

The ACORN

Vol. 7

Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL

July 2025



2025 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 5-7 • LAKELAND, FL

See article on page 2



ONE WORSHIP SERVICE – JULY 6TH!

Celebrate the 4th of July holiday with your church family. On July 6th we will have one worship service at 10:30 followed by a pot-luck lunch together.



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See article on Zoe Empowers

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Annual Conference 2025

2025 Florida United Methodist Church Annual Conference

The theme of the 2025 Florida United Methodist Church Annual Conference was “Awakened to Grace” (Ephesians 2:8-9.)

It was exciting to see Pastors and Laity— people of all ages and diverse backgrounds from across our state— gather in Lakeland to ‘awaken to grace’ and connect, participate in training, Communion and worship opportunities, and conduct the business of the Annual meeting.

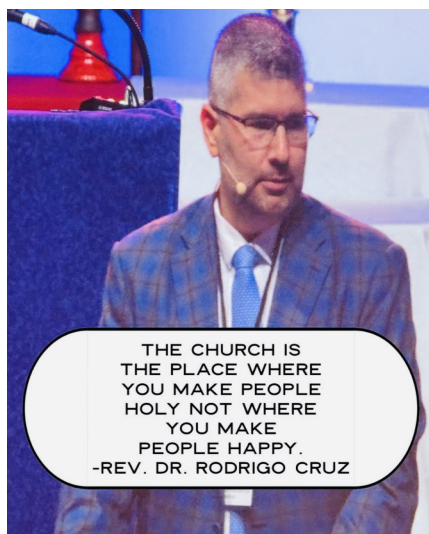
Many ministries and initiatives including Diversity, Rising Hope, Campus ministries, Zoe Empowerment, Disaster Relief, and our Conference goal of trying to complete 5,000 Buckets of Hope were celebrated. I attended a prayer vigil (picture below) on Anti-Racism and a beautiful Visio Divina prayer experience, which I would love to share at Trinity in a small group setting.

As part of Conference, I attended a grant writing workshop and gained insights from the speaker who said that charitable foundations do not always want to give grants to religious groups because “we might try to preach to them!” (And we might!) She noted that grants are excellent, but sometimes a church has congregational members with contacts in the community that may help us to gain access more easily to certain resources. An example given was of a church trying unsuccessfully to get community members to come to their weekly prayer session. A member of the church, who had connections with McDonalds, arranged for a local McDonalds to provide free food each week so people came to eat and pray at their church. (We of course have Carroll Hatfield whose connections with Publix allows us to give the breads they donate to the needy.) **I wondered if we had more members with contacts that might help us pursue other ministries.**

- Brenda Moore, Lay Member to Annual Conference



Our Bishop Tom Berlin announced a new guiding vision for our church: *“The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections*



Community Connection

July Monthly Mission

In July we will collect donations for Phillipi Shores Elementary School. School starts August 11th! Below is a list of needed items:



Box of #2 pencils
Highlighters
(Pink pearl-type) large erasers
Pack of unscented glue sticks
Dry erase markers
Box of 24 Crayola crayons
Pack of 12 Crayola colored pencils
Black & White Wide-ruled Composition books
Spiral notebooks
Box of markers
Box of gallon Ziploc baggies

Items most requested:

Donations for Church of the Palms Food Pantry:

boxes of cereal, granola bars, cereal bars, juice boxes, fruit cups, individual small meals, like tuna fish (anything that does not have to be refrigerated), crackers with peanut butter or cheese, shelf-stable milk

Donations Remnant Café:

shampoo, conditioner, lotions, deodorant, razors
men's boxers (new)
women's small or medium underwear (new)
men's and women's socks (new)
Men's khaki pants or jeans size 32, 34, 36
Men's T-shirts and shirts



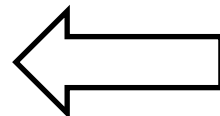
The Food Collection Ministry is about to begin its 5th year of service. It began with a challenge from the Bishop to find a way to “fill to table” of those experiencing food insecurity during COVID.

Every 3rd Saturday—no matter the weather—a group of Trinity volunteers stands in the parking lot and accepts donation of non-perishables. We box them and deliver to Church of the Palms Food Pantry and/or Remnant Café.

Both of these organizations have expressed gratitude for the faithful donations every month.

Next Community Food Collection will be on Saturday, July 19th, 9—10:30 am, Trinity Parking Lot. Come by to help sort and pack, to drop off nonperishables, or just say Hi!

Nonperishables for the Food Pantry or hygiene items for Remnant Café can be dropped off at the Church on Sundays or in Haley Hall during the week.



SUMMER SPLASH



Community Connections



BUCKETS OF HOPE

As often happens, Trinity members and friends were abundantly generous when asked to supply the items need for the Flood Buckets for the Florida Conference. We committed to building 5. We've almost completed a total of 10! Join us as we assemble the buckets between worship services on July 13th

The following is excerpts from Disaster Response Coordinator Trish Warren's speech at the Annual Conference, which highlighted the vital, life-affirming work that the volunteers provide in times of despair and loss.

"This is the Church in action. This is hope, rebuilding what was broken. And this is why we're here: to stand in the gap, to remind families they are not forgotten and to be living proof that God is with us—even in the storm," she said. "That is our calling. That is our covenant." There is no "off-season" for the Disaster Response Ministry in The

Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between wildfires, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms that cause flooding, and, of course, hurricanes, the response team must always be prepared to respond where Floridians are in need.

And if this hurricane season is anything like last year's, the need could be great. ERTs are often first on the scene, stepping into chaos with compassion and resolve. Wearing their iconic lime green shirts, ERTs bring a powerful reminder that the Church is present even in the most broken places," Warren said.

"In 2025, we've trained over 50 participants through nine sessions, and we'll continue equipping churches to respond. ERTs are often the first face of recovery and the first reminder to survivors that they are not alone." Last year, more than 500 Early Response Teams and Disaster Recovery Ministry volunteers removed debris, tarped roofs, cleaned out flooded homes, and offered invaluable emotional and spiritual support. It's been a journey of resilience, collaboration, and commitment to rebuilding lives and communities," she said.

One thing everyone can get involved with is the **Buckets of Hope** Challenge. It's a partnership between the **Disaster Recovery Ministry and the Creation Care team**.

The goal is to fill 5,000 5-gallon buckets with emergency supplies, including liquid laundry detergent, household cleaners, dish soap, air freshener, insect repellent, cleaning tools, reusable wipes and towels, trash bags, dust masks, and gloves.

Here's what I need you to understand: Disaster recovery is not a side project or a seasonal ministry. It is part of the Church's call to be the hands and feet of Christ. Long after the cameras are gone and the headlines fade, this ministry continues—quietly, faithfully—walking alongside survivors for the long haul. This is holy work. And it's not possible without every one of us," Warren said.

"Disasters don't discriminate, but recovery often does. That's where the Church steps in. We bring justice to the places that are overlooked. We bring mercy to the ones forgotten. We bring hope where despair had moved in. And when we do this together, in the name of Jesus, lives are transformed."

Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer Group

The Garden of Hope is a place for prayer in all seasons. The Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer Groups gathers each Friday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 AM. July is our anniversary month as we began praying together in this location in July 2020, so we are celebrating our fifth anniversary.

You may remember that in July 2020 we were in the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our vision was to gather in person while abiding by all public health guidelines. The Trustees of Trinity were very accommodating in welcoming our group, and we continue to be grateful for their generosity.

This group has evolved into a very ecumenical gathering. At last count we had six denominations represented. Together we have a shared intention to consent to God's presence and action within. As Christians we believe that our prayer of silence is rooted in the indwelling Trinity. In our silence our focus is the self-emptying love of Jesus. At its best our silence is not a method of seeking consolations, though they may come, and neither is it a

time for figuring stuff out, though that may happen as well. At its most focused our shared silence is a method of letting go and surrendering to the love of God. We don't create this love. It is pure grace, a gift of God. And one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to recognize the beauty of God's love wherever it is expressed, even in the most unlikely places.



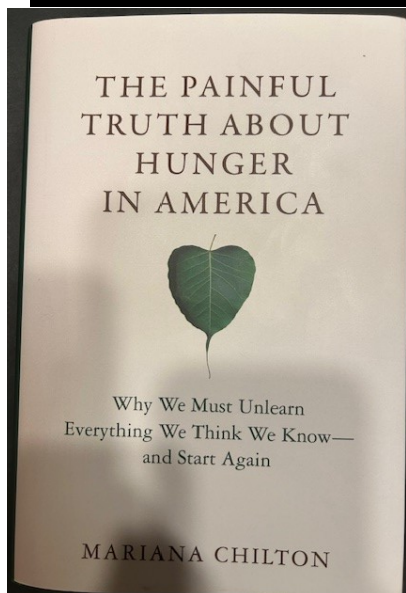
The photo is of periwinkles growing through the curbs by the church garage. They are beautiful even though they were neither planted nor cultivated. One friend commented on this photo, "Periwinkles are tenacious!" So is God's grace! In our prayer of silence we pray to be shaped to express the tenaciousness of God's love, even in unlikely places to those who need it most.

Newcomers are always welcome to join us. We each bring a folding chair to form a circle, and we are happy to share the shade. Got questions? Call Stephen at 941-773-7008.

Did you know?

Every Sunday a group meets at 10:10 to pray for prayer requests, for the church, for our country. The 10:10 prayer time is a vital undergirding of all ministry at this church. Anyone can be part of this prayer time on Sunday mornings. If you would like prayer for yourself or a loved one come share in this prayer time. If you feel strongly about God at work in this community through the ministries of Trinity, come pray for God's continued guidance. Meet in the courtyard outside the side sanctuary door. All welcome!

Florida Conference Study



This week Bishop Berlin has invited all United Methodists in the Florida Conference to be aware of how the proposed legislation currently being debated in Congress will negatively impact our siblings in Florida who especially rely on SNAP Benefits to alleviate hunger and

those who rely on Medicaid to have access to vital health care. These proposed cuts would have an especially severe effect on children, those living with disabilities, and senior citizens. We have been given resources and urged to be in touch with our Representatives and Senators about this vital issue.

During Lent, many of us learned how to do this through the Offering of Letters sponsored by Bread for the World. We are learning that the reality of hunger in our nation and internationally is a tenacious problem, but at the same time there is real hope. We do have both the capacity and the capability to end hunger. We need to be open to new ideas and strategies.

Toward this end, in July, The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church has invited us to join in their Summer 2025 Pages for Progress Book Study. Together we will read and discuss **The Painful Truth About Hunger in America**, diving deeper into the often-overlooked realities of food insecurity in the United States.

This study will take place via Zoom on Friday afternoons July 11, 18, 25. Please let me know if you would like more information.
Rev Stephen Hoffman
(Stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net)

Finance Team

QR CODE

You've seen them everywhere. On TV, in magazines, in your grocery stores, etc. Now Trinity of Sarasota has one! Thanks to Tom Thayer for creating it for us.

A QR code, short for Quick Response code, is a machine-readable code in a matrix of black and white squares. These codes are designed to be scanned by mobile devices or cameras, allowing for quick access to digital information like website URLs, contact details, or other data.

Point your cell phone camera at the box below. A website URL will appear. Click on it and it will take you directly to Trinity's giving page on our website. A quick, easy and safe way to donate money to Trinity's operating budget and Ministries.



Or this QR Code will take you directly to Trinity's website:





Friends,

Last year we committed as a church to be part of the Southwest District pledge to support the Blessings Kaena group with Zoe Empowers. I had the privilege to meet these wonderful youth last summer and will be visiting again July 2-12. Please take time to read this update on their accomplishments over the last year and continue to pray for them. They are now in their 2nd year of a 3 year commitment to the Zoe empowers program. I will be sharing your love and encouragement! I look forward to share stories of their journey this past year when I get back. (And yes, I will bring back more craft items for you to purchase on 7/13 with a donation to Zoe Empowerment!)

Blessings,
Linda



Please see next page Zoe Empowers First Year Report

Pastor Linda's July Sermon Series is called Samuel Plus One based on readings in 1 Samuel. Have you ever received an invitation that said your name plus One? You are invited this summer to learn about Samuel and his relationship with Eli, Saul and David which reveals how God works through our relationships to shape, confront and guide us all with purpose. Samuel is one of the important leaders of faith in the Old Testament. Enjoy getting to know him and his plus one this July!

July Sermon series

7-13:

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Sermon: Samuel plus Eli

7/20

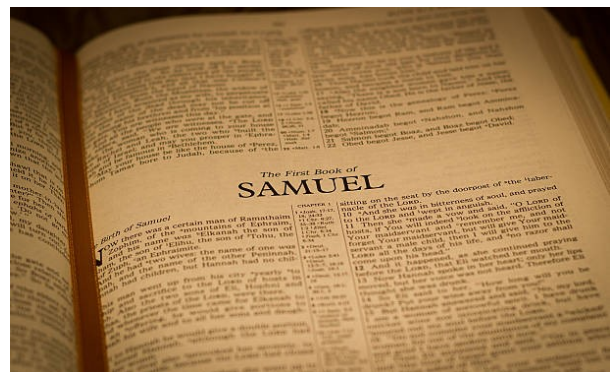
Scripture – 1 Samuel 15:10-35

Sermon: Samuel plus Saul

7/27

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Sermon: Samuel plus David



Blessing Kaene Empowerment Group, Kenya Report



Blessing Kaene Empowerment Group, Kenya

Partnered with South West District of the Florida UMC,

January 2024—December 2026

First Year Group Report as of January 2025

Group Income Projects/Activities

Merry-go-round: The group members initially agreed to contribute 100 ksh (.75 usd) during each meeting as a way to develop habits of saving. The money is either used to purchase a household item for members on a rotational basis or when there is great need in the family, they will give them the cash.

Table banking: In this project, members contribute 200 ksh (1.54 usd) at each meeting and lend it to participants at a 10% interest rate for a short term, a rate that is more affordable than other financial institutions in their community. Members share the dividends at the end of each year. Currently they have 42,104 ksh (\$325 usd) in the table bank.

Farming/Agricultural Projects: The group rents an acre of land on which they plant maize, beans, and cowpeas. Last season they harvested 302 kg of maize, 166 kg of beans, and 101 kg of cowpeas. Half of the harvest was shared for family consumption and half was sold. They used the proceeds to boost their table bank.

Community outreach: During the December holiday, the group held sessions in their local churches to sensitize other youths on drug and substance abuse.

Household income Generating Activities

Vocational Businesses	Farming and/ or livestock*	Prepare & sell food/drinks	Retail of food or dry goods	Total IGAs
10	11	5	5	31

*Families often earn additional funds from their agricultural activities, but they are not considered businesses

Vocational training: 12 participants attended vocational training 4 in hairdressing, 3 mechanics, 4 tailoring, 1 welding. Zoe provide funds for 10 youth to be trained and the group members negotiated for an additional 2 youths to receive training.

Household Agricultural Activities: Before Zoe, the young families lacked food security and often had to miss meals. There were 4 families that attempted to plant crops, 7 had vegetable gardens, and 8 had a small number of livestock, but these efforts were not enough to support the families. Through Zoe, the youth received training and inputs of certified seeds and tools to harvest sufficient amounts of food for their families' consumption. The quality and quantity of meals for all families have improved and all 25 are now considered food secure eating 2 to 3 meals a day.

- All 25 households plant crops like maize, beans, pigeon peas, Irish potatoes, millet, bananas, and black beans. The harvest was good.
- All 25 households have kitchen gardens where they grow amaranth, spinach, cabbage, onions.
- 17 households are raising livestock like goats, sheep, chickens, pigs and rabbits.

Prayers

What an honor it is to lift up our church family in prayer. One of the greatest privileges of Christian life is the opportunity to pray. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Team, please let the Church office know.

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Bianca, Becki Creighton, Barb Ellsworth, Karyn Eubanks, Jean Henry, Jim Henry, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Elle Lyons, Dottie Morris, Bev Packer, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Steve Puhaly, Rhonda Puhaly, Mary Raymond, Jan Robertson, Tom Robertson, Jerry Ralston, Ken Smith, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Debbie Utter, Joan Utter, Kara Voyles, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our prayers are with Glen Tranbarger and family on the death on June 13, 2025, of his wife of 75 years, Marilyn

Also please pray for our military family: Gunnar Kral, Joshua Marsh, Dylan Mitchell, Brandon Oberkamp, Audrey Santana, Craig Scott, Devin Voyles, Dylan Youngblood.

Note: please let us know if any of the above are no longer in the military service.

New Members

On June 29th we welcomed the following to Membership of Trinity with Joy and Christian Love:

Chris Compton, Affirmation of Faith

Kristie Compton, Baptized

David Hardenburgh, Affirmation of Faith

Laura Hardenburgh, Affirmation of Faith

Betty Woolverton, Baptized



The United Methodist Church
forms disciples of Jesus
Christ, who empowered
by the Holy Spirit, **love**
boldly, **serve joyfully**,
and **lead courageously**
in local communities and
worldwide connections.

Thank you Note

I would like to thank everyone for all the well wishes and birthday cards for my 100th birthday

—Pauline Everett

Pecans Mammoth Halves are 1-pound bags at a reduced price of \$12 per bag. Chocolates are all gone. A few Cinnamon glazed in a lovely gift bag are still available at \$12 each. Thanks for supporting our Community Connection Ministry. Get yours on Sundays or in the Church office during the week.



Back By Popular Demand—
Pastor Linda will have Items made by the youth in Kenya available for purchase on Sunday, July 13th. A fun way to support this ministry for Zoe Empowers

Has your contact information changed?

If so please let us know so our records can be updated. We want to be able to keep in touch with you so we can share news about everything that's going on at Trinity!

Thank you.
Nancy Smith
Membership Secretary
nancy@iTrinity.org or call Church office on Mondays

July Birthdays



JoAnn Rall 7/2
Bill Athas 7/3
Ashley Rader 7/7
Taylor Rader 7/7
Mary Raymond 7/7
Ian Bland 7/12
Mathias Liller 7/15
Russ Towery 7/15
Gail Thornton 7/17
Amy Towery 7/18
Sally Wood 7/18
Greg Zahn 7/18
Tee Ormiston 7/18
Ruby Cook 7/20
Pat Shive 7/20
Pat Norton 7/24
Linda Cipoletti 7/27
Joshua Rose Jr. 7/31

Anniversaries

Phil & Carol Harris 7/1
Tom & Sandy Thayer 7/6
Kenneth & Emily Beck 7/7
Henry & Revella Lee 7/15
Bill & Sylvia Elam 7/19
Donn & Mary Raymond 7/27
Diane Freestone & Tom Surprise 7/28

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



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Email: trinity@iTrinity.org

www.iTrinity.org

Join us Sunday at 9:00am or 10:30am for In-Person Worship or Live-streaming
Worship on Facebook.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUMCSarasota/>

Or watch the recording anytime on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ri4OChHWMbbJt3rgfRLg>

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Linda Tice

Traditional Worship Director: LaTerry Butler

Director of Children/Youth Ministry: Russell Towery

Sound/Projections Board: Lou Towery

Business Administration: Jack Hundley

Secretary: Karen Remfrey

Preschool :Glenna Schrock, Wanda Butler;
Abigail Gonzalez

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World