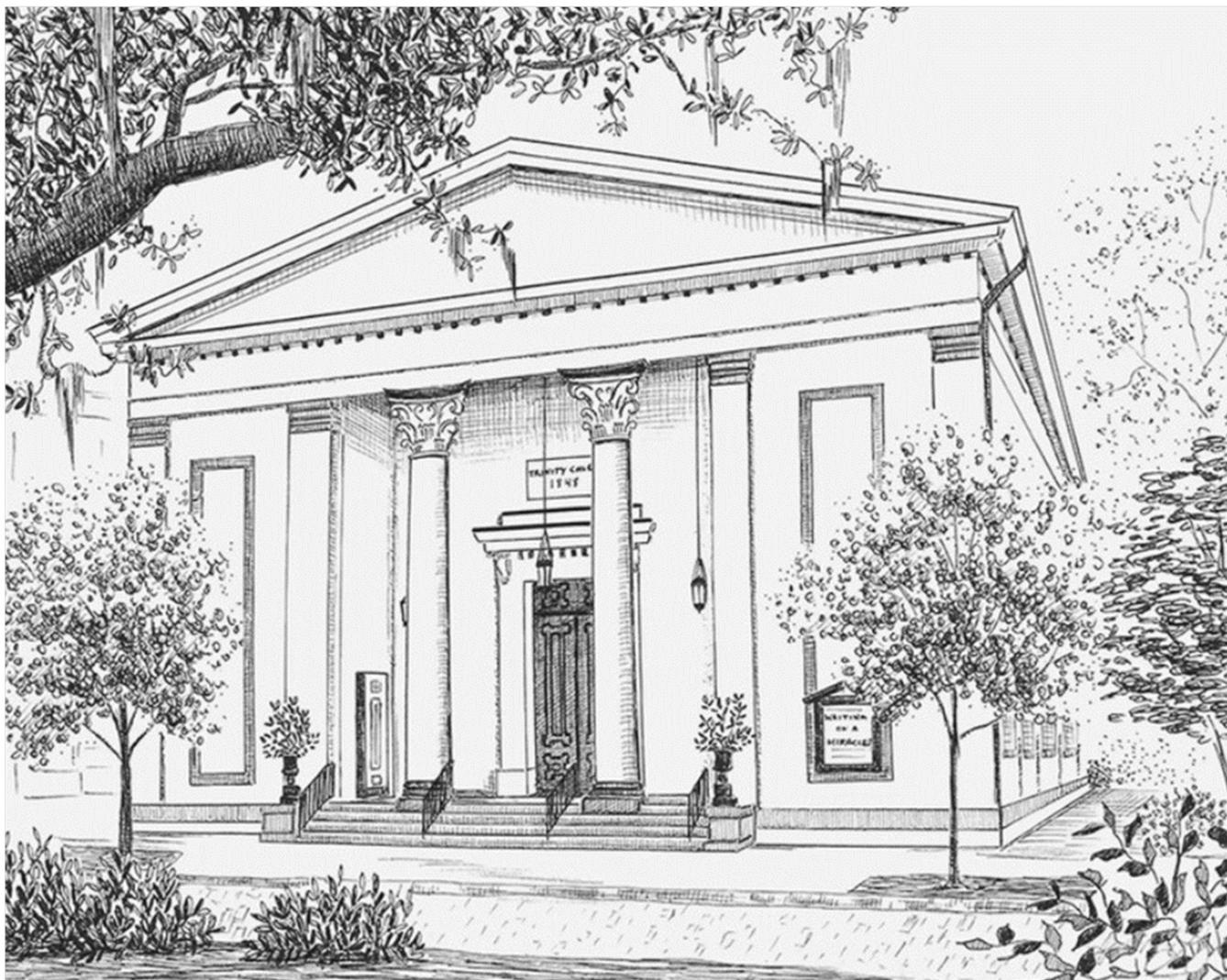


TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mother Church of Savannah Methodism



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE
ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

225 WEST PRESIDENT STREET . SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, 31401 . WWW.TRINITY1848.ORG

MORNING WORSHIP

December 14, 2025 . 11:00 AM

Prelude

Dr. Jared Register

Welcome

Please register your attendance on a pew card or use this QR code.



Chiming of the Hour

† At the sound of the chimes, please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

Choral Introit

O Come, Emmanuel

Trinity Sanctuary Choir

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Brooks & Kasey Barbaree

Leader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Leader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together. (Light the third candle of the Advent wreath)

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, our Advent Light.

*Processional Hymn (No. 209)

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Tune: MERLE'S TUNE



Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free, who vis - its and re -
Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given; a Sav - ior comes a -
On pris - on - ers of dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise, the dawn - ing of for -



deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty. The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of
mong us to raise us up to heaven. Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore -
give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes, to guide the feet of pil - grims a -



free - dom and re - lease; God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
run - ner in the way, the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
long the paths of peace; O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35 : 1 - 10

Andrew Cosey

*Gloria Patri (No. 71)

Tune: GREATOREX

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the
 Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning is
 now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men. A - men.

*Passing of the Peace

*Any children/youth who are not already participating are invited to join the
 TrinityKids Pancakes & Pajamas event on the 2nd Floor.*

Morning Prayer

Dr. Gosden

The Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory forever. Amen.*

*Hymn (No. 221)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Tune: CRANHAM

In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan, earth stood hard as
 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor__ earth sus - tain; heaven and earth shall
 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there, cher - u - bim and
 What__ can I give him, poor__ as I am? If I were a
 i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; snow had fall - en, snow on snow,_
 flee a - way when he comes to reign. In the bleak mid - win - ter a
 ser - a - phim throng - ed the air; but his moth - er on - ly,_
 shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise__ Man,_
 snow_ on__ snow,___ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long___ a - go.
 sta - ble place suf - ficed the Lord__ God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 in her maid - en bliss,___ wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with___ a kiss.
 I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give___ my heart.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11 : 2 - 11

Andrew Cosey

Choral Anthem

O Come, Emmanuel

Trinity Sanctuary Choir

Sermon

Dr. Gosden



Your generosity enables us to make a difference in our community and our world.

*Doxology (No. 219, v. 3)

What Child is This?

Tune: GREENSLEEVES

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, - come, peas - ant, king, - to own - him; the King of kings - sal -
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. This, this - is Christ the King, - whom
 shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste, to bring him laud, - the babe, the son - of Ma - ry.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Closing Hymn (No. 213)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Tune: TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide; our hearts to
 Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on un - til our
 King - of - glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, - set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee - we o - pen wide; let us they in - ner
 glo - rious - goal is won; e - ter - nal praise, e -
 draw - ing - near; the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence - feel; thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 ter - nal - fame be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

*Benediction

Dr. Gosden

Postlude

*We record and broadcast our worship services for our online and home group communities.
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Find more information & many ways to connect with Trinity Church on bulletin pages 6-8.



2025 Poinsettia Tributes

The poinsettias in the Chancel were given to the glory of God in honor of

<i>Carol Abercrombie</i>	by Ralph & Vermelle Bailey
<i>Wayne & Kay Ervin</i>	by Ralph & Vermelle Bailey
<i>Cale Robert Hall</i>	by Ralph & Vermelle Bailey
<i>Debbie Loughney & Claudia Venherm</i>	by Ralph & Vermelle Bailey
<i>Gloria Borrello</i>	by Polly & Annie Berman
<i>Our friends & family</i>	by David Grice & John Naylor
<i>Juanita Hisey</i>	by Lee & Maria Hisey
<i>Linda & Joe Smith</i>	by Harvey Jones
<i>Wallace & Jennifer Bonner</i>	by Pearce & Deborah Long
<i>The celebration of Christ's birth</i>	by Paul Son & Young Kim

and in memory of

<i>Christopher Atkinson</i>	by grandparents Ralph & Vermelle Bailey
<i>Helen & Byron McKenzie</i>	by Gloria Borrello
<i>Allison Thomas Rose</i>	by Robert & Kim Daugherty
<i>Charlotte Dekle Tucker</i>	by Robert & Kim Daugherty
<i>Wendell Green</i>	by wife Lois Green
<i>The family & friends we have lost</i>	by David Grice & John Naylor
<i>Merrill Parker</i>	by daughter Jessica Hensley
<i>Jeanine Jones</i>	by Harvey Jones
<i>Patricia Freeman</i>	by Barbara & Greg Kaempf
<i>Robert Kaempf</i>	by Barbara & Greg Kaempf
<i>Joe Fang & May Wong Lee</i>	by daughters the Lee sisters
<i>Pat Jeter</i>	by Lois Modell
<i>Toby Watkins</i>	by Lois Modell
<i>Randall Charles Moseley</i>	by daughter Becky Spencer
<i>Drs. Ed & Bea Styles</i>	by Kelly Styles
<i>George & Lillian Welker</i>	by Barry Welker
<i>Eleanor Torrey West</i>	by Lisa & Mason White
<i>Gloria Collier Lacy</i>	by Lisa & Mason White
<i>Mary Mason White</i>	by Lisa & Mason White
<i>Phillip Allen Whittinghill</i>	by Lacy & Jared Wilson
<i>Ben Wright</i>	by Cecelia Wright
<i>Ed & Sue Wright</i>	by Cecelia Wright
<i>Leuna Manley</i>	by Cecelia Wright

Opportunities for Caring & Healing

Prayer List - Frances Richadson, Barry Helme, Ralph & Vermelle Bailey, Clyde Parker, Addam Wood, JoAnn Nichols, Jeanmarie Collins, Tom Madron, Mike Cutlip, Duane Heefner, Harvey Jones, Linda Wing, Kenny Frye, Gloria Borello, Dan Noble, Richard Grice, Hubert Baker, Nicky Olubajo, Kathy Bailey.

From our Albany congregation: Curt Poer, Archer Seely-Wilson, all who are serving in our nation's armed forces.

Care Ministry - A ministry with opportunities to provide care for each other through prayer circle, card writing, home communion, bereavement meals, and financial peace. Contact ccm@trinity1848.org for more information.

Stephen Ministry - A ministry in which trained and supervised lay people provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, email stephen@trinity1848.org, or contact Pastor Ben Gosden.

Recovery is Real - A team of Trinity UMC members who understand addiction and recovery. We can offer an informed, compassionate and confidential response if you or a loved one is struggling. Contact: Carol Pine at 651.291.7236 or pineandpartners@gmail.com.

Opportunities to Serve

Backpack Buddies - Trinity Church serves our partner school (Gadsden Elementary) to supply weekend food for at-risk students. Pre-packaged, ready-to-eat food items or monetary donations are collected year-round for this ministry. Contact Dawn Wilson at dawn@trinity1848.org for more information, or to volunteer for weekly deliveries.

Justice Unites Savannah Together (JUST) - is an interfaith, interracial coalition of 25+ local congregations advocating for justice in Savannah-Chatham County. For more information, contact Trinity Church/JUST liaison Connie Boole at cboole58@gmail.com or 912.210.1583 for details.

SquareOne - an opportunity to serve our neighbors with Christ's radical hospitality and relationship in the squares of downtown Savannah. For more information contact Cale Hall at cale@trinity1848.org.

Sunday Breakfast Mission - an opportunity to partner with the Lutheran Church of the Ascension to serve our neighbors with hospitality, relationship and *breakfast*. We assemble and deploy breakfast teams every other month. Watch the bulletin and the weekly newsletter for team sign-ups for the next event.

Altar Flowers - You are invited to sponsor our altar flowers for Sunday worship. Sponsorships are \$75 and can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or special occasion. Scan this QR code or contact Lacy Wilson at office@trinity1848.org.



United Women in Faith - All women are invited to the mission of Trinity UWF! Potluck lunch meetings are the 2nd Sunday of each month in Fellowship Hall following worship. Contact Dewilla Hooper at dewillahooper@yahoo.com for details.

Opportunities to Learn & Grow

TrinityKids - Trinity Kids is our ministry with children. Children aged 0-2 are welcome in our nursery on the 2nd floor. Children aged 2-up are welcome to join our children's Sunday Small Group at 11am featuring curriculum-based music, motion, and learning. Please contact Dawn Wilson at dawn@trinity1848.org with any questions or other interest in Trinity Kids.

TrinityKids Choir - 2nd through 8th graders are invited to participate. Rehearsals are held in the 2nd floor music suite on Sunday mornings at 9:45am (*during the school year*). Schedule and opportunities to sing in worship set seasonally. Contact Dawn Wilson at dawn@trinity1848.org for more information.

Trinity UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) - 6th thru 12th grade youth are invited to join us in the 3rd Floor Youth Lounge, Sundays at 9:45am, to hang, chat, learn and grow! Contact Youth Coordinator Ava Pickens at ava@trinity1848.org for more info.

Upper Room Small Group - An ongoing study group that meets on Zoom, Sundays at 10am, led by Mark Jackovich. If you would like to join this group, please email Mark at jackovich@bellsouth.net.

Smith Small Group - We meet in-person on Sundays at 9:45am, room #317. We question, discuss and learn from one another as we study topics of faith and discipleship. Contact Linda Smith at lsmith629@comcast.net for more information.

Doin' Justice - An adult discussion class that meets in room #316, to study matters, mission and acts of justice. Our new Fall study begins on August 24 - details on bulletin page 6. Contact Connie Boole (cboole58@gmail.com or 912.210.1583) or Peggy Hilleary (p_hilleary@yahoo.com or 404.449.1170) to connect with this group.

Young-ER Adults - Our newest adult small group, aimed toward the 30-50 crowd, designed to build a community of adults in the middle of life's busy schedule. Find us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in room #315. Contact Amy Utley, amy@trinity1848.org, or Bee Smith for more details.

Opportunities to Connect

Sunday Morning Hospitality - Fellowship, donuts and coffee in the Hospitality Parlor (*behind the Sanctuary*), from 10:00-11:00am. Join us!

Band of Mothers - We are a group of moms, sharing life at all its ages and stages. We meet the 3rd Sunday of each month, room #317, 3:30-5pm. Please text Jessica Hensley with any questions at 912.596.1159.

Telfair Squares - We are a group of active older adults who gather for lunch and a great time of food and fellowship the 4th Thursday of each month. Contact Wayne Ervin at 912.346.5895 or waynedervin67@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP. Christmas gathering: December 9, 11:30am, Carey Hilliard's, 8410 Waters Avenue - Savannah.

Ladies Out to Lunch - Join us every 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:30am for food, fun and friendship. RSVP: Mary Ann Traver at 912.604.0956 or cwtmat@coastalnow.net or Judy DeShea at judydeshea@gmail.com. December event: Christmas Tea Party, Trinity UMC Fellowship Hall on December 11.

Advent Week #4

Advent Devotional

Join us on a journey through the season of Advent with our Trinity Advent Devotional—Starlight and Manger Straw: Finding Hope in the Darkness—written by the Trinity UMC Savannah congregation! Print devotionals are available by request, or you can get the online PDF reader, audio version, or downloadable PDF through the link here.



Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Experience the warmth of community and the joy of Christmas at Trinity Church's annual Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve service. We invite you to our special 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service, where we'll embrace the spirit of the season together. Cherish traditional carols, inspiring messages, and a candlelit atmosphere (with battery-powered candles for the children) that captures the true essence and meaning of Christmas.

Let's come together on Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 PM for a candlelight & communion service. Share this message and extend the invitation to unite in our joyous celebration of Christ's birth!



Share The Event

Children's Nativity

Sunday, December 21 | 11:00 AM

Parents - remember to bring your children and your cameras on Sunday, December 21st, for the children's nativity at the end of the Sunday morning service! We will meet at our normal time, in the kid's room on the second floor. We'll be decorating cookies and drinking hot chocolate before we get into costume for the yearly Children's Nativity at the end of worship.



Christmas Breakfast

Thursday, December 25 | 8:00 - 10:00 AM

We will once again be hosting our neighbors in need for a hot breakfast on Christmas morning! This year marks the 17th anniversary of this great event.

In addition to a Christmas morning meal, we also give out Kroger gift cards, handwritten cards, and helpful

items like gloves and socks. This year's breakfast will be from 8-10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall, and there are many ways to get involved! Scan the links here for volunteer signup, if you're able to help in-person on December 25th, and the fundraising website, where you can donate towards the food for the breakfast. Contact Jessica Hensley at 912-596-1159 for info.

Volunteer Signup



Donation Page



Trinity Ushers & Greeters

We need volunteers for the Sunday morning service Greeters & Ushers! If you would like to volunteer with this team, please fill out the interest form, and someone from our Care Ministries Team will be in touch. For questions, more details on what the Care Ministries do at Trinity, or discussing other volunteer openings, contact our Care Ministries at ccm@trinity1848.org.



Care Team Volunteer

The 'After People'

We know the holidays can be a hard time for some. For confidential emotional and spiritual support to anyone facing challenging times, our Stephen Ministers will be waiting each Sunday after worship near the piano for one-on-one meetings. Stephen Ministers are known as the "After People" because they are there to support you through life's toughest moments. You can also confidentially contact a member of our Care Team at ccm@trinity1848.org.

Trinity News, Notes & Reminders

This Week at Trinity Church

Sunday, December 14

TrinityKids & Youth Pancakes & Pajamas

~ 9:45am | 2nd Floor ~

Adult Small Groups ~ 9:45am ~ 3rd Floor

Morning Worship ~ 11am ~ Sanctuary

United Women in Faith Lunch mtg ~ Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 20

Youth Christmas Celebration

~ 5:30-8:30pm | Youth Lounge ~

(bring a gift under \$5)

Beyond This Week at Trinity

Children's Nativity in Worship - Dec 21

Christmas Eve Worship - Dec 24

Christmas Breakfast Mission - Dec 25

Note: Sunday, December 28

there will be Morning Worship only

(no TrinityKids activities/childcare | no UMYF)

Last Sunday's Attendance

In-person (Savannah): 141

In-person (Albany): 18

Online: 27

November 2025

Operating Income \$35,579

Operating Expenses \$36,144

Backpack Buddies Volunteers this week

Packers - Wayne & Kay Ervin

Driver - Dawn Wilson

2025 Year End Giving

THANK YOU Trinity UMC for your tremendous financial support in 2025! Together we have given, provided, lived & loved our neighbors by funding almost \$390,000 of mission, ministry & disciple-making this year. And we have funded \$375,000 (all but 4%) of the cost. In planning your year end gifts, please consider how you can help close the gap of 2025, and help prepare for what God is calling us to do in 2026.

Contributions need to be received in the church office by Thursday, January 8, 2026, in order to be included on your 2025 Giving Statement. Checks should be dated no later than December 31, 2025. Electronic gifts need to have a December 31, 2025, transaction (initiation) date.

Financial Stewardship for 2026

In this season of *Thankfulness* we ask that you prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to our 2026 Ministry Budget, to be faithful to God, and readily able to grow as God's church on Telfair Square and throughout our community.

Our 2026 goal is \$215,000 in *pledged* giving, and we have received commitments valuing 80% of that - THANK YOU!

It is not too late to submit an Estimate of Giving Commitment card. There are cards available in the rear of the sanctuary, and electronic pledges can be submitted here.



Trinity Church Staff & Contact Information

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ben Gosden

ben@trinity1848.org | 706.326.1819

Clinical Pastoral Education Resident

Cale Robert Hall

cale@trinity1848.org | 912.308.7247

Director of Music & Organist

Dr. Jared Register

jregistermusic@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Ralph Bailey

Director of Discipleship

Amy Utlely

amy@trinity1848.org

Director of Children's Ministries

Dawn Wilson

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Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Ava Pickens

ava@trinity1848.org

Trinity Kids Leaders

Cassandra Miller, Sami Panfili,
Ava Pickens & Maggie Quinn

Church Administrator

Lacy Wilson

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