

The ACORN

Vol. 9 Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, FL September 2026



UMYF!

August 30 CCYM met for an evening of food, fellowship and games! Russ shared a devotional and family challenge: Read 1 John, a chapter each night, and report back to him what you would name the book.

Next we headed upstairs for individual game challenges, and last we played an intergenerational kickball game in Heritage Hall. Much laughs were had, much good fun, and much love imparted!



13 Youth
19 Adults



Thank you!



Thank you!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 06 2026. 6 P.M. HALEY HALL

Carroll Hatfield and the Small Group
invite you to an excellent movie about prayer.



Rated PG
Family suitable
Believer approved.
Snacks provided.







CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY

September 13, 2026

On this Special Sunday, we invite every church in the Florida Conference to a **special offering supporting all of our UMC Campus Ministries.**

Funds will be shared equally between all Florida UMC Campus Ministries.

Give Today! →



- The current generation of college students is the largest since the Baby Boom, but the lowest percentage to grow up in church.
- Approximately 80% of college students have never had significant Church experience.
- More significant life choices (vocation, lifestyle, relationships) are made during college than any other stage of life.
- 90% of students who have grown up in the church may never return after graduation.

September 13

Also on September 13, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Debbie Allen will be joining us in worship. Dr. Allen is regarded with great fondness in our District and Conference, so you'll want to take advantage of this opportunity to worship with this amazing person!



love first.♥

Love First is a new, yearlong emphasis on evangelism that will equip clergy and laity across The Florida Conference to share the love of God through intentional preparation, district outreach, and a statewide mission in the summer of 2027.

Your journey begins at the first **Quarterly Catalyst**.

Because ministry isn't meant to be done alone, clergy and lay leaders from across Florida will gather to learn, collaborate, and reimagine ministry together. Through deep listening, shared values, and creative problem-solving, you'll discover what Spirit-led, community-focused ministry looks like and leave with practical tools you can begin using immediately.

Saturday, September 19 | 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Florida Southern College | Lakeland

\$25 • Ages 18–24 attend FREE with code YOUNGADULT



Scan to
learn more



For more information call Pastor Jennifer: 941-924-7756

United Women of Faith

United Women of Faith resume meetings September 2026

Executive Board Meeting **Tuesday Sept 1 at 1 pm** in Haley Hall

September Circle meetings:

- Tuesday, September 8 (Ruth Circle) in Haley Hall at 10:30 am
- Monday, September 21 (Hannah Circle) at Evelyn Miller's Home at 1 pm
- Thursday, August 27 (Persis Circle) at Gecko's on Stickney Point at 5:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 7: Combined Circles/At large members/ invited guests. Free Fall Luncheon buffet at Noon in Haley Hall.

- Special Invitations will be sent to potential members to join our UWF. Members, think of a neighbor, friend, relative you can invite.
- Program: Mothers Helping Mothers Speaker. We will suggest bringing items to donate to them.

Submitted by Sherrill Carr

Sleep in Heavenly Peace—September Monthly Mission



I bet you don't think twice of having a bed to crawl into every night. There are thousands of children in our country that do not have that privilege. They are sleeping on a floor-no mattress, pillow, maybe a sheet if they're lucky!

Mark and I had the privilege to be involved last fall with Sleep Heavenly Peace, an organization which provides the bed frame, mattress sheets, comforter and pillow. Volunteers come together to build the beds board by board. Then the frames are delivered to the qualifying families along with all the bedding. We were able to see, help build, deliver, then assemble the beds. Believe me this is better than any Christmas present given to anyone! The family we delivered to the kids were bouncing off the walls kept telling us thank you thank you thank you!

Soooo, September's mission is to collect New single size sheets, a pillow or, if you like, a bed in a bag. These items will be then donated to the local chapter of Sleep Heavenly Peace. So tonight when you crawl into bed think of those who are not as fortunate as you.

Submitted by Margie Aukland

Staff Parish Relations Committee Update

It is with sadness we report that our extraordinary Custodian/Maintenance/General Helper, Ann Erwin will leave us on September 3rd. Her daughter has bought a house next door to hers in Kentucky for Ann to live in. Ann will be moving there next month. Ann wants to train her replacement, so we will move promptly to find the person who can attempt to meet the high standard she has set. At Acorn press deadline, a qualified candidate has been identified, but not yet hired.

Ann has been a blessing to us while among us. May she be blessed as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Submitted by Ian Bland, SPRC Chair

Scholarships

The Trinity Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the recipients of the newly named Glenn Woods Memorial Scholarship:

Chiaralis Brown – Senior at USF, who will graduate with an AB in Music Performance, minor in PreMed

Sebastian Girstl –Sophomore at FSU, majoring in Political Science, minor in Business

Kayla Wagler – soon to graduate with a PhD in Psychology

Please join us in congratulating these wonderful students!



We Need Your Jars!

Trinity is launching a new ministry/outreach: **Project Sunshine!** We are in need of **small glass jars or bottles** that will be decorated and used for little flower arrangements. These smaller "vases" will be easier to carry (fit in a cup holder) and they won't need to be returned. However, to encourage disposal in a *recycling bin*, all decorations will be removable.

We're hoping this will make it easier for **you** to bring them to folks who are home-bound, in the hospital, or just in need of a little cheering up. Plus, it will mean our altar flowers will have an extended life by bringing joy to others. There will be a specific place in Haley Hall to drop off your jars or bottles, and find the finished arrangements to take with you.

Please *rinse out* the jars & bottles and put the lids back on. We will wash them, remove any labels, decorate and fill them. Sizes we need are: max height = 8"; max diameter = 3"; mouth = 1-3"; any shape (round, square, triangle); and any color glass. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Hardenburgh or Beatty Shipley. *Let's spread some sunshine!*

Submitted by, Laura Hardenburgh

Trustees Report

The Trustees have been busy this summer completing several projects and preparing for others that will begin soon.

Heritage Hall Walking Hours

This very hot summer has left some of us looking for a cool place to walk. Because our two local malls are no longer available, Heritage Hall is now open for walking Monday through Thursday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Congregants may bring one guest. It is a cool, comfortable place for those who want to stay healthy and fit.

Completed Campus Improvements

- Our trees and foliage were professionally trimmed, leaving the campus looking beautiful, well cared for, and better prepared for the most active part of hurricane season.
- Outdoor lighting has been repaired or replaced, so the south parking lot is now well illuminated at night and the flame and cross on the sanctuary's exterior wall are displayed beautifully in the evening.
- Last week, the buildings and surrounding sidewalks were pressure-washed, a project that highlights what a beautiful complex we have.

My Little Library

Through her Kiwanis group, one of our congregants has made "My Little Library" available to our community. This outdoor book station offers appropriate children's books that families may borrow and return—or keep, if desired. The station will be placed near the Preschool playground, close to the east end of the Preschool Director's office.

Upcoming Safety and Maintenance Projects

Future projects include:

- Evaluating the junction and breaker boxes throughout the complex and at the parsonage. This work will help ensure that our campus remains safe and up to date.
- Indoor sanctuary lighting and the ceiling lights in Heritage Hall remain high priorities. These important parts of our facilities must be maintained, updated, or replaced over time.
- The concrete shifting and cracking between the sanctuary and Haley Hall will be addressed immediately so we can determine the cause.
- The backyard of the parsonage will also be examined to understand why that area appears to be sinking below the surrounding ground.

We are blessed to have caring, hardworking trustees and volunteers who support these projects and the many other issues already resolved or now being addressed. Thank you all for generously sharing your time, talents, and resources. It is a privilege and an honor to serve Christ our Lord alongside you.

Dave Masterson
Trustee Chair

Music Ministry

WHOSE HOLIDAY SEASON IS IT?

Perhaps you would agree with the statement that modern commercialism and consumerism has all but obliterated any traditional sense of the holiday season!

Allow me to state an example....

I was a bit dumbfounded when coming across what was formerly a big "department store" in Bradenton, now completely given over to Halloween paraphernalia!!

Who needs that much space to sell vampires and witches; skeletons and frankenstein stitches? Maybe the more sadder and sobering question is: When did society's sensibilities come to this point?

The entire season is now Halloween, and then Christmas..... Oh... Don't forget to include a "snack & football time in between" called "Thanksgiving"! If any of this strikes anyone as somewhat "surreal", be assured... You are not alone!

For that matter, how many young or older people are actually aware, or even care that the observance of "All Hallows Eve" began as a solemn church vigil during the evening before "All Saint's Day" which all Liturgy based Churches celebrate on or the nearest Sunday to November 1st?

Time for a detour; This topic will have to be a discussion for another day!

One thought for sure.... Returning to the real reason for the Liturgical Church Calendar would likely answer more questions than initiate them.

That's why, in my opinion, the month of September is an excellent time to begin contemplating the "real reason for the season", and not just because the dates in September are always the exact same as the dates in December.

The music ministry of Trinity UMC has always strived to musically enhance the seasonal celebrations by increasing the opportunities to participate, even on a limited, temporary basis! Do you have a background in school music appreciation, band or orchestra and piano classes that would automatically qualify you to participate with the "Hand Chime Time Team" here at the church. Did you ever sing in a school chorus or choir in preparation for a performance presentation? Have you had the opportunity to appear in a school theatrical play or a summer camp acting skit that you thoroughly enjoyed?

These and other outlets are all available during the season IF the response from many people is there!

Please don't take the approach of sitting on the sidelines coyly saying: "If they ask me to, I'll see if I can try...."!

If that approach doesn't work in other portions of your life, it likely won't work here either.

How profoundly pleasant it would be to have a plethora of people putting into words their artful pastime proclivities and posting them to the following email address:

LaTerry@iTrinity.org

Thanks!

LaTerry Butler, B.A., CAGO

From the Church & Society of The United Methodist Church:

What do the facts say?

Updated 2025 CLIMATE JUSTICE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- In the last two-hundred years - due to heat trapping pollution, mainly from cars, power plants, and other industrial sources that burn gasoline, coal, and other fossil fuels - carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere have increased by more than 50%. • Average global temperature has increased by 1.2°C (2°F) since the pre-industrial era. This number might seem small, but it means a significant increase in accumulated heat.
- The global average temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C (about 3 degrees F) above preindustrial levels in the next few decades and could rise as much as 2-4°C above preindustrial levels if we don't stop emitting greenhouse gases. (NOAA)
- 2024 was the warmest year on record according to NASA scientists, beating the record set in 2023, and 2026 is heading towards another record. The ten most recent years were the warmest on record.
- Communities of color and low income communities experience higher overall temperatures, more days that exceed 100°F, and are at higher risk of dangerous heat exposure than other communities. (Yale School of the Environment)
- Dangerous extreme heat is affecting more people around the world than ever before. Extreme heat causes health problems, increases in violent crime, and psychiatric distress.

What do you say? Lower your impact and find ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

- Choose modes of transportation that reduce or eliminate fossil fuel consumption.
- Consume local and seasonal food products that are cultivated in more sustainable ways.
- Conserve energy: turn off the lights, reduce air conditioner use, and investigate using "green energy" alternatives such as wind or solar.
- Connect with other United Methodists who are committing to a just and equitable transition to net zero emissions. Raise your voice: Contact your elected officials and urge them to address the global climate crisis now! Ask them to support investing in a clean energy future, reducing emissions and providing adaptation assistance for those struggling to survive in a changing climate.

Submitted by Karen Remfrey

"Inhabit the Garden" Centering Prayer Group

The "Inhabit the Garden" Centering Prayer Group is a weekly opportunity to experience this method of prayer that traces its roots to how Jesus taught us to pray. It is also an opportunity to express hospitality to friends from other area churches. On July 30 we celebrated six years of meeting in the Garden of Hope. We were hosted at a lovely luncheon. Nine of us were present and five were having fun elsewhere. It is kind of funny how praying in silence deepens relationships. We acknowledge this as the work of the Holy Spirit. The following poem was a gift shared that day.

To Let Go Takes Love

To let go does not mean to stop caring ... it means I can't do it for someone else.
To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To let go is not care for, but to care **ABOUT**.

To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be him or herself.

To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all outcomes but to allow others to determine their own destinies.

To let go is not to be less protective, it is to permit another to face reality.

To let go is not to dominate but to be willing to let things happen.

To let go is not to betray the past, but to have faith in the future.

To let go means to fear less and love more.

We meet in the Garden of Hope
every Friday from
8:30 to 9:30 AM.

Questions? Feel free to call
Stephen and Christine Hoffman
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!

July Food Drive

The Food Drive team meets in the courtyard every 3rd Saturday to gather, record and deliver nonperishables for the Food Pantry at Church of the Palms and Remnant Cafe. As we all know, the price of groceries has gone up and some Sarasota families struggle to "fill the table."

Church of the Palms Food Pantry serves hundreds of families every month. It is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30am until 1pm. The pantry is open to anyone who needs food assistance. It's part of the USDA TEFAP program, so eligibility is required, but you don't need to bring any documents to prove it. Just show up during distribution hours. The pantry is very well stocked and the staff is known for being kind, empathetic, and generous. Food is typically prepared and brought out to you within about 10 minutes of arriving. SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF benefits assistance is available on Tuesdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Benefits Specialists can help you apply for food stamps and other assistance programs.

Remnant Café will often post its most urgent needs on their Facebook page. Recent post requested: Laundry detergent, Body Wash, Razors.

Please bring nonperishable food donations to the Church, as you can. If the office is not open, there's a table right outside the door to leave your donations or bring with you on Sunday.

Submitted by Karen Remfrey

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

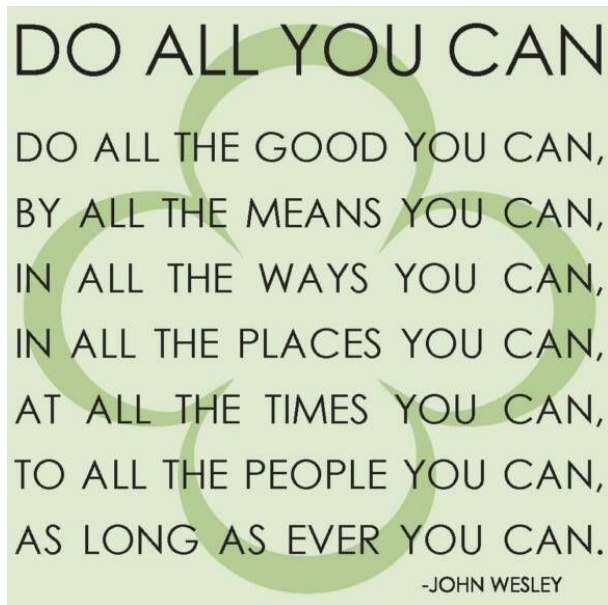
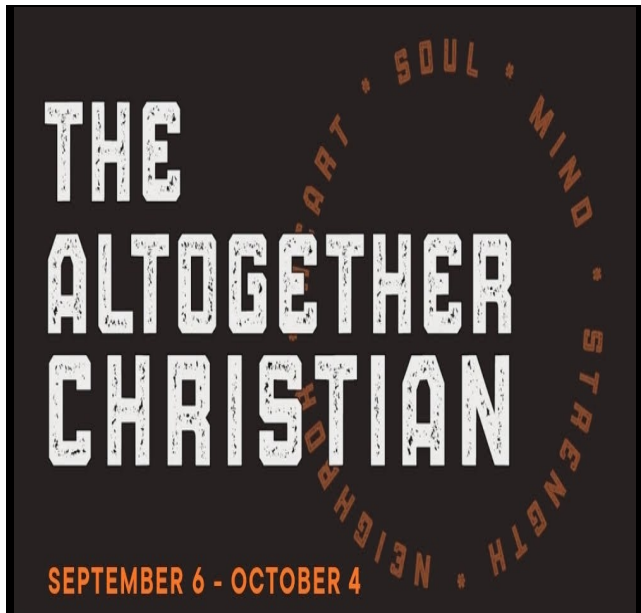


Stewardship

September has classes starting again and routines being set.

Offering should be more than routine. Sharing your time, talent and treasures should be intentional in thanking God for His grace. Let us arrange our priorities to be generous and intentional supporting the ministries of Trinity. Our second pocket giving to Residing Hope and UMCOR are aside from regular tithes and offerings. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Carroll Hatfield
Stewardship



New Church Office Hours

Monday 9:00 am— 2:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday Closed

September Birthdays



Rose Ray 9/1
 Lisa Hatfield 9/9
 Tammy Barnett 9/12
 David Wyatt 9/14
 Brenda Lee Hickman 9/15
 Linda Easterday 9/17
 Kathryn Logan 9/17
 Liz Mercer 9/21
 Steve Mayers 9/24
 Steve Puhaly 9/24
 Lou Towery 9/24
 Deb Martin 9/26
 Christy Wilhelm 9/27
 Marsha Mayers 9/30

Anniversaries



Ian Bland & Becki Creighton-Bland 9/2

Vinnie & Diane Nash 9/8

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. Send Prayer Requests to Brenda Moore or the Church Office

Please lift extra prayers for:

Kay Anthofer, Bob Carr, Roy Cowles, Becki Creighton, Barb Ellsworth, Curt Eskew, Karyn Eubanks, Jean Henry, Jim Henry, Brenda Lee Hickman, Revella Lee, Dottie Morris, Bev Packer, Troy Poulin, Phyllis Pritchett, Steve Puhaly, Rhonda Puhaly, Ann Riviere, Jan Robertson, Tom Robertson, Jerry Ralston, Jim Schindler, Margot Stanton, Carol Swart, Chuck Swart, Debbie Utter, Kara Voyles, Miriam Williams, Marcia Wireman, Pat Woodyard.

(Please notify church office to take your name off.)

10:10 Prayers

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!

Prayer Keepers / Trinity Caring Partners



Trinity's Caring Partners.

Trinity's Caring Partners (formerly named Prayer Keepers) are available to offer prayerful and confidential visits with Communion, specific assistance during transitions, or on-going support as needed. Brenda Moore is now leading the group and you can contact her at 941-388-7679 for more information or assistance.

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**



4150 S. Shade Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tel: 941-924-7756

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 at 10:30am.

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

Or watch the recording anytime on YouTube:

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Ahrens-Sims

Traditional Worship Director: LaTerry Butler

Director of Children/Youth Ministry: Russell Towery

Sound/Projections Board: Vander Wilhelm

Business Administration: Jack Hundley

Secretary: Kate Setear

Preschool :Glenna Shrock, Director

Custodian: Ann Erwin

*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.*