

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
804-288-6056

September 2025



Pastor's Pen

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

School has begun. Our summer schedule is coming to an end. New Sunday School classes and curriculum are starting. Bible studies are starting up again. It feels like new life. That is exactly what happens in a community of faith when it is at its best. Life in Christ is not same old same old. It is not a continuation of the selfish and destructive ways of the world around us. New life in Christ is all about a new perspective, a hopeful perspective. New life in Christ is about trusting more in God's plan and less in our own limited way of seeing the world. This seems so simple, but yet is so hard to live out.

That's why we need each other. That's why Trinity exists. We are here, together, to help us all see the Kingdom of God and live into it now. We are here, together, to present to the world something different. We have a great legacy of boldness and faith to draw strength from. We have a great passion for our world that we can capitalize on. We have a great abundance of people that we can rely on.

I am so excited about what we can and will do. I am so excited about being part of what Trinity does in the community and beyond. "The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!"

Yours in Christ,

Trinity Welcomes our new staff!



Trinity Welcomes

Ben Miller
Director of Music Ministries

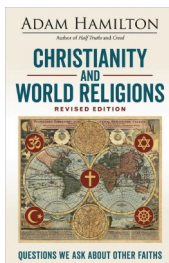


Trinity Welcomes

Laura Maher
Marketing & Membership Specialist

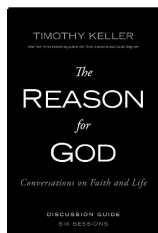
Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Brian's next study will be on Isaiah. Join us **Wednesday, September 3** in the afternoons at 1:30 PM as we delve into this prophetic work. The books of the prophets hold many challenges and adventures for us. We are called to study and examine the biblical witness. It is in community, where likeness and difference are accepted and where dialog is encouraged, that truth and understanding often emerge.



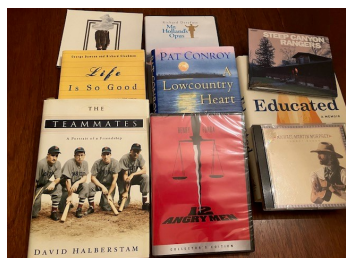
Monday Morning Bible Study

Join the Monday morning Bible Study beginning **Monday, September 8** at 9:30 AM in Room 323 for our time of fellowship and Christian discipleship. We will be participating in Adam Hamilton's 6-week study: "Christianity and World Religions: Questions We Ask About Other Faiths". Please purchase your book in advance of the study and have read Chapter 1 before the class begins on the September 8. Reach out to Deanna McCullough if you have any questions or if you'd like to join the class deanna6mccullough@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



Dillard Bible Study

On **Monday September 8**, the Dillard Bible Study will begin a six-week discussion of 'The Reason for God: Conversations on Faith and Life' by Timothy Keller. Each week we will watch a video session of the author with six panelists in discussions about their discomforts with God, the Bible and Christianity in general, after which we will discuss topics raised in the text and video. We are a participant-led group and meet via Zoom on Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 PM. Contact Dianne Moore if you are interested in joining this study.



Last Mondays: Books, Movies, Songs, and Faith

Last Mondays is a new fall class offering from Bill Pike. The 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 by responding to the materials presented. The class will meet on the following Mondays: September 29, October 27, and November 24. Start time is 5:30 PM, and class will end by 6:45 PM. We will meet in Room 309, where Faithworks meets. Questions email Bill Pike: bpiketrinityumc.net.

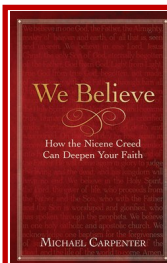
"Why: Christian Responses to Life's Biggest Question"

**6-7:30 PM on Thursdays
September 11 to October 23**

Where does evil come from? Why do bad things happen to good people? And how can we be faithful if we cannot find a clear answer to these questions? Join Daniel for a look through scripture at how others throughout history have made sense of these and other hard questions. Here's our schedule:

- September 11: Introduction - Christian Explanations for Evil and the Call of Compassion
- September 18: The Traditional Wisdom of the Old Testament
- September 25: The Skeptical Wisdom of the Old Testament
- October 2: The Gospels and Liberation Theology
- October 9: The Psalms, the Death of Christ, and God's Willingness to Reach Out To Us
- October 16: Instruction in Suffering - Paul and the Imitation of Christ
- October 23: Reason and Experience - Encountering God, and God's opposite

It will be a powerful time of learning and growing together. Signing up for this class is not required. Just come when you can, as you are.



3M Study Group

Our Wednesday Night Study Group, "3M" (named for Mary, Martha and Mark) will begin its 14th year on **Wednesday, September 24**. We will start this fall with studying "We Believe" by Michael Carpenter. We use two formats for gathering - in person as well as by Zoom - from 6 - 7:30 PM most Wednesdays (we won't meet Thanksgiving Eve, December 24, December 31, Ash Wednesday, etc). Contact Judy Oguich for the Zoom link. The book is available from Amazon and from Cokesbury.

From the Cokesbury website: "Discover how the ancient Nicene Creed can transform your spiritual journey in Michael Carpenter's empowering book, *We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith*. Personal anecdotes and practical insights guide you to a profound connection with God. Dive into six chapters, covering the Nicene Creed sequentially, that unpack the essence of it, enriching reader's faith and deepening their understanding of Christian beliefs."

Following this 6-week study we will have an Advent study followed by a new study in January. New members are always welcome! Contact Judy Oguich with questions.

Cedarfield Celebration

Join us on **Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 – 4:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall** at Cedarfield for our quarterly celebration! We will have refreshments, updates on Trinity and Cedarfield happenings, a devotion by Bill Pike, music, communion and - most importantly – opportunities to fellowship with our members who reside at Cedarfield!

Cedarfield's address is 2300 Cedarfield Parkway, off of Three Chopt Road.

If you can participate on September 16, please contact Carol Wampler (804-784-7177, carol-wampler@msn.com) or John Taylor (804-740-4405, jaydeetay@verizon.net). Everyone is welcome!

Missions Town Hall Rescheduled to September 28, 10 AM in Trinity Hall

Join others from Trinity and our partner organizations - The Tuckahoe YMCA, Oak Grove/Bellemeade, and Goochland Cares - for a chance to learn more about how you can be involved in the important work these organizations are doing, and how we will be involved with them going forward. Representatives from each organization will give a quick pitch describing the work they do, and there will be opportunities for one on one conversations as well as chances to sign up for service opportunities!

[Please register here.](#) Registration is strongly encouraged.

Questions? Contact Daniel at dguenther@trinityumc.net



Tables of Eight

Close to 40 individuals participated in "Tables of Eight" in 2024/2025 forming five groups that each met every 4 to 6 weeks

for dinner and fellowship. Persons who participated thoroughly enjoyed their time together, making new friends and connecting deeper with established friends. There is no agenda for the gatherings – only to have dinner together and getting to know each other better.

We are looking to organize new groups this fall, running October through May (or longer if the group chooses to). Please email Judy Oguich, joguich@trinityumc.net, with "Tables of Eight" in the subject line to register. We will have an organizing meeting in early October.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 23 – Day trip to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. We will enjoy a guided tour. Cost of admission is \$15.00. After our tour and time at the memorial we will have lunch at the Olde Liberty Station in Bedford (paid on your own). Olde Liberty Station is a former train station. Hours 8 AM – 5 PM (approximate)

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 2 - 3:30 PM in the Welcome Center. Come with your questions and be ready to learn how you can be better protected on line.

Tuesday, November 11 – In-house program by the Tuckahoe Square Dancing Group, 2 – 3:30 PM.

Wednesday, December 10 – Trip to Riverside Theater in Fredericksburg to see "White Christmas". Hours 10 AM – 5 PM.

Registration for these events will be on Sundays or with Judy Oguich.

Young at Heart programs are open to everyone!
Come and bring a friend!



Pub Theology

On **Tuesday, September 23**, our special guest for Pub Theology will be Dr. Rhianon Graybill. Dr. Graybill is a professor of Religious Studies at the University of Richmond. We'll be talking with Dr. Graybill about her most recent book: "What are they saying about the book of Jonah?" We look forward to learning from Dr. Graybill about Jonah and her work at the university.

We meet at WayGone Brewery in the Canterbury Shopping Center on Patterson Avenue. Start time is 5:45 PM, and the program ends by 7 PM. The church provides pizza and requests a five dollar 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 contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

Note the following changes to our Trinity Kids programming on Sunday mornings. These changes will begin September 7th

9AM Worship Hour:

Nursery available for kids under three

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

10AM Discipleship Hour:

Nursery and preschool-age kids will meet in room 208

Elementary kids will be dropped off in Trinity Hall. Kids will spend 30 minutes playing games (dodgeball, pickleball, basketball, gaga ball), board games, and crafts. Afterwards, they will go to room 300 to participate in games and activities that focus on the monthly bible memory verse. Kids will be picked up in room 300.

11AM Worship Service:

Nursery will be available for kids three and under.

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



We will need 2 volunteers each week at the 9am hour to assist with Kids Church (kids discipleship time).

Please sign up here if you are able to serve:

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



Come all! Step Right Up and see the marvelous wonders waiting for you at the carnival! Carnivals are more than a place for entertainment — they're an invitation to see something extraordinary. The best part? Everyone is invited! In this four-week series, kids can accept this invite from Jesus himself to be a part of something wonderful. As we do, we'll discover how Jesus invites us to use the gifts God gave us, show God's love to someone new, thank God for forgiveness, and share God's story with everyone!



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:

September 7, 14, 21

October 5, 12, 19

November 9, 16, 23



Student Ministries Lock-In September 6 at 6:00 PM to September 7 at 7:00 AM

Have you ever played Foosball...as one of the men on the table? Have you ever played dodgeball...in the dark? Have you ever wondered how it would feel to roam Trinity at night...in a nerf gun war?

The Student Ministry is kicking off another awesome year with another awesome Lock-In!!!! Sign up for a fun night of crazy games and super fun activities as we start the year off right!

Here's our schedule:*

- 6:00-7:00 PM - Dinner Time.
- 7:00-8:00 PM - Large Group Games: Body Body! Silent Hunters. Human Foosball.
- 8:00-10:00 - Free Time: Crafts, Board Games, Video Games (College Football '26), Pickleball, or just sit and chat.
- 10:00-11:00pm** - Large Group Games (Pick One): Nerf Gun Capture the Flag/ Free For All, OR Theater Games (LipSync Battle, Skit Shows, One Word Improv Game).
- 11:00pm-12:00am - Ice Cream Sundae Bar.
- 12:00-2:00am - Free Time with Group Activities: Glow in the Dark Dodgeball, Pool Noodle Melee, Free Paint and Crafts, Video Games (College Football '26), Board Games, or just sit and chat.
- 2:00am - 7:00am - Free Time: Free Paint and Crafts, Video Games (College Football '26) OR movie by request, Board Games, basketball/ dodgeball/pickleball in Trinity Hall, or just sit and chat. Activity to be limited to the Student Center, Welcome Center, and Trinity Hall.
- 7:00am-8:00am - Pickup from the Student Center. Students are free to get breakfast from the Student Center snacks.

*Students who wish to attend only part of this event should share that information when signing up, or ASAP with Daniel. Students who leave the event early off-schedule must have a parent call Daniel directly.

**We do not require students to sleep during the Lock-In. However, students who wish to sleep around this time may do so. All students are invited to bring air mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, etc. Girls will sleep in the chapel. Boys will sleep in the Parlor.

All students attending this event MUST have a completed health form. The link to that form is here: <https://share.fluro.io/form/66abc68a5752fb0036a9d100>

It's gonna be a great time! [Sign up here](#) to attend



The Youth Group Needs Food!

Our students started meeting regularly on August 24, and they need your help with food! We are fortunate to have a lot of kids with a growing youth group, but are still trying to figure out what our weekly attendance will be for this school year. **Please read the description in the Sign Up Page carefully**, and contact Daniel if you want to be paired with others from Trinity to share the load of cooking. Thank you for your help in supporting our kids as they grow spiritually!

[Sign Up to help out here](#), or contact Daniel at dguenther@trinityumc.net or 804-288-6056 ext. 205 to help out or share any questions you might have .



Pumpkins are Coming!

The Pumpkin Patch is coming on **Saturday, September 20!**

The Pumpkin Patch, a well-loved Trinity tradition, is the Student ministry's primary fundraiser. The pumpkins are scheduled to arrive **Saturday, September 20 at 9 AM**, and we will need lots of help unloading the truck! Bring yourself, your family, and perhaps

10 of your closest friends!

We will need workers to staff the Patch after they get here. All are welcome to serve in the pumpkin patch. To sign up for a shift go to: <https://www.trinityumc.net/event/3fwf3q6/pumpkins-arrive>

Hello, Trinity Family-

It's been a great couple of weeks getting to know you all and orienting to life at Trinity. I hope your Summer was restful and fun in just the right combination and that you are refreshed and ready for the Fall (and all that comes with it).

As we look toward this new season, I encourage you to keep an eye on the weekly eNews for all of the music ministry's offerings. From the choir to praise band to our annual Lessons & Carols Service, there are so many ways you and your youngsters can participate in glorifying God through music.

If I can answer your questions, receive your comments, or assist you in any way, I hope you won't hesitate to contact me personally.

Soli Deo Gloria-

Ben Miller
Director of Music Ministries



Help is Needed to Spread Some Joy!

We are in need of volunteers to deliver the altar flowers each Sunday after church or on Monday morning. It's an easy job – you get to see the smiles of the recipients as you extend Trinity's love to them! We hope to get enough people to have assignments a month at a time. If you are interested, contact Judy Oguich.

Did you know?

At Trinity, we strive to be an invitational church. An invitational church is one that cultivates a culture where (1) members are intentional about personally and actively inviting others into the life of the church and (2) equipping them with the resources to plug into life at Trinity when they get here.

Being invitational isn't just about Sunday morning! Guests can experience community, connection, and faith here in many different places. We have so much to offer at Trinity - a vibrant Kids and Student Ministry, groups and studies, Young At Heart, United Women in Faith, Pub Theology, and more. Our fall is full of fun outward-facing events and gatherings, like the Pumpkin Patch (opening September 20!) and Fall Fest - and Advent is just around the corner!

General marketing guidelines can help us best be invitational in a way that feels genuine and intentionally engaging. At Trinity, we do a great job of making our events well-known and simple to register for with integrated forms, QR codes, weekly newsletters, text blasts, and more. *How can we take what we already do so well internally and extend it externally, as we strive to be increasingly invitational?*

You're likely already planning the upcoming months in your personal life. The children and grandchildren are back in school, Halloween candy is in stores, photographers are advertising their fall family photo sessions, and (*gasp!*) Hallmark released this year's Christmas ornaments. Just like we "backwards plan" in our personal lives, we need to do this as a church as well. Best practices in marketing would have us ready to promote and invite friends and guests to large events (like Fall Fest) at least 4-6 weeks in advance and internally-focused events (such as Advent Create and Celebrate) at least 3-4 weeks in advance. This would include all Sign Up Geniuses, forms, website pages, information, contact people, registration information, etcetera ready to go!

As we continue to strive to be an actively invitational congregation, let's begin focusing on ensuring our events are ready to engage the community in advance - and then invite our communities into our connection!



United
Women
in Faith

Our purpose: We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Circle News

Trinity United Women in Faith is blessed to count over 100 members in our unit. We have four Circles that meet regularly and others that meet on an ad hoc basis for projects and fellowship. All welcome new members. Two Circles meet during the morning and two meet at night, so we hope you find one that suits you. In addition to what is provided in the Window, please check the church calendar and website for information on meetings and projects.

Circle 1 – Starting in September, members of Circle 6 will join Circle 1. The newly expanded Circle 1 will be led by Pat Rollison. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 10am in the Student Center. At our first joint meeting on September 16, we will welcome our new members and make plans for the year.

Circle 4 – This year we will continue to meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 11am but will change our location: we will be meeting in room 324 on a regular basis. Dianne Moore will continue as the leader. On September 4, we will discuss our plans for meetings through May 2025.

Circle 7 – Shari Adams and Caroline Cardwell are the co-leaders for meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Student Center. On September 18, we will make encouraging greeting cards to be distributed by Jill's Blankets to cancer patients along with a fleece blanket, like the ones that will be made in Trinity Hall on October 6. Some of our members have already signed up to help at the October 6 event.

Circle 10 – Sharon Wenger leads this Circle, which meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm. The meeting location changes each month as they meet in members' homes. On September 4 at 6pm, Circle 10 will meet at the home of Karen Shudtz for their September Social.

Mission and More September 11, 10am Room 324

All are invited to come to our September meeting, especially those interested in learning more about Goochland Cares.



Our guest speaker will be Diane Reale, Goochland Cares COO, as we focus on how we can become involved with this new mission partner.

We are asking attendees to bring a household cleaning item to donate to Goochland Cares.

The presentation will be preceded by a brief UWF program, which will include our 2026 pledge service. The topic will be 'Why We Give.'

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

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

We are hosting the state-wide annual meeting this year. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Save the Date! Upcoming Events

Harvest Day – November 13
Sanctuary
Service Day – December 11
Trinity Hall



Top 10 Everyday Items That Last 500 Years

Who doesn't love a Top 10 List? Well, God's Creation doesn't love the lasting impacts of these items

that end up in landfills and oceans. Recent studies show that these items can take 500 years to decompose – during which time they pose a danger to wildlife and contribute to climate change.

1. **Plastic bottles** release microplastics and harmful chemicals as they degrade.
2. **Styrofoam** releases toxic chemicals like styrene and benzene into soil and water.
3. **Thin plastic bags** often break down into microplastics that contaminate waterways and soil and lead to widespread wildlife deaths.
4. **Cigarette butts**, which contain plastic, are the single most littered item worldwide, with over 4.5 trillion discarded annually as of 2024.
5. **Glass bottles** can be recycled but only 60% in the US actually are; the rest go to landfills.
6. **Baby diapers**, composed of plastic, cellulose, and absorbent polymers, release methane and other greenhouse gases as they breakdown. Per a 2023 study, diaper waste comprised nearly 5% of all landfill content in North America.
7. **Tires** can be recycled or repurposed, but half of the 300 million scrap tires the U.S. generates every year end up in landfills per a 2024 study.
8. **Fishing lines**, commonly made of nylon or similar synthetic polymers, are a hidden menace in aquatic environments. These lines entangle fish, turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals.
9. **Tetra Paks**, made of paper, aluminum and plastic and used for packaging milk, juice, and soups, are gaining attention. While marketed as recyclable but needing specialized equipment, less than 30% of Tetra Paks are actually recycled worldwide.
10. **Personal care products** such as plastic toothbrushes, razors, and cosmetic containers are silent contributors to long-term pollution. In 2024 over 2 billion plastic razors and 3.5 billion toothbrushes were thrown away in the U.S. alone.

What can we do? Avoid plastic and Styrofoam; use alternate products when possible. Recycle responsibly.

Thank You Notes

Special Thanks

We appreciate the dedication of Rob Spotts for his continued work on our grounds.

Joys and Concerns

Baptism

Waverly Bechtel

Births

Connor David Goerold & Cole Michael Goerold born on August 18 to Kate and Dave Goerold. Their grandparents are Mike and Kathy Hoover.

Blair Elizabeth Wroten born on August 14 to Mary Margaret and Andrew Wroten. Her grandparents are Peggy and Bruce Watson.

Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for their cards, and kind words on my last month here at Trinity. This congregation will be greatly missed by me. Hope to see you around.

Thank you again!!

Kim Tingler

Suicide Prevention

On **September 25** from 9 AM to 12 noon, the Veteran Community Network of Central Virginia (www.vncentralvirginia.org), is collaborating with the Richmond VA Medical Center to hold a free training session specifically for the faith-based community on suicide prevention for veterans, to include discussions involving firearm safety as it relates to suicide prevention (i.e. Lock and Talk) and military culture.

The training will be held at the VA Chapel at the Richmond VA Medical Center. Networking will start at 8:15 AM and pastries, fruit, and beverages will be available.

If you or a member of your team would like to attend, complete the registration form at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/FHpFpyuag1>. Also, feel free to forward this to other local faith-based leaders.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, September 15 at 4 PM for events taking place in October.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Laura Maher, lmaher@trinityumc.net