

The Steeple

Trinity United Methodist Church

A CHURCH MOTIVATED BY LOVE

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayerfully read [Exodus 3:1-15](#), [Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b](#), [Romans 12:9-21](#), and [Matthew 16:21-28](#) for Sunday's service.

Join Trinity in person or online for worship.



- September 1st - First Tuesday Luncheon at Melo Trattoria, 1821 Hillandale Street. Please let Annette Baker (drbakernc@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend.



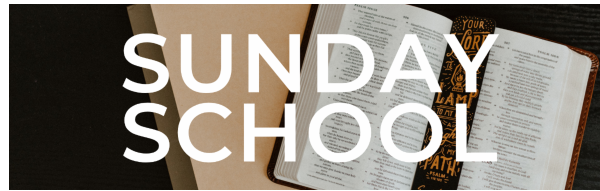
Trinity Choir Practice resumes on August 26th

Comprised of all interested participants, from youth to adult, this choir provides worship leadership through music most Sundays of the year, with a few weeks off in the summer. Regular rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Stephen Armstrong (stephen@trinitydurham.org) if interested.

Trinity Ringers resume practice on September 2nd

Trinity UMC owns 5 octaves of Schulmerich handbells and 3 octaves of Malmark choir chimes. Trinity Ringers practice on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The group is open to ringers from youth to adults.

This group rings in worship services periodically throughout the school year. Some music reading ability is required. New ringers are welcome after consultation with the director. Contact Stephen Armstrong (stephen@trinitydurham.org) if interested.



Join the Parlor Sunday School on September 13th at 9:45am as we begin:

Attention as Prayer

Six Weeks of Learning to Notice God's Presence

This six-session study invites you into the practice of holy attention—learning to recognize that God is always present. Together, we explore how attention itself can become prayer.



This fall, we join congregations across the North Carolina Conference in a five-week sermon series, "Vital Signs," running August 30–September 27. Each week takes up one of the Annual Conference's five focus areas—Effective Leaders, Healthy Congregations, Anti-Racism, Unity, and Congregations for Children—by using the appointed lectionary readings from Matthew's gospel. These worship resources were created collaboratively by clergy and laity at the "Collaborative Sermon Series Planning" Learning Lab at Annual Conference 2026. Learn more about these five focus areas at nccumc.org.

NCCUMC Corridor District Fall Book Study

The **Corridor District Anti-Racism Team** invites you to join neighbors across our district for a timely book study of ***Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny***, written by the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

To make this study as accessible as possible, we are offering **several in-person locations** across our district, as well as **one online Zoom**

option.

To help us prepare for how many are participating, please sign up below.

Sign-up for Book Study



Sunday, August 30 · 2:00 PM
Finding Our Way Again
Brian McLaren

Maybe you grew up with faith practices that felt rote or empty. Maybe you've walked away from some of them or maybe you miss them more than you expected. Maybe you're just wondering if there's more to the spiritual life than you've found so far.

Brian McLaren thinks there is.

In Finding Our Way Again, McLaren makes the case that ancient Christian practices — prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, sabbath, and more — aren't relics of a bygone era. They're a living path. And we can still walk it.

Important Security Alert

We are currently aware of an active phishing campaign targeting our organization and want to make sure everyone knows what to look for and what to do.

What is happening

A number of us have received emails that appear to be an invitation to a dinner party. These emails are fraudulent. Clicking any link in these messages will take you to a malicious website that will attempt to install harmful software on your computer.

These emails are especially deceptive because some of them are coming from real email addresses belonging to colleagues or contacts whose computers have already been compromised. The emails may look completely legitimate at first glance.

Delete any email immediately if it meets any of the following criteria:

- It appears to be an invitation to a dinner party
- Hovering your mouse over the links in the email shows a web address with invitedin and screenconnect

When in doubt, before clicking any link in any email, hover your cursor over it and check the address that appears in the lower-left corner of your screen. If the address does not match the organization or service the email claims to be from, do not click it.

Bishop's Book Recommendations

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton chose several books to recommend for this year's Annual Conference. We will highlight one of her recommended books each week in The Steeple going forward.

Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2025-2028.

Packed with the official text of The Social Principles, exercises, a topical index, and the Social Creed, this resource is your key to understanding the church's stance on crucial topics.



Request for Donations for Neighborhood Ministry Needs: A Suit, Some Socks, and As Many Plastic Grocery Bags as You Have.

Dear Trinity Family,

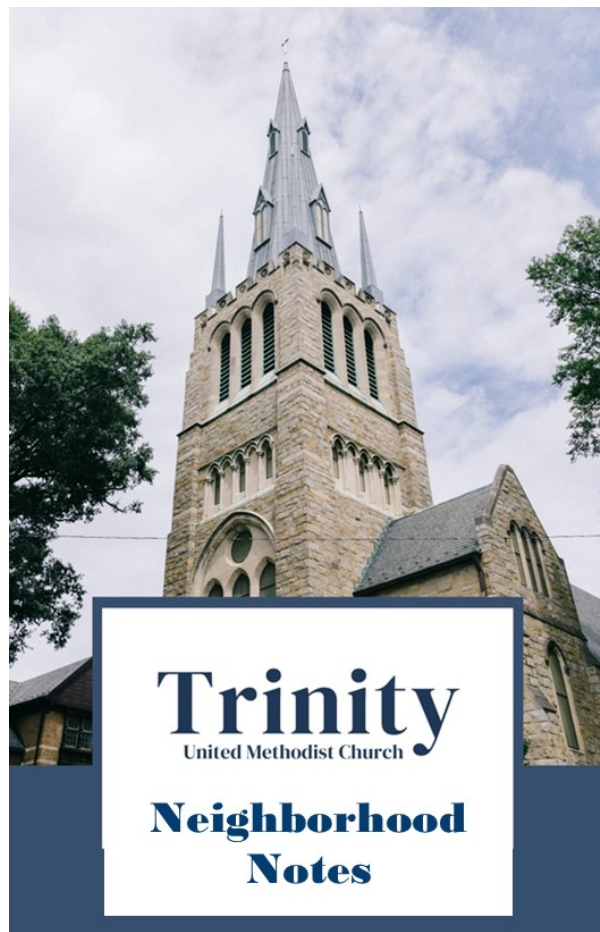
I received a few requests from our neighbors this week that I hope we can help meet.

For one, a gentleman needs a suit. I am not completely certain of his size, but his waist is approximately 40-42 inches, and I believe he wears around a size 42 jacket. If you have a clean, gently used suit near those measurements that you would be willing to donate, please let me know.

Socks have also been requested frequently lately, and I have given out all my personal excess socks and any that were donated recently so we could use donations of new adult socks. Finally, we need plastic grocery bags for our snack program. Normally, I take all of my plastic bags from my personal shopping and use those, and they are enough, but over the last few months the number of people we are serving has outgrown the shopping bag needs of a single middle-aged man without kids, so I need your help in the form of your extra plastic bags.

You may bring donations to the church and feel free to leave them in my office; I never lock the door for exactly these sorts of reasons (donations, etc.). Thank you, as always!

Peace/Paz! TW



This week was strange, even by the standards of some of the things I encountered walking around downtown Durham.

On two separate occasions, I found myself interrupting people who were either preparing to use or already using drugs. Then, later in the week, I encountered a woman in the middle of what appeared to be a serious crisis. She was extremely agitated, increasingly violent, and clearly needed help. I don't know whether she was high, experiencing a mental health crisis, or some combination of the two, and from where I stood there was really no way to know.

I've been thinking about all three encounters since.

We talk about homelessness, addiction, mental health, poverty, and public safety as separate problems, with separate agencies, budgets, policies, and even political constituencies organized around each of them. On the street, however, the distinctions are considerably less clear. Poverty can aggravate mental illness. Mental illness can complicate someone's ability to remain housed. Addiction can be a cause, consequence, or companion of either. And eventually all of these things can become a public safety concern for the person experiencing the crisis and everyone around them.

What struck me this week was how often the responsibility for navigating all of that falls to whoever happens to be standing there.

Sometimes that's a police officer or paramedic. Sometimes it's a social worker or someone working at a shelter. But increasingly it also seems to be a store employee, a security guard, a church, another unhoused person, or, this week, just some person, me in these instances, walking down the street.

I don't think that's sustainable.

We can argue about which institution should be responsible for what, but somebody has to be responsible. And as housing becomes less affordable, economic pressure continues to increase, and mental health and substance-use crises remain plainly visible on our streets and deepen and exacerbate, I suspect we are going to encounter more situations where the consequences of several failing systems arrive in the same place and at the same time.

This week, three of them arrived in front of me. That should concern us, particularly if we are serious when we say these people are our neighbors.

Peace/Paz! TW



Carol Ayres
Steven Brooks



August 23 - Angela Fountain
August 23 - Priscilla Horwath
August 27 - Eve Stelzenmuller
August 30 - Eleanor Hubert

[ABOUT](#)

[MEDIA](#)

[WEDDINGS](#)

[RENT SPACE](#)



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

[CONTACT US](#)



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!