



*"Sowing Weeds Among the Wheat,"
English Bible Engraving, 1850s, artist unknown*

*while everyone was sleeping
his enemy came
and sowed weeds among the wheat*
Matthew 13:25

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July 19, 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

Balm in Gilead (Callahan)

Jerry Rich

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 30

The Lord longs to be gracious to you,
and therefore will rise up to show you compassion.

**For the Lord is a God of justice;
blessed are all who wait for him!**

The Lord will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground,
and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous.

**We shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,
and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute
to go to the mountain of the Lord.**

* GATHERING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UMH 694

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Walter Brueggemann

We arrange our lives as best we can, Lord, to keep your holiness at bay,
with our pieties, our doctrines, our liturgies, our moralities, our secret ideologies –
safe, virtuous, settled.

**And then you intrude – you and your dreams, you and your visions, you and your purposes,
you and your commands, you and our neighbors.**

We find your holiness not at bay, but probing, pervading, insisting, demanding.

And we yield, sometimes gladly, sometimes resentfully, sometimes late... or soon.

We yield because you, beyond us, are our God.

**We are your creatures met by your holiness, and by your holiness made our true selves.
So we yield. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laurie Strollo

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayer will conclude with:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

You Are Near (Schutte)

Catherine Wethington (8:30)

Chancel Choir (10:30)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 51-53

Suzanne Hamilton (8:30)

Emily Summers (10:30)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." "

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

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

MESSAGE

A Dream of Fields

Dave Rochford

* HYMN

A Farmer in a Field

verses by Carolyn Winfree Gillette

(to the tune of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds")

A farmer in a field / sowed good and healthy seeds.

But in the cover of the night, somebody planted weeds.

The wheat grew tall and strong, / but thistles flourished, too.

The workers saw the mix of them / and wondered what to do.

***The farmer wisely said, "They'll grow as one today,
but when we harvest all the wheat, we'll throw the weeds away."***

***O Lord, we want to know / why evil prospers here —
why, next to love and justice, grow / such hatred, pride and fear.***

***God, may we humbly see / the harvest still is yours;
and one day we'll be blessed to find / that love is what endures.***

COMMUNION (8:30)

OFFERING *Our offering is received as we pass the plates, but you may also give online at
<http://umtrinity.org/give> or through our app.*

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

UMH 94

* CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

UMH 670

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in peace;
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in his kingdom we behold his face.
Go forth for God; go forth to the world in peace.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in strength;
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right,
render to no one evil; Christ at length
shall overcome all darkness with his light.
Go forth for God; go forth to the world in strength.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in love;
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak,
help the afflicted; richly from above
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God; go forth to the world in love.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in joy,
to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.
Go forth for God; go forth to the world in joy.**

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Rigaudon (Campra)

Jerry Rich

**congregation invited to stand*

Grow — Pray — Study

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



Monday, July 20 — Matthew 13:24–30, 51–53

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds. When the servants eagerly ask to uproot the weeds, the farmer tells them to wait until the harvest. What seems obvious to human eyes is not always so simple in God's Kingdom. God alone sees the whole field, knows every heart, and understands what we cannot yet see. We often want quick answers and immediate solutions, but Jesus reminds us that God's work unfolds according to God's perfect wisdom and timing. Rather than trying to control what belongs to God, we are invited to trust the One who sees the whole picture.

- Where is God inviting me to trust God's timing instead of demanding immediate answers?
- What would it look like to surrender something that is beyond my control today?
- **Prayer:** Patient God, help me trust your wisdom when I cannot yet understand what you are doing. Teach me to rest in your perfect timing. Amen.

Tuesday, July 21 — Matthew 5:43–48

Jesus teaches that God "makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." God's grace is far more generous than we often imagine. While we tend to separate people into those who deserve kindness and those who do not, God continues to provide for all with patience and mercy.

Receiving God's grace should also shape the way we extend grace to others. As we remember how generously God has loved us, we become people who reflect that same love in our daily lives.

- How have I experienced God's undeserved grace in my own life?
- How can I become a channel of God's kindness to someone today?
- **Prayer:** Gracious God, thank you for loving me with a mercy I could never earn. Help me share that same grace with others. Amen.

Wednesday, July 22 — Jonah 3:10–4:11

Jonah struggled when God showed mercy to Nineveh. While Jonah focused on what others deserved, God focused on what they could become through repentance. God's conversation with Jonah invites us to take an honest look at our own hearts.

Sometimes our greatest spiritual challenge is not what others are doing, but what is happening within us. God has a way of patiently transforming our hearts so that we may become more like Christ.

- What attitude or desire is God inviting me to surrender today?
- How is God continuing to shape my heart to reflect God's compassion?
- **Prayer:** Merciful God, search my heart and transform me by your grace. Make me more patient, more compassionate, and more like Christ each day. Amen.

Thursday, July 23 — Ephesians 2:11–22

Paul reminds believers that Christ has broken down the dividing wall between people. Through the Cross, strangers have become neighbors and God's people have become one family. Jesus continues to bring reconciliation where the world often creates division.

As followers of Christ, we are called not only to enjoy God's peace ourselves but also to become instruments of peace in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

- Where might God be inviting me to sow a peace today?
- What small step could I take toward reconciliation with someone this week?
- **Prayer:** God of peace, use me to build understanding where there is misunderstanding, and hope where there is division. Amen.

Friday, July 24 — James 3:13–18

James describes the wisdom that comes from above as "pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits." God's wisdom is not likely to be revealed through winning arguments, but through lives marked by humility, kindness, and peace.

Our words have the power either to heal or to wound. As we seek God's wisdom, we learn to speak in ways that reflect Christ's love and bring life to those around us.

- Do my words reflect God's wisdom or simply my own opinions?
- How can my conversations today become opportunities to sow peace?
- **Prayer:** God of wisdom, guide my thoughts, my words, and my actions. May everything I do reflect your gentleness and love. Amen.

Saturday, July 25 — Romans 12:9–21

Tomorrow we gather for worship as people who have received God's grace. Paul encourages us to overcome evil with good and to live in peace whenever possible. Such a life begins not with our own strength, but with hearts transformed by Christ.

As we prepare for worship, we remember that none of us stands before God because we have earned Divine favor. We come as people who have been loved, forgiven, and continually nurtured by God's grace. Together we worship the One who patiently cares for every life in God's field.

- Looking back on this week, how have you seen God transforming your heart?
- What do you most hope God will continue to grow within you?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, thank you for your patient love throughout this week. Prepare my heart for worship, and continue shaping me into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today at Trinity

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, 10:40 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.: Church & Society Committee
meets on Zoom

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Trustees meets on Zoom

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, 7 p.m. Youth Group at Lazy Mike's

Every Thursday in July, from 7 to 8 p.m., we're heading to Lazy Mike's for ice cream, laughter, and good old-fashioned fellowship. Lazy Mike's is located at 7049 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church. Come cool off and catch up with friends!

Saturday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Diós

Providing Help and Hope to Venezuela

International relief efforts continue in the wake of two destructive earthquakes in northern Venezuela on June 24. Both the main seaport and airport for Venezuela were heavily impacted and more than 59,000 buildings damaged, including hospitals.

As always, United Methodists have stepped up. The General Board of Global Ministries and our humanitarian relief arm, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR, <https://umcmission.org/work/humanitarian-relief>) are presently on the ground and working closely with local partners to provide food, water, medical services, and shelter to the afflicted. One hundred percent of funds directed to UMCOR relief efforts in Venezuela will go to help the people of Venezuela recover. Financial donations to support this (and other) Disaster Relief Efforts can conveniently be made using the link in E-News.

Coming Up

July 27 - 31 and Aug. 3 - 7: Stringtime Camp

Full-day camp for children ages 7 – 12 to learn violin, viola or cello. Instruments are provided; no experience necessary. See stringtimemusic.org for more details.

July 30: Youth Group at Lazy Mike's, 7 p.m.

July 31, Aug. 7: Stringtime Concert, 5 p.m.

You're invited to the StringTime student/faculty violin, viola, and cello camp end-of-week concert at Trinity United Methodist Church on July 31 and August 7 from 5-6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Students will play original pieces by StringTime Resident Composer Daniel DiMarino (a composer for the Duolingo music app) and teachers will perform short snippets of famous pieces by your favorite classical composers. Children are encouraged to attend. Reception to follow.

Aug. 2: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

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!

Aug. 15: 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.

Aug. 15: The Spire newsletter deadline

Aug. 26: Wednesday Night Suppers

Children's Choir returns! Look for more details to come.



Wednesday Night Suppers

Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m. | Langley Hall
Beginning August 26

July Collection

School Supplies for Grace Ministries

- Backpacks
- No. 2 pencils
- Erasers
- Wide-ruled notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Rulers
- Blunt-tipped scissors
- Washable markers
- Plastic folders
- Pencil sharpeners
- Assorted construction paper



GRACE Ministries of the United Methodist Church (graceministriesumc.org) is a faith-based community outreach program serving over 1,000 low-income families each month in Northern Virginia. GRACE provides emergency food, clothing, household items, diapers and healthcare information and screenings at seven local United Methodist Churches.

Donations can be left in the collection baskets in the Narthex stairwells as well as in our Fellowship Lobby

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 ministry teams are assigned to host our refreshments.

Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit 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.

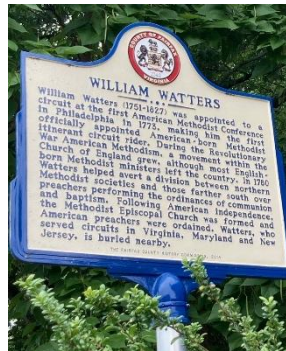
Quick Links

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

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



Did You Know?



In a grove of oaks tucked between stately homes just off Linway Terrace, there stands a quiet marker to a person who was once a living legend of American Methodism. Indeed, Rev. William Watters was once uniquely positioned as *the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher* to help guide the then so-very-British Methodist movement through

the turbulent and violent years of the Revolution. A born peacemaker and tireless evangelist, Watters lived his later years farming in old Langley (now McLean!) Virginia. His resting place is scarcely a mile south of Trinity UMC – and appropriately so, as we are the last congregation he planted before claiming the Promise he so long proclaimed. *Believe it ... or not!*



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

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Office Manager
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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. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at info@umtrinity.org.