

ADVENT 2025

It's never too soon to add dates to your calendar for some of your favorite Trinity traditions!

November 30: Caroling

December 7: Create & Celebrate

December 9: Caroling at Pub Theology

December 14: Lessons & Carols

December 21: Play and Cookie Exchange

December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, and 11pm

December 28: Carol Sing and Tacky Sweater Sunday

COFFEE CONNECTIONS

Join other Trinity members and visitors for an informal gathering on **Sunday, October 26 at 10:00 am in the Parlor**. Get to know others over coffee and donuts!

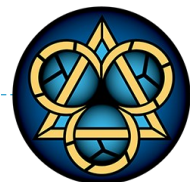
FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival is coming on Sunday, October 26 from 3 to 5pm! This exciting, large event offers a valuable way to be invitational in our community; welcoming families and children for not only an afternoon of fun—but an opportunity to experience the love and belonging that can be found at Trinity. **We need your help!** The highest priority needs at this time are bounce house attendants and trunks for Trunk or Treat. We need at least 14 more trunks for Trunk or Treat and 11 more helpers for bounce house supervision. Please consider supporting this beloved community event! To sign up, visit “volunteer opportunities” on our website or [click here](#).



NOVEMBER DEADLINE

Articles for the November edition of The Window are due by October 15. Please consider your group's Advent events and celebrations for inclusion. All articles or questions may be submitted to Laura Maher at lmaher@trinityumc.net. Thank you!



Trinity United Methodist Church
903 Forest Avenue
Henrico, Virginia 23229

October 2025

The Trinity Window

PASTOR'S PEN

It's October already. With October comes the orange balls we call Pumpkins in our front yard. Over the years, it has become how Trinity is known in the community. I don't know how many times I have heard, when describing where we are located, “Oh, it's the pumpkin church.” And while we may want to be known by another name, maybe it's not so bad. Being the “pumpkin church” does convey one very important thing: we are here for the community. And we are, over and over again. We have regular community groups that use our building, and they are appreciative of both the space and the hospitality. The Preschool and Upward Basketball reach families that we don't reach any other way—and that's okay.

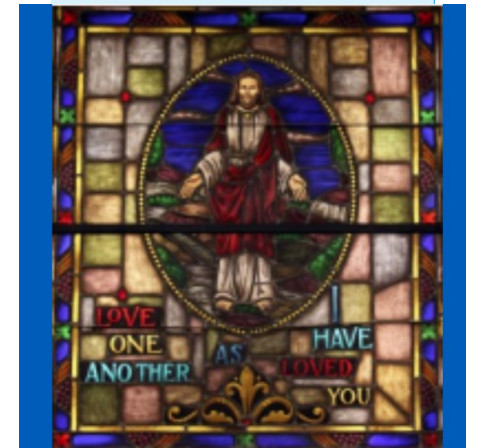
Being a community church has its benefits. It also has its drawbacks, one of which is that the community often gains from the use of what we have without necessarily supporting the upkeep of what is being used. I think that's part of being church. We are not transactional, because Christ is not transactional. Christ's love is offered at great cost without the expectation of anything in return. Christ's love invites, but does not coerce, change. That love is why we are here for the community.

How else can we be present for the community, whether it is in the building or not? How else can we invite those around us to experience God's love through us? How can we be an integral part of the lives of those around us? These are the questions that should be constantly before us. Once we have those answers, we can then ask how we gather enough resources to make those plans reality. What would you be excited to support?

Trinity, we are blessed to be an outpost of God's love in this place and this time. Let's keep growing, learning, worshipping, and being the extension of God's love in the community.

Yes, we are the “pumpkin church”. But we're so much more. Let's get the word out.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Pina*



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- Trinity is Coming to Lakewood!
- Updates from United Women in Faith, Trinity Kids, and Trinity Students

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!



Thursday, October 2: Brantley Smith of ENTEC will present a program on Cyber Security. ENTEC is one of Central Virginia's leading IT companies. We will meet from 2-3:30pm in the Welcome Center. Come with your questions and be ready to learn how you can be better protected online!

Tuesday, November 11: We're hosting a program offered by the Tuckahoe Square Dancing Group from 2-3:30pm in Trinity Hall. Come and be ready to be a spectator—as well as a participant!

Wednesday, December 10: We're taking a trip to Riverside Theater in Fredericksburg to see "White Christmas". This is a day trip from 10am to 5pm. The cost is \$75 and is all-inclusive of lunch, play, gratuity, and tax. This outing is limited to 16 people.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 21, 2025 Trinity member Elizabeth Dwyer welcomed grandson George Raymond Dwyer, born to parents David and Alexa Dwyer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Congratulations!

SPECIAL THANKS

We appreciate the dedication of Mike Hildebrand, Randy Johnson, and Keith Reynolds for their continued support in keeping our grounds in good shape. Thank you!

PUB THEOLOGY—OCTOBER 14

On **Tuesday, October 14**, our special guest for Pub Theology will be David Neary. David is the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer for Richmond Metro Habitat for Humanity. David has had quite a career working across America with Habitat for Humanity. Come out and hear from him how Richmond Metro Habitat for Humanity is working to reduce our housing crisis.

We meet at WayGone Brewery in the Canterbury shopping center on Patterson Avenue. Start time is 5:45pm, and the program ends by 7:00. 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 do not need to be a consumer of alcohol to attend. With any questions, contact Bill Pike at bpiketrinityumc.net.

We hope to see you there!



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

9AM Worship Hour:
Nursery available for kids under three



Preschool – Elementary: Kids begin in the worship service and are dismissed before the first worship song. Kids leave the service and gather in the chapel for a quick game/song. Kids are then divided into two smaller groups by age and head upstairs to the Kids Wing for Kids Church (discipleship time). Kids return to the worship service during the last worship song.

10AM Discipleship Hour:
Nursery available for kids under three



Preschool – Elementary: Kids gather in Trinity Hall. Our time starts with Ben Miller, our Director of Music, leading the kids in music and movement for 25 minutes. For the remainder of the time, kids choose from playing games (dodgeball, pickleball, basketball, gaga ball), board games, or crafts.

11AM Worship Service:
Nursery will be available for kids three and under.

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



Magic tricks and illusions have a way of sparking wonder and curiosity. But long before today's magicians, Daniel and his friends stood out during the Babylonian exile. They were wiser than the magicians and astrologers of their time because they looked to God for wisdom. Through their brave actions and wise choices, they showed God's power to everyone around them—no tricks needed! In this series, kids will learn that God helps us choose wisely, God is ready to rescue us, God's words show us what to do, and our courage can help others see God.



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 fall dates for Transit are:
October 5, 12, 19
November 9, 16, 23



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

Fall Festival on Sunday, October 26th from 3-5pm:
bit.ly/46NQhFx



United
Women
in Faith

Our vision: Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.



At our September meeting, Rhonda Weaver and Diane Reale gave us great information about volunteer needs at Goochland Cares.

Circle News

Trinity UWF is organized into four Circles that meet regularly; two others meet on an ad hoc basis for projects and fellowship. All welcome new members. Contact the leaders below for more information.

Circle 1 – Leader: Pat Rollison

At our September meeting, we learned from Lauren McMullen, UMFS Volunteer Coordinator, that each year they have a gathering for those who live at UMFS where they decorate pumpkins. We decided at our meeting to provide the 50 pumpkins needed and will purchase them from our Pumpkin Patch so it will benefit our youth missions as well as UMFS. On October 21, we will take a field trip to the War Memorial for a tour led by Joe Andrews.

Circle 4 – Leader: Dianne Moore

We will meet on October 2 in room 324 to review what our members learned in the September Goochland Cares presentation and determine how we can best serve one of our mission partners.

Circle 7 – Leaders: Shari Adams & Caroline Cardwell

On October 6th at 6pm, our members will participate in the Jill's Blanket event being held in Trinity Hall. During our monthly meeting on October 16th, we will be writing birthday cards for students at Oakgrove-Bellemeade Elementary School. Members of our circle will also be acting as greeters at the Virginia UWF Annual meeting.

Circle 10 – Leader: Sharon Wenger

On October 2 at 6pm, we will meet at the home of Ann Pierce for a presentation by Mark Coakley, Henrico County General Registrar, on voter registration.

Virginia United Women in Faith Annual Meeting October 25, 2pm-4pm Trinity UMC

Guest Speaker: Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman
District Superintendent, Mission Rivers District

We are hosting the state-wide annual meeting this year. Because of this, we will not have a unit meeting in October.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Coming Soon: Harvest Day – November 13 Sanctuary – 10am



This year's Harvest Day service will feature guest speaker Nancy Toscano, President & CEO of UMFS.

A reception in the Welcome Center will follow the service

Three Notch'd District UWF Events

Annual Meeting, October 4, 10am
Trinity UMC – 143 West Main St, Orange, VA
Speaker: Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman,
Mission Rivers DS

Advent Meeting, December 6, 10am
Bon Air UMC – 1645 Buford Rd, Richmond
Speaker: The Rev. Florence Brooks

Save the Date!
Service Day – December 11
Trinity Hall – 9am

BELLEMEADE PARK OPPORTUNITIES

On **Saturday, October 4**, there will be a Conserve & Create event at Bellemeade Park from 9am to noon as we work to create the Trinity Meditation Garden, featuring native plants and shrubs! This will be a place for park visitors to find respite and calm in an anxious world. All are encouraged to come; children welcome. Visit [our website](#) to register to ensure that we have tools available for all.

Would you like to share your love of the outdoors with children? The Friends of Bellemeade Park have a partnership with Richmond Public Schools to provide outdoor education programs for all preschoolers. The children arrive at Bellemeade Park every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:15am through 11:45am from October 13 through November 17. The role of volunteers is to arrive at 9:45am for setup. You will not have to deliver any instruction.

Bellemeade Park is located at 1800 Krouse Street. With any questions about this vital ministry, please contact Bob Argabright at 804-310-1080. He is excited to talk to you about the transformative work going on for all ages at Bellemeade!

NEW SHOES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL MINISTRY

Thank you!

Thanks to the hard work and support of many, the New Shoes for Back to School Ministry had a successful distribution day on Saturday, August 16. **Trinity supplied 248 pairs of shoes, joining 10 other congregations from across Richmond in collecting more than 2,000 pairs of shoes total.** On the day of the event, families lined up outside of Third Street Bethel AME in downtown Richmond. The schoolchildren were excited, and the parents were grateful. Shoes left over from the event went to Title I schools across the Richmond Metro region. Many thanks go to the Trinity members who helped out in numerous ways: donating shoes and funds, helping to order shoes, sorting and organizing, transporting the shoes, and volunteering on the day of the event. Funds also came from a grant from the Lenten and Easter Mission Offering, and a huge thank you goes out to the Trinity Foundation for their generous support.



LAST MONDAYS

Last Mondays is a new fall class offering from Bill Pike. This class will focus on an assortment of faith connections related to books, movies, and songs. The format will feature how books, movies, and songs can influence our faith journeys and thinking. Discussion will be generated from responding to the materials presented. No prep is needed for this class. We will meet on October 27 and November 24 at 5:30pm in Room 309 (where Faithworks meets). Class will end by 6:45. With questions, e-mail Bill Pike at bpiketrinityumc.net.



TAX EXEMPTION PURCHASES

Do you make purchases on behalf of Trinity? One way you can be a responsible steward of our finances is to purchase your items under our tax exemption status. We already have forms on file with many merchants in our area; a comprehensive list is available. For more information, e-mail Finance Administrator Leah Cruise at finance@trinityumc.net.

CREATION CARE



At times it may seem that the actions needed to protect God's creation require large-scale efforts to be effective. So much is needed; we may think what we do won't matter. What can one person do?

To paraphrase Arthur Ashe, start with who you are and do what you can.

As a **ROLE MODEL**, you can show family, friends, and neighbors through your actions that taking care of creation is important and possible. Using words is also helpful.

As an **INFLUENCER**, you can use your social media posts to celebrate down-to-earth pleasures of nature rather than consumption of extravagances.

As an **ORGANIZER**, you can plan events large and small from business occasions to a one-year-old's first birthday party to be friendly both for the participants and for the environment.

As a **CONSUMER**, you can pressure retailers to become green by the choices you make. You can also switch from shopping with big shippers and their excessive packaging to thrift stores and estate sales, using your own reusable bags.

As a **DOER**, you can minimize food waste, pick up litter, plant pollinator and food gardens, and turn out lights, especially during the fall bird migrations.

As an **INVESTIGATOR**, you can be on alert for green washing: the practice of using language to imply sustainability, but not following through with appropriate action. Telling the public to recycle plastic when very little is actually recyclable is one form of green washing.

Excerpted from United Methodist Creation Justice Tips

THE PUMPKIN PATCH IS NOW OPEN!



After a long day of unloading, the Pumpkin Patch is now open for business! Thank you to all those who came to set up pallets and to unload pumpkins. The Pumpkin Patch is the biggest source of funding for our youth program at Trinity—your support means a lot! Make sure to share the word!

Volunteers are needed to help staff the Patch. When you volunteer, you support the students' mission—but you also make a valuable connection with the community with every encounter. You are the face of hope and a connection in a world increasingly isolated. To sign up and staff the Patch, visit the "Student" page on our website or [click here](#).

The staffed hours of the Pumpkin Patch are: noon to 7:00pm on weekdays and 10am to 7pm on weekends. However, you can come by anytime and pay by Venmo or the locked cash box.

STUDENT FALL RETREAT

Get ready for a weekend filled with adventure, spiritual growth, and lasting friendships! The students are traveling to Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville for some time apart. They will meet at church on **Friday, November 14 between 6 and 7:00pm for dinner on Friday and return to church at approximately 10am on Sunday morning, November 16.** There will be time in worship, s'more roasting, fun and activities, and time to rest and relax. The cost to attend is \$120 a person; financial support is available if needed. This year's theme is: **"Beyond Shame: Letting Go of Lies to Become Who We Truly Are"**. To register, [visit this page](#) or the calendar on our website.



HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity envisions a world where everyone has a place to live. Some events coming up this fall:

The PRIDE build, located in southside Richmond, focused on creating an inclusive Richmond, has build dates on October 4 and November 20, 21, 22, 25, and 26.

Additionally, there is a Unity Celebration for Faith Partners planned for the entire weekend of October 24 to 26 with many service projects available.

Make sure to attend Pub Theology on October 14 for an opportunity to hear the new Habitat CEO speak and answer questions!

With any questions about this mission partner, contact Bill Pike.

TRINITY IS COMING TO LAKEWOOD!

Mark Your Calendars:
Thursday, November 6, 3-4pm, Simms Center

Our Trinity Staff have been in dialogue with the chaplains at Lakewood to plan a “Trinity Celebration” on site there. Both sides are excited to make this a reality—for our members who live at Lakewood, as well as for Lakewood residents.

We have secured Thursday, November 6, 3-4pm at the Simms Center at Lakewood. We will have a devotion, hymns, communion, and wonderful fellowship. We plan for these celebrations to occur quarterly. Everyone is welcome! Contact Judy Oguich at care@trinityumc.net if you would like to help.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Greetings, Trinity Family!

I hope you’re enjoying the beginning of Fall! Here is your insight into music at Trinity for this month.

Lessons and Carols rehearsals have begun, but it’s never too late to join in! If you’d like to sing in the Christmas season a little early, plan to join us each Wednesday at 6:30pm in the choir room for about thirty minutes. Who knows? Maybe you’ll want to stay another half-hour to join the Choir for Sunday morning’s anthem.

The Praise Team is off to a strong start this year. You may have noticed that we are adjusting the placement of musicians to add a bit more clarity and variety to Modern worship. I think this is going well. As always, if you’d like to help lead music by singing or playing an instrument, let me know, and we’ll find you a spot.

Children’s music is burgeoning! We meet on Sunday mornings during Stay, Play, and Pray to do movement and music for about 20 minutes at the top of the hour. If you would like your youngster to participate, bring them by on Sundays at 10:00am. No advance sign ups required!

If you’d like to participate in one of the Ministry’s offerings, but aren’t sure how to work it out with your schedule, let me know, and maybe we can work something out together. Every little bit helps.

Soli Deo Gloria—

Ben Miller

FINANCE UPDATE

Hello, Trinity! Our Finance Committee met on Sunday, September 14, 2025. We had a very productive and informative meeting. As I have committed to you, I want to share the information that you need to know from the meeting.

- The year 2024-2025 has been closed, and the deficit of \$107,000 was covered by the surplus account and two other accounts that could be used for this purpose.
- As a reminder, we are currently in a 6-month budget period (July—December 2025). Brent Belding, Treasurer, reported on our financial status through August. Income from all sources was good. (Part of this was due to people completing their 2024—2025 pledges. Thank you!) Property expenses, due to maintenance and fuel costs, continue to be higher than we would like, but in line with budget. Other expenses were in line with budget. We ended the first two months with a surplus of \$18,500.
- This is a good start for the 6-month budget, but we must be vigilant about our expenses and need everyone to meet or exceed their pledges. To help with this, you will receive a mailed statement in October for the first three months and again in mid-December so that you know exactly where you are with your pledge.
- Now, for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Many of you have already sent your Estimate of Giving Cards in for the 12-month 2026 pledge period. For those who haven’t, or who want to consider a different pledge amount, we will be running a “mini campaign” in October to finish out this campaign. You will be receiving a letter and hearing from me and others during the month with important information about Trinity’s finances and how it impacts you and our mission to serve God and reach out to those who do not know Him.

Now, for a couple of “**Did You Knows?!**”

- **Did you know** that each month, our expenses average between **\$115,000 and \$118,000**? This includes all ministry area expenses, salaries and benefits, property maintenance, fuel costs, administrative costs (office), supplies, and other expenses.
- **Did you know** this equates to **\$1,380,000—\$1,416,000** in income needed to break even each year?

Wonderful Trinity family, beginning next week, I will be giving you a few more “Did You Knows?” I will continue this until we reach the conclusion of the 2026 Stewardship Campaign and longer, if it is beneficial. If you have any questions, please contact me, and I will be glad to discuss them with you.

In Christ,
Elaine Peele



VETERANS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

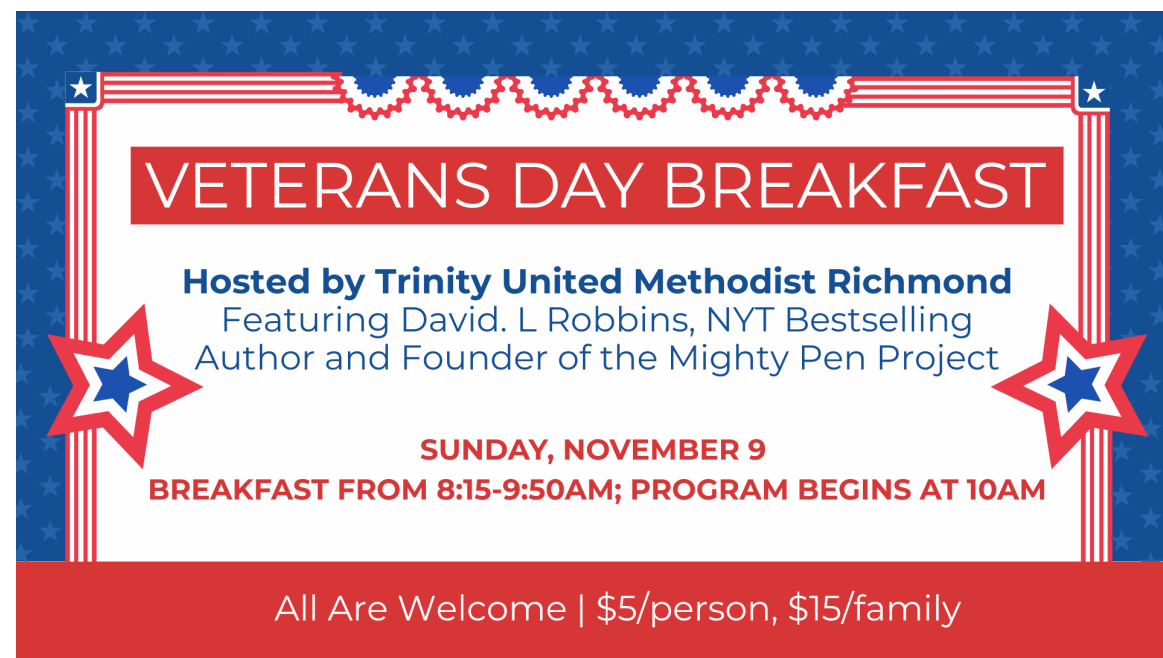
The Outreach Veterans Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 9. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am until 9:50 and will include pancakes, bacon, baked apples, coffee, and juice. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family; proceeds from this event will be used for community outreach.

Our program will start at 10am. We are honored this year to have David L. Robbins as our guest speaker. A native of Richmond, David is the author of sixteen novels; several have made the New York Times Bestseller list and have film options. Additionally, four of David's stage plays have been professionally produced.

Additionally, David is the founder of the Mighty Pen Project. In cooperation with the Virginia War Memorial, this program "gives Virginia's military veterans and their families training and community to turn their memories of military service into written, archived narratives. The Mighty Pen produces an annual short-story journal, a one-act play festival, and a podcast."

In his presentation on November 9, David will also bring another special guest; one of the veterans who has participated in the Mighty Pen Project. We hope you will join us for this extraordinary opportunity.

Finally, if you have a Trinity Veteran that you would like to be recognized at this program, please send their name and branch of military that they served to Bill Pike at bpike@trinityumc.net or call the church office. **The deadline for submitting names is Wednesday, November 5.**



CHARGE CONFERENCE—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

On Sunday, October 12 at 3:00pm, six area churches will come to Trinity to join with us in a combine Cluster Charge Conference. The Charge Conference is our annual business meeting, presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee. This is a time for us to give reports, do any needed business, set leadership, approve clergy salaries, and more. While Charge Conference is a business meeting, it is also a time to celebrate all that we have done over the past year and look forward to our missional future. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend Charge Conference.

SHERBOURNE FOOD BAGS

Once again this year, we would like to fill bags of nonperishable items for Thanksgiving for the families served by the Sherbourne Food Pantry. Last year, we met our goal of providing 100 bags of food that were distributed the week before Thanksgiving, and this year, we would like to provide the same number. Currently, the Pantry serves between 100 and 120 families each week.

Reusable grocery bags with an attached list of the items to fill the bag will be available beginning Sunday, October 19th in the Welcome Center and also in the rear of Trinity Hall near the food collection tables.

Please deliver your filled bag by Sunday, November 16th to the rear of Trinity Hall or to the Welcome Center. We will deliver the bags to Sherbourne on Monday, November 17th, and they will be distributed to Sherbourne families on Wednesday, November 19th.



JILL'S BLANKETS ANNUAL EVENT

On Monday, October 6, Jill's Blankets will be holding their annual blanket-making event in Trinity Hall! The mission of Jill's Blankets is to make cozy fleece blankets for patients currently undergoing chemotherapy. Nearly 7,500 blankets have been handcrafted since the organization's founding ten years ago, and many more are needed! There are shifts all day to participate, and jobs include making simple cuts in the fleece and then tying ends together.

Several Trinity members are already signed up to help with the effort and would love to see you there! To sign up, visit <https://jillsblankets.org> or visit their [Sign Up Genius](#).