



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3312 | umtrinity.org | info@umtrinity.org

August 31, 2025

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would 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. And do include **each** family member present.

Prelude *Meditation on NETTLETON* (Callahan) Jerry Rich

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship *from Ephesians 4*

Laying aside all falsehoods, let us speak the truth to our neighbors,
for we are all members of one another.
Let all bitterness, clamor and slander be put away;
let us be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven us!

* Gathering Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory*

[UMH 577](#)

Prayer of Confession

Ever-merciful and all-loving God, we confess that we do not find it easy
to live as a forgiven and forgiving people.
We often pray that you would forgive us our trespasses,
but keep a close account of others' offenses against us.
We feel a deep need to seek justice when we are wronged, to strike back with word and action.
We shrink back from the idea that we ourselves
would be called to account for our misdeeds.
Rescue us, Lord, from unmerciful hearts, from the thirst for revenge,
and for repeating the mistakes of the past...
[a time of silent prayer follows]
In Christ, the pattern to which we conform has been changed,
the story, rewritten, and in him do we find hope for a new and dawning day.
Amen!

Children's Message Dave Rochford

*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

Taehwan Roh

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

Thy Word Is a Lamp (Grant/Smith)

Maggie Rabe (8:30)
Chancel Choir (10:30)

Reading from the Scriptures

Luke 6:27-36

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those

(Continued on page 2)

from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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

Message

Vulnerable Backhand

Dave Rochford

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)

* Closing Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other (vs. 1-3)

[UMH 560](#)

* Benediction

* Postlude

Sonata in C (Gallo-Pergolesi)

Jerry Rich

* Please stand as you are able.

Grow — Pray — Study

Monday, September 1 — Luke 6:17-26

This week we delve into the strange proclamation of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (Luke's parallel to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount). Luke begins with the Beatitudes, which starkly reverse the fortunes of the world and proclaim that in the Kingdom of God, blessed are those who presently are poor, hungry and weeping. His words were radical in his day, and mighty strange to us now.

- Why does Jesus invert what we think of as "fortunate" and "happy" (two possible translations of "blessed")? What does this say about the coming Kingdom of God?
- Prayer: *Lord, the comfort you preached to the poor and dispossessed of your day fall hard on my ears. Who in my community, and in our global community, will be blessed when your Father's righteousness comes upon the Earth? How ought I respond? Amen.*

Tuesday, September 2 — Matthew 5:1-11

In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew appears to render Jesus' Beatitudes in a more detailed way, and we observe some differences from Luke. The message to the early Church is clear: the way of Jesus will be difficult and steep, and the world will not see his followers as fitting in.

- What kind of community is Jesus trying to build, as he paints a stark contrast between the world as his hearers know it, and the world his Father intended - and will recreate?
- Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I am weary of heartbreak and outrage in the news. It makes me want to shut myself away. But today I recall what you actually said: you were not content with things as they were, and are. So sustain me in that tension; give me hope. Amen.*

Wednesday, September 3 — Luke 6:27-36; also Matthew 5:38-42

In our worship text, Jesus reveals a very different approach to dealing with enemies/those wielding abusive power. Rather than "just taking it," he has more in mind! Consult a Study Bible to see how Jesus offers a form of resistance that dares the abuser to recognize the humanity of the oppressed. (For example, why is the right cheek significant, per Mat. 5:39?)

- When you think of injustice committed by the powerful against the vulnerable, what stories from the Bible come to mind? How did Jesus overcome violence and coercion by his own people, and by the Roman Empire? Did he overcome them?
- Prayer: *Prince of Peace, the world weeps for howling injustice committed by the powerful and arrogant. I too feel weary for the sting of it. What would you have me become, in the Kingdom of Mercy - mercy that I need, and that all of us need? Amen.*

Thursday, September 4 — Deuteronomy 24:10-22

Reading this section of deuteronomic law, consider how Jesus' people had been called by God to live differently than those of other nations.

- What kind of society could such laws yield? Were such laws observed in Jesus' day? Are they in ours? Does this context shape your reading of Jesus' words in WED's reading?
- Prayer: *Gentle Savior, I am amazed at how faithful you were to the Law, and how you escaped its narrow confines to fulfill the command of God to love, and to be neighborly. Open my eyes to how I can walk this way in my own life, and call others to do so. Amen.*

Friday, September 5 — John 18:28-40

Every one of the Gospels recounts Jesus' interrogation by Pilate. Observe the very complex way in John 18 that power is shared, checked and proscribed between Hebrew leaders, Roman officials and the mob. Consider: as Pilate questions Jesus, he has all the power in the world, and knows it. And Jesus has no power, but only all the authority in the universe.

- We don't often distinguish between power and authority. What do you take them to mean? How do they show up in our world, and what is the lesson for those who follow Jesus?
- Prayer: *We often see those as weak who have no power or wealth, Lord. How do you see them? And how are you calling me to see, hear and speak for them? Amen.*

Saturday, September 6 — 1 Cor. 1:20-30

Paul ponders the way in which the Cross has conquered the coercive force of human power, and triumphed through what is seen as weakness. Thus the seeming "foolishness of the Gospel" is wiser than the systems built by human cleverness, and God's use of weakness, meekness, and quiet faithfulness has trumped the spectacle of strength.

- You may want to read Walter Wink's *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way* to explore how Christ's followers have made (and can make) use of the ways of the weak to overcome worldly ways of power. (These include: seizing the moral initiative, asserting one's own dignity and humanity, meeting force with humor, and exposing the injustice of the system).
- Prayer: *There are so many things I cannot do, Lord Jesus. But I can decline to let bitterness shape me, and my enemies to define me. Open my heart to being shaped by the Kingdom of Mercy, and defined by your gentle way in our world. Amen.*

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

Our Prayer List

Anne, Annie Ruth, Audriana, Leth, Bud, Catherine, Corbin, Dara, Dave, Davey, David, Douglas, Emmett, Evan, George, Gililand family, Gloria, Jason, Joan, Karen, Kenny family, Luke, 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 grieving in Minneapolis, those trying to make a better future for our nation, government employees, immigrants, the homeless, victims of abuse and hostages throughout the world.

Bounce Back Sunday

Sunday, September 7

potluck, bounce house,
fellowship after 10:30
worship

Fall is on its way, and we're celebrating with Bounce Back Sunday - a joyful, church-wide gathering for all ages! Join us on the church green at 11:30 a.m. for an outdoor cook-out, fellowship, and fun. Preschool families are especially welcome, and little ones can enjoy bounce-house excitement and games.

As always, it takes many hands to make ministry happen. Here's how you can help:

- Worship at 8:30 or 10:30, then stay for the celebration
- Arrive early to help set up (starting at 10 a.m.)
- Grill or bring a side dish to share
- Assist Laurie and Catherine with Children's and Youth activities
- Help with clean-up (a key role!)
- Invite a friend, neighbor, or reconnect with a seldom-seen church member

If you're able to lend a hand, please call Harriet at the church office: 703-356-3312.

With sunshine and mid-70s in the forecast, it's the perfect day to Bounce Back. If you've never joined us before, this is the year to jump in!

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

Tuesday & Wednesday: Fall Bible Study Begins!

All are invited to be part of "*Revolutionary Parables: Jesus' Little Stories that Shake the World*" with Pastor Dave, beginning **this 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. Please use the QR code on page 4 to register.

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 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, 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

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

- > Worship attendance
- > Fall Bible Study registration
- > Pizza with the Pastors RSVP
- > Book Chat discussion group



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
Director of Children's Ministry

drochford@umtrinity.org
troh@umtrinity.org
hlatta@umtrinity.org
703-356-3312
jrich@potomacschool.org
angio.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
umtrinityyouth@gmail.com
lstrollo@umtrinity.org

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



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

RSVPs would be helpful:

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

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