

Worship

Grow

Serve

Monthly Tidings

Trinity United Methodist Church

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

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Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.

Official State Marker

Joe Henderson

News Content Editor, FLUMC

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Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee calls itself the church with a heart. While that no doubt is true, it's also the church with a rich history of love, service, and faithfulness dating back nearly 200 years.

Select members of the congregation meticulously document that history and then make it available online to anyone. A quarterly newsletter called [Crossroads](#), edited and founded by Dr. Pam Crosby, is like a stroll back through time.

Such dedication to linking today with the distant past is a labor of love, but it's also a daunting task. That may explain why it's too big of an undertaking for most churches. When it happens, though, it deserves a celebration.

That's what the state of Florida did when it declared Trinity was a heritage site. On April 11, members and leaders dedicated an official state marker erected in front of the church, honoring Tallahassee's first religious organization.



"I think it is just a tremendous symbol of pride for the people here. Many of our folks are second-, third-, and even fourth-generation residents of Tallahassee," Senior Pastor and North West District Superintendent Wayne Wiatt said.

"And for some, including myself, who were not connected to the history of Trinity, I think we all got a little teary-eyed. It keeps our history alive, and to celebrate it."

Trinity's history began in 1824 when circuit-riding Methodist



missionaries from South Carolina arrived in the Big Bend area of the Florida territory.

"On the fourth Sunday of September 1824, James Tabor and Isaac Sewell, who replaced circuit riders John Slade and John Twiggs, met with ten settlers—six white and four black—at the home of a Mr. Myers to organize the first religious organization in the new capital city," Trinity Vice-Chair of Historic Preservation Linda H. Yates wrote.

"The S.C. Methodist Conference took a bold step and created the Tallahassee District. Josiah Evans was appointed to be presiding elder and pastor of its first religious organization, the Tallahassee Mission. In 1825, a small wooden building was erected for worship services."

Florida didn't achieve statehood for another 21 years, and Tallahassee was designated the state capitol.

By that time, more settlers had arrived, and Trinity was well-established and even hosted Florida's first Annual Conference. The church placed a brass marker commemorating that distinction on the front door as worshipers enter the building.

As Yates noted, "Trinity's story during the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Great Depression, World War II" is documented, preserved, and reminds members and pastors alike there that they are links in the chain of this great house of worship.

That's how the idea for the state marker came about.

"They saw other markers going up around the city and said, by golly, we need one too," Rev. Wiatt said.

While it might seem obvious that Trinity is deserving of such a distinction, making it happen is not a simple process.

After the historical group decided to pursue that honor, they needed someone with knowledge of navigating the complex state bureaucracy.

That person, as it turned out, already was in the building.

Bob Jones has attended Trinity since 2006. He loves the church.

"It seems to be a big tent. It's accommodating and friendly toward a great number of people," he said. "They're outgoing and a lot of trying to be involved with the community. It's just an open, caring congregation. I've been there for three pastors, and they've all been great."

Jones loves history and quickly found a home in Trinity's historical group. He also worked for many years in the same state department that would decide if Trinity got the marker or not. His office was next to the one occupied by a key member of the board that would rule on Trinity's application.

"He was the person who made it so fluid that we obtained the state marker," Trinity membership archivist Lynn McLarty said.

The process, which took more than 18 months, required determination and patience. The state can be cautious about designating churches as historic landmarks, but Trinity certainly qualified.

But then, well, what words should go on the marker?

There is a strict limit on the number of characters that can fit in the space, and telling the history of a place as rich as Trinity in a maximum of 1,277 characters required what Wiatt called "extreme wordsmithing."

"They labored over that like they were delivering a child," he said. Finally, after multiple reviews, additions, and subtractions, the text was set.

The marker arrived and was dedicated, and now anyone passing by the church campus can see for themselves how interwoven Trinity UMC is with the city it calls home.

And there is more to come.

Planning is already underway for the 200th-anniversary celebration in 2024. Trinity is working with city officials because Tallahassee's bicentennial is the same year.

"I've got visions of horseback riding into the chain of parks in front of the church," Wiatt said. "Maybe we can have horse-drawn carriages pull up in front of the church. It's going to be tremendous."

"I've been in ministry nearly 40 years and served many great churches. But I'll tell you what. There's something about Trinity. This place gets in your bones."



Credible Witness Summer Study

Wayne Wiatt
Lead Pastor

The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has embarked upon a radical work of creating an Anti-Racism Task Force that is working in three specific areas: **Training & Accountability, Beloved Community, and Public Policy & Witness.** In response to this calling, Rev. Dr. Latricia Edwards Scriven and Rev. Michelle Shrader have been invited to lead our District work around Anti-Racism.

To help launch this district-wide focus, twelve of Trinity's Leaders have just completed a wonderful study last month entitled *A Credible Witness—Reflections on Power, Evangelism, and Race* by Brenda Salter-McNeil. McNeil uses the story of the Woman at the Well to engage church leaders on what it means to be a reconciler in today's world.

Trinity UMC was very proud to have piloted this well-received course, which served as a beta study for the district. Now we are excited to be able to broaden this opportunity and offer it District-wide.

As a congregation, we are being invited to commit to a journey together with other congregations around the NW District. Latricia and Michelle will lead us on this six-week journey, which will take place on Thursdays, from June 17 through July 22. The study will be offered over Zoom, and my hope is that we can "widen the circle" of participants so that we might all begin to embrace a deeper understanding of what it means to become a diverse community focused on sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

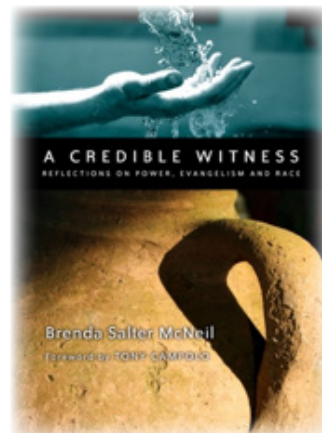
As Christians, we are called to be God's witnesses to all the world. We are called to witness to the beauty of God alive and at work in the world, and we are called to witness to the need for change when change is needed. There is a reality that has held true for far too long, and it is the reality of the division that persists in our communities and in our churches across racial lines. This fracture is something we cannot ignore if we profess to be among those who walk



in the ways of Jesus, because Jesus was the ultimate reconciler.

Please mark your calendars and make every effort to participate in this wonderful calling to be a loving reconciler in today's world. **You can register [here!](https://www.flumc.org/bishops-task-force-on-anti-racism)**

For more information on the Conference work on Anti-Racism, click here: <https://www.flumc.org/bishops-task-force-on-anti-racism>



Here's What's Happening with Trinity Kids!



It has been a very different kind of year, but it has been such a joy being back in person with the NETkids. Even with masks and social distancing, friendships formed and grew throughout the school year. We welcomed back more and more children with each passing month! The NETkids have been working diligently to prepare their musical, "Unselfie," to present to the congregation during the 11:00 worship service on May 16, 2021. The message teaches us to serve others. "It's not about thinking less of yourself, it's all about thinking of yourself less!" We do hope you'll join us for this great message from our children!



We are thrilled to inform you that Children's Time has returned during the 11:00 worship service!!!

We know it can be a bit of challenge for little ones to sit through the duration of an entire worship service, but we also feel it is important for families to worship together. Children's Time is the perfect solution! It allows children will sit and worship with their families for the beginning of the 11:00 service up through the Children's Message. After the Children's Message, children age 3 through 2nd Grade are dismissed to Room 205 on the children's hallway. While at Children's Time, children will have the opportunity to move around, dance and sing to worship songs, have fellowship with one another, and enjoy a snack. For the time being, preschool and elementary children will be together. As the program regrows, we will adjust the program as needed.

When a child joins Children's Time for the first time, we ask that the parent/guardian please escort their child to Room 205. This will give us an opportunity to meet you and have you fill out a registration card with pertinent information, including food allergies.

Rocky Railway VBS is pulling into Trinity Station!



- When: July 12-16, 8:45-12:15
- Who: Children age 3 (by 6/1/21 and potty-trained) through rising 6th grade are eligible to attend. Yes, you read that right! Rising 6th graders will be included as VBS campers this year. They missed their 5th grade year of VBS last summer, so let's finish elementary school with some great VBS fun!
- What: Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Each day at Rocky Railway, kids will track through stations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures including, Sing & Play Express, Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Loco Motion Games, Chew-Chew Snacks, and KidVid Cinema.
- Cost: \$25 per child, or \$60 per family (3 or more children).
- How: For full details and to register, please visit Trinity's website at www.tumct.org. Youth volunteers are needed, and can also register by visiting Trinity's website!
- COVID-19: We are prepared to run VBS as smoothly and safely as possible under our current pandemic circumstances. Capacity at VBS is extremely limited this year, and registration is filling up fast! Don't delay! Upon registration, you will be asked to agree to several COVID precautions and regulations that will be in place. All precautions are for your health and safety, and are subject to change depending upon recommendation from the CDC and the FL UMC Conference.

A Note from Lisa ...

Lisa Prasse
Youth Director

Things are looking UP in the Underground! We began to reopen after Christmas and have been having in-person UMYF and other activities regularly since then. Praise the Lord, we've managed to stay healthy and well following the church, CDC, and conference protocols and it's been wonderful to be together again- even behind masks!

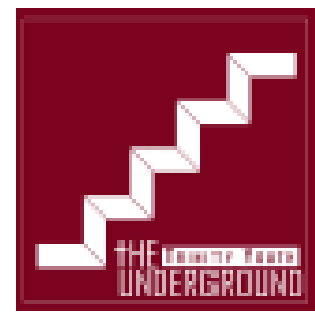
As we roll into May, our schedule still doesn't look EXACTLY the same as years past, but we're slowly and carefully inching forward. This summer will be a time of re-building to be certain. In that vein, we have (after careful consideration and deliberation) decided to move Youth Week more towards the end of the summer – August 1-7. This is a big calendar change, so please make a note of it if you/ your child is involved! We really believe this will benefit families of and youth themselves for many different reasons and are looking so forward to this time together as we become (hopefully) more and more safe from Covid-19.

Meantime, May brings a time of celebration! We will celebrate our confirmands with their banquet, May 1st and Confirmation Sunday, May 2nd, and our 2021 Graduates at the end of the month with Graduation Sunday on May 23rd. We are so proud of all our youth and look so forward to celebrating together.

Looking forward we will resume in-person Summer Sunday School beginning JUNE 6th! We are so excited to be able to safely offer this and have missed everyone so so much! So please add this special

date to your calendars along with the others below. All these fun dates require adult assistance especially now while we try to keep gatherings in smaller number! Please contact Youth Director, Lisa Prasse, if you might be interested in volunteering in any capacity. Additionally, this Fall, we will be in need of a Sunday School teacher or two and would love to have you onboard! Lisa can be reached at lprasse@tumct.org or 850-545-2852 (youth cell phone).

As in every part of our youth ministry, we covet your prayers as we move forward. This quarantine has been difficult and sad at times, but it has also been a time of great growth for those who have been able to stay plugged in. Screen time is not the same as an in-person gathering, to be certain. I want to publicly thank each youth and youth family / adult volunteer who has stuck with us throughout this challenging time and I want to encourage every person involved to continue to strive toward the togetherness we all desire. Below are some ways to do just that!



Save the Dates:

May 1

Confirmation Banquet and Rehearsal- (tentative)

May 2

Confirmation Sunday

May 23

Graduation Sunday

June 22-26

Mission Trip

(dates subject to change)

July 12 -16

VBS

July 19 -24

Camp

August 1 -7

Youth Week

Check out the youth website for more information:

<http://www.tumct.org/connect/community/youth/>



Our 2021 Confirmands Class!

Church Council Meeting Recap

The Church Council of Trinity United Methodist Church met on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. From the reports it was apparent that the church is involved in many positive activities of which the congregation needs to be aware. This is a summary of those activities. Should you be interested in learning more about them or want to become involved, please contact the individual managing the activity.

Adult Discipleship – Nick Quinton

- Lenten Series and Lay academy very successful this year
- New member induction June 6 at 11:00 a.m. service
- Initiating 2 months study on advocacy for critical issues
- Justice ministry development for positive social change
- Participating in Shared Grace program which assists moving from shelters to homes
- Investigate pop-up clinic at church for COVID shots and which church members may need help with shots (refer to COVID Advisory Committee)
- Friday Study Group is now a part the area Reconciling Community initiative
- Planning on opening up small groups to in-person meetings

Children's Ministry – Allison Corrigan

- Successful year with NetKids with 25 average attendance
- Easter Egg hunt was highly successful
- May 16 is children's program at 11:00 a.m. service
- June 6 is opening of summer Sunday school
- Reaching capacity for VBS
- Looking forward to full time in-person fall activities

Preschool Program – Stacy Duggar

- Fall enrollment almost at pre-pandemic numbers
- Miss Rosa Morris and Ryane Egles are retiring and will be missed very much

Youth Ministry – Lisa Prasse

- Youth Underground is doing well
- Planning mission trip possibly to Alabama in June
- Will have Youth Week later this summer
- Seven youth will be confirmed on Sunday, May 2

Pastoral Care – Wayne Curry

- Outreach has been a "Ministry of Phone Calls"
- Emailing congregants on birthdays and anniversaries
- Need to inform Wayne of any member's needs

Music Ministry – Chris Titko

- Proud of those, especially Viktor Billa and Patrick Ashley, who made music under difficult circumstances
- Music Committee plans for the future include:
 - Concert of American Music on 20th anniversary weekend of 911
 - Host handbell workshop
 - Commission a handbell piece in memory of David LaJunesse
 - Hold workshop on African-American music
 - Viktor Billa will give a concert in the fall
 - Hold regular Christmas activities
 - Hold requiem for those who have died from Covid on May 22, 2022
 - Present summer 2022 musical

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Susan Koehler

- All Trinity ministers have been reappointed for another year



- Neal Avirett is guiding work on the sound system needs
- Our Senior Pastor will be known as our Lead Pastor, this signifying team work. This change comes from the Methodist conference.

Local Mission and Creation Care – Dennis Smith

- Emphasis on Good News Outreach; budgeted \$5,000 for this program
- Assist released prisoners to find homes
- Social Justice Ministry - our Leah Willey is the 1st regional director; 22 congregations have raised \$35,000 for this Ministry
- Community Bible Study on May 26
- Uplift Run for meeting children's needs; date TBD
- Trinity has need for more volunteers and a better method of posting needs
- Currently, need volunteers for: Delivering meals to seniors
Help organize summer curriculum

Creation Care Ministry – Mary Ann Moore

- First meeting held April 7 with 28 members on Zoom; TUMC is part of the UMC of Florida ministry
- TUMC part of Green Space Alliance; over 30 congregations involved; goal is sustainability within our church
- Arnie Rogers is organizing a kayak trip for June 26

Preservation of Church History - Rhonda Work

- Thanks to all who make possible our Church Historical Marker and Historical Plaque
- Joe Henderson, News Content Editor for FLUMC, has written a long article about our Historical Marker in their publication
- St. John's and First Baptist have contacted Dr. Pam Crosby on ways to share historical information.

BFC Exercise – Jaqui Griffith

- Celebrating 1st anniversary of virtual exercise; steady turnout; will continue virtual until September
- Classes have donated to charities in 2020 and 2021
- Supporting families in need with clothing and household goods; contact Jaqui to arrange for donations



Greetings from your Discipleship Team

Nick Quinton
Director of Discipleship

We are over a year from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our adult ministries at Trinity changed drastically and rapidly as part of a broader response in our connection and local church to show our love for God and neighbor. In the intervening months we have not been idle. We shifted many of our small groups to Zoom meetings and began some new gatherings. We hosted Lay Academy sessions and a church wide Lenten study virtually. We have adopted new ways to engage curriculum with online streaming at amplifymedia.com. We have also been part of new movements in the life of our community with

Shared Grace and Capital Area Justice Ministry.

We are grateful for your care and dedication to the discipleship ministries at Trinity during this past year. Now we look toward life in our church as we adjust to the realities and mitigation of COVID-19. For the first time in over a year we are hosting a new member Sunday. We'll gather on June 6 to welcome people who have become part of our Trinity family through the pandemic. We are also looking to embark with Trinity Treks and Travels again with a trip to Lake Junaluska for the Festival of Wisdom and Grace in August.

Finally, we are planning for in-person small group gatherings. We are following guidance from our Bishop and Cabinet on proper protocols and are working with Trinity's COVID response team to develop a plan.

There is a lot going on and even more coming. It's an exciting time to be part of Trinity UMC in Tallahassee. We hope you feel it too.





**TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
PRESCHOOL**

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

**VPK Teacher
Infant Room Assistant
Part-time & Full-time Options**

Trinity Preschool is a Gold Seal school located in downtown Tallahassee, serving families since 1973. Employment qualifications include: DCF coursework, CPR/FA, college degree, and a heart for children. Benefits include health care, retirement, and paid time off. If you have a desire to be part of our team, please email your interest to the director at sduggar@tumct.org for more details.



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Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Watt, Senior Pastor
Neal Avirett, Associate Pastor
Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education
Spencer Schrowang, Director of Communications

Radio Broadcast 100.7 FM - Preempted Services

MEN'S BASEBALL ON WFLA FM

TUE	4/27	STETSON	4:40PM ET
FRI	4/30	TROY	5:40PM ET
SAT	5/1	TROY	1:40PM ET
SUN	5/2	TROY	12:40PM ET
FRI	5/7	ND	5:40PM ET NEW TIME
SAT	5/8	ND	6:40PM ET NEW TIME
SUN	5/9	ND	11:40AM ET NEW TIME
TUE	5/11	FGCU	5:40PM ET
WED	5/12	FGCU	5:40PM ET <- ADDED
FRI	5/14	CLEMSON	5:40PM ET
SAT	5/15	CLEMSON	1:40PM ET
SUN	5/16	CLEMSON	12:40PM ET
THUR	5/20	NC STATE	6:10PM ET

* In the chance of a rain delay on a Saturday, worship on Sunday may be preempted.