

The ACORN

Vol. 9 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL Aug. & Sept. 2025

TRINITY'S Community Connection



11 Flood Buckets Completed! Special note to the small groups that furnished a complete bucket: Faithful Followers Bible Study, Our Small Group, Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer Group (2), Ray Family, Bland family.



See Article on page 2



July Monthly Mission

In July we collected School Supplies for Phillipi Shores Elementary School. Brenda delivered the supplies to them and it was received with gratitude!



September Mission Moment: The Humane Society Pet Pantry. See Article page 2

Fifth Sunday Offering



Residing Hope, formerly known as the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, has been caring for abused, abandoned, and neglected children since 1908.

The local church is the veritable backbone of everything that happens at Residing Hope beginning in 1906 when local Methodist Churches began collecting Fifth Sunday offerings, leading to the initial founding of the Florida Methodist Orphanage. Those Fifth Sunday offerings have become part of the fabric of support by the local churches here in Florida and continue to bless this ministry.

Thank you for your partnership in bringing this ministry of hope and love to so many children and families!

Community Connections

The Community Connections Team planned our Mission Moment Collections for the Fall at the August meeting so you can plan your shopping:

September: The Humane Society Pet Pantry (see article below)

October: Sailor Necessities at Sarasota High School. A unique program at SHS where Key Club members stock boxes around campus with hygiene and school necessities for students.. Shopping list available soon.

November: Blessing Trees. Wish lists for The Pines and The Safe Children's Coalition

December: Residing Hope Batteries for Christmas (details soon)

Mission Moment

Next gathering on September 20,
10:30 am, Haley Hall.

September Mission Collection

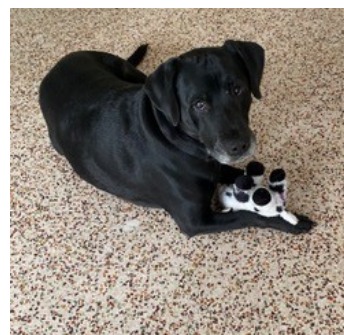
September Mission Moment: The Humane Society Pet Pantry

The Humane Society of Sarasota County (HSSC) has a Pet Pantry that provides free pet food and supplies for Sarasota County residents in need of temporary help to feed their pets during hard times. This Pet Pantry Program is made possible through generous contributions from our local community and can help keep pets in their homes.

This valuable service is offered to Sarasota residents and assists hundreds of families each year. On average, 300 pounds of pet food are distributed weekly.

The HSSC accepts unopened dry or wet dog and cat food (any brand.)

They greatly appreciate all donated items so please bring your pet food donations in September so our church can help support our local Humane Society Pet Pantry.



Pastor's Page

Hello friends!

Here we are in September already. I love fall. Not because we see such a drastic change of seasons here in Florida, but because it is a season of energy and possibilities. It starts to get a few degrees cooler with a gentle breeze letting us know the possibility of 70 degree weather is coming. The change in air brings a little more energy to tackle new projects. Children start new schools or new classes with a clean slate. Straight A's are a possibility again! Of course my favorite is the start of football season where every team has the possibility of a championship in front of them. (Yes, I'll be in Gainesville Saturdays cheering on my Gators!!)

Do you see fall as a time of energy and possibility for your faith? As we begin to make new plans and schedules, do you think about your time with God? It may sound strange to schedule a time for God, but we do need to be intentional about this time because as sad as it to say, in our busy life, we tend to put other things in front of God. Even Jesus made time to be alone with God.

So at the beginning of this new season, my question for you is 'Where is God' in your day to day or weekly schedule of events? Start with picking one particular time that you mark on your phone or calendar as 'God Time.' Maybe it's a time to sit under a tree with your Bible or a devotion book. Maybe it is a time to take a walk and look for God around you. Maybe it will become a new morning ritual or prayer to start the day. It could be a time in the evening to look for God sightings from that day and give thanks. Maybe it is one day a week where you don't go to lunch with peers, but spend time at the park doing any of the previously mentioned things. If we aren't intentional about it, it probably won't happen so create a fall of energy and possibilities with a new habit of God time! Be creative!

See you in church!

Pastor Linda

September Sermons



Do you like to play board games? Have you ever thought about life messages they may share? This September Pastor Linda will preach about **The Games We Play**. Learning to navigate all the challenges life throws at us with a strong faith is an ongoing task for each of us. The good part of our faith challenge is we do not do it alone. This September everyone is invited to think about daily faith challenges and the joy of the community we share. Each Sunday after worship you are

invited to meet around a table in Haley Hall and play the game that we have discussed in worship that day. NOTE: If you have any of these games please bring (with your name on it) them so we can play!

9/7 – Clue – Searching For Truth

9/14 – Jenga – Where are you Building?

9/21 – Sorry – Power of Forgiveness

9/28 – Uno – Releasing Control and Starting Over

United Women in Faith

UWF News:

See the table in Haley for pictures of our wonderful Spring Luncheon last May.

September Circle meetings:

Hannah Circle

Monday, Sept. 8, 1pm @ Evelyn's

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 10:30am Haley

Persis Circle TBA

No individual Circle meetings in October

**Save the Date UWF: Tuesday Oct. 14
Unit Fall luncheon at Stoneybrook CC
11:30 am Dutch treat. Sign up at Sept.
meetings or contacting Sherrill
at srcmusic@verizon.net. 941-376-0720**

Save the Date

World Communion Sunday -

October 5, 2025



World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion



Christmas is coming.....UWF is having a Christmas Sale again Dec. 6 & 7.

We need your donations of anything Christmas or something that would make a nice gift. As you are cleaning out closets, and later this fall getting your Christmas Decor out, anything you no longer want, please donate.

Tables will be in Haley West Office for you to place donations. Thanks!

For more information, contact our coordinators:

Evelyn Miller evelyntaz33@gmail.com,
phone# 941/586-7660
or Sherrill Carr srcmusic@verizon.net,
phone # 941/376-0720

Facebook

We continue to have issues with livestreaming on Facebook on Sunday mornings. Please be patient with us as we are working on updating the equipment needed for livestreaming, projection, and sound.

Pecans

Last Call for Cinnamon glazed Pecans. Only about 11 left.

Trinity Staff

Trinity Preschool Staff: Glenna (Director), Wanda (VPK teacher), Madison (3-year old class), Libby (2-year old class). School started August 11th.



Meet Ann Erwin. Say hello and welcome our new custodian when you see her around campus



Children, Youth and Families Ministry

YoUth GrOuP

Wednesdays

4:00 – 6:00

All students ages 12 – 17 are welcome! Meets upstairs in the Youth Room from 4 to 6pm. Open Game Room with Free Pizza and Wi-Fi.

Beginning September 3.

CONGRATULATIONS

Scholarship Awards

Kayla Wagler is working towards her PHD in Clinical Psychology at Oklahoma State University

Sebastian Girstl begins his first year at Florida State University studying Criminal Justice.

Inhabit the Garden Centering Prayer Group

Our Centering Prayer Group is aptly named “Inhabit the Garden.” We gather to meet each Friday at 8:30 AM in the Garden of Hope. That is a very obvious statement. We all know where to come and what time to be there. But there is added significance as well. When we gather we are attentively right there. During the seasons we are attentive to the shifting pattern of sun and shadow. We particularly listen to the various birds singing, and some of us can identify them. We appreciate the patterns of the morning breezes. We notice which plants are blooming and are grateful for those who prune and nourish them. We really do “inhabit” the Garden. We don’t just meet there.

We also inhabit the Garden with a shared intention. Our shared intention is to consent, say Yes, to God’s presence and action within. Our shared faith is that God is actually present, not just in our little group, but in every member of the human family, no exceptions. Julian of Norwich put it this way. She said that there is a part of every human being that is created out of that which is uncreated. God is an indelible part of ALL of us. That is the wondrous miracle of God’s love that is personal and universal, at all times and in all places.



Now, we just show up on Friday mornings. We would be wise to be humble enough to realize that the sun rises, and the shadows evolve whether we are there or not. The breezes are not just there, and the birds do not just sing when we are there. It is also true that the Divine Presence within us is actually there whether we acknowledge that love and surrender to that love or not. That is the essential nature of our shared silence. We surrender to that Divine Presence by letting go and letting go and letting God be God just as God is.

Our circle is always expandable, and you will always be welcomed. We always love to talk about Centering Prayer. Feel free to call Stephen or Christine at 941-773-7008.

Blooming Crepe Myrtle with Oak Tree in Garden of Hope

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!

Finance & Stewardship Team

Something to think about:

This year in July, Trinity learned of another thoughtful member remembering Trinity as a beneficiary in her Trust.



Gladys Taylor Trust named Trinity as one of its beneficiaries. She arranged a charitable trust distribution dispensing a set amount annually to our Church. Each December, due to Ms. Taylor's generosity, we will receive

a distribution of just over \$1633. We recognize and celebrate such thoughtful generosity.

You too can follow this example and through various means arrange to be gratefully generous in your affairs for Trinity. Being informed and being involved makes a difference. Blessings in your stewardship,

Carroll Hatfield

Finance Team



Saturday, September 20th, 9—10:30 am, Trinity Parking Lot.

Book Club

Book of the Month Club

You requested Book of the Month return in the fall so here it is! The September book is called Everything Happens For A Reason, and other lies I've loved by Kate Bowler.

Kate is a professor at Duke Divinity School who had studied prosperity gospel. In her 30's she was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and suddenly faced the limits of the prosperity gospel and question the many glib statements people say like 'everything happens for a reason.' You will enjoy this New York Times bestseller reflection on her journey and faith struggle. Times will be set up at the end of the month for discussion with Pastor Linda.

"Part of the book's appeal lies in the fact that Bowler somehow manages to blend raw vulnerability with disarmingly funny moments—an unusual combination to say the least....Bowler writes with affectionate, wry candor about her motley menagerie, which includes family, medical professionals, close friends and colleagues...She can be flat out hilarious. The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Bowler's lovely prose and sharp wit capture her struggle to find continued joy after her diagnosis. This poignant look at the unpredictable promises of faith will amaze readers. Publishers Weekly



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, Diane Freestone, 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, Kara Voyles, Bob Ward, Mary Weaver, Marilyn Williams, Miriam Williams, Betty Woolverton, Owen Woodyard, Pat Woodyard.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Joan Utter who died on July 10 2025.

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.



If you are, or would like to be, a reader or greeter during our Traditional worship, please attend an informative meeting on Sunday, September 14th, after worship services.

Thank you Note

From Debbie Utter

I want to thank everyone at Trinity for your messages, cards, flowers, and especially your prayers after Mom's passing. The love you've shown has comforted me in this very difficult time.



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.

September Birthdays



Lisa Hatfield	9/9
Tammy Barnett	9/12
Sebastian Girstl	9/12
David Wyatt	9/14
Grant Raymond	9/14
Brenda Lee Hickman	9/15
Linda Easterday	9/17
Kathryn Logan	9/17
Debbie Tippen	9/17
George Ormiston	9/20
Paula McCullough	9/21
Liz Mercer	9/21
Steve Mayers	9/24
Steve Puhaly	9/24
Lou Towery	9/24
Debra Martin	9/26
Christy Wilhelm	9/27
Phillip Jorgensen	9/28
Marsha Mayers	9/30

Anniversaries

Ian Bland & Becki Creighton 9/2
Vinnie & Diane Nash 9/8

August Birthdays

BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR
August birthday friends

Margot Stanton	8/1
Rob Morse	8/3
Shara Abrams	8/4
Rebecca Burke Chinnici	8/5
Jack Hundley	8/6
Wendy Newsome	8/6
Sylvia Elam	8/7
Mark Anthofer	8/9
Larry McDorman	8/11
Mark Aukland	8/12
Marguerite Hankins	8/12
Maddox Towery	8/12
Matthew Stalo	8/13
Barbara Ellsworth	8/14
Brian Kuhn	8/19
Sandy Murphy	8/19
Dan Jackson	8/20
Vander Wilhelm	8/21
Kristie Compton	8/25
Becky Carlin	8/27
Susan Francisco	8/27
Barbara Hunt	8/27
Jason Means	8/27
Janene Young	8/27
Kelsey Kral	8/28

Anniversaries

Bob & Sherrill Carr	8/1
Sam & Jean Caudle	8/2
Rob & Kathy Morse	8/5
Steve & Joan Zickel	8/16
Tom & Jan Robertson	8/17
Alan & Vickie Meyers	8/24
Steve & Rhonda Puhaly	8/26

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



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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 Shrock, Director
Custodian: Ann Erwin

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