

The Steeple

Trinity United Methodist Church

A CHURCH MOTIVATED BY LOVE

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayerfully read [Exodus 3:1-6](#) and [Exodus 25:8-94](#) for Sunday's service.

Join Trinity in person or online for worship.



- Sep 8th - 7:00 pm - SPRC meeting in room 112
- Sep 9th - 6:00 pm - Pomodoro Restaurant, 1811 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC. Please let Annette know at drbakernc@gmail.com if you will attend.
- Sep 16th - 6:30 pm - Trustees meeting in room 112
- Sep 23rd - 6:30 pm - Finance Committee meeting in room 112

Tuesday night, at the Durham City Council meeting, more than 100 people from multiple churches, including Trinity UMC, represented Durham CAN. We supported a resolution to train city staff to uphold a "4th Amendment Workplace," protecting everyone's rights if ICE shows up in unconstitutional ways. The Council voted yes—making Durham the second city in North Carolina, after Carrboro, to adopt this policy. Discussion begins at the 50 minute mark: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FjXXyRruhzM?si=3VxFWDwViXVnc1my>

Learn more about 4th Amendment Workplace at <https://4thworkplace.org/>

Second Sunday Table

A space for our 40's and under community to connect and share life



Join us for lunch on Sunday, September 14th after worship at Bull City Burger on the patio. Contact Pastor Tobi for more information: Pastor@TrinityDurham.org.



Ready to Take the Next Step? Join Us for "Pizza & Purpose" - A Membership Exploration Lunch!

Sunday, September 21 | After worship

Hey Trinity UMC family and friends! Are you feeling that tug in your heart to dive deeper into what it means to be part of our church community? Whether you've been visiting for weeks or just walked through our doors, we'd love to connect with you over some great food and even better conversation!

What's on the menu?

- Delicious lunch (because faith conversations are always better with food!)
- Real talk about our membership vows and what they actually mean in everyday life
- Inside scoop on our mission and how we're making a difference in Durham
- Discovery of ministry opportunities that match your passions and gifts
- Q&A with Pastor Tobi in a relaxed, no-pressure environment

Who should come? Anyone curious about making Trinity UMC their church home! Whether you're:

- A recent college grad figuring out faith in the "real world"
- Starting a family and wanting a church community to grow with
- New to the area and looking for your people
- Simply ready to move from visitor to family member

The vibe: Think coffee shop conversation meets intentional community. Come as you are, ask any questions, and let's explore together what it looks like to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

RSVP: Email the church office so we know how much pizza to order!
office@TrinityDurham.org

*Questions? Grab Pastor Tobi after service or reach out during the week.
We can't wait to dream about the future with you!
Trinity United Methodist Church - Where faith meets action and community becomes family*



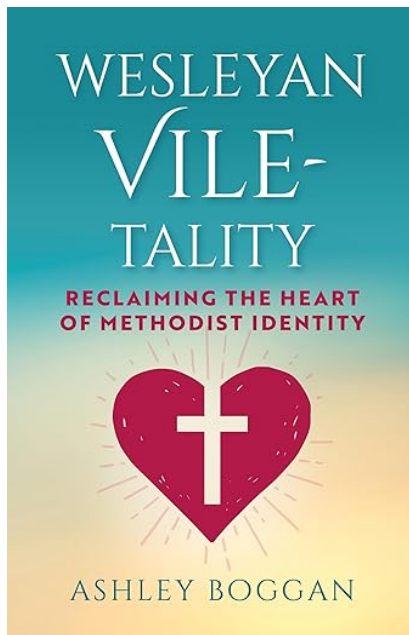
In September, 1925, the Durham Trinity Methodist congregation worshipped for the first time in its current sanctuary located at 215 N. Church Street in downtown Durham. To commemorate this milestone in the life of the congregation, you are invited to attend worship on Sunday, September 28, at 11:00am for the Sanctuary Centennial Celebration. The congregation will provide a pot luck luncheon with Celebration Cake immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. During luncheon, the Fellowship Hall will be named for the late George Newton, who devoted his life to serving Trinity. After luncheon, we will cut the ribbon on the newly-renovated Parlor in the Educational Building. At 2:30 p.m, an organ concert will be given by Tim Baker, who often serves as our guest organist, as a tribute to the Centennial of the Skinner organ. Everyone who loves Trinity United Methodist Church is encouraged to attend this Celebration!



Sermon series: Sacred Space

SACRED SPACE: As we celebrate 100 years of worship in this sacred space, we explore the biblical understanding of sanctuary—not just as a building, but as God's desire to dwell among God's people. From the wilderness tabernacle to the New Jerusalem, Scripture reveals that God seeks to make a home with us, transforming ordinary places into holy ground through divine presence and human faithfulness. Join us for worship each week in September.

- 9.07 God's Presence - How divine presence makes ordinary places holy
- 9.13 God's Protection - Sanctuary as refuge and strength
- 9.21 God's People - The New Testament shift to believers as the temple
- 9.28 God's Future - The ultimate sanctuary in Revelation

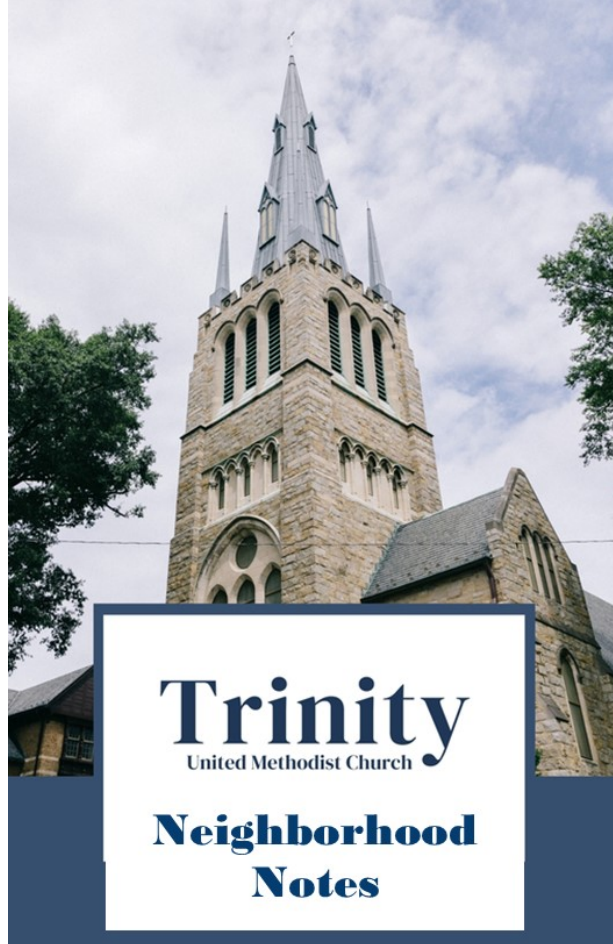


Did you know that early Methodists were labeled as rule-benders, rabble-rousers, and outcast-embracers? Join a 6-week Sunday School class taught by Pastor Tobi, beginning this Sunday, September 7th, at 9:45am.

Wesleyan Vile-tality calls us back to the roots of our identity. Centered on the moment John Wesley “submitted to be more vile” in spreading the love of God to all people, Dr. Ashley Boggan argues that Wesleyan vile-tality is at the core of who we are as Methodists. Early Methodists stood out and stood up. She traces how that original identity was lost as the predecessor denominations to The United Methodist Church grew and began to embrace respectability over “vile-tality.” In an accessible and engaging account of a fascinating history, these

stories of our past call us to understand who we were, question who we are, and reclaim who we should be.

Books can be purchased here and other online stores. <https://a.co/d/bwun5UE>



Last week, Duke started back classes, and with that I began my new teaching fellowship. I'm teaching an introductory course on global and comparative issues. On Friday, after class, one of my students said, "I need to ask you something totally unrelated to class." Nervously, I said, "Ok." She asked if she could go to a local protest in support of a Duke bus driver who had lost his legal status and was expected to be deported within the week, or if she herself might be deported for joining. Other students nearby leaned in to hear my answer.

All I could offer was honesty: protest is risky, and precarity cannot be avoided. What I gave was not a solution but comfort, context to the kind of risk she would be taking, and solidarity in the fact that she is not alone in facing it. I said more but still not enough.

Our neighborhood continues to be defined by this mix of courage and vulnerability. We live in a community where workers are threatened with deportation and where young people wrestle with how to stand alongside them. May we be the kind of church that offers not only comfort but also accompaniment, and the kind of neighbors who refuse to let anyone face precarity alone.

Paz/Peace! TW



Upcoming birthdays

September 8 - Erica Washington



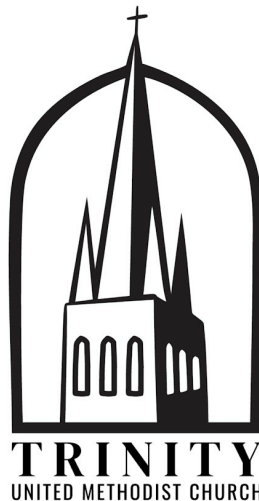
Carol Ayres • Carolyn Schuldt
Tom Eamon • Diane Foster • Margaret Krause
Anne Campbell, daughter-in-law of Dennis and Leesa Campbell
Eastway Elementary School

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215 N. Church St., Durham, NC 27701
919-683-1386

[CONTACT
US](#)



Trinity UMC | 215 N Church Street | Durham, NC 27701 US

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