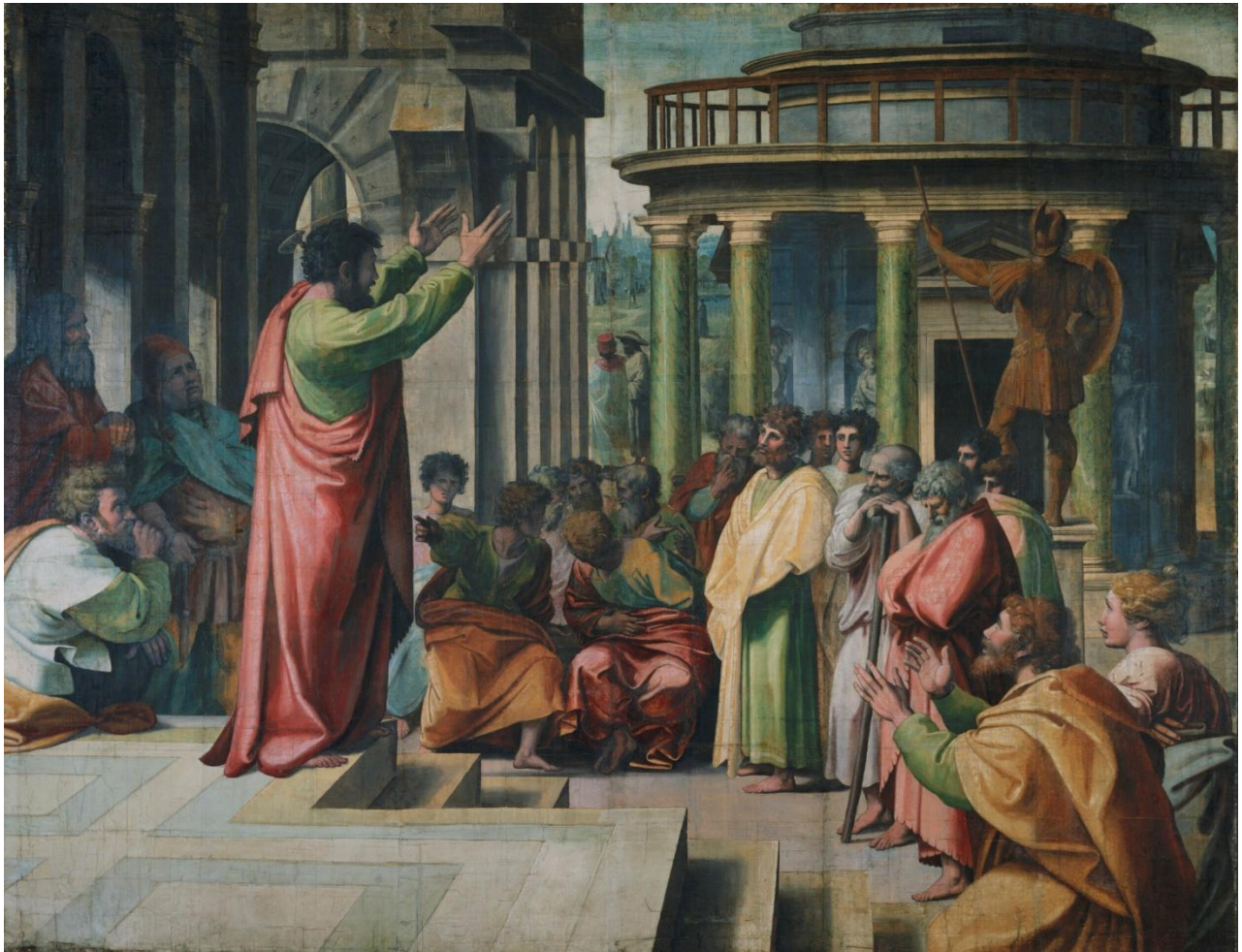


# Trinity United Methodist Church



"Paul Preaching at Athens," Raphael  
Full-scale illustration for tapestry (Italian, 1516)

*always be ready*

*to give an answer*

*but do this with gentleness*

*and respect*

*1 Peter 3:15b*

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June 7, 2026

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete the registration pad and pass it down. For those worshipping in the Chapel today, please complete an attendance card. Remember to name each family member present today. **Please join us in our Fellowship Lobby following each service for delicious food and a chance for us to get to know one another!**

PRELUDE

Largo (Handel)

Jerry Rich

WELCOME

\* Call to Worship

from Psalm 66 and 1 Peter 3

Come and see what the Lord has done, his wondrous deeds for humankind!

**The Lord turned the sea into dry land;  
the people passed through the waters on foot.  
Come, let us rejoice in our Deliverer!**

In your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to name the reason for the hope you carry.

**But this we do with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God;

**let me tell you what God has done for me.**

\* Gathering Hymn

*This Is My Father's World*

UMH 144

**This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world,  
the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
he shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world.  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and All-knowing God,  
you who embolden the meek and open the ears of the unheeding,  
**we confess to you that at times we have concealed our identity  
as your people. Too often have we hesitated to speak for Christ  
and withheld from our neighbors the Good News.**

**We expect others to speak for you;  
we consider our own faith to be a private matter.**

**Forgive us our halting witness, our passionless discipleship,  
and our propensity to repeat the mistakes of the past.**

Hear now, O Lord, our effort to lay before you what shackles us...

[a time of silent confession]

Awaken in us, this yet un-lived day, the joy of your salvation  
that makes abundant life worth sharing. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Dave Rochford

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:16-31

Kathy Lindstedt (8:30)  
Ryan Summers (10:30)

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

*This I Proclaim to You*

Dave Rochford

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]*

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and vine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.



\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

*Hornpipe in F* (Handel)  
*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* (arr. Whalum)

Jerry Rich (8:30)  
Chancel Choir (10:30)

*\*congregation invited to stand*

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# Grow — Pray — Study

Our weekly devotional is available at <https://bit.ly/TrinityGPS>



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## Monday, June 8 — 1 Peter 3:13–18

Peter writes to Christian believers who live in a world that does not always understand or welcome their expressed faith. Yet rather than encouraging defensiveness or caution, he calls them to “always be ready to make your defense, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” Faithful witness is not merely about “having the right answers.” It is also about reflecting the peaceable character of Christ in the way we speak and live. Too many conversations about faith today become arguments before they are enabled to become relationships. We may feel pressure to prove ourselves, defend every belief, or respond immediately to slights or criticism - but Peter offers another way! People are often more willing to listen when they see humility, kindness, and integrity. Before our words speak of God, our lives will speak first.

- Have you encountered someone whose character made you more willing to listen to their beliefs?
- How might God be inviting you to demonstrate “gentleness and respect” in a difficult conversation?
- **Prayer:** Gracious God, help me reflect Christ in both my words *and* my actions. Teach me to speak with humility, kindness, and courage so that others may sense your love through me. Amen.

## Tuesday, June 9 — Colossians 4:2–6

Paul encourages believers to devote themselves to prayer and to conduct themselves wisely toward outsiders. He reminds them that their speech should always be gracious, “seasoned with salt,” so that they may know how to answer everyone. Paul understands that the way Christians communicate will either open doors or close them. In many ways, our culture calls for quick rejoinders, strong opinions, and winning arguments. Yet Paul makes the claim that gracious speech neither avoids truth-telling nor fails to communicate the Gospel in ways that honor the dignity of others. Sometimes the most faithful witness is not found in saying more, but in *listening carefully and responding thoughtfully*. God really can use words spoken with grace to create opportunities for deeper conversations.

- Who in your life might benefit from a more patient and gracious listening from you?
- How can prayer help shape the way you communicate with others this week?
- **Prayer:** God of wisdom, guide my speech and guard my heart. Help me listen well, speak graciously, and reflect your love in every conversation. Amen.

### Wednesday, June 10 — John 4:1–30

When Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, he crosses multiple barriers that would have confined others. Differences of ethnicity, religion, gender, and social standing stood between them; Jesus begins not with judgement, but with a simple request for help. Through conversation, mutual understanding begins to grow, and the woman eventually discovers that she is speaking with the Messiah.

John here reminds us that meaningful encounters often begin with genuine curiosity and respect. In a world that often divides people into categories, Jesus demonstrates a different approach, seeing a whole person. We knew this already: God's grace most often reaches people through relationships, conversations, and moments of authentic connection.

- When have you learned something valuable from someone whose background or perspective differed from your own?
- How might God be inviting you to build a bridge rather than reinforce a barrier?
- **Prayer:** Loving God, help me see others through your eyes. Give me a spirit of openness, compassion, and understanding so that I may reflect your welcome to all people. Amen.

### Thursday, June 11 — Acts 10:23–35

Peter's visit to the home of Cornelius proves astonishing to him. Through a series of visions and encounters, God expands Peter's understanding of who belongs within God's family. Standing before Cornelius and his household, Peter owns that God shows no partiality, but welcomes people from every nation who seek God.

Growth in faith often involves allowing God to challenge our assumptions. We naturally develop expectations about who is like us and who is different from us. Yet throughout Scripture, God often surprises people by working in unexpected places, through unexpected individuals. A humble faith remains open to the possibility that God may very well have something new to teach us.

- Has there been a time when God used an unexpected person or experience to teach you something important?
- What assumptions or expectations might God be inviting you to reconsider?
- **Prayer:** God of all people, enlarge my heart and broaden my vision. Help me recognize your work in places I might otherwise overlook. Amen.

### Friday, June 12 — James 3:13–18

James contrasts two kinds of wisdom. One is driven by envy, selfish ambition, and rivalry. The other "comes from above" and is characterized by purity, peace, gentleness, mercy, and sincerity.

In public discussions, social media exchanges, and even church conversations, it is easy to confuse being right with being wise. James reminds us that godly wisdom bears the fruit of peace. This does not mean avoiding difficult issues, but it *does* mean approaching them with humility and grace. Wisdom from God seeks understanding before judgment, and reconciliation over division.

- Which qualities of godly wisdom described by James do you most desire to cultivate?
- How can you become a source of peace in one relationship or situation this week?
- **Prayer:** God of wisdom, form within me a spirit of peace, humility, and sincerity. Help me seek understanding and reflect your grace wherever I go. Amen.

### Saturday, June 13 — Matthew 5:13–16

Jesus tells his followers that they are "the salt of the earth and the light of the world." Salt preserves and enhances. Light illuminates and guides. Neither draws much attention to itself; both serve a greater purpose. Just so, Jesus calls his disciples to live in ways that help others see God's goodness.

As we prepare for worship tomorrow, this passage invites us to reflect on how our daily lives bear witness to Christ. Most acts of faithfulness are not dramatic, but are found in ordinary moments of kindness, honesty, generosity, patience, and service. God often uses these simple acts to shine light into the lives of others. Our witness becomes most compelling when people can see the love of Christ expressed in ways that are quiet, uncalculated, and natural.

- What small gesture of faithfulness might God be calling you to make this week?
- How have you experienced someone else being a quiet source of light and encouragement in your life?
- **Prayer:** Light of the world, help me shine with your love and grace. Use my life to point others toward hope, truth, and the goodness of God. Amen.

## Today at Trinity

### Martha's Table Snack Packaging, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

### Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New singers are always welcome! If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, jrlich@potomacschool.org.

### Children's Worship, 10:30 a.m. (ages 4 - 6th grade)

Children's Worship takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building (across the Breezeway).

Iglesia de Diós Worship, 6 p.m.

## This Week

Monday, 7:30 p.m.: Scout Troop 869

### Tuesday, 5 p.m.: Worship Team Meeting

#### 6:30 p.m.: Book Chat

Book Chat will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. when Molly Sprouse will lead us in discussing *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Dame Muriel Spark. For more, contact Suzanne Hamilton or use the QR code on page 6.

Tuesday, 7 p.m.: Scout Troop 1130

### Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Prayer Group

Join our weekly Zoom Prayer Group as we lift up the needs of our church, community, and world. For details, talk with a pastor or call 703-356-3312.

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den 6

Saturday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Diós

## Coming Up

**June 15: *The Spire* newsletter deadline**

**June 17 - 20: Annual Conference**

**June 19: Office Closed for Juneteenth**

### June 20: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a residential medical facility for homeless men located in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare and serve lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, dcjeremiah@verizon.net or 703-307-4635.

### June 25: Executive Council meeting

### July 3: Office Closed for Independence Day

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### June Sermon Series: *What's Wrong with Organized Religion*

For centuries, the Christian faith has expressed itself to new ears in ways that successive generations could hear, consider and perhaps find compelling. In recent decades, however, the share of disillusioned and skeptical Americans has grown faster than any "religious group." Now more than a *third* of us identify with no faith tradition - even as a deep wistfulness for connection and belonging, as well as curiosity about spiritual growth, are on the rise.

What could possibly be the disconnect here?

Be with us each of the Sundays of June (or catch-up with us online!), as we unpack how the Church could, should (and sometimes *should not!*) give voice to our reason for hope in Christ, amid a sophisticated, diverse and cosmopolitan culture. Dare we ask, what *do* our neighbors see as "wrong with organized religion?"

Each week, our messages will explore a new challenge:

- what it means to bear witness "with gentleness and respect" at a time when Christians are often seen as judgmental, unloving and closed-minded
- why a skeptical world sees the Church as hypocritical; why they are not always wrong about that, and how we can deepen our witness through candor and honesty
- how in the age of Science, reasoned and reasonable people can still express to their neighbors the hope they find in salvation through the ministry of Jesus
- what possible wisdom can be found in an ancient book full of implausible stories (which most Christians don't know all that well, anyway)

As we strive to "speak to the critique," we will look beyond to the greater question: how can we bear witness to our faith at a time when the forgiving grace of God is so painfully-needed above all else?

## About Our Ministries

### Nursery

The **Nursery** is staffed during both our Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under. Our nursery is located in the Fellowship Building; simply speak to an usher and they will provide assistance.

### Children's Worship Folders

**Folders** are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the "used bin" so it can be replenished.

### Fellowship: Getting Connected

You are invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services! Join us in the Fellowship Lobby across the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry teams host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for the 8:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links below to sign-up.

### Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit [umtrinity.org/preschool](http://umtrinity.org/preschool) to learn more about this vibrant ministry or to schedule a tour for your child.

### Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday to greet people, answer questions and hand out bulletins. Use the QR code below to volunteer for this essential ministry of hospitality or speak to one of the pastors.



## Did You Know?



Trinity's Communion Table in the sanctuary has not two, but six candlesticks. Tall and simple, these not only lift the light that symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit with us in our worship (like a flame!), but also have a story to tell.

In 1778, when our nation was still new, **William Watters, the first American-born itinerant Methodist minister**, married a girl from Falls Church. He ultimately retired and took up farming in what is now McLean, and in 1808 convened a group of women and men for Methodist Class meetings around his kitchen table. Those kitchen meetings were **the beginning of the congregation that now meets here at Trinity** – with candlesticks made in 1961 from beams of the Watters' kitchen. (See how it all comes together?)

If you would like to know more about being an **Acolyte** (candle-lighter) for either of our services, speak to one of our Pastors! If you would consider being part of a **Chancel Guild** to help adorn and care for our worship space, we'd sure love to know *that*, too.

## Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link. This page currently includes:

- Prayer Requests
- Children & Youth registration
- Christ House wish list
- Fellowship Hour hosts
- Memorial Service for Jim Sprouse
- Trinity House renovation video
- Ushers



## Our Prayer Ministry

Trinity Church is grateful to receive any request for intercessory prayer. Each Wednesday, our Prayer Group meets at 9 a.m. to lift up these submissions as well as on-going needs. Those willing to pray with us are both welcomed and invited! Please speak to one of our pastors if you would like to know more.

*Prayer requests can be submitted by scanning the QR code on the left with your phone's camera and clicking the link, or you may fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate.*

## Trinity Church Ministers and Staff

Dave Rochford  
Taehwan Roh  
Harriet Latta  
Jose Nuñez  
Jerry Rich  
Angi Oxendine  
Catherine Wethington  
Laurie Strollo

Lead Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Office Manager  
Facilities Manager  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Director of Children's Ministry

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is in-person and livestreamed on Sundays from our Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from our Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: [youtube.com/UMTrinity](https://www.youtube.com/UMTrinity). If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org).