

# THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

## PASTOR'S CORNER

March 2024

Volume MMXXIV Issue III

6600 Greenyard Road

Chester, VA 23831

(804) 748-2439

[www.trinity-umc.com](http://www.trinity-umc.com)

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*One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. (Luke 5:17)*

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Healing has been a focus of our spiritual life these last few months. From Advent to Lent, we have assumed the authority James prescribes for the church to anoint the sick with oil. One recent week, the theme of our morning Facebook devotional was “healing.” Among the meaningful reflections, this one seemed to touch a number of people.

“Wherever there is healing and transformation, there will be skeptics. Whether among your family and friends, coworkers or social circles, there may be people who scoff and question any change in your life. We have to be careful not to allow the onlookers to distract us from the new direction God is leading us through or the change God is making in us.

“Healing is not a one-time moment of magic. It is a pathway toward renewal, transformation, and restoration. Along the way, healing will require confronting old wounds, naming hard truths, giving up comfortable patterns, and courageously embracing new beginnings. Through it all, set your eyes firmly on where God is leading you, and not on those who seek to keep you where you are.”\*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Pastor's Corner: Healing

**Notes and Updates** • Newsletter Deadline, Thank You x2 • YAG • Widows Group • Food Truck Tuesdays • TLB • Missions • Music • General Conference 24 • Easter Eggs • March Birthdays • Fruit Calendar open dates thru 2024 • Calendar • Looking ahead • See you later • [March Calendar](#)

May it be so.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Alan

*\*The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer, Matt Miofsky, Editor, Abingdon Press, 2023.*

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please email all news,  
pictures and  
articles to the  
office by



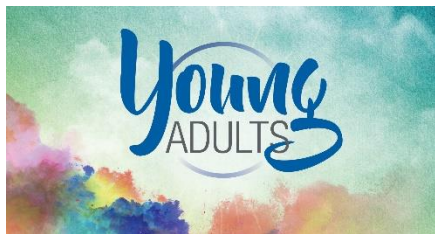
Sunday, March  
24th for inclusion in the  
April 2024 newsletter \*date  
is subject to change.\* Please  
send all items by email to  
[trinity@trinity-umc.com](mailto:trinity@trinity-umc.com)



I would like to thank everyone at church for all the kindness, support, care, calls, cards, texts, emails, gifts, flowers, food and the prayers that still continue. It's been a rough year and don't think I'd have made it without all of you. Also got a pocket prayer shawl and although I've held them and gotten them to others I cannot tell you what it meant to receive one. I was in tears. It was almost mystical. And of course thank Alan for his anointings, prayers, strength and courage to get through all that has gone on. Blessings to all of you. PS: The healing service was very powerful and I encourage anyone who wonders what it's all about to attend.

Thank you and blessings,

Pam Soto



Our Young adult group  
(ages 18-30) meets once a  
month. In March, they will  
be meeting on Wednesday,  
March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

This is a special Thank You to all Trinity members and friends who were so kind to Bill and me during my recent hip replacement surgery. Your prayers, cards, visits, casseroles, soups, and text messages all told me what a special group of friends we have at Trinity and encouraged me to follow doctors' orders so that I could be back with you soon.

Blessings to all of you,

Karen Poole

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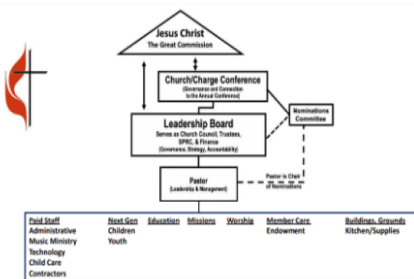




Please join us on Tuesday March 19th at 2:00 for our inaugural widow's group session. During this gathering we'll delve into the organization's structure, and the type of activities the members would like to participate in. Whether you recently widowed or have been for some time, our focus is in fostering fellowship and forging new connections. We look forward to your participation and input as we work together to shape our new group.



Be on the watch for Food Truck *Tuesdays* coming soon. Trinity's front parking lot will be the site for two trucks weekly, beginning March 12, serving from 5 to 7 pm. Each week will feature an entree truck and one dessert truck. This is not a church sponsored event. It is an opportunity for Trinity to support local businesses and be a good neighbor to our community. Tiffany's Food Truck and Pops Kettle Korn are the organizers of these weekly pop-ups.



**Mission Statement of Trinity United Methodist Church:**

"We answer God's call to impact lives for The Kingdom through ministry, mission, and worship."

The Trinity Leadership Board convened on February 15th to review financial matters and upcoming events. During the meeting, members also addressed updates regarding the Building/Grounds. The next Trinity Leadership Board Meeting is set for March 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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# Missions News

## Tri Cities Work Camp – [www.tcworkcamps.org](http://www.tcworkcamps.org)

You are invited to spend an unforgettable week this summer rebuilding homes and lives!! Construct porches and wheelchair ramps while you reconstruct hope in families. This event is held July 14<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 in the Colonial Heights/Petersburg area. This is an awesome week for high school age youth to make a huge impact in our local community. A teen camper must be 14 years old by the date of Work camp or be going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade the fall after camp, and may attend the summer after senior year. We can take “young adults – college age,” though they are reminded the focus is on the High School age youth. Youth spend the week housed at a church or school in Colonial Heights which serves at our Work camp base for lodging, evening programs and food services. Each youth is put into a work crew that they work and travel with for the week to a resident’s home. Several Youth from our church have attended in the past, and loved it! We are already registered to take a Trinity group. Currently Stephanie and Katie Griffith, and Stephanie’s nephew Jacob are planning to attend. We still need an adult male that would be willing to go for the week, and we would love to send many more youth! Please contact Stephanie Griffith if you are interested in attending this year, at 804-677-3198.



**Rise Against Hunger** – Trinity would love to host another Rise Against Hunger event for our fifth Sunday event in September! We will begin fundraising right away, as it takes a minimum of \$10,000 to have the event. If you wish to give funds for this event, please note Rise Against Hunger in the memo line of your giving (check or online).



This has been a very fun event for us, and a wonderful draw to persons outside of our membership body. Please help us make this happen, and mark your calendars for the fifth Sunday in September so you can play with us ☺



**Pace Center** – This is campus ministry at VCU, which our Rachel Z is involved in at school. This will be our focus for March. There will be a collection box in Mission Alley for items. If you wish to give money, please make a note in the memo line that money is for Pace Center. They sent the following message, and would love our help.



“One cold, windy January morning, Pace students walked to Kroger to purchase ingredients for a potato casserole. That evening, 10 students showed up to help make a casserole to donate to Reville United Methodist Church’s Friends of the Homeless Feeding Ministry. The next day, during Communion Service, a student lifted up her "joy" of being able to cook with 10 others to help members of the Richmond community. Your church’s community partnerships and support help make transformative moments like these possible. Thank you!”

**Summer Youth Summer Leadership Camp:** an immersive experience for high school-aged youth! Youth will stay overnight in downtown Richmond, Virginia, learn about Servant Leadership, and participate in mission and service opportunities throughout the Richmond area. June 17- 21. [Learn more](#)

**Kitchenware Drive:** Students love to cook at Pace and because of that, our kitchen items get worn quickly. Help us restock our kitchen with used or new items.

**Urgent needs:**

- Pots and pans
- Silicone spatulas and cooking utensils
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Baking Trays
- Cloth Dish Towels
- Cutlery
- Oven Mitts

**Kitchen Dreams**

- Commercial dishwasher
- Kitchen island with storage
- Commercial refrigerator/cooler

**Donate Snacks:** 35% of students experience food insecurity during their time at VCU. Donate snacks to Pace to make sure students get enough to eat each day.

**Snack ideas from students:** While healthy snacks are always appreciated, the students love a good balance :).

- Fruit snacks
- Individual bags of chips
- Granola bars
- Fruit: apples, bananas, clementines (such as halos or cuties)

- Oreos
- Homemade baked goods

**Level Up with frozen meals:** These can be placed in Church Freezer, but please leave a note in the donation box so we get them when we take donations.

- Breakfast sandwiches
- Burritos
- Lean Cuisine, Marie Calendars, Hungryman, Trader Joe's frozen meals

**A Place of Miracles Café** - 8820 Metro Court, Richmond VA 23237. This is a ministry located in the Jefferson Davis corridor (about 10 min from church) which serves hot meals and distributes food to persons in need. Trinity has been active in many ways with this café, and Trinity helps support this café financially. We have had a very active group from Trinity going every Friday from 1:30 pm until about 4:00pm. Please reach out to Bill or Karen Poole if you would like to help with this ministry, or just show up on a Friday afternoon ready to help!



## A Place of Miracles Clothes Cottage – 2007 Willis Road

Thank you so much to those of you who have come to help with setting up this clothes cottage. It is located a few blocks away from the Café, and was created because of the immense need of the community that is being served at the Café, and the surrounding area. We are still working hard to get things set up and have the building functional for “clients” to be served. Jenny (head of the Cottage) has



been serving clients for years, but it has been

piles of stuff. We have made huge progress, but still have a ways to go before it is ready. Stephanie Griffith will be at the cottage Sunday afternoons from 12:30 until 3:30 for the month of March if you would like to come and help! We are also looking for friends who would be available during the weekdays to possibly work on this. Judy Brynildsen and Lorri Vaughn (Stephanie’s mom) are working to set up some possible weekday hours. Please reach out to Judy or Stephanie if you can help during the week. The Cottage is in need of a washing machine! If you have one to donate, please contact Stephanie ☐



## **Mercy Mall** – 7519 Whitepine Road



Trinity has a group that goes to Mercy Mall on the first Monday of each month from 7PM until 8:30PM. We have done almost every job in the building over the years, but we generally sort kid clothing donations these days. We would love more helping hands if you are available! Mercy Mall is also looking for more volunteers during the daytime!

If you would be interested in volunteering at Mercy Mall, please check out [mercymallva.org](http://mercymallva.org), and register to volunteer there too. If you are coming on a Monday night with Trinity, you do not need to be registered. We will host toiletries drive for Mercy Mall in April, so please stock up on goodies if you find a good price!

**104 Ministries** – Prince George VA – Please mark your calendars and plan to come out and help with a fun day in the field at this non-profit growing/feeding ministry founded and run by our own Neil Zahradka. This is always a fun day with church family. Bring a knee pad and some work gloves...and a hat if it's sunny!

Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> - plant white potatoes

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> – plant sweet potatoes

Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> – harvest sweet potatoes



Wow! Didn't the kids do a great job on Sunday?  
Wait 'til you hear them on Palm Sunday! I can't wait!



March is a very busy time for the Music Department. Of course, we have our usual rehearsals for Bells, Sparrows, Children, Bass Clefs, and the Chancel Choir (and a partridge in a pear tree!). In addition to our regular Sunday services, there are special events coming up that need a mention, or two or three.



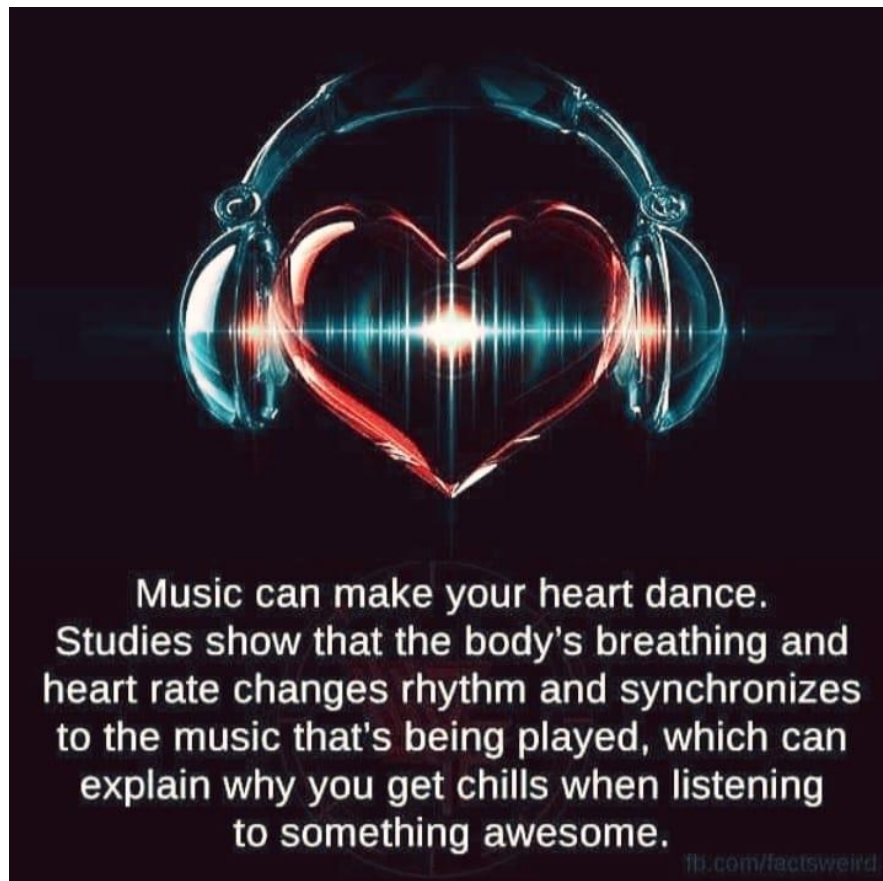
First up is the Variety Show on March 15! It's a chance to show up and show off your skills and talents. There will be performances from those as young as three, and as old (or older) than eighty. You will not want to miss this! If you have an act, please let me know **NO LATER THAN March 6**. There will be mandatory rehearsal for solos on March 10 at 2:00. If you have visual arts or crafts, there will be space to show off that talent, as well. The theme is What a Wonderful World. Was für eine wunderbare Welt!

Palm Sunday on March 24 is the beginning of Holy Week with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Bells will ring, choirs will sing, and palms will wave! Come wave palm branches with us!

Holy Thursday, March 28, is the night we remember the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Come share the table with us.

On Good Friday, March 29, there will be a Tenebrae service, led by the Chancel Choir with a small orchestra. “Tenebrae” is Latin for “Darkness”. We will relive the darkness of Christ’s last days and crucifixion so that the light of Easter will have even more meaning for us.

Easter is the last Day of March! What a joy-filled day! The Sunrise service will be led by the Sparrows, and the Easter service will be enhanced by the Chancel Choir. Come rejoice with us as we celebrate the Risen Christ. He’s Alive!





## General Conference 2024

After a four-year delay, the 2020 General Conference will take place April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC.

Please click on the link below for all information.

[https://vaumc.org/gc2024/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Advocate%2C+November+8%2C+2022](https://vaumc.org/gc2024/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Advocate%2C+November+8%2C+2022)



## EASTER EGGS

It is time to order your Easter Eggs. We are offering Peanut Butter and Butter Cream eggs, both gluten free, covered in chocolate, at \$5 per egg. Each egg is personalized and nicely packaged and would make a thoughtful gift.

If you have ever wondered how you could reach out to your neighbor or friend or stranger and offer them a place of worship, in a pleasant passive manner, then these eggs are the perfect opportunity.

**ORDERS:** Due Wednesday, March 13. We appreciate early orders.

You have two options to place your order: Email or Form

A. Email the information to Karen Sismour at: [KJSismour@verizon.net](mailto:KJSismour@verizon.net).

Subject: Eggs – *Your last name*. (example: Eggs – Layman).

Include: Name on egg, Type of egg (butter cream or peanut butter), and the Full name and phone number of person picking up the order.

B. Complete a form and drop form off at church in the basket in the sanctuary entrance. Please fill out one order form for each egg ordered. Forms are available in the basket.

\*\* Please do not mail forms. See Form notes below.

**PAYMENT:** Cash or check, payable to **TUMC**. (*Not UMW*). Enter “Easter Eggs” on the memo line.

Prepayment is required. Place payment with forms in basket in the sanctuary entrance. Envelopes are provided.

If you ordered by email, please put your name on the envelope.

\*\* Please do not mail payment. Please do not put payment in offering plate.

**PICKUP:** Wednesday, 3/20, through Palm Sunday, 3/24.

**FORMS** - Reminders if submitting paper form at church:

1. Complete one form for each egg, please.

2. Include first and last name of person picking up.

Orders are bagged according to the person picking it up.

3. Place a checkmark (✓) next to either Peanut Butter or Butter Cream.

Do not enter a number, like 3 Peanut Butter on one form. Do not check both types.

4. Print legibly, especially the name on the egg.

5. You only need to enter your contact info if you are not in the directory, and then on one form, not each form. If your contact info is in the directory, skip it.

This year’s proceeds will be invested in three areas of Trinity life: the thriving Young Adult Group, tablecloths, and water fountains. The young adult ministry offers fellowship and service opportunities for college-age persons. Funds will go toward resources for this new group. Monies will also be used to replace the linen tablecloths and fix some of the water fountains.

Donations are appreciated, if you don’t care for an egg, or want to contribute in addition to the egg cost. Please indicate on the memo line the donation only amount.

Thank you!! From the Easter Egg Team – Beth Wilkes, Mary Potter, Karen Sismour

If you have any questions about the eggs or decorations, please call Beth.

For changes to orders or payment, please email Karen at [KJSismour@verizon.net](mailto:KJSismour@verizon.net).

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*Help us update our information; if your birthday is this month and you are not listed, please notify the office so we won't miss you again!*

- March 1** Les Morgan
- March 2** Lucy Shields  
Matthew Saunders  
Amber Schneider
- March 6** Gerald Moody
- March 9** Carolyn Wilson  
Elizabeth Kump
- March 10** Peggy Farrar  
Alan Layman
- March 11** Corey Sapp  
Brenda Shepherd
- March 12** Hillary Shields  
Emily Shields
- March 14** Evelyn Cox
- March 16** Guy Cash
- March 21** Dylan Day
- March 23** James Miller
- March 24** Peyton Roach
- March 25** Jeff Raynor
- March 28** Angie Parrish
- March 29** Bert Watson
- March 30** Rachael Linkous
- March 31** Madeline Sawyer



## 2024 Fruit Calendar is now accepting weekly sponsors!!

*Openings:* We are now accepting weekly sponsors for the 2024 fruit calendar.

Please contact Shannon or sign-up on the clipboard in the sanctuary. \$35 per week and the Altar fruit goes to A Place of Miracles Café.

### Open dates thru remainder of 2024:

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

July 14, 28

Sept 8, 15

**Sunday Schedule**

8:30 am Contemporary Service • 9 am Live Stream  
 9:45 am Sunday school  
 11 am Traditional Service • 3:30 pm Women's Bible  
 Study • 5 pm Youth Group

# March 2024

If you have items to add to the calendar,  
 please let the office know

by email to [trinity@trinity-umc.com](mailto:trinity@trinity-umc.com) or phone at 748-2439.

**Wednesday Schedule**

8:30 am Morning Prayer  
 5:45 pm Children's Music  
 7:00 pm Bass Clefs  
 7:30 pm Trinity Choir

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 7 am Sunrise Service 10 am Easter Worship *Easter Breakfast served between the two services*					<b>1</b> 6 pm Mom's Bible Study Group	<b>2</b> 8:30 am UMM
<b>3</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 7 pm Scouts & Belles	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	<b>6</b> Wednesday Schedule 7 pm Young Adult Group 7 pm Scout Committee	<b>7</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Mulch Delivery (scouts)  <i>*Set clocks ahead one hour            before going to bed            tonight!*</i> <i>Daylight savings time begins</i>
<b>10</b> Sunday Schedule  <i>**Deadline to order Easter            flowers**</i>	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer *Office Closed* 7 pm Scouts & Belles	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	<b>13</b> Wednesday Schedule 7 pm Young Adult Group  <i>**Deadline to order Easter            eggs**</i>	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 1 pm UWF 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm AA	<b>15</b> 6 pm Variety Show and dinner	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>18</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer *Office Closed* 7 pm Scouts & Belles	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 2 pm Widows Group 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	<b>20</b> Wednesday Schedule 7 pm Scout District	<b>21</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Leadership Board 7 pm AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2 pm Spring fling and Easter egg hunt
<b>24</b> Sunday Schedule  <i>Articles due for April 2024            newsletter</i>  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer *Office Closed* 7 pm Scouts & Belles	<b>26</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	<b>27</b> Wednesday Schedule	<b>28</b> 8:30 am Morning prayer 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Maundy Thursday 7 pm AA	<b>29</b> 7 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service	<b>30</b>



## 2024

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mom's Bible Study Group (6 pm to 9 pm)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – UMM at 8:30 am
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Scouts deliver mulch
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Set clocks ahead one hour before bed time (spring forward)
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg orders due!!
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Young Adult Group meets at 7 pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> – UWF at 1 pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Variety Show (6 pm dinner, 7 pm showtime)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Spring Tea at 1 pm (widows group)
- 20<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup> – Pickup Easter egg orders
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Leadership Board meets at 7 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spring fling/Easter Egg Hunt
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Holy Thursday Service at 7 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Service at 7 pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday (7 am and 10 am Services with breakfast served in between)

### April

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Office closed on Easter Monday

### June

- 9<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> – Youth Mission Trip to Altoona, PA.



To the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church,

In October 2015 I was given a wonderful opportunity to serve as your Church Secretary (now Church Admin). The timing of the job opening was perfect for my family. At that time, I was a full time Stay at home dad in need of a part time job that would allow Amber and I to get our daughters on/off the bus, do homework, get to after-school activities, etc. Fast forward to present day, Lillian is graduating high school in May and Katie gets her drivers license next week. This marks the official end of my time as “dad taxi,” which is bittersweet. It means that my little girls are growing up and it means that it’s time for me to go back and join the “full-time” workforce.

I have been offered a full time position with the United States Postal Service and have accepted it. My final day with Trinity is officially Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be assisting Pastor Alan and TLB Chair Ruth Allyn with some of the transition, as much as I can, throughout the remainder of March.

I am truly grateful and thankful for my time and the people here at Trinity. We’ve been through a lot together, including a world-wide pandemic. I’ve probably thought of a million ways to say this, but I will keep it simple. THANK YOU! Thank you all so much. Pastor Alan joked that I should have put this on the front page of this newsletter, but I am not a front and center kinda guy. I prefer to be behind the scenes helping out as I can...which is why this is on the last page of the newsletter.

With Much Love,

Shannon McGuffin