildren, our daughter just completed her first year in the US Air Force. She is stationed in South Korea, and I was glad to visit her there in March.



Ivy visiting her daughter at Hello Kitty Café in Seoul, South Korea

As far as schooling, I have several degrees, beginning with an Associate degree in English from Morristown College in Morristown, Tennessee, and a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach. My graduate studies were completed at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. I earned the Master of Theological Studies (MATS) degree in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree, with a focus in Multi-Disciplinary Ministry. Lastly, for ordination, I was awarded the Master of Divinity from the General Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church. Whew, I'm exhausted just talking about this!



Ivy with her beautiful family: Mother, daughter, sisters, nieces, and grandnephew



Ivy visiting Cozumel, Mexico



Ivy serving communion

**Tell us a bit about your faith journey and your call to ministry.**

God and the church have always been a constant in my life. I was born into a Christian, church-going home. My father was a pastor and my mother worked over 30 years in the United Methodist Church. I actually attended seminary before my call to ordained ministry. I intended to teach Christian Education, and I did some adjunct college teaching. Then I felt the call to ministry full time. I have pastored four churches in Cleveland, Canton, and Canfield, Ohio.

Undoubtedly, I have a love for God, the church, and God’s people. I am concerned about encouragement for believers and salvation for all. It is important to my faith expression that the worship service is shaped to provide space for the longevity and the newness of our spirits, a place for all stages of faith.

The Bible verse that supports me most is Romans 8:38-39: <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**What do you most look forward to in your new role here at Trinity?**

In my new role at Trinity, I look forward to working closely with the staff and experiencing the life of the Trinity family. I am eager to join the spiritual or missional thrusts in the church, being music, mission, outreach, youth, Bible study, fellowship, or other.

**You've lived in Ohio for a long time. What do you look forward to in making the move to Florida?**

Right now, I’m enjoying the view of white dogwood trees, tulips and blue phloxes in Ohio. And I look forward to the differences that are the Florida varieties of plants.



*Ivy visiting Dayton, Ohio*

**What questions do you have about living in Tallahassee?**

My hope is that Tallahassee has lots of outdoor jazz concerts or even classical, because I love a relaxing evening.

**We have a very eclectic assortment of hobbies and interests in our Trinity congregation. What are some of your hobbies and interests?**

My interests are doing puzzles, line dancing, and water aerobics.

**Ivy, it's been such a pleasure to chat with you! Before you go, let's have fun with a lightning round of favorites.**

<b>Favorite dream vacation:</b> Alaska or Chile	<b>Favorite hymns:</b> “Rescue the Perishing”, “People Look East,” and “There Is A Balm in Gilead”
<b>Superpower you’d love to have:</b> Flying. To get through traffic!	<b>Favorite book (most recent):</b> <i>Generation to Generation</i> by Edwin Friedman
<b>Favorite food:</b> Seafood and cashews	<b>Favorite New Testament book:</b> Matthew
<b>Favorite artist:</b> George Benson, guitarist	<b>Favorite Old Testament book:</b> Psalms
<b>Favorite color:</b> Canary yellow	<b>Favorite Disciple:</b> Andrew
<b>Newest playlist songs:</b> Adam Hawley, “Escape” and “Cruisin”	<b>Favorite Bible Woman:</b> Ruth
<b>Newest Netflix view:</b> <i>When Life Gives You Tangerines</i>	<b>Favorite Scripture:</b> Romans 8:38-39
<b>Favorite fast food:</b> Chick-fil-A	<b>Favorite Worship Song:</b> “I Speak Jesus”
<b>Favorite ice cream:</b> Chocolate	<b>Favorite Gospel Song:</b> “There’s Only One Name”
<b>Favorite football team:</b> Dallas Cowboys	
<b>Favorite basketball team:</b> Cleveland Cavaliers	

If you have not already seen our video introduction to Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, please visit Trinity's YouTube channel at this link: <https://youtu.be/eD4WodOvohE>



# On Its Tenth Anniversary, the Historical Society Honors Its Founder

By Dr. Pamela Crosby, Crossroads Editor

On March 22, 2016, a day after a ferocious storm sent a stained-glass window crashing to the floor in the Heritage Room, a small group of people met to form a historical society. Linda Yates, founder and chair, and Princess Palmer, recording secretary, were quick to follow-up in crafting by-laws, writing up membership applications, designing a logo, and persuading the church leadership to approve the founding of the organization.

As we mark this ten-year anniversary of the Society, we sadly no longer have the benefits of Linda's leadership, but we can honor her contributions to the Society and to our church by reflecting on three of the characteristics that made her an impressive leader.

## Hard-Working

Linda's father Rudolph Herold was 12 when he and his family emigrated from Switzerland to the US during a potato famine. At some point in his adulthood, he was able to purchase farmland near Miccosukee, Florida, and later built a two-story house of concrete blocks, each handmade in wooden molds. The farmhouse would be home to Rudolph, his wife Emma, and twelve children, of which Linda was the youngest. Like Rudolph, each person in the family was expected to do their part.

Linda applied this family work ethic to a career in journalism, beginning in her youth as editor of the Leon High School student newspaper and column editor of student activities at the Democrat. After graduating with honors from the University of Florida School of Journalism, she would serve on the Florida Law Journal staff for over three decades, advancing to manager editor.

## Innovative

In fall 1973, Linda suggested a "newspaper" was needed to publish information on the activities of the church's upcoming 150th anniversary celebration. The paper's dimensions were 11 x 17 inches in the style of a small newspaper, and the content was to be "objective," citing sources. The first issue was published in January 1974. For 20 years, Linda served as editor of the *Monthly Tidings*, earning a first-place national award for its excellence and innovation. The *Tidings* has now become an invaluable historical record of the church.

## Passionate About History

In 1999, Linda chaired the committee to organize Trinity's 175th anniversary celebration, while publishing that year the comprehensive volume *Trinity United Methodist Church: Tallahassee's First Church 1824-1999*, which she edited and co-authored. Nine years later, she was able to garner financial support and space to house and display archives, which had been stored in closets and the church vault. She and her architect-husband Bob designed the space, and Bob drew up plans to remodel the room. On September 20, 2009, as Trinity celebrated its 185th Anniversary, Linda and Bob welcomed the congregation into the new Heritage Room (Room 309), with its expansive timeline display as a focal point.

Later as Historical Society chair, Linda led us in brainstorming ideas for future projects. One highly successful undertaking was a Lay Academy series on Trinity's early history, featuring impressive speakers Carrol Dadisman, Nancy Kerce, Lynn McLarty, and Warren May, who packed the room in spring 2018.

Unfortunately, we lost Bob in February 2020, but in recognition of what Linda and Bob had contributed to Trinity's history, the Heritage Room was renamed The Linda and Bob Yates Heritage Center. Shortly after, Linda died in July 2023. Thumbing through the pages of early issues of *Monthly Tidings*, I see many past leaders of our church already forgotten. I hope that we won't forget our Linda.



Linda Yates with husband, Bob

# Reaching Toward the Future with Roots in the Past

By Dr. Pamela Crosby, *Crossroads* Editor

As the oldest church organization in Tallahassee, Trinity was founded in the capital of the Territory of Florida in September 1824. Circuit-riding Methodist missionaries had ridden on horseback from South Carolina through Georgia swamps and backwoods to the Big Bend area. Here, they established a missionary outpost that would lead to a burgeoning Methodist congregation of the church we know today as Trinity United Methodist Church.

To share the rich history of our church in the most far-reaching and comprehensive ways, the Historical Society was organized in March 2016. But we observe this tenth anniversary of our beginning not merely by looking at the past as if it were imprisoned in a book behind a glass case. We want our history to be a living present with an eye toward the future—providing many kinds of ways to access information as well as sharing stories that refuse to be silenced—both making us a better church.



**Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams congratulates the Historical Society on their tenth anniversary year at their April 2026 meeting in the Yates Center.**

In light of this dynamic vision, the Society is an action-oriented group that works in conjunction with the Committee of the Preservation of Church History (CPOCH). While CPOCH members are appointed by the Church Council, the Society is open to anyone who is interested in the diverse and wide-ranging practices of historical preservation and dissemination.

The Society's focus is mainly on sharing history through the publication of its research periodical, *Crossroads*; displays of documents and artifacts; a general history book and addendum; and participation in presentations and meetings. However, the projects and activities of each committee frequently overlap because volunteers in both the Society and the CPOCH are involved in preserving history in the form of newsletters, journals, official records, reports, photographs, recordings, and other material relevant to our church history.

The dual purpose of sharing and preserving provides extensive opportunities for both volunteers and users; for example, items are added to our archives almost weekly in the following ways:

- Collections that can be accessed both in the Yates Center and online at [tumcthistory.org](http://tumcthistory.org) include (a) the World War II project of original letters written from service members in the U.S. and across the world; (b) membership records and local church conference meeting minutes that go back to 1828; (c) back issues of *Tidings* (and earlier newsletters) and *Crossroads*; (d) birth and death records; (e) directories (going back to 1908); and (f) photos.
- Items accessed online only are (a) an illustrated timeline of Trinity's two centuries; (b) video-taped interviews recounting personal experiences of past leaders, such as former pastors, music directors, and women trailblazers; (c) PowerPoint presentations that summarize past talks; and (d) online indices that make searching records and other digital items easier.
- Objects and records viewed in the Yates Center only are (a) a wall display timeline of graphics and description; (b) decades-old artifacts; (c) photo scrapbooks of past pastors, church anniversary celebrations, music events, and women's organizations activities; (d) two stained glass windows from the 1893 church; (e) an old hitching post; (f) 1892 cornerstone; and (g) donated artifacts in memory of loved ones.

On this tenth anniversary of our Historical Society, we strive to make Trinity's rich history an ever vital presence. As we implement new technologies and discover new information, we continue to create novel opportunities for volunteering, researching, and viewing. The Yates Center is open on Sundays from 8:30 until 9:40 a.m. and at other times through email request at [preservation@tumct.org](mailto:preservation@tumct.org).

# Your City. Your Choice. The 2026 Nehemiah Action

By Rachael Diaz, CAJM Network Member

A sea of green filled the Old West Florida Enrichment Center on Tuesday, April 21, for the 2026 Nehemiah InterAction. This year's Action brought together 12 candidates for city commission seats to share their perspectives on affordable housing, food insecurity, gun violence, mental health, and immigration. We celebrated meaningful progress in expanding affordable housing incentives in Tallahassee, heard enlightening and powerful testimonies, and asked the candidates questions about how they would address these challenging issues. Was it different? Yes. Was it still powerful? Absolutely.



Nehemiah Action audience on April 21



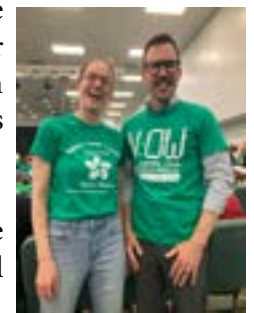
Betsy Staudt Willet and Kathi Tillman

In the book of Nehemiah, we see the people brought together for a shared purpose. That same spirit was present at this year's Nehemiah Action. One of the most powerful aspects of this gathering was the diversity of the people in the room. A total of 723 people from 22 congregations, including over 64 people affiliated with Trinity United Methodist Church, came together to show up for our neighbors. What a beautiful testimony that is! Despite our differences, we sat together, answering the call to love our neighbor and to stand with those in our community facing injustices and trials every day. Thank you for showing up.

Together, we listened respectfully to our commission candidates and demonstrated to them that many in our community care deeply about these issues and the impact they are having on our brothers, sisters, and friends here in the Capital City. As a people of faith, we are not just praying, but also moving our feet, because the time to be voices that speak for change is now.

I always leave the Nehemiah Action filled with hope that Tallahassee can be a reflection of the kingdom of heaven through the work that Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) does to advocate for every inhabitant of our beautiful city. This year was no exception. A spirit of unity and compassion filled the room, reminding me that God is at work through this ministry and the relationships this movement is forging.

The next step in our justice cycle is to celebrate all that God has done and look ahead as we continue on the arc of justice together. You are invited to join us for the CAJM Celebration at Jacob Chapel Baptist Church, 2333 Lake Bradford Rd., on May 19, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Rachael and Daniel Diaz

For more information on the Capital Area Justice Ministry, visit the CAJM website (<https://www.capitalareajustice.org/>) or contact Rachael Diaz ([pruira01@gmail.com](mailto:pruira01@gmail.com)).

Some other ways to get involved:

- Vote on August 18
- Join a CAJM research team
- Invest in the Capital Area Justice Ministry
- Join the Trinity Justice Committee



# Exciting News From BFC

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

Over the past several weeks, the BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry has celebrated three major milestones. First, by the end of 2025, class donations surpassed \$100,000! These generous gifts have been used almost entirely to support local and global mission efforts.

Since January 2026, funds have helped provide bananas and cookies each Monday for snack packs and purchase 75–150 pairs of socks each month for our unhoused neighbors. We sent \$1,500 to FSU Wesley to support 24 students and three adults preparing for a May mission trip to Guatemala; designated \$500 to help fund a small business for a family in Guatemala through Trinity's upcoming mission group; and as part of the Give Back to Trinity mission, purchased supplies for Trinity's VBS wish list and provided organizational supplies for the pastors' robe closet.

Second, by the end of March, 12 participants were crowned King or Queen for the Day! This special honor was earned by attending at least 20 classes since January 7. Each King or Queen gets to select the equipment and exercises used on their royal day — making fitness even more fun.

Third, on April 14, the Variety Mix class reached a new attendance milestone, surpassing the all-time and pre-pandemic numbers with 23 participants in one class!

In addition, our Pickleball group recently expanded beyond the Trinity UMC connection and enjoyed playing at the beautiful facility of our neighbors at First Baptist Church.

Our mission statement is "Together, We Can Make a Difference."

Our vision is "To come together for Fun, Fellowship, Fitness, and to raise Funds."

The participants of the BFC Ministry are truly living this out every day!

Come join us in class. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code for more information or call the church office and request a callback.

---

## A Friendly Reminder...

We have changed our Giving platform. This change does not affect cash and check contributions, but it does affect those who give by debit card, credit card, or ACH withdrawal. Whether you make one-time gifts or have recurring fund transfers, here are some important details you need to know:

- If you give by recurring debit or credit card contributions, you MUST terminate your TouchPoint withdrawals and set up debit or credit card withdrawals through Subsplash.
- If you give by monthly ACH contributions, your final withdrawal through our current system took place on March 10. After March, your recurring ACH contributions must be set up through Subsplash.

Questions? Please call the church office, and our Finance Department will be happy to assist you.



*BFC classes meet at Trinity on Tuesdays and Thursdays*



*Trinity Pickleball players at First Baptist Church*



# Staff Spotlight: Charlotte Mathews

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

**B**orn in Goldsboro, North Carolina, but spending most of her life in Albany, Georgia, Charlotte married Gary Mathews in October 2008 and moved to Tallahassee in February 2009. She has two children, Keith (44) and Tr (40) and she and Gary have three furbabies, dachsunds Charlie (17) and Chloe (9) and a big mix named Cocoa (6).

Before coming to work at Trinity in 2020, she reset grocery stores according to a “planagram” (ask her about that!) Working for Revlon and then Winn-Dixie, she had to travel as far as New Orleans.

One of the hardest working staff members at Trinity, Charlotte is in charge of keeping the whole first floor (as well as all of the bathrooms and some of the underground), looking great!



**Charlotte Mathews**  
Facility Steward

Fellow facility steward Ben Armistead agrees, saying, “She’s hard-working, dependable, has a great spirit, and is a blessing to work with!” She, in turn, loves all the people she works with here at Trinity.

We recognize Charlotte as that beautiful redhead, but I found out some other things you may not know: Before joining the United Methodist Church, Charlotte was raised Baptist and then joined the Mormon church when she had kids. She’s left-handed AND sang alto in her high school chorus. (She promises to join the choir when she retires!) When hanging out at home, she’s either listening to '70s rock and roll or looking to watch her favorite movies, *Fried Green Tomatoes* or *Steel Magnolias*).

If money were no object, she said she’d help out her kids and buy a big old house. Just don’t move away, Charlotte...we need you!

---

## Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

**I**n April, our preschoolers enjoyed the beautiful spring weather with Easter Egg Hunts on the church grounds. With bunny ears, bouncy bodies, and beautifully-decorated bags, our toddlers, Pre-K2, Pre-K3, and VPK students all participated in hunting for colorful treasures, and a fun time was had by all!



There are many exciting events planned in May as this school year winds to a close. We will begin the month with our Mother’s Day Picnic on May 1 and watch our VPK students “graduate” from Trinity United Methodist Preschool on May 15. Both of these events are by invitation. Please contact me if you have questions. Our last day of school and end-of-year party will take place on May 22.

We still have a few openings left for the 2026-2027 school year, particularly for three-year-old students. If you know of families who are interested in securing a spot for next year, please direct them to call me at 850-224-8992 or email [ecasey@tumct.org](mailto:ecasey@tumct.org). Our new rate sheet for the 2026-2027 school year is available on the the [tumct.org](http://tumct.org) website: [tumct.org](http://tumct.org) > [Preschool > About Our Preschool](#).

# Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

Time flies when you are having fun! That is definitely evident in our children's ministry. We enjoyed a lovely time at our annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt, celebrating Easter Sunday together, and singing in the NETKids Spring Concert Showcase! Whew — what a fun-filled spring!

The end of the school year is upon us and we are now looking to summer. Our final day of NETKids for this school year will be May 13. Vacation Bible School will start on Monday, June 8 at 8:45 a.m. in Moor Hall. We will spend the week learning about the nature of God through worship, Bible stories, scripture verses, games, experiments, and more! If you have not yet registered your rising K-5th grader, please do so today! Digital readers can register by [clicking here](#), and others can scan the QR code found on the right.



Scan the QR code to register a student for VBS, June 8-12



## Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

On April 12, we had the privilege of welcoming Molly Garner, Emily Large, and Layla Johnson as new members of Trinity. These three confirmands completed a months-long study of United Methodist theology and learned what it means to be a United Methodist Christian before taking the next step in their faith journey.

Something new! We have introduced Worship to our UMYF program. Every Sunday, our Youth Praise Band will open UMYF meetings with praise and worship music. We are grateful to our musicians for their hard work and leadership. If you are interested in becoming part of our Youth Praise Band, please talk to me or email [bstacey@tumct.org](mailto:bstacey@tumct.org).

On the horizon...

- VBS volunteer sign-ups are still open. If you plan to help out and need volunteer hours, be sure to submit your form to me!
- Camp registration is still open on the Warren Willis site. Remember, we will be attending Week 5, July 13-18. Trinity Youth will receive a scholarship provided by the church. See me if you have questions.
- Youth Week plans are underway. Details will be revealed soon. Mark your calendars for a fun week, July 26-31.
- Registration for our Summer Mission Trip is now closed. We are planning a great trip of service May 30-June 4. If you are registered for the trip and have any questions, be sure to talk to me.

Keep up with all Trinity Youth happenings and find helpful links on the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](#)!



Britton Stacey with Confirmands



Youth Praise Band

