

# Tidings



A Monthly Publication from Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, FL

## A Busy Beginning to 2026 for Local Missions

By Marti Chumbler, Local Missions Chair

The start of a new year brings with it new opportunities for Trinity UMC to make an impact for good on Tallahassee and surrounding areas. By the time this *Tidings* is published, twenty-six teams of Trinity members will have stepped in to give regular Meals on Wheels volunteers a day off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Individuals, families, and groups of friends will have delivered meals to over a hundred homebound residents of Tallahassee, bringing them both daily nourishment and social interaction that is often in short supply for those who often live isolated lives.

*Continued...*

### In This Issue

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| A Busy Beginning to 2026 for Local Missions.....             | 1-2 |
| Angel Tree Recap .....                                       | 3   |
| Memorials and Honorariums .....                              | 3   |
| Trinity United Methodist Church 2026 Committees.....         | 4-5 |
| Welcome to Our Newest Staff Members.....                     | 6-7 |
| Church-Wide Lenten Study .....                               | 8   |
| Rev. Opalinski Gets Married! .....                           | 8   |
| Wednesday Worship Night .....                                | 8   |
| Let BFC Ministry Help You Reach Your 2026 Fitness Goals..... | 9   |
| Staff Spotlight .....  | 10  |
| Preschool Update.....  | 10  |
| Children's Ministry Update .....                             | 11  |
| Trinity Youth Happenings.....                                | 11  |

# Local Missions, continued

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build - February 21

Also in January, Trinity's members collected bedding for single beds in anticipation of the bunk beds we will be building for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) on Saturday, February 21. This collection effort will continue until the date of our build.

SHP is a nonprofit organization that builds and delivers bunkbeds for children who would otherwise be sleeping on a couch, on the floor, or crowded together with other family members on a too-small bed. On occasion, such as occurred at the end of 2025, the unavailability of beds is the final impediment to a family being reunited. Beds supplied by SHP allowed the family to spend the holidays back together. In 2025, SHP Tallahassee delivered over 350 beds to children in our community, including those that Trinity built during our spring 2025 SHP build.

We will be building twenty-five bunk beds (50 beds) on Saturday, February 21. As with our 2025 build, we will be teaming up with the FSU/TSC Wesley Foundation and will hold the event again at the Wesley Foundation Pensacola Street parking lot. We need at least seventy-five volunteers to assist with the actual build with tasks appropriate for all ages and abilities, from sorting nuts and screws, to sanding, to cutting lumber to size. Volunteers are also needed to serve on a welcoming committee, to provide coffee and light snacks for the work crew. Finally, we need delivery teams of two to three people per pickup truck to deliver and install the beds. These lucky volunteers have the pleasure of personally witnessing the joy of children receiving what are often the first beds of their own they've ever had. The more delivery teams we have, the more beds we can deliver that same day.

All volunteers will need to register with SHP prior to February 21. There are several different ways you can register:

- Contact me, at [marthalchumbler@gmail.com](mailto:marthalchumbler@gmail.com).
- Register through the link available in the weekly *News & Notes* email.
- Find the event and register on the Events page of the church website, [tumct.org](http://tumct.org).
- Scan the QR code found here and on the Ways to Serve posters at church.
- Register through the Trinity app (see the Local Missions calendar on the Events tab).



Images from our 2025 SHP Bed Build

Once you've registered for our church build, I'll send you the link to the SHP registration. All volunteers should report at 8:30 on the morning of Saturday, February 21, for a short welcome and orientation so that we can begin the actual building sharply at 9:00 a.m.

## Bear Sunday - February 15

Not to be forgotten, February 15 will be our annual Bear Sunday. For this much beloved event, Trinity members supply Teddy bears and other stuffed animals to line the walls of the our worship spaces. (Please note that the 8:30 a.m. service will meet in the sanctuary on Bear Sunday.) In past years, we've collected over 300 stuffed toys that have then been distributed to local organizations including Leon and Wakulla public schools, Jefferson County Health Department, Madison Youth Ranch/Residing Hope, Camelot Community Care, and the Victim Advocate Office of the Second Circuit State Attorney. We also plan to include a stuffed toy for each of the beds built for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



This is just the beginning of what is planned to be a busy and impactful year of mission opportunities for Trinity members. The Local Missions Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at noon, usually in the church Conference Room. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

# Angel Tree Ministry: Sharing Christ's Love This Christmas

By Gail London, Angel Tree Co-Chair

**T**his Christmas season, our Angel Tree Ministry, in partnership with Catholic Charities Christmas Connection, was a beautiful reflection of Christ's love in action. Through the generosity of our congregation and the dedication of many volunteers, more than 300 wishlist gifts and \$1,500 in gift cards were lovingly placed under the Trinity Christmas trees.

By partnering with Catholic Charities, we were able to reach some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Recipients were carefully vetted, selected, and referred by trusted social service agencies, ensuring that our outreach reached those facing the greatest needs. Each gift — whether a toy, blanket, or gift card — represented care, dignity, and hope during the Christmas season.

In addition to the wishlist gifts provided by the congregation, four families were fully adopted by groups within our church: the Chancel Choir and music groups, the Aldersgate Sunday School Class, the Betty Phifer Sunday School Class, and a women's friends group from Trinity. The families included a family of six experiencing homelessness; a family of three with an infant whose father recently lost his job; a family of four led by a single parent raising three teenagers amid financial hardship and loss; and a single mother with two young children who recently moved from homelessness into stable housing while working full-time to build a new life for her family.

Each group met every requested need — and more. Social workers shared the deep joy and gratitude expressed by these families.

Our many volunteers, including our Trinity youth, made this ministry possible. Through sorting, packing, delivering, and supporting every step, they helped ensure that our Angel Tree ministry truly reflected the love of Christ.

*"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*  
- 1 John 3:18

With gratitude,

The Angel Tree Missions Team



## Memorials and Honorariums

January 2026

In memory of Bill and Alice Grow from Allison Grow, MD

# Trinity United Methodist Church 2026 Committees



By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

In the United Methodist Church (UMC), the structure of committees and church leadership is carefully guided by the Book of Discipline to ensure consistency across congregations while still allowing flexibility for local contexts. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee identifies, recruits, and nominates church members for leadership roles.

The Charge Conference is the primary governing body of each local church. It meets at least once a year and is usually presided over by the district superintendent or their designee. Its members include the leaders of the church — officers, committee chairpersons, and others defined locally. The Charge Conference reviews and approves nominations for church leadership; confirms the budget, membership roll, and church goals; and authorizes the establishment or reorganization of committees.

The Church Council is the main governing body of the local church, responsible for ensuring the church's mission and vision while providing careful administrative oversight. The Church Council includes a chairperson, pastors, lay leaders, chairpersons of key committees, and representatives from major ministry areas.

Core administrative committees include the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Trustees, Finance Committee, and Lay Leadership. The Nominations Committee proposes a slate of leaders to fill committee positions each year. As required, Trinity's slate of leaders was presented for approval to the Charge Conference, and after approval, leaders began serving January 1 in the following capacities.

Additional committees at Trinity UMC plan, organize, facilitate, and engage in activities related to Local Missions, World Missions, Health and Wellness, Worship, Disaster Response, Music, Social Justice, and Investment, along with several other designated care teams that serve our church and community. Newly formed this year is the Facility Renovation Committee, a group created to address facility needs that were identified during our 2025 Onward Visioning process.

Together, these church leaders work to carry out the mission and vision of Trinity United Methodist Church and to ensure that our facility, staff, community, and congregation are strengthened to meet the needs of today and the years ahead.

## Church Council Officers

**Chairperson:** James Hunt

**Church Treasurer:** Glen McDuffie

**Financial Administrator:** Laurie Atteberry

**Lay Members to Annual Conference:**

- Kathy Drake, Dan Drake

**Alternates:**

- Stewart Fleming, Linda Fleming

**Lay Leader:** Kathy Drake

**Recording Secretary:** Sean Bower

**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Barton

**Campus Ministry Representative:** Britton Stacey

**Camps and Retreats:** Candace Duclos

## Core Administrative Committees

### Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

**Chairperson:** Pam Epting

**Lay Member to Annual Conference:** Kathy Drake

**Members:**

Alicia Whittington

John Thomas

Gay Annin

Emily Waugh

Randy Clay

Matt Foster

### Committee on Finance

**Chairperson:** Frank Mercer

**Members:**

James Hunt

Pam Epting

Susan Thomas

Stewart Fleming

Emily Waugh

Michael Duclos

Glen McDuffie

Kathy Drake

Nan Hillis

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

**Additional Members (to be added as Charge Conference may determine):**

Brent Chumbler

Joe Williams

Stephen Shiver

Jim Campbell

Lee Nichols

John Thomas

Palmer Williams

Larry Pendleton

Robert McDonald

## Board of Trustees

**Chairperson:** Susan Thomas  
**Vice-Chair:** Heath Annin

**Members:**  
Judy Green  
Laura Rogers  
Bob Burleson  
Will Hall  
Paula Smith

## Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

**Chairperson (Pastor):** Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
**Vice-Chairperson (Lay):** Kathy Drake

**Members:**  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski  
Susan Moreton  
Holly Francis  
Karen Rowan  
Corwin Barnes  
Ray Diaz

## Additional Committees and Leaders

### Local Missions

**Chairperson:** Marti Chumbler

**Members:**  
Ray Diaz  
Daniel Diaz  
Glen Squire  
Jackie Livingston  
Renee White  
Ann Jenkins  
Patty Williams  
Chris LaFever  
Paula Smith  
Gail London-Quickle  
Elizabeth Marschall  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski  
Stephanie Coughlin

### World Missions

**Chairperson:** Jayne Mittan

**Members:**  
Candace Duclos  
Jacqui Griffith  
Rev. Barbara Hynes  
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

### Health and Wellness

**Chairperson:** Beth Curry

**Members:**  
Dan Drake  
Kathy Drake  
Jacqui Griffith  
Amy Leach  
Rev. Wayne Curry

**Worship Committee Chairperson:** Sally Huggins

### Disaster Response Team

**Chairperson:** Jimmy Henderson  
**Co-Chair:** Brian Wheeler

**Members:**  
Gingir Andrews  
Heath Annin  
Linda Bianco  
Marti Chumbler  
Margie Clay  
Pat Crotty  
Beth Curry  
Rev. Wayne Curry  
Rev. Patty Daniels  
Daniel Diaz  
Rachael Diaz  
Cindy Phillips-Donellan  
Linda Fleming  
Stewart Fleming  
John Fogarty  
Janice Foley

Jean Ann Glenn  
Rev. Anne Godbold  
Melanie Gonzalez  
Jaqui Griffith  
Debbie Henderson  
Ann Melder  
Russ Mick  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski  
Karalee Poschman  
Steven Ranner

Karen Russell  
Bill Shults  
Linda Shults  
Paula Smith  
Gary Ware  
Emily Waugh  
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
Rev. Rich Wilson

### Music Committee

**Chairperson:** Pat Gilleland

**Members:**  
Kathy Drake  
Karalee Poschman  
Carole Dalton  
Holly Francis  
Sally Huggins  
Gregory Hilliard

### Social Justice Committee

**Chairperson:**  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

**Members:**  
Rev. Bob Gibbs  
Gloria Colvin  
Marti Chumbler  
Betsy Staut-Willit  
Kathy Drake

Leah Wiley  
Rachael Diaz  
Margie Clay  
Janice Foley

### Facilities Renovation Committee

**Chairperson:** Paula Smith

**Members:**  
Judy Green  
Susan Thomas  
Heath Annin  
Bob Burleson

**Committee for the Preservation of Church History:** Cecile Baker, Chairperson;  
Lynn McLarty, Pam Crosby, Susan Mick, Amy Jones, Pat Striplin

**Prayer Garden Team:** Diane Staubitz, Terrie Lee, Rev. Wayne Curry, Michael Bryan,  
Carol Ann Mathews, Ann Mowell, Barbara Ehlmann, Diane Bower, Emily Waugh

**Prison Ministry:** Rev. Bob Tindale

**Historian:** Lynn McLarty

**Interpreter of Connectional Giving:** Glen McDuffie

**Creation Care Ministry:**

**Children's Home Representative:** Renee White

Stewart Fleming

Linda Fleming

**Anti-Racism Representatives:**

Rev. Barbara Hynes, Rachael Diaz, Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

### Investment Committee

**Chairperson:** Nan Hillis

**Members:**  
Frank Mercer  
Lee Nichols  
Glen McDuffie  
Susan Thomas  
John B. Crowe  
James Campbell  
William Henderson  
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

# Welcome to Newest Staff Members

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

**A**s 2025 came to an end and a new year dawned, you may have noticed a couple of new faces around Trinity. Actually, each of the faces may be familiar to you, but the role as staff member is new! Chip Huggins, who can trace his Trinity association back to infancy, came on board as our very capable Maintenance Technician. Anne Plagens, a member who regularly attends worship services with her family, joined us as a Christian Education Assistant. Let's learn a little about these two great additions to Trinity's staff.

## Meet Chip Huggins

**Chip, many Trinity folks are well-acquainted with you, but there are a lot of people who haven't really met you yet. What can you tell us to help everyone get to know you?**

I was born in Tallahassee and baptized at Trinity. (Fun fact: The baptismal font was given to Trinity by Tom and Birdie Bailey. Tom Bailey was Florida's longest serving state school superintendent and Birdie was my paternal grandmother's first cousin. My parents ended up in Tallahassee due to the Baileys. The font where I was baptized is the same font my children and grandchildren have been baptized at.) I went to North Florida Christian through fifth grade, then to Cobb for middle school, and I graduated from Lincoln High School. I have always worked in construction and owned my own construction maintenance company, until semi-retiring recently. My wife Sally and I have been married for almost 32 years, and we have four kids (Matthew, Meredith, Claire, and Sean) and two grandkids, JJ and Ramsay, who attend Trinity's preschool. My involvement at Trinity really started when I helped with UMYF on Sunday nights in the late '80s, which is how I met Sally, who was also helping out.



**Chip Huggins,  
Maintenance Technician**

**How would you describe what you see as your role here at Trinity?**

I'm the fixer. I fix everything that's not working or figure out why it's not working so an expert can fix it. Basically, you can call me Fix-It Fred. Or Fix-It Chip.

**What's the best thing so far about working at Trinity?**

A steady paycheck. No, seriously, it's nice to work where my grandchildren are. I bring them to preschool every morning, so our conversations on the way to school are always interesting.

**What are your hobbies and interests?**

I like the outdoors – I have a deer feeder in my backyard, and we have about six or seven deer hanging around every day. And I like watching good movies and TV shows. Especially *Andy Griffith*.

**Our senior pastor often refers to Trinity as "the most exciting church in Tallahassee." What excites you about coming on board at Trinity UMC?**

Just being able to put my maintenance experience to good work.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

I think that's all anyone would ever want to know about me.

**Before you get back to fixing things, let's end with a lightning round of favorites:**

- **Favorite food?** Cheese
- **Dream vacation?** Tropical beach location
- **Favorite sport(s) team?** Tallahassee Tiger Sharks
- **Favorite superpower you'd love to have?** I don't need a superpower – I am super enough (said with a grin).
- **Favorite Bible verse?** "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." -Luke 6:31

## Meet Anne Plagens

You've probably seen Anne Plagens and her family at worship services and fulfilling many different volunteer roles at Trinity. However, Anne, a former teacher, recently took on a new role as a member of Trinity's staff. Now, you'll see her working closely with Senior Director of Christian Education Candace Duclos as Christian Education Assistant.

### Welcome, Anne! Tell us a little about your background.

Originally from England, my parents, brother and I moved to Tallahassee in the early 1980s for my dad to continue work on the design and construction of the new Sunshine Skyway Bridge across Tampa Bay. I graduated from Lincoln High School and studied History at Florida State University. While at FSU, I met Michael and we married in 1998 after completing our degrees. We have two precious daughters, Rebecca (23) and Elizabeth (21). My family always attended the Methodist Church both in England and in the US. My parents were married at Trinity Methodist Church in Long Eaton, England. After arriving in Tallahassee, we attended Killearn United Methodist Church, where my mother served on staff for 35 years as Prayer and Member Care Director. While there, my brother and I enjoyed participating in Sunday School, VBS, and the Puppet Ministry in our youth. Our family's longest and most enriching ministry work was the Living Christmas Story (LCS) from 1986-2019. My parents were instrumental in the creation of the production — with Dad building the sets, Mom overseeing the committee and "behind the scenes" details, and my brother and I serving as actors or animal wranglers.



**Anne Plagens,  
Christian Education Assistant**

In 2000, I took on the position of Cast Coordinator of LCS responsible for the 250 actors and scene directors. Michael and our girls enjoyed serving as actors, their favorite roles being Roman Soldier or Gabriel (Michael) and Angels (both girls). Professionally, I began my career working for the State of Florida before taking time to stay home to raise our daughters. I became involved in their school life and served as a substitute teacher for ten years before earning my professional teaching certificate in 2019. After seven years in the classroom, the Lord placed it on my heart that a change was coming, and then Candace asked, "How's school going?"

### How would you describe what you see as your role here at Trinity?

I serve as the assistant to the Senior Director of Christian Education. My role is to do whatever Candace needs me to do! I'm looking forward to working with children in Sunday School, NETKids, and VBS, using my creativity and organizational skills for special projects, and supporting our adult ministries as needed.

### What's the best thing so far about working at Trinity?

The people! There is a real sense of community, love, and purposefulness here. We are all going about doing our own tasks and getting the work done, but there's always time for a chat, a laugh, and a slice of pizza!

### What are your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy learning about history, particularly British and American history.

### Our senior pastor often refers to Trinity as "the most exciting church in Tallahassee." What excites you about coming on board at Trinity UMC?

When entering the doors of Trinity four years ago, we immediately felt seen and loved. Everyone quickly found "their place" as part of the Trinity community. We all love Trinity. It is a vibrant, multi-generational, church in the heart of downtown Tallahassee with deep roots and traditions and an awareness and of the present while forwardly facing the future. Our congregation comes from all parts of the city, uniting as brothers and sisters in Christ, to worship and share God's love with our community, our region, our country, and the world. It's exciting and energizing!

### Anne, before we close out, let's have a lightning round of favorites:

- Favorite food?** I enjoy most foods, but during the holidays it's nice to indulge in some English treats like sausage rolls, Christmas pudding, and trifle. When we visit family in the UK, I always need to have some pork pie, a ploughman's lunch, and fish and chips with mushy peas!
- Dream vacation?** We've already taken it but would love to go again! October 2023. Our 25th wedding anniversary. Michael and I went on a 10-day Viking River Cruise down the Rhine River from Switzerland to The Netherlands.
- Favorite sport(s) team?** Philadelphia Eagles (by marriage). Go Birds!
- Favorite superpower you'd love to have?** The power to let people feel and understand unconditional LOVE. How that would change the world! Care Bear Share!
- Favorite Bible verse?** "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." -Proverbs 16:9

# Church-wide Lenten Study

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

**T**he reflective season of Lent is upon us. Our observance of the Lenten season will begin on February 18, Ash Wednesday, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a service at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you plan to attend the dinner, please be sure to register by app, website, or phone.

To attune our hearts with one another during this Lenten season, everyone is encouraged to find a small group that is participating in our church-wide Lenten study of *The Last Supper* by Will Willimon. Our pastors will be incorporating this study into their weekly sermons during Lent. While additional groups may still form, here is a list of groups that have confirmed participation in the study at the time of publication:

- Sundays | Early Risers | 8:30 a.m. | Library
- Sundays | Agape | 9:45 a.m. | Room 301
- Sundays | Aldersgate | 9:45 a.m. | Room 305
- Sundays | Just Us Gals | 9:45 a.m. | Grooms' Room
- Mondays | Women's Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. | Library
- Tuesdays | Men's Daybreak | 7:00 a.m. | Moor Hall
- Tuesdays | Northeast Group | 6:30 p.m. | Home of Glen and Cindy McDuffie
- Tuesdays | Lake Talquin Group | 6:30 p.m. | Home of Michael and Marilyn Duclos
- Wednesdays | Parenting Village (abridged version) | 6:15 p.m. | Conference Room



*The Last Supper* is a six-week Lenten study that explores the parables of Jesus that were told during meals. God's kingdom is revealed through stories of mercy and hospitality, with the Last Supper being the most significant. I will have copies of the book available to purchase at church, or you can order your copy through your favorite bookseller. If you need assistance or further information, please contact me at [cduclos@tumct.org](mailto:cduclos@tumct.org).

## Rev. Opalinski Gets Married!

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

**O**n Saturday, January 10, Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski married Mr. Jacob Tenison at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church. The marriage ceremony was livestreamed and is available to view on our [Trinity YouTube channel](#).



Groom, Mr. Jacob Tenison, and Bride, Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

## Wednesday Night Worship

By Alex Taylor, Contemporary Worship Music Leader

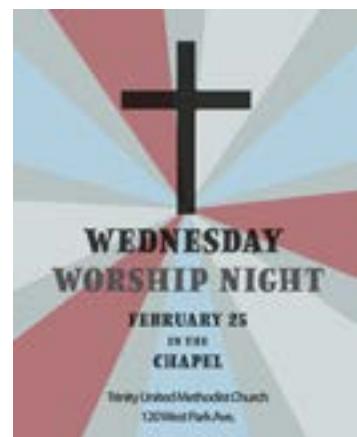
**T**he Contemporary Worship Team invites you to a special evening of song and prayer on Wednesday, February 25. The program will be one hour long, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and will be preceded by dinner in Moor Hall. There is no charge for dinner, but a Love Offering will be accepted.

Following dinner, we will gather in the chapel, with the lights turned low and candles lit, to foster an atmosphere of meditative stillness and contemplative beauty.

The evening will feature familiar Sunday morning songs, including:

"Holy Forever"  
"Goodness of God"  
"Yet Not I, But Christ Through Me"  
"Worthy of Your Name"  
"Holy Spirit"  
...and more!

We hope you'll join us for this quiet, intentional time of worship and prayer together.



# Let BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry Help You Reach Your 2026 Fitness Goals

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

**I**t's hard to believe it's February already. How are you doing with your New Year's fitness resolutions? Why not try one of the five weekly BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Exercise classes or learn how to play Pickleball as you work to reach your goals? There is something for everyone!

## Staying Strong meets Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m.

This basic exercise class begins with a gradual warm-up, followed by upper and lower body and core and balance exercises, and finishes with a relaxing flexibility segment all while standing or seated. It's a great multilevel class appropriate for beginners, those looking to do prehab before surgery, or those looking to perform seated and standing exercise only.



Members of the BFC Staying Strong class

## Variety Mix meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

This fun, fast-paced exercise class begins with an aerobic warm-up, followed by upper and lower body resistance training and core and balance training, and finishes with flexibility exercise. It's an intermediate to advanced level class that may include squats, lunges and floor exercise.



Members of the BFC Variety Mix class

## Flex on the Floor meets Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.

This stretch class begins with a standing dynamic stretch warm-up, followed by static stretching on a mat using a small ball for rolling and stretch straps. It's great for those who wish to improve flexibility and mobility as well as reduce stress.

## Trinity Pickleball meets Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

This group meets at FSU Wesley Foundation for open play. For those who wish to learn how to play, please email Beth Curry for details.

BFC is more than a health and fitness ministry — it's also a thriving outreach. Thanks to the continued faithful class contributions, BFC was able to purchase ten more coats (since October, there have been about 50 purchased and given out), 80 pairs of socks, and 100 thermal emergency blankets that were given out with Snack Packs in advance of the recent cold weather!

All BFC exercise classes are available in person in Moor Hall and via ZOOM. Advanced registration is required for both exercise and Pickleball. Please contact Beth Curry at [BFCSeries@yahoo.com](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com) for details or call the church office and ask for a call back. More information and registration forms may also be found on the Adult Ministries page of the Trinity UMC website: <https://tumct.org/adult-ministries>. Scroll down to Becoming Fit at Church.



Pickleball in action

# Staff Spotlight: Laurie Atteberry

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

Keeping track of Trinity's finances and making sure our staff gets paid is a major undertaking, but with the help of Dori Barton (you'll learn more about Dori in next month's *Tidings*), Laurie gets it done! Laurie Atteberry, Trinity's Business Administrator, comes to us by way of Des Plaines, Illinois (27 years), then Miami. After her daughter was born in 2000, she moved to Tallahassee.

Laurie attended Miami Dade Community College in her 30s, where she learned about all things having to do with finances! She has been an administrator for a variety of businesses in the past including a cardiologist, a plastic surgeon, a dentist, a CPA, TOSC, and St. Paul's UMC. She also worked in export licensing for two aircraft companies!

When it's time to relax, her taste in music runs the gamut from Oldies, Jazz, Blues, and Big Band to Rock and Musicals! Also, music from Ireland, India, or Native American cultures are favorites! When it comes to eating out, she likes Italian, but Mexican are close seconds.

Currently, she doesn't have a pet, but on a cold morning, she can be found bundled up with a cup of hot decaf espresso watching her bird feeders!

Here's what you need to know about Laurie next October: her house does a large neighborhood Halloween Haunt each year and has done so for the last 25 years. The highest turnout has been 1,000 visitors (including repeats). As you can imagine, her hobby outside of work is getting ready for next year's production.

After reading this article, our Trinity family will probably be adding her Halloween Haunt to their calendars. Be prepared, Laurie!



Laurie Atteberry

## Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..."  
- Matthew 19:14

Trinity United Methodist preschool first opened its doors in the fall of 1973. Today, we are a high-quality early education provider offering full-time options for families in the Tallahassee area. We are a Gold Seal School, a VPK provider, and a top-performing early education center that is home to 75 children per year.

If you are interested in enrolling a child in Trinity's weekday preschool, please note the following dates:

- **February 9** - Enrollment begins for currently enrolled families
- **February 10** - Enrollment begins for legacy and church families
- **February 11** - Open enrollment begins

To learn more about our preschool, including general information, rates, hours of operation, and contact information for Director of Preschool Erin Casey, please be sure to explore the "[About Our Preschool](#)" page of the church website, [tumct.org](http://tumct.org).



Preschool  
Enrollment

Currently Enrolled Families:

• **February 9, 2026**

Legacy and Church Families:

• **February 10, 2026**

Open Enrollment Begins:

• **February 11, 2026**

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact  
Director of Preschool Erin Casey  
850-224-8992  
[ecasey@tumct.org](mailto:ecasey@tumct.org)



[tumct.org/about-our-preschool](http://tumct.org/about-our-preschool)

# Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

**S**ummer will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend Vacation Bible School. Through *Rainforest Falls*, children will discover the nature of God. [Registration is open now for children in rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade.](#) Youth and adult volunteers are also needed. [Registration is open for volunteers as well.](#)

Trinity UMC kids will attend Warren Willis Camp during Week 5, which is July 13-18. Camp is for rising fourth-graders through super seniors (those who have just graduated in May 2026). Registration is now open on the [Warren Willis website](#). Be sure to secure your spot now!



Between now and summer, our enriching slate of weekly children's activities continues, with our Wednesday afternoon NETKids program (for which advance registration is required), Sunday school each week at 9:45, and Kids' Praise during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

In other news, please note that our Sunday morning nursery has moved to the second floor of the Education Building, where other Sunday children's activities are already located. Those looking for a nursery for children birth to age two on Sunday mornings will now find it located in room 204.



VBS: June 8-12



Camp: July 13-18

## Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

**T**rinity youth took a trip to Rock the Universe at Universal Studios Orlando, January 22-25. It was an unforgettable weekend of faith, fun, fellowship, and Christian music. Special thanks to Chip and Sean Huggins, who made sure the church bus and van were sparkling clean for our trip!



Looking ahead, there are many exciting dates to put on your calendar. Look for sign-up links on the Trinity app and website:

- **Our summer Youth Mission Trip will be May 30 - June 4.** We will be traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana. The cost is \$500. We will be organizing fundraisers between now and then to help offset the cost. More details to come, but the sign-up is live now on the website and app. Mark your calendar, get registered, and plan to join us!
- **VBS is scheduled for June 8 - 12.** Plan to sign up as a volunteer — we need lots of Crew Leaders! Set-up and training will take place on Sunday, June 7. You will need to be here 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day that week. Sign-ups are live now.
- **We will attend Warren Willis Camp during Week 5, July 13 - 18.** This is for rising fourth-graders through Super Seniors (those who have just graduated in May 2026). Registration through the Warren Willis site is linked on our app and website. Please be aware that everyone from Trinity who signs up receives a \$100 scholarship from our church.
- **Youth Week 2026 will be July 26 - 31.** Theme, agenda, and sign-up will be available soon!



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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel  
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall  
Liturgical Service: 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

9:45 Contemporary Service and 11:00 Liturgical Service are livestreamed  
on [YouTube@TrinityUMCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityUMCTallahassee)

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## PASTORAL STAFF

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Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, *Associate Pastor*  
Rev. E. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*  
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*  
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*  
Erin Casey, *Director of Preschool*  
Douglas Chaplow, *Organist*  
Zachary Cramer, *AV Technician*  
Candace Duclos, *Senior Director of Christian Education*  
Betsy Ginger, *Culinary Director*  
Melanie Gonzalez, *Director of Operations*

Gregory Hilliard, *Director of Traditional Music*  
Chip Huggins, *Maintenance Technician*  
Susan Koehler, *Director of Communications*  
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*  
Anne Plagens, *Christian Education Assistant*  
Britton Stacey, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
Alex Taylor, *Contemporary Music Worship Leader*  
Heather Watson, *Administrative Assistant*

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## TIDINGS TEAM

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Susan Koehler, *Editor*

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