

The Steeple

Trinity United Methodist Church

A CHURCH MOTIVATED BY LOVE

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayerfully read **1 Kings 8:22-30** and **Psalms 46** for Sunday's service.

Join Trinity in person or online for worship.



- Sep 15th - 6:30 pm - Trustees meeting in room 112
 - Sep 20th - 10:00 am - 12 noon - Lemonade at Trinity for Centerfest
 - Sep 23rd - 6:30 pm - Finance Committee meeting in room 112
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Meet Trinity's New Intern



Joshua McLaurin

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to introduce our Duke Divinity Field Education pastoral intern, made possible through NCCU Wesley Campus

Ministry and a generous congregational donor. Joshua McLaurin will serve Trinity UMC from September through April. Contextual learning contributes directly to students' understanding and practice of ministry within the community of faith. Trinity UMC is honored to be chosen to serve Duke Divinity School in this way, and we look forward to welcoming Joshua in worship on Sunday, September 14.

Joshua Isaiah McLaurin is a second-year Master of Divinity student at Duke Divinity School. He is pursuing ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. Joshua serves as the Program Coordinator for NCCU Wesley Campus Ministry. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Business, as well as a Master's Degree in Information Sciences, both from North Carolina Central University (2020 and 2022). Joshua is a huge Philadelphia Eagles Fan and enjoys being sensitive to the needs of others.

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 potluck 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!

Centennial Celebration



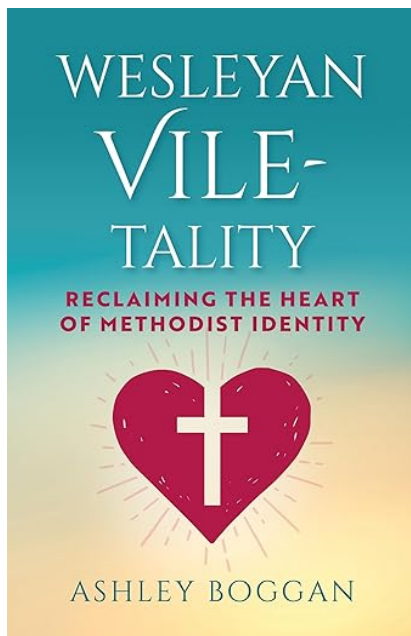
Coming soon, in our bright future, Centennial Celebration, September 28! Please bring your favorite foods for a potluck lunch following church service on September 28; we expect guests! Remember, Ann Tice said, "Methodists always bring a balanced meal!" No desserts needed; we plan to have a Birthday Cake! Please send an email of what you will bring to Angela Fountain at angelagfountain@gmail.com.



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



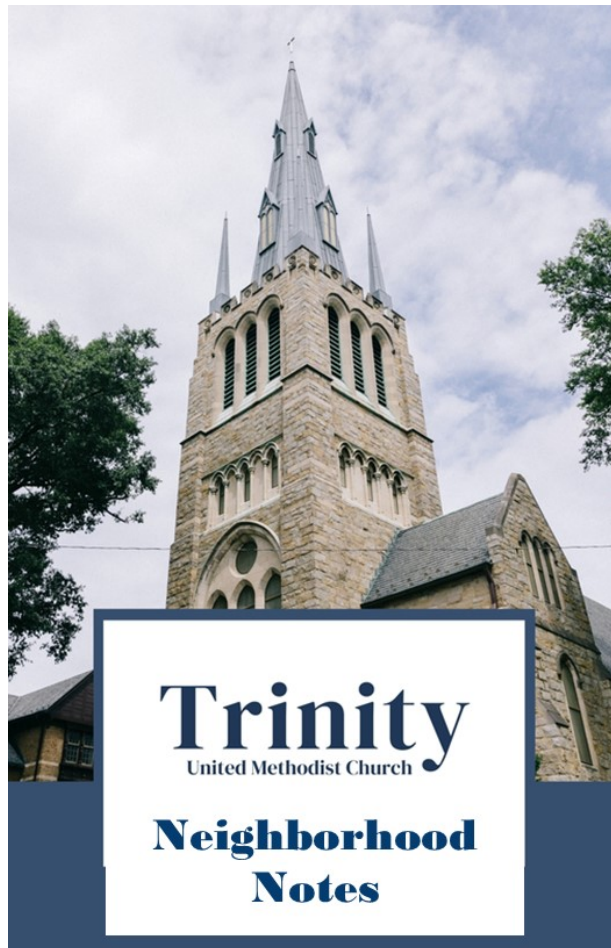
Did you know that early Methodists were labeled as rule-benders, rabble-rousers, and outcast-embracers? Join a 6-week Sunday School class taught by Pastor Tobi. The first meeting of the Sunday School class was last Sunday, September 7th. Join the class this Sunday at 9:45am.

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.

Please read chapter 1 in the book for Sunday.

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



In recent weeks, I’ve encountered more and more people struggling with substance abuse. During my time in Brazil this summer, I visited a rehab

“facility” that was little more than an open farm on the edge of a poor urban neighborhood. It wasn’t polished or clinical, but it was a space where people seeking sobriety could work the land, live in community, and begin again.

Being back home, I can’t help but wonder: what opportunities for sobriety do our neighbors here have? Do they have spaces of dignity, where healing is not just about treatment but about belonging? Addiction is never just a personal struggle; it’s tied to poverty, isolation, and the failures of our systems to offer care.

As a church, we are called to stand with our neighbors who carry this burden. May we work to create spaces of belonging here in Durham, where sobriety is not a privilege but a possibility.

Paz/Peace! TW

RISE Against Hunger Meal Packing Event
Epworth United Methodist Church
September 20, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Epworth is partnering with Rise Against Hunger to pack 10,000 meals that will be sent to communities around the world facing food insecurity. There’s a role for everyone! Jobs will be available for all ages, so bring the whole family to serve together.

Can’t be there in person? You can still make a difference! Each meal costs about 42 cents to provide. For example, a gift of \$42 sponsors 100 meals. Every contribution helps us reach our goal.

To learn more go to <https://riseagainsthunger.org/> or to sign up, please contact the church office at 919-489-6557.

Durham PRIDE
Parade & Festival

When: 09/27/2025

Where: Duke East Campus

***Parade is from 12-2pm with
a community kickback and
festival from 2-5pm***



Durham PRIDE
Queerly Beloved

When: 09/28/2025 @ 5:30pm

Where: Elizabeth Street UMC

***Worship will be followed by
a reception in the fellowship
hall at Elizabeth Street UMC***





Upcoming birthdays

September 23 - Vera Stewart



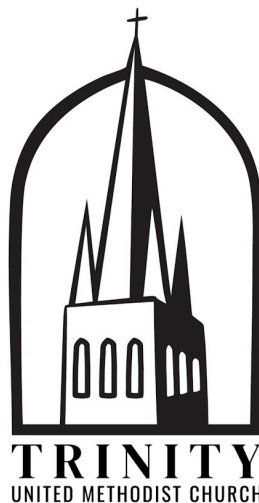
Carol Ayres • Carolyn Schuldt
Tom Eamon • Diane Foster • Margaret Krause
Anne Campbell, daughter-in-law of Dennis and Leesa Campbell
Eastway Elementary School
Jennifer Copeland (upon the death of her father)

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