



Trinity United Methodist Church
903 Forest Avenue
Henrico, Virginia 23229

February 2026

The Trinity Window

PASTOR'S PEN

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love is in the air. It is the season. Every retail store we go into seems to be decked in pink hearts. But what is love? According to Britannica.com, "the word love is derived from the hypothetical term *leubh*, a root in Proto-Indo-European (the reconstructed parent of Indo-European languages) meaning care or desire. *Leubh* eventually developed into Latin *libet* and Old English *lefu*, which was both a noun and a verb describing deep affection of being very fond of something."

Fondness or physical attraction are definitely terms of love that are consistent with our society. However, the love of which Paul is writing about in 1 Corinthians is different. Love from God is different. Love from God is true and not dependent on a feeling. Feelings are fickle, as many of us who at one time or another have had our hearts broken can attest to. But God is different. God sees all and still loves. God sees flaws and also opportunities for growth. God sees limitation and also opportunity for brilliance. God sees inconsistency and opportunity for steadfastness. God is different.

May we take the opportunity during this official month of love to strive toward God's vision of it. Let us love better than the world around us. May our treatment of others be based less on emotion and more on a desire for lasting relationship. May our vision of love include those who may not love us back. May our vision of love include those who we may have never even met before. Love is patient...all the way to the cross. That's real love, and real love never fails. May we so bold as to proclaim that love and strive for it in our own hearts and souls.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian



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YOUNG AT HEART—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Young at Heart has three wonderful programs coming up! Registration for these events will be on Sunday mornings or with Judy Oguich at joguich@trinityumc.net.

These are open to everyone; come and bring a friend!



Tuesday, March 24: Day trip to The Virginia War Memorial. We will have a tour led by Trinity's Mike Cross. Following our time at the memorial, we will stop for lunch on the way home. Hours: 10am—2pm

Thursday, April 23: Day trip to Petersburg to visit Historic Blandford Church. We will have lunch in Petersburg following our tour. Hours: 10am—3pm.

In the Works: May—Richmond Canal Tour, June—Day trip to Gordonsville, August 12—Riverside Theater to see Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap"

PUB THEOLOGY— COMING THIS SPRING

NEW MEMBERS

On December 28, we joined 4 new members. Welcome to Sarah Summers, Laura Maher, Eric Oguich, and Rebecca Harvey!

OFFICE CLOSURE

On Monday, February 16, the office will be closed for President's Day.

We hope you will join us again in 2026 for Pub Theology at WayGone Brewery. Here are the dates and guests:

February 10: Dr. Henry Chambers, Law Professor at the University of Richmond

- March 10: Kate Andrews, Deputy Editor of Virginia Business Magazine
- April 14: Rev. Ben Campbell, author of Richmond's Unhealed History
- May 12: to be determined
- June 9: Mark Coakley, Henrico County Director of Elections

As a reminder, we meet at WayGone Brewery in the Canterbury Shopping Center on Patterson Avenue. Start time is 5:45, and the program ends by 7pm. The church provides pizza and requests a \$5 donation to help offset the cost. Water, soft drinks, beer, hard seltzer, and wine are available for purchase. You don't need to be a consumer of alcohol to attend. Questions can be sent to Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

WINTER WEATHER NOTICE

Longtime Virginia residents know that winter weather forecasting in our state can be tricky. The Trinity Preschool follows the winter weather closing decisions that are made by Henrico County Public Schools. Depending upon the winter weather conditions, the Trinity staff will also follow Henrico schools' closing decision. The difference is that Trinity's staff might be able to return to work sooner. Winter weather closing decisions for Saturdays and Sundays will be made by the Senior Pastor and Director of Operations.

Additionally, please note that our parking lots are cleared of winter precipitation by Slurry Pavers. This clearing of the parking lots comes courtesy of a longtime Trinity family, the Dabneys. Sidewalks and steps are cleared by Trinity staff and congregational volunteers.



CHRISTMAS JOY FROM THE STITCHERS & WOMEN IN FAITH

The Trinity Stitchers and the Trinity United Women in Faith lovingly prepared 22 stockings this year—hand-sewn, stuffed, and delivered by Dave Clelland and others! The primary recipients were home-bound Trinity members and others on the Trinity prayer list. These stockings have a special history—in earlier years, 25 stockings were delivered to The Hermitage to be given to residents by their Hermitage Guild.

The stockings included handmade Christmas ornaments, Upper Room devotionals, socks, and other miscellaneous treats. We love these photos taken at some of the deliveries! Thank you Stitchers, and UWF!



BUILDING REMINDERS & CHURCH CALENDAR

Every month, we submit a calendar of events to Sonitrol, our security company. Based upon what we submit, they program interior and exterior doors for access. To make this work, it is essential that we know the date, time, and location for meetings that you schedule. Send your dates to Paula Cadden at pcadden@trinityumc.net as early as possible to help ensure space availability. Thanks for your time and cooperation!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE & UPWARD SUNDAY

On **Sunday, February 22**, we will celebrate our third graders receiving their Bibles during 9am worship. We will also celebrate Upward Sunday as they draw close to the end of another wonderful season!

THE WINDOW WANTS TO KNOW...

This month, we asked you to share with us a person, group, event, tradition, service, or anything else that you LOVE about Trinity! Some replies we received:



“Trinity is our home away from home! I love all of our staff, our three ministers, both of our worship services, all the dear children and teenagers, our acolyte program, the Seekers Sunday School class, pickleball on Tuesday nights, and all the special services, events, and opportunities for study and fellowship during the church year...and, of course, our beautiful building.”
-Anne Burch

“What I love about Trinity is the hardworking staff that work here and the family we’ve made.”
-Lynn Berry

“Ordinary People Sunday School Class!”
-Becky Roish

“I love that the people of Trinity share their love, show their love, and communicate their love to others!”
-Anonymous

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 8!

Did you know that the average American spends around \$91 a year on food and drinks for Superbowl Sunday? What a world of difference you could make by putting some of that money toward our partner food pantries! On Sunday, February 8, our Trinity kids will join our Trinity Scouting community in an effort to raise money for our Central Virginia residents. They’ll be holding pots: please consider either scanning the QR code on their pot to donate through Venmo or putting cash/checks in their pot; all donations benefit Sherbourne, Welborne, and Belmont Food Pantries. The food pantries can purchase much discounted food through FeedMore—\$1 can provide multiple meals of food.



LENT 2026

Lent is the season in which we spiritually prepare for the coming of Easter. At Trinity, we will have many opportunities to spend time in fellowship, spiritual formation, worship, and more.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday—February 18**. This is a solemn day that reminds us of our human mortality by the practice of “imposing” ashes, made from burnt palms from the prior year’s Palm Sunday branches, onto the forehead. We will offer Drive-Through ashes and a blessing in front of the Welcome Center from 7:30-8:30am. The Chapel will be open from 9am to 4pm for those who would like to take an opportunity to pray and reflect. At 7:00pm, we will have Ash Wednesday worship, including an imposition of ashes, music, a message, and more, offered online and in-person.

Trinity will be offering a **Lent Pilgrimage on Saturday, March 14**: a trip to Washington DC to experience the National Cathedral and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America. Pastor Brian will drive a charter bus, and lunch is included. This trip is nearly 70% full. If you would like to register, see our website at: <https://subspla.sh/rn4ty23>

During Lent, Pastor Daniel and Jen Williams will be offering a special **Small Group** experience from the **week of February 22 through the week of March 22**. Gatherings will include activities and socializing as well as time discussing scripture. So that they can ensure this experience is what works for you, they’ve created a form to learn about preferences. Please check it out here and complete before February 10: <https://subsplash.com/u/-KG6SHP/forms/d/e70f43e3-9ec1-41ad-83a8-a2ecd88603bd>

It is Trinity’s Lent tradition to take up a special offering: the **Lenen/Easter Mission Offering (LEMO)**. This is an extra offering over normal tithes that are distributed to a variety of mission organizations through an application process. Among many others, past beneficiaries have included: CrossOver Health, Friends of Barnabas, Oak-Grove Bellemeade, Camp Rainbow, and more. Watch for more news about this initiative in the weeks to come.

Save the dates: **Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday on March 29th and concludes with Easter Sunday on April 5. This year, we will observe triduum: though chronologically three days, triduum is considered a continuous worship experience beginning with Maundy Thursday and ending with Easter.

To learn more about these opportunities and more, visit our Lent website at trinityumc.net/lent2026.



START SPREADING THE NEWS

As defined by The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2020/2024), each church is required to have congregational members form the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC or **SPR**). Each “**SP**Reading the News” column will focus on some of the 17 required duties, two of which are:

1. “To promote unity in the church”; and,
2. “To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their family(s).”

Here are three ways your **SPR** has represented the Congregation in supporting, recognizing, and celebrating the hard work that our Trinity UMC staff and clergy focus on as part of their daily duties. During the last quarter of 2025 the gratitude of the Congregation was conveyed to all full and part-time staff and clergy through:

1. Annual Christmas Staff Luncheon—funded by donations from the Congregation, the luncheon was held on 12/16/25, and each staff member received a gift bag containing various items such as an engraved tumbler (drinking glass).
2. Staff Bonuses—fueled by generous donations from the Trinity membership, each full and part-time staff member received a cash bonus on 12/31/25, and,
3. COLA—made possible by pledges received from the Congregation in response to last fall’s “mini” stewardship campaign, **SPR** recommended, **Finance** reviewed, and **Church Council** approved a 2.8% cost of living adjustment (COLA) effective 1/1/26.

How can you make your voice heard? You can provide input to **SPR** at any time by either submitting a written, signed physical letter to the **SPR** box in the main office or sending an e-mail to SPRC@trinityumc.net. As always, you are encouraged to share your commendations and concerns with any **SPR** member at any time. In fact, we encourage you to engage with **SPR** regularly so that we may best understand, respond to, and represent the collective wishes of the Congregation. Current **SPR** members are: Wayne Bullis, Jill White, Caroline Cardwell, David Glassman, Joey McPhail, and Bruce Sofinski.



Trinity Staff enjoying the Christmas Luncheon!

STUDENT MINISTRY DINNERS

The Student Ministry is meeting weekly for fellowship, formation, and FOOD! Please consider providing a nut-free, seafood-free meal for about 40 students/adults on Sunday evenings. March and April have lots of availability.

Thank you for your support—by feeding our students physically, we make it possible to feed them spiritually.

To learn more and sign up, visit:

<https://bit.ly/trinitystudentdinner>



LECTIO DIVINA: A NEW PRACTICE DURING LENT

This Lent, we will learn a new spiritual practice. Lectio Divina, which means “divine reading”, is an ancient method of combining scripture and prayer. The reader concentrates on a small portion of scripture and focuses on what feelings, words, and experiences it offers the reader. You are encouraged to read, reflect, respond to, and rest in the scripture; to slow down and hear God’s word.

More information will be forthcoming and will be included on our website, Weekly Connection, e-mail, and available on Sunday mornings. Scriptures will connect to Sunday’s message; offering you an additional way to reflect on our lectionary texts as we journey through Lent.

If you aren’t receiving our Weekly Connection e-mail, we’d love to get you subscribed!

E-mail Laura at
lmaher@trinityumc.net.



PRAYERS

We offer our prayers and condolences to:

The friends and family of Nancy Knight, who passed away on December 22.

Jay Sanne and his family after the passing of his father, Tom Sanne, on December 30.

Ann Vaughan and her family after the passing of her mother, Jaque Bradford, on December 6.

The family and friends of Anne McWilliams, who passed away on January 1.

Anne Burch, Nancy Miller, and their families after the passing of their brother-in-law on January 4.

The friends and family of Vickie Argabright, who passed away on January 8.

SANCTUARY BIBLES

In the fall of 2025, the Trinity Worship Committee and Church Council approved removing the pew Bible racks in the Sanctuary and the pew Bibles. This decision was made based on the following: the wooden racks frequently needing repair, Bible readings being readily available via technology and Sunday morning bulletins, and the infrequent use of the pew Bibles.

A few Bibles will still be available in the hymnal racks.

If you had a Bible dedicated in honor or memory of a Trinity loved one, and you would like to reclaim that Bible, they are being stored in the Conference Room across from the Sanctuary. With questions, contact Bill Pike at bpiketrinityumc.net.

TIPS FOR FEBRUARY FUN WHILE CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

This Valentine's Day, show your love for the earth by choosing thoughtful, waste-free gifts:

- Make a memory by giving experiences, not things—take a nature walk in a local park, give tickets to a special event, or take a fun class together
- Personalize your gifts—bake favorite cookies for your valentine and package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers as gifts. Homemade goodies show how much you care and help you avoid packaging waste.
- Skip the flowers—give a potted plant instead. For those with a yard, consider giving a bush or tree that can be planted in the spring. The benefits: the gift lasts longer and has a smaller carbon footprint. Bonus: create a memory by planting the gift together!
- Send greeting cards made from recycled paper or make your own cards; this can be a fun craft project for your family that helps reduce paper waste and saves money.

While shopping the President's Day sales, think "green":

- Bring your own reusable cloth bag to carry purchases
- Try to buy items with minimal packaging
- Buy local to reduce costs of transportation and support small businesses
- Buy items made with recycled content. For example, buy fleece jackets made from recycled soda bottles or clothes made from recycled cotton scraps.

Even in winter, make caring for God's creation part of your daily routine!



DID YOU KNOW—FAITH & FACTS ON IMMIGRATION



We recognize that immigration-related conversations can be divisive. The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church recently published “Immigration in the United States: Faith & Facts” to share a denominational perspective.

What do the facts say?

- In 2022, 14.3% of the US population was foreign born (Pew Research Center)

- Immigrants contribute and pay over 651 billion dollars in taxes to support and participate in the US economy (American Immigration Council)
- The deportation of 11 million people would impoverish many American families and force a nearly \$8 trillion hit to the economy over the next 14 years

What does the Bible say?

- When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. –Leviticus 19:33-34
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. –Hebrews 13:2
- I was a stranger and you welcomed me. –Matthew 25:45b

What does the United Methodist Church say?

- Regardless of legal status or nationality, we are all connected through Christ to one another. Paul reminds us that when “one part suffers, all the parts suffer” as well (1 Corinthians 12:26). The solidarity we share through Christ eliminates the boundaries and barriers which exclude and isolate. Therefore, the sojourners we are called to love are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons, and daughters; indeed, they are us. (Book of Resolutions, #4271, Welcoming the Migrant to the US)
- We express our utmost concern for the passage of anti-immigrant laws, which adversely affect the well-being of citizens and residents of this country as they engage in providing humanitarian aid to undocumented persons in several States. (Book of Resolutions #4272, Faithfulness in Response to Critical Needs)

To read the entire document from Church & Society, visit here:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/765>

Photo Credit: Director of Communications, UMC Council of Bishops



United
Women
in Faith

The Future Is Now, Invest in Our Children February 12, 10am - Chapel



Jesus made it clear: when we welcome and care for a child, we are serving Him. In this simple but profound truth, we are reminded that children are not just our future—they are God's precious gifts in the present.

Our Service of Prayer and Self Denial will highlight UWF and Trinity's efforts in supporting children and youth. Join us in the chapel as Pastor Daniel discusses our student mission program and its importance. We will also learn about the work of the UWF Bethlehem Centers. Our offering will go to support the work of the Bethlehem Centers and our student summer mission work.

The service will conclude with brief songs from the Preschool children. All are invited, so please join us.

Three Notch'd District UWF Event

February 14, 2026

10:00 -11:30am

Charter for Racial Justice.
Racial Equality and Housing Policy,
Presenter: Sheila Herlihy Hennessee,
Director of Faith Organizing,
VA Center for Public Policy

Contact Dianne Moore for more
information on the Zoom call.

Circle News

Trinity UWF Circles all welcome new members.

Circle 1 – On February 17th at 9:30am we will have a speaker from CARITAS who will report to us about the new system with apartments and update us on their progress.

Circle 4 – We will meet on February 5th in room 324 at 11am.

Circle 7 –During our next meeting, which will be held at the church on Thursday February 19th, we will help the Stitchers with a spring craft project.

Circle 10 – We will meet at the home of Susie Hildebrand, Thursday February 5th, 7pm. Kelly Lindquist from Doorways will be the guest speaker.

Coming Soon!



Service Day – March 12
Trinity Hall – 9am



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

9AM Worship Hour:

Nursery available for kids under three

Preschool – Elementary: **Kids Church** (kids are dismissed before the first song and return by the last song).

Worship bags are available for kids to use in the worship service.

10AM Discipleship Hour:

Nursery available for kids under three

Preschool – Elementary: **Stay, Pray, and Play** - Kids gather in the sanctuary. Our time starts with Ben Miller leading the kids in music and movement. For the remainder of the time, kids play games or do crafts.

11AM Worship Service:

Nursery available for kids three and under.

Worship bags are available for kids to use in the worship service.



Transit is our 4th and 5th grade program at Trinity! It is open to all 4th and 5th graders at Trinity and in our community! We meet 3x each month from September – November and January – March at Trinity from 5-7pm on Sunday evenings in room 302. Our program includes dinner and activities/games!

Our winter dates for Transit are:

February 1, 22

March 1, 8, 15, 22



Jesus was a true trailblazer—not just for his time, but for all time! Jesus' teachings and way of life often went against the grain of what people expected, showing us a whole new way to live and love. While blazing new trails, Jesus never wavered from the path of following God, and he paved the way for us to follow his lead. In this series, kids will learn to trust Jesus even when it's not easy, show others the way to God, let God's love take the lead, and pray the way Jesus prayed.



Kids Church at 9am: <https://bit.ly/4fapSEo>

Stay, Pray, & Play at 10am: <https://bit.ly/3LeOqBJ>



Kids Camp 2026 is July 6-10 from 9am – 12:30pm!! Campers – Register now at the early bird price of \$25 before the price increases in March!

Camper Registration:

<https://bit.ly/3YzJRVR>

Volunteer Registration:

<https://bit.ly/4r1HEhY>

MODERN WORSHIP—SOME OF OUR FAVORITES!

This month's free Spotify playlists highlights some of our favorite music from our Modern Worship—check it out and see what songs you recognize and love!

Find the playlist by scanning the code in the Spotify app or using the website:

<https://bit.ly/trinityfebruaryspotify>



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This month, I asked readers of the Weekly Connection to respond with what they LOVE about Trinity. I enjoyed thinking about that myself! I've been at Trinity for six months now, and I still find things I love weekly. I first and foremost really love our staff—they are truly the best of the best, and I consider myself so fortunate to work alongside them. I love that we have nursery on Sundays—and not just any nursery, but one that is clean, modern, and has the absolute sweetest volunteers. I love Kid's Camp, and I'm excited that my nine-year-old was the first one registered for 2026! I love my angel ornament from the Stitchers Ministry. Their hard work creates heirloom gifts that people will treasure for years to come. I love Trinity Preschool; my one-year-old will be in the Turtles class next year! I love Pastor Daniel's Screwtape Letters Bible study, his leadership, and listening to all the truly engaged and brilliant readers offer their unique perspectives. I love the fellowship opportunities. I hope you're joining our Lent pilgrimage this year; it's going to be a great time! I love worship—especially Pastor Brian's sermons, Ben Miller's extraordinary music skills, and Pastor Judy's beautiful prayers so full of rich imagery.

But most of all, I love all of you and the thousands of ways you make Trinity a place that is both a joy to attend and a joy to work at. There is so much to love about this special place!

Laura

MARCH DEADLINE

Articles for the March edition of The Window are due by February 13.

All articles or questions may be submitted to Laura Maher at lmaher@trinityumc.net.

Thank you!

