



Trinity United Methodist Church
903 Forest Avenue
Henrico, Virginia 23229

January 2026

The Trinity Window

PASTOR'S PEN

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Trinity is blessed. We have so much talent. We have professionals who are the top of their field. We have so much heart. We give generously to support so many good causes including being the biggest church supporters of Shine-forth (formerly United Methodist Family Services) and the Samaritan Fund. We have so much passion. We have so many that lead and advocate for and volunteer for a myriad of missions and ministries, so many that I can't even begin to name them without leaving someone out. The enthusiasm that this church has is second to none.

We have so much light to give to the world. As we venture into 2026, let us strive to find ways to do so even more. We are already good at supporting each other, especially in times of need. We are already good at supporting ministries around us and the world. We are already good at welcoming those who show up for worship and events. Let us take that energy and find ways to share Christ's light with others in new ways and with those outside our own walls. Let us be the saltiest salt and the brightest light.

One thing I have noticed at Trinity is that while individuals and small groups have such amazing passion and heart and skill, we lack a coherent vision of what "us" as a whole means. This year we are launching a long-range planning process. Stay tuned for details on what that will look like and who is involved in it. Ultimately, it will help us define who we are more clearly and where we are going together on a multi-year trajectory. This is exciting stuff that will help guide us as we continue to come together for the good of the community.

Let us lean into our strengths and go forth in the knowledge that God goes with us. As every angel ever says: "Be not afraid." Do not be afraid of the unknown. Do not be afraid of the new. Do not be afraid of the other. We are Trinity, a light that shines before all. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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, January 20: An afternoon with our favorite speaker, our own Bill Pike! We will meet in Trinity Hall from 2-3:30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

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"

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 23, Catherine Evans Johnson, daughter of Griffin and Annie Johnson, was baptized. Thanks be to God!

THANKS FROM PASTOR BRIAN

I would like to thank everyone for the multitude of cards, gifts, messages, and hand-crafted goodies that Holly and I have received this year. You are all special, and we appreciate all of the time, sentiment, and thought that went into what you have given.

PUB THEOLOGY— 2026 DATES

Thanks to everyone who came out on December 9 for the Christmas carol sing-a-long. The Sleepy Hollow Bluegrass Band gave us a good set off Christmas music with solid musicianship and pretty harmonies. We also appreciate those who shared early batches of their Christmas cookies.

We hope you will join us again in 2026 for Pub Theology at the WayGone Brewery. Here are the dates: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.

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.

WINTER WEATHER AND BUILDING SECURITY

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.

As a final reminder, local police departments and our property insurance provider recommend that we keep all perimeter doors for our building secure. If you need access to the building other than for a class or a celebration of life, the church office entrance is your best point of entry. Any questions, please contact Bill Pike at bpiketrinityumc.net

BELLEMEADE PARK HOLIDAY PARTY

Approximately 30 children, along with siblings and parents attended the annual Bellemeade Saturday Literacy Academy's Holiday Party on December 12. Volunteers included students and teachers from Collegiate School that are routinely present at the Academy, friends and family members of Bob Argabright, Jo Lewis, Shannon Norris and her father, and Steve Werner. Party highlights included time with Santa and selecting jewelry on tables for children to gift their mothers. Each child was also given a gift bag containing items lovingly made by our own Trinity Stitchers (pillow cases, knitted hats and scarves, Christmas ornaments) and personal Christmas messages written by Collegiate students. The children also received books donated by a number of Trinity members and the Dolly Parton Foundation.

Our ministry in the Park has been very rewarding to the children, the volunteers, and those living in the Oak Grove-Bellemeade community. Increased participation by Trinity in the Bellemeade Park mission will bring joy to all who experience the park in 2026 and beyond.



JANUARY STUDIES

On Monday, January 12, the **Dillard Bible Study Group** will start a six-week study of *Called* by Susan Robb; meeting via Zoom starting at 7pm. If you are interested in joining us for this study, please contact Dianne Moore.

Pastor Daniel's study will resume studying **The Screwtape Letters** on Thursdays beginning January 8. They meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm (no meeting on January 22).

The **Monday Morning study** meets on January 12 and 26, February 2, 9, and 23, and March 9. They will be studying Adam Hamilton's *Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple*.

Pastor Brian's study will begin a 17-week study of the **Gospel of Matthew** beginning on January 14. They meet on Wednesdays at 1:30pm.

THANK YOU FROM THE TRINITY STAFF!

All the Trinity staff truly appreciate all the love, cards, gifts, and treats that members of the Trinity congregation bestow on us during this special season, and throughout the year! We love and treasure each of you. A special thank you to the SPRC who planned a special lunch—we are so thankful!



CREATION CARE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

At the beginning of this year, think back to the beginning in Genesis. God gave us the Earth to tend and care for. Renew your commitment to be good stewards. Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation.

Eat less or no beef. Why not eat beef? Wanting this food increases the demand for grazing land and corn cultivation, which increases deforestation (even in the Amazon Rainforest) and emissions as grain travels to cattle, cattle to slaughter, meat to groceries and restaurants. Reduce those pressures.

Stop wearing plastic. Are you surprised? Synthetic fibers from clothing are a significant contribution to microplastic pollution. Go back to nature—wool, cotton, silk, and even bamboo and hemp. Plastic doesn't go away.

Choose aluminum. Plastic bottles or aluminum cans? Technically, both are recyclable. However, due to multiple factors beyond putting it in the recycling bin, plastic is less likely to be recycled into new products. On the other hand, the systems for recycling aluminum are effective.

For more tips and details on this information, check out the website: umcreationjustice.org

Excerpted from United Methodist Creation Justice Tips



ADVENT 2025—THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped make Advent such a joy—from arranging the incredible and meaningful decorations, those that helped us plan events and host receptions, the choristers and musicians that provided special music, the greeters, the shoppers that offered gifts and donations to our Advent mission opportunities, the audio/visual technicians that offered live streams to those around the world, the ushers who handed out bulletins and candles, the thespians who offered this year's Christmas play, the many helpers at the Instant Kids Christmas Pageant, and so many more. Trinity is blessed!



2026 CONFIRMATION—SHARE YOUR INTEREST BY JANUARY 18!

Pastor Daniel is preparing for Confirmation!

In the United Methodist Church, Confirmation is the first time a baptized Christian publicly “confirms” their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and becomes a professing member of the local congregation of the church. Prior to Confirmation Sunday, there is a 7 week process of classes and conversations to prepare the student for this decision.

E-mail Daniel at dguenther@trinityumc.net by **January 18** to indicate if you are interested in participating and a preferred mentor, if you have one. Pastor Daniel would be happy to assign a mentor.

KEY DATES:

Feb. 1: Confirmation Orientation Meeting. 12:30-1:30 in the Student Center. Lunch will be provided.

Feb. 8-Mar. 8: Confirmation Teaching Sessions. All sessions are on Sundays from 12:30-2:00 in the Student Center. Lunch will be provided. During this period, students will also meet with mentors off site to check in. Mentors will coordinate details with students, and parents.

Mar. 9-14: Confirmation Check Ins. These are meetings with Daniel, each individual confirmand, and the confirmands' parents.

Mar. 14: Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner. 5-7pm at Trinity. We will meet in the sanctuary to rehearse the worship service, and then move to Trinity Hall to have dinner together.

Mar. 15: Confirmation Sunday. Students can choose to be confirmed during the 9am or the 11am church services. Parents are encouraged to invite extended family to join in what is a truly joyful celebration. Youth Group will be a Confirmation Party.

TRINITY STUDENTS CELEBRATION

There were 46 students at the Trinity Students Christmas party! What a joy to have a thriving student ministry. If you'd like to be involved with the student ministry, we have volunteer coordinators that would love to speak with you! Reach out to Pastor Daniel at dguenther@trinityumc.net to get connected.



BELLEMEADE—CONSERVE AND CREATE CELEBRATION

Through Bob Argabright's efforts, **Bellemeade Park was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Community Foundation to construct a rain garden** in the area between the Park's creek and the chicken coup. The majority of the construction was completed in the first week of December by a contractor. On December 6, approximately 30 volunteers spread mulch and leveled rutted areas created by the construction equipment. Trinity volunteers included Bob and Mark Bennett. Conserve and Create activities are suspended in January and February 2026 and will resume on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

DID YOU KNOW? HELP TRINITY'S SOCIAL MEDIA'S REACH!

Did you know: one of the simplest and most meaningful ways you can support the life and outreach of our church is by engaging with our social media! When you react, comment on, and share posts, it signals to social media platforms that our content matters. The "algorithm" then exposes it to more non-followers, helping us reach people well beyond our immediate community. A testament to this influence: on our recent Tacky Light Tour, our largest group—a family from the Varina area—found us via Facebook and signed up to attend via our Trinity website! A brief comment or quick "share" can introduce a neighbor, friend, or even someone you've never met to what God is doing here and offer them an invitation they would not otherwise see.

To make the biggest impact, focus on **interaction and sharing**. Interaction comes in the forms of "reactions" and comments—even short ones! Commenting—and replying to comments—is one of the biggest ways to help and keep posts active for longer. Reactions help to a lesser extent—in regards to Facebook, the "Love", "Care", and "Wow" buttons are most helpful. When combined with comments, the reactions make a difference!

Sharing, the most valuable way to engage, moves our content beyond our existing network. Adding a personal note when you share helps even more with visibility. A personal note may be as simple as "loved this message!", "this is one of my favorite events!", "I'll be there!", or similar.

These small ways of engagement help us extend our welcome far beyond our walls, creating more opportunities for connection, community, and hope.

Follow us on all our platforms!



PRAYERS

We offer our prayers and condolences to:

The friends and family of Richard Kannan, who passed away on December 5.

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

Lisa Abrams and her family after the passing of her father, Frank Abrams on December 10.

The family and friends of Marble Jones and Stan Jones. Marble passed away on November 18, and her son, Stan, passed away on December 13.

Colby Benton and his family after the passing of his father, Jesse Benton, on December 24.

SANCTUARY BIBLE UPDATE

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 upon the following: the wooden racks frequently need repair, via technology and Sunday morning bulletins—the Bible readings are readily available in all worship services, and finally, the pew Bibles were rarely used.

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, those Bibles are being stored in the Conference Room across from the Sanctuary. With questions, contact Bill Pike at bpiketrinityumc.net

MAIL CALL FOR HONDURAS!

Our Medical Mission Team trip to Honduras takes place January 17-25. One of the highlights of our mission team's day is receiving mail. We invite you to consider writing a note of support to each of our team members—whether you know them or not. A note of encouragement goes a long way! Please have notes to Judy Oguich by Tuesday, January 13.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Medical Team to Honduras!

Nicole Myers

McKenzie Myers

Karson Girvin

Wendy Mallory

Virginia Rhines

Mark Shreve

Linda Hart

Roger Hart Sr.

Kristen Powell

Daniel Guenther

Chris Morris

Keith Gargiulo

Joseph Thompson

GOOCHLAND CARES—THANK YOU!

Trinity continues to be a wonderful support for one of our key mission partners, GoochlandCares! We serve in the Food Pantry once a month and the Clothes Closet once a month. This team served on December 13th picking up and bringing Publix donations to the Food Pantry before cleaning every shelf, handle, surface, and cart in the Pantry. They even brought wrapping paper for GoochlandCares clients to wrap holiday gifts. Way to go, team!

The next opportunities to serve will be Saturday, January 10th in the Food Pantry and Monday, January 12th in the Clothes Closet. For comprehensive information and a link to register, visit: trinityumc.net/missions and click on “GoochlandCares Serving Opportunities”.



KIDS CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Kids Camp takes place on July 6-10 from 9am-12:30pm. Rising kindergarteners thru rising 5th graders will be placed in crews for the week! Crews will travel to five different stations each day - bible adventures (bible story), imagination station (science experiments), games and recreation, snack, and Sticky Scripture (bible games).

Adult and teen leaders will guide kids as they step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Registration is now open at an early bird price—scan the QR code below to get started!





United
Women
in Faith

2026 Mapping Our Way Forward

Our 2026 theme is about finding our way in uncertain times, mapping our plans, and holding on to the balance of grounding and flowing as we do it.

All are invited and welcome to any or all our meetings. Information on Circle meetings, including the contact person for each, can be found on the website. Contact Dianne Moore for information on Trinity's UWF unit.

Circle January Activities

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30 to hear a speaker from Safe Harbor.

Circle 7 will meet for dinner at Greek Taverna on Thursday, January 15 at 6:30. They will also be writing Valentine's Day cards for the homebound.

Circle 10 will meet at the home of Bana Caskey, Thursday, January 8 at 7:00. Brittany Averette from Sylvia's Sisters will be the guest speaker.

Upcoming Meetings

January 8 – 10:00 Room 324
Program: 'Light For Our Path'
and Installation of Officers

February 12 – 10:00 Chapel
Call to Prayer & Self-Denial:
The Future Is Now, Invest In
Our Children

March 12 – 9:00 Trinity Hall-
Spring Service Day

Advent Service Day

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Service Day. We got a lot done for others and enjoyed a musical program from the Anna Julia Cooper School students.



Birthday cards for OGES;
Christmas cards for home-
bound members



15 greenery
centerpieces
prepared for
homebound
members & 1
for AJC
School



680 candles prepared for
Christmas Eve services



200 mini loaves for the
Oak Grove ES staff



Presents wrapped for Shineforth children



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

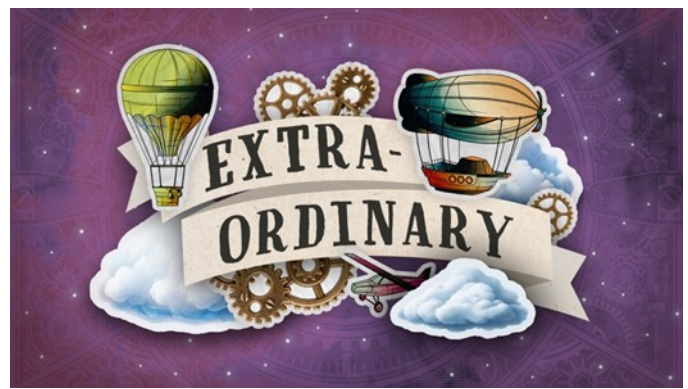
on Sunday evenings in room 302. Our program includes dinner and activities/games!

Our winter dates for Transit are:

January 4, 11, 25

February 1, 22

March 1, 8, 15, 22



Inventors take ordinary objects and transform them into extraordinary innovations with some creativity and a lot of tinkering. But Jesus didn't need tools, blueprints, or a workshop to make extraordinary things happen. On the outside, Jesus may have seemed ordinary, but his life, actions, and love regularly defied expectations. He transformed ordinary people and situations, showing us what an extraordinary God can do. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that Jesus is one of a kind, Jesus is humble, Jesus trusted God, and Jesus calls us to follow.



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

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



Trinity Kids ministry is so excited to present our 3rd graders with their own bible to ignite their love of reading God's word! Bibles will be presented at the 9am worship service on Sunday, January 25.

Please contact Jen at kids@trinityumc.net if your 3rd grader would like to receive a bible!

TRINITY TRIP TO:
U OF R / DAVIDSON
BASKETBALL GAME
 Saturday, January 31
 Transport from Trinity available
 Scan for more info & ticket link:






We're going to a basketball game! We have a block of seats to sit together at a special price for the Saturday, January 31st game between University of Richmond and Davidson College. Pastor Daniel, Mary Neary, and Bill Burch are all Davidson alum! Whether you're cheering on the Spiders or the Wildcats, we know you'll have a great time with your Trinity family.

Pastor Brian will offer van rides from Trinity to University of Richmond for those who would prefer not to park on campus. The game is a 4:30 start time; arrive at Trinity by 3:30pm if you'd like to ride over to the game. Please let Laura know at lmaher@trinityumc.net if you'd like to use Trinity transport.

To purchase your tickets, scan the QR code above or use our special link:
<https://richmondspiders.evenue.net/promotions> and use the promo code TRINITY.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I went to Target in the pre-dawn hours of Christmas morning, only to be immediately visually assaulted by calendars and exercise equipment. Can't a girl enjoy a Reece's tree on Christmas Day before the new year's pressures begin?!

The start of a new year so often brings an unspoken demand: some iteration of *be better* or perhaps *do more*. I like to think the scripture offers us a gentler truth, and we are invited into faithfulness every day and one choice at a time. Lamentations 3:22-23 says that "*the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.*" Every morning—not just January 1. We don't have to overhaul our lives overnight for God to be near. Consider small beginnings and choices that may never make it onto a calendar or resolution list—like beginning the day with a prayer after a long silence or making the decision to attend a class during discipleship hour. In the insightful words of Anna from Disney's Frozen: "Just do the next right thing...take a step, step again." God is with you on all your steps, all year, in every ordinary morning and with every small decision. 2026: let's do this!

Laura

FEBRUARY DEADLINE

Articles for the February edition of The Window are due by January 15.
 All articles or questions may be submitted to Laura Maher at lmaher@trinityumc.net.
 Thank you!

