



# Trinity United Methodist Church

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August 24, 2025

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We ask that everyone complete an attendance card found in the pew rack (or scan the QR code on page 3 with your phone's camera and click the link) to register your attendance today. Don't forget to include **each** family member present.

Prelude

*Entrée in G Minor (Handel)*

Jerry Rich

Welcome and Announcements

\* Call to Worship

*from Jeremiah 1, Psalm 71, Luke 13*

The Lord is our rock and our refuge.

**God is our fortress in times of trouble.**

The Holy One saves us from the hand of the wicked.

**God delivers us from our foes.**

Christ heals us from our infirmities.

**The Spirit frees us from the chains that bind us.**

Rest in the Source of our refuge and our strength.

\* Gathering Hymn

*Here I Am, Lord*

[UMH 593](#)

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, you know how easily we make excuses. When your call comes, we often turn away. We doubt our voice, our strength, our worth. We convince ourselves that someone else would be better, wiser, braver.

**We confess that fear often rules our choices.**

**We confess that self-doubt keeps us silent.**

**We confess that we resist your calling when it feels too costly.**

Yet you are the One who formed us and continues to shape us. Our value is not in what we accomplish, but in being loved and known by you.

**Forgive us when we measure our lives by the world's standards.**

**Forgive us when we shrink back from opportunities to serve.**

**Renew in us the courage to trust your grace more than our weakness.**

Hear the Good News: God does not abandon us to our excuses or our fears. God calls, forgives, and sends us still. In Christ, we are made new, and by the Spirit, we are never alone. **Amen.**

Children's Message

*Children are invited to Children's Worship in Room 402-403,  
a place for those 4 years through 6th grade to connect with God in their own ways.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Dave Rochford

*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.**

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.*

Offertory

*O God Beyond All Praising (Holst)  
I Will Magnify the Lord (O'Shields)*

Brendan O'Donnell (8:30)  
Chancel Choir (10:30)

Reading from the New Testament

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

*(Continued on page 2)*

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

Message

*God's Call Comes Early*

Taehwan Roh

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)

\* Closing Hymn

*The Summons*

[FWS 2130](#)

\* Benediction

\* Postlude

*Royal March* (Walton)

Jerry Rich

\* Please stand as you are able.

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

## Grow — Pray — Study

### Monday, August 25 — Isaiah 6:1–8

Isaiah's calling begins with an overwhelming vision of God's holiness. In the light of God's majesty, he suddenly sees his own unworthiness—his lips unclean, his life inadequate. That's often how true encounters with God begin: not with confidence, but with humility, even fear. Yet God doesn't leave Isaiah in shame. A seraph touches his lips with a coal, signifying forgiveness and cleansing. Only then does Isaiah hear God's question: "Whom shall I send?"

The order matters: encounter, confession, forgiveness, and then commission. Isaiah's strength to say "Here am I, send me" didn't come from himself—it came from God's grace. True calling always begins with God's holiness and mercy, not our readiness.

- When have you felt overwhelmed by a sense of God's holiness or your own inadequacy?
- What would it mean for you to say, "Here am I; send me."?
- Prayer: Holy God, when I behold your greatness, I see how small I am. Yet you call me, forgive me, and invite me to serve. Give me courage to say yes to your call today. Amen.

### Tuesday, August 26 — Exodus 3:1–12

Moses's calling happens in an ordinary place—the wilderness, where he is simply tending sheep. But God breaks in, making the ground holy. When Moses hears the task—confronting Pharaoh—he recoils: "Who am I that I should go?" That question is deeply human. We often measure ourselves by what we lack. Moses looked at his inadequacy, but God shifted the focus: "I will be with you."

This reminds us that calling is not about what we bring to the table. God doesn't search for the most polished résumé, but for hearts willing to trust. Every excuse Moses raised was answered, not by affirming his ability, but by pointing back to God's presence. Calling is not about self-confidence; it is about God-confidence.

- Where are you feeling uncertain or inadequate in your calling right now?
- What would it look like to trust God's empowering presence more than your qualifications?
- Prayer: God of calling, you do not wait for me to feel ready. You call me and promise to be with me. Give me faith to take the next step, knowing you go before me. Amen.

### Wednesday, August 27 — Jeremiah 29:4–14

The exiles in Babylon wanted escape. They longed for home. Instead, God told them to settle in, plant gardens, build houses, and even pray for the city that had conquered them. It must have sounded absurd—why invest in a place of pain? Yet this is how God reshaped their identity: even in exile, they remained God's people, and their flourishing was tied to the flourishing of their neighbors.

And then came the promise: "I know the plans I have for you... a future with hope." This wasn't a quick fix; seventy years would pass before return. God's hope is not about instant relief but about faithful living in the present, trusting that God's purposes are unfolding even when the setting feels all wrong. Our call is the same: to be rooted, prayerful, and hopeful—even in places that feel like exile.

- How can you seek the welfare of your current community, even if it's not ideal?
- What would it mean to trust that God's plans include you—right where you are?
- Prayer: God of hope, when I feel displaced or discouraged, help me stay rooted in your promises. Teach me to bless the place I'm in and to live with hope in your future. Amen.

### Thursday, August 28 — Acts 9:10–19

Ananias is a minor character in Scripture, but his obedience carries world-changing weight. God tells him to go to Saul, a notorious persecutor. Ananias protests—reasonably so—but God insists that Saul is chosen for a new mission. Stepping past fear, Ananias goes, lays hands on Saul, and calls him "brother." That single word embodies trust in God's transforming power.

Sometimes our calling is not dramatic, but risky in personal ways: reaching out to someone we fear, forgiving someone who wronged us, or choosing to trust God's work in another person's life. Ananias shows that even the hesitant can become a bridge for grace. Through his obedience, the greatest persecutor became the greatest apostle.

- In what ways might God be calling you to move past fear and extend grace?
- Who is God asking you to see with new eyes—as a brother or sister in Christ?
- Prayer: God of transformation, help me to obey even when I am afraid. Give me the courage to love those I don't understand and to trust your work in their lives. Amen.

### **Friday, August 29 — Matthew 4:18-22**

The first disciples are called in the middle of their everyday work—casting nets, mending boats, providing for their families. Into that ordinary scene comes an extraordinary invitation: “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” What’s striking is their response. There’s no long debate, no request for a detailed plan. They simply leave their nets and follow.

This moment reminds us that discipleship is less about knowing everything in advance and more about trusting the One who calls. The nets they left behind symbolized security, identity, and livelihood. To follow Jesus meant releasing what was familiar in order to embrace what was new. Our own callings may not ask us to leave boats on the shore, but they often require letting go—of comfort, pride, fear, or control. Discipleship begins not with certainty, but with surrender.

- What “nets” might Jesus be asking you to leave behind?
- Where is Christ inviting you to follow more closely today?
- Prayer: Jesus, you still call people to follow you. Help me release what holds me back. Give me a willing heart and a steady step as I follow wherever you lead. Amen.

### **Saturday, August 30 — Luke 10:1-12**

When Jesus sends out the seventy, he gives them no illusions about ease. They are to travel light, dependent on the hospitality of others. They will meet both welcome and rejection. But their success is not measured by results—it is measured by faithfulness. Their role is simply to go where Jesus sends them, carry his peace, and trust the Spirit’s work ahead of them.

This reframes how we think about calling. It is not about producing impressive outcomes, but about living with open hands and open hearts. Even small acts of peace and presence matter when they are done in Christ’s name. Like those first disciples, we are not asked to control the harvest—only to go, to trust, and to remain faithful. The mission belongs to God; our part is to respond.

- To what mission or relationship has God sent you recently?
- How can you carry Christ’s peace with you this week?
- Prayer: Lord of the harvest, send me where you want me to go. Let me walk with humility and peace, trusting that your Spirit goes ahead of me. Help me be faithful, wherever I am. Amen.

## **Our Prayer List**

Anne, Annie Ruth, Audriana, Bud, Catherine, Corbin, Dara, Dave, Davey, David, Douglas, Emmett, Evan, George, Gililand family, Jason, Joan, Karen, Kenny family, Maines family, Mary Frances, Michael, Molly, Rubina, Vicki, Viviana, Willis & Carter, Winie & Joseph, Yancey, and prayer life for Trinity congregation, those who are traveling, people losing jobs, employment seekers, the children and staff at Heart to Heart Worldwide Village in Honduras, The Leadership Center, our nation’s leadership and unity, soldiers abroad and at home, peace on earth, an end to antisemitism and Islamophobia, those affected by natural disasters, those trying to make a better future for our nation, government employees, immigrants, the homeless, victims of abuse and hostages throughout the world.

## **Today at Trinity**

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** (ages 4 - 6th grade) meets during the 10:30 service following the Children’s Message.

## **This Week**

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

A dedicated community that meets via Zoom to lift up the needs of our church family, community and world. If you’d like to know more or to participate, please speak to one of our pastors or call the office, 703-356-3312.

## **Coming Up**

### **September 2 & 3: Fall Bible Study Begins!**

All are invited to be part of “*Revolutionary Parables: Jesus’ Little Stories that Shake the World*” with Pastor Dave, beginning **Tuesday, September 2 at 10:30 a.m.** in our Church library (also offered then by ZOOM), and on **Wednesday, September 3 (at 7 p.m.)** via ZOOM only). Operating as on-ramps to God’s coming Kingdom, the Parables were intended by Jesus to be troublesome, and we will use an Orientation/Disorientation/Reorientation approach to apply their lens to everyday living. Do join us in-person if you are able! Study will conclude mid-October. With questions, just reach out to Pastor Dave.

### **September 7: Martha’s Table Snack Packaging**

### **September 7: Bounce Back Sunday**

We’ll celebrate the new program year with a bounce house, games, picnic and fellowship.

### **Sept. 7, 14 & 21 Pizza with the Pastors**

See the graphic on page 4 for details.

### **September 9: Book Chat**

All are welcome to join our monthly book club on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. This year’s selections and Zoom link can be found using the QR code at the left.

### **September 14: Youth Group**

Youth Group, grades 7-12, will resume their Sunday evening meetings, 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building and will include Pizza with the Pastors.

### **September 20: Christ House Meal Mission**

Christ House is a very healing place; a residential, medical facility for homeless men located on Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, [dcjeremiah@verizon.net](mailto:dcjeremiah@verizon.net), 703-307-4635.

## About Our Ministries

### 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 cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links at the right to sign-up.

### Trinity Preschool of McLean . . .

... is back in session tomorrow! We invite you to be in prayer for our students, their families and our staff as they begin a new school year.

### 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.

### An Evening of Inspiration

On Saturday, **September 6** at 8 p.m., our own Catherine Wethington will be one of the featured vocalists for *Journey of Faith: A Musical Tribute to Mother Teresa* at The Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland. This concert, a moving expression of Mother Teresa's life of service to the poor and marginalized, debuted at Carnegie Hall this past February. Catherine, who last Sunday brought to us an arrangement of *Ave Maria* from the concert, happens also to be one of the creators of this musical tribute. Ticket information may be found on the flyer in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Lobby, or call the Box Office at 301-581-5100. We are so proud of your accomplishment, Catherine!

### Quick Links

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera and click the link.

This page currently includes:

- > Worship attendance
- > Pizza with the Pastors RSVP
- > Book Chat discussion group



# PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS



**Sundays, 5 p.m.**

At the TUMC Parsonage,  
6835 Gilliams Rd.

*All are welcome to choose any  
one of these dates!*

September 7

children's games offered this night, though kids may come any night

September 14

Youth especially encouraged but welcome at any!

September 21

What to bring: yourself - and if you like, a salad or a dessert

**RSVP**

<https://umtrinity.org/about-us/quick-links>

Trinity Church 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  
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Summer Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Worship is 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://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)