



THE MESSENGER

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Growing in love and service through relationships with God and community.

www.trinitylafayette.org

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024



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FAITHFULLY FORWARD THIS FALL: AN UPDATE FROM PASTOR BEN

There is a part of me that finds some sense of irony about the word “retreat.” In our everyday vernacular, the term “retreat” brings about pictures in our minds of waving white flags as one military force runs away from the conflict. Indeed, the definition of “retreat” is an act of moving back or withdrawing.

The irony comes into play for me in that we spend so much time referring to this phrase in the context of a military action such as “to retreat in surrender.” In that context, it’s often thought of as a sign of weakness or an example of failure. To retreat doesn’t necessarily mean that you surrender though. In the movies, you might hear a line similar to “we retreat now so we can live to fight another day!” There is the uncomfortable

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realization that they do not have what it takes to take on the enemy forces they are fighting against, so regrouping is necessary to consider strategy moving towards the future. A “strategic” retreat, if you will.

In the world of the church, we use this term to describe time that we have set aside to take into consideration where we are at. There are spiritual retreats where individuals take stock of their spiritual lives by stepping back from their day-to-day stressors so they can better focus. Many places both inside and outside the church where staffs get out of their offices and spend time evaluating how their ministry and workflows are being effective and where improvement can be made. And then there are church-wide retreats that invites the congregation to step back and take a look at their experience with the church. We don’t do this in order to step away from the church - we take a step back so that we might be able to see where growth can happen.

On August 17, the governing board along with Pastors Ben and Suzanne participated in Trinity’s first Faithfully Forward retreat. At this retreat, we were given the opportunity and time to breath, take a step back, and look at the strengths and identify some growth areas that we have perceived at Trinity. Because Faithfully Forward is a church-wide discernment process, though, we are asking that you — the congregation — take part in one of our upcoming retreats that are happening on September 14 at First UMC in West Lafayette (from 9 to 3) or on October 13 following the service here (from Noon to 6) at Trinity. You can sign up after service in the vestibule for either session. Food and snacks will be provided, and transportation can be arranged for those who need it. Contact Dinah Dalder at dalder@purdue.edu or 765-714-2278 for more information or if you need transportation.

Sometimes we get in our little corners in such a way that we can’t see the whole picture. The following retreats will be identical in structure to what the leadership did in August, but will be different because of who will come and what is shared. What you, as the congregation, may well be different from what the governing board has identified — and that is why we need you to participate! The more who are able to participate, the better picture that we can gather will be - and with that better picture, we’ll have a better idea of how to move more Faithfully Forward.



GOVERNING BOARD RETREAT

As part of Trinity’s “Faithfully Forward” discernment process, the Governing Board met at St. Andrew UMC on Saturday, August 17 for a leadership retreat. Similar retreats for congregational participation will be offered in September and October.



TRINITY CONNECT

TRINITY CONNECT

New Time, New Discussion Focus

SUNDAYS ON ZOOM
FROM 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.
BEGINNING 9/8



STARTING WITH A
DISCUSSION ON
THE BOOK OF ACTS

LEARN MORE &
ACCESS THE ZOOM LINK:
trinitylafayette.org/trinityconnect

Trinity Connect is Trinity's weekly online experience in Christian community that allows participants to engage in Trinity's faith community from anywhere. This gathering was initially born during the lockdown portion of the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued meeting since. Soon, Trinity Connect will undergo a bit of a transformation meeting at a new time and taking on a new discussion focus.

Starting on Sunday, September 8, Trinity Connect will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Zoom. The hour-long weekly sessions will discuss the book of Acts that parallels the other Trinity small groups, with added Trinity Connect elements of personal connection to the scripture and focusing themes. A guiding question and scripture passage will be given in advance each week with no preparation required, although reading the book of Acts is encouraged. This group is open to everyone regardless of past participation in Trinity Connect. This group will be facilitated by longtime Trinity Connect participants Lisa Nielsen and J.R. Carrillo. If you have any questions about Trinity Connect or its new focus, please reach out to Lisa via email at nielsenlr@gmail.com. ***More information and the Zoom link are accessible on Trinity Connect's page on our website. Visit trinitylafayette.org/trinityconnect***

CONDOLENCES



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of LaDonna Gray. LaDonna passed away on Wednesday, August 21 at Westminster Village in West Lafayette at the age of 98. Services for LaDonna were held at Trinity on Sunday, August 25 at Trinity. Please join us in prayer for LaDonna's family.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

BEWARE SCAMS AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS

We have been made aware of several recent scam and phishing attempts where church members have been contacted by someone pretending to be a member of Trinity's staff or Governing Board requesting money, gift cards, sensitive information, etc. ***Please be extra careful*** when responding to texts, calls, or emails from anyone claiming to be a member of the staff or board. When it comes to communications from the staff, emails should only be sent to you using their official Trinity email account that ends in "@trinitylafayette.org". Be especially careful when clicking on links, viewing documents, or downloading anything from an email.

Trinity's staff and board will never request money, gift cards, passwords, etc. via email or phone communication. In the extremely rare instance that we needed assistance in providing these things, we would discuss this with you face-to-face. If you receive a text, call, or email that you are not sure about, feel free to ask a staff person directly at church or contact Monica McDougal in the church office.

MUSIC MINISTRY



CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

Begins Thursday
September 5
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
2nd Floor Choir Room

AFTER THE 5TH, THE CHOIR'S PRACTICES WILL BE ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

MISSIONS & CARING MINISTRY

JOIN TRINITY FRIENDS AT HUNGER HIKE

Last year, Trinity had a great turnout at Riehl Plaza for the annual Hunger Hike to support hunger relief in our community and beyond. Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) and Food Finders lead this effort each September, and this year Trinity supports this ministry financially through the operating budget. The Hunger Hike walk is Sunday, Sept. 22 at 2pm, and the easy 1.5 mile walk runs along the Wabash Heritage Trail. Sign up to walk with your Trinity friends by contacting your missions team (Kathy, Betty, or Pastor Suzanne) or sign up in the sanctuary.



NEW HERE? A CHANCE TO CONNECT ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

Are you new to Trinity? Or have you been here for a while and would appreciate a chance to get to know us better and connect more intentionally? Join Pastor Suzanne on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 11:45am after worship in the Great Room for a light lunch, connection, and a warm and deeper welcome to Trinity UMC. We are glad you are here, and we want to get to know you better and help you connect. Contact Pastor Suzanne or the church office with questions or for more information.

THANK YOU FROM MILLER ELEMENTARY

Dear Trinity UMC congregation:

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone at Trinity who took the time to think of our teachers at Miller Elementary. It was truly heartwarming to be so generously blessed by your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your gesture means a lot to all of us here at Miller, and we deeply appreciate your support.

-Erin S. Phillips, Principal

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



A new LUM protein pantry has opened on Monday afternoons at St. John's Episcopal, right across the street from Trinity. The Monday afternoon pantry hours expand the reach of this ministry, which has been serving our downtown neighbors on Thursday mornings. The pantry could use more helping hands on Mondays. If you are interested, find more info on the LUM website (lumserve.org) or contact Kathy Manwaring or Pastor Suzanne.

Photo caption: Kathy Manwaring and Pastor Suzanne volunteer at the LUM protein pantry on Monday, Aug. 19.

FELLOWSHIP



Second Sunday Lunch

Join us for our next Second Sunday Lunch on September 8 after our 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Great Room. Bring a dish to share and stay for food and fellowship with you church family! All are welcome!

FUSION

Monday, September 16
6:00 p.m. Great Room
Free Meal Provided

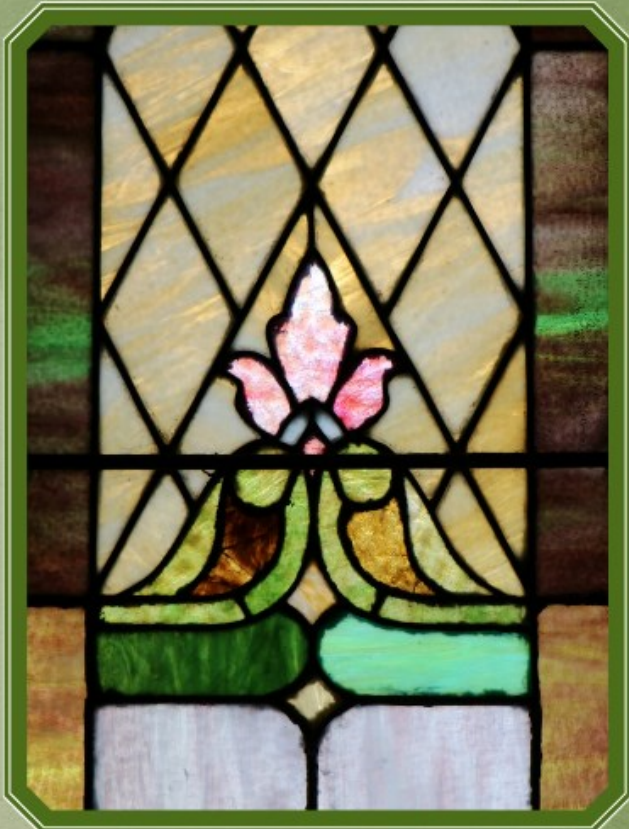
FELLOWSHIP CONT.

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, September 19
6 p.m. at The Tick Tock
Tavern on 9th Street
For assistance with the meal,
reach out to Pastor Suzanne.



STAINED GLASS RESTORATION



Stained Glass Restoration



Trinity's stained glass restoration project continues! We've come a long way, but still have more to go. To support this endeavor, consider making a financial contribution to the project.

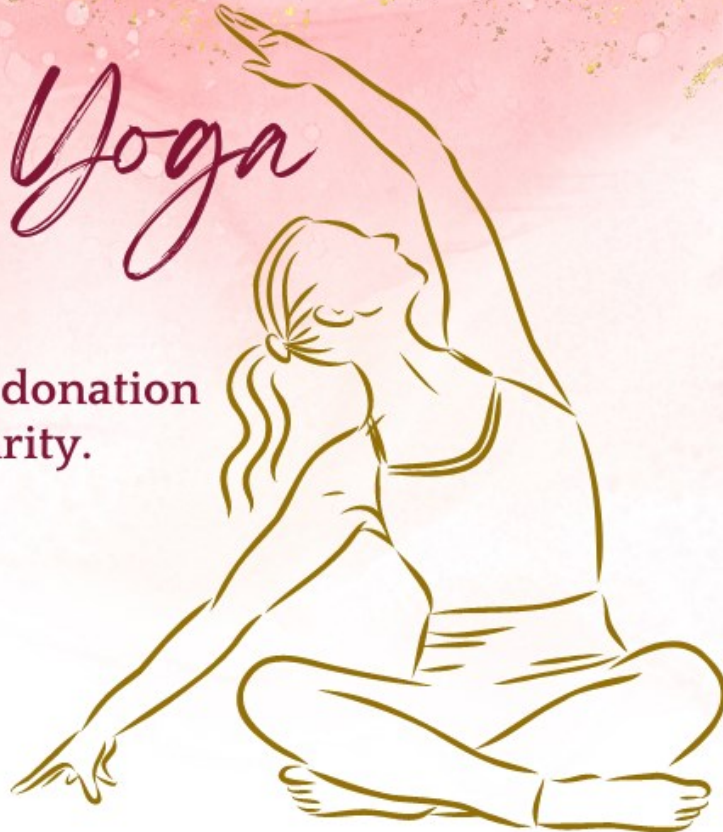
To give, visit our website at trinitylafayette.org/give

SANCTUARY YOGA

Sanctuary Yoga

Saturday, September 7
10 a.m. at Trinity UMC

All levels welcome. Free will donation
with proceeds benefitting charity.
Additional mats available.



HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

SEPT. BUILDING OPENERS:

9/1 — Mack Owings
9/8 — TBD
9/15 — Nate Yoran
9/22 — Emily Spilker
9/29 — Ryan Wynkoop

SEPT. USHERS:

9/1 — Chris Erwin
9/8 — TBD
9/15 — Dinah Dalder
9/22 — Emily Spilker
9/29 — Ryan Wynkoop

SEPT. GREETERS:

9/1 — Norma Singley &
Kay Franscoviak
9/8 — Chris Erwin
9/15 — Norma Singley &
Kay Franscoviak
9/22 — Jenny Taylor
9/29 — Jeff Castor

ONLINE GIVING



Looking to contribute to our offering, missions campaign, etc.
but need to do so via card?

Use the QR Code provided to access our online giving platform!
Our online giving platform can also be found on our website:
trinitylafayette.org/give

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Is your birthday missing? We're sorry about that! Please reach out and let us know, so that we can celebrate with you and update our records.

MARILYN FORBES	09/03
IRVING MEYER	09/04
ANABEL JONES	09/06
STEVEN FLOWERS	09/12
CHRISMENE JOSEPH	09/13
MARIANNE ASH	09/22
STEVE ASH	09/22
BARBARA KET	09/28
LEANNE GRAY	09/30



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. ALL STAFF WILL ALSO BE ON VACATION. FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE PASTORS DIRECTLY.

TRINITY'S BOARD

Chairperson: Dinah Dalder
Vice Chair: Kathy Manwaring
Treasurer: Claudia Alenduff
Lay Leader: Kay Franscoviak
Finance: Emily Spilker
Trustees: Steve Ash
Staff Parish: Larry Fraser
Secretary: Emily Sheetz
Endowment: Ryan Wynkoop
Discipleship Team Leader: Kay Franscoviak
Missions/Outreach: Kathy Manwaring & Betty Jackson
At Large Member: Brooks Leftwich

COMMUNICATIONS

Have pictures from church events or a story to share? Send them to Monica in the office at info@trinitylafayette.org.

Website: www.trinitylafayette.org

Facebook: [Trinity United Methodist Church, Lafayette, IN](#)

Be sure to like us on Facebook and share posts and events on your own wall and invite your friends! This is a great way to spread the word about our outreach events.



OFFICE INFO

Trinity's office is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. During office hours the inner office door will be locked to better manage visitors and ensure safety for office staff.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15A Connect (Zoom) 10:30A Worship (Sanc)	OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY					7 10A Yoga (Sanc)
8 10:30A Worship (Sanc) 2nd Sun Lunch 7P Connect (Zoom)			11 6P Choir Practice (Choir Rm)	12	13	14 9A to 3P First Retreat (First UMC W. Laf)
15 10:30A Worship (Sanc) New Here (GR) 7P Connect (Zoom)	16 6P Fusion (GR)	17	18 6P Choir Practice (Choir Rm)	19 6P Ladies Night Out (The Tick Tock on 9th)	20	21
22 10:30A Worship (Sanc) 2P Hunger Hike (Riehle) 7P Connect (Zoom)	23	24	25 6P Choir Practice (Choir Rm)	26 6:30P Gov. Board (GR)	27	28
29 10:30A Worship (Sanc) 7P Connect (Zoom)	30					

**ACTS SMALL GROUPS WILL
MEET THROUGHOUT
SEPTEMBER AT THEIR
SCHEDULED TIMES.**



509 North Street

Lafayette, IN 47901

Sunday Worship Services

Trinity Connect (Zoom) at 9:15 a.m.

In-Person Worship (Sanctuary) at 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Church Office Contact

Phone: (765) 742-1288

Email: info@trinitylafayette.org

www.trinitylafayette.org

Trinity's Mission Statement:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Trinity's Vision Statement:

Growing in love and service through relationships with God and community.

Our Team

Pastor Ben	ben@trinitylafayette.org
Pastor Suzanne	suzanne@trinitylafayette.org
Pastor Mack (Youth & Families)	mack@trinitylafayette.org
Monica Shaeffer (Music)	music@trinitylafayette.org
Monica McDougal (Admin)	monica@trinitylafayette.org
Susie Riley (Finance)	finance@trinitylafayette.org
Emily Spilker (Garden)	ekuehl20@gmail.com
Emily Sheetz (Young Adults)	emsheetz10@gmail.com