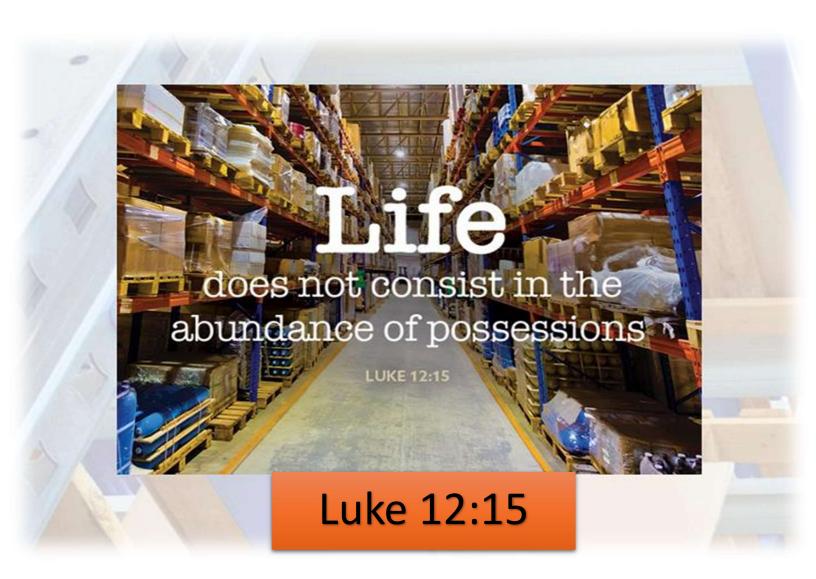
8th Gunday after Pentecost



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 August 3, 2025



~ The Chancel flowers are given this week by Bernetta Jenkins & Martha Cooley in memory of their husbands Warden & Benn.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681

Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/

This Weeks; Greeters: Deb Wickboldt & Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers

Reader: Sue Teal. Communion Assistant: Susan Scheulen.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Deb Wickboldt. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Susan Scheulen.

Communion Assistant: Mary Anderson.

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Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who gives us life,

I Jesus the one who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another. Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence
and suffering.
Yet we are afraid to risk what we
have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place upon others and you creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding,
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God has made for us a new way.
In + Christ, your sins are forgiven. Smile and rejoice
Amen.





- 1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry,
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa ter,
- 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con fin ing,

now is the dark - ness we are the old who here we will take the not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; yearn for your face; bread of new birth, light years a - waysee in this space our fears and our dream-ings we have been sung through out all of his - t'ry, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters, here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



whole hu called to be light to the man race. call salt for earth. us a - new to be the the king - dom, and the day. now is now is



Gath-er lost and for - sak - en, us in, the Gath-er the rich and the haugh-ty, in, Give us wine of com-pas-sion, to drink the Gath-er and hold us for - ev - er, us in

gath-er the us in, gath-er the us in, the give us to eat gath-er in and us



blind and the lame; proud and the strong; bread that is you; make us your own; call to us now, and give us a heart, so nour-ish us well, and gath-er us in, all

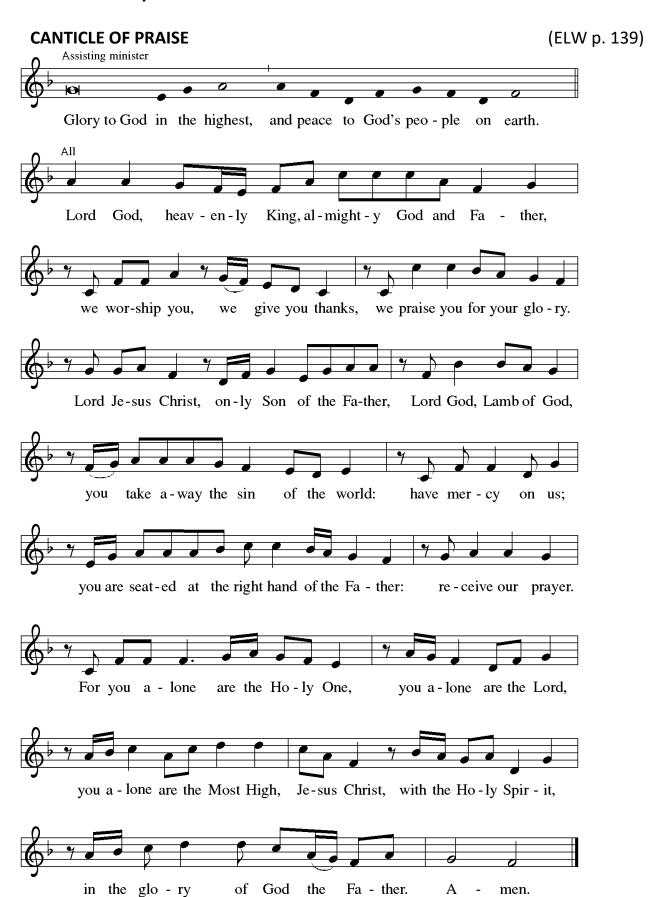
we shall a - wak - en, meek and so low - ly, teach us to fash - ion peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise the sound of at our name. give us the cour - age en - ter the song. to lives that are ho ly. and hearts that are true. flesh and fire of love our bone. . . in our

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

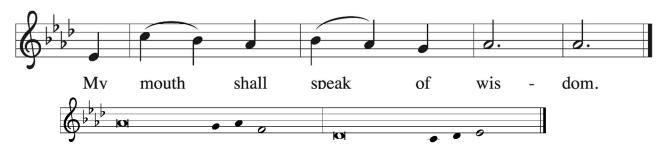
² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 49:1-12



- ¹ Hear this, [|] all you peoples;
 - give ear, all you who dwell I in the world,
 - ² you of high de- | gree and low, rich and | poor together.
 - ³ My mouth shall ¹ speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on ¹ understanding.
 - ⁴ I will incline my ear ¹ to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- ¹ on the harp. R
 - ⁵ Why should I be afraid in ^I evil days, when the wickedness of those at my ^I heels surrounds me,
 - ⁶ the wickedness of those who put their trust in ¹ their own prowess, and boast of ¹ their great riches?
 - ⁷ One can never re- ¹ deem another, or give to God the ransom for an- ¹ other's life;
 - 8 for the ransom of a life | is so great that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,
 - ⁹ in order to live forev- [|] er and ever and never [|] see the grave.
 - ¹⁰ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.
- ¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to ¹ generation,
 - though they had named lands af- I ter themselves.
 - 12 Even though honored, they cannot | live forever; they are like the | beasts that perish. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142)





GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And

he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'

18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith Begins by Letting Go

(ACS 1004)



- 1 Faith be gins by let ting go, giv ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en-dures by hold-ing on, keep-ing mem-'ry's roots a live
- 3 Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out, stretch-ing minds, en larg ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure: so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, shar-ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, not through mer - it we pos - sess till we find the com-mon-place trust-ing all our life to God. but by God's great faith - ful - ness. ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.



Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren, Nancy (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

MEAL

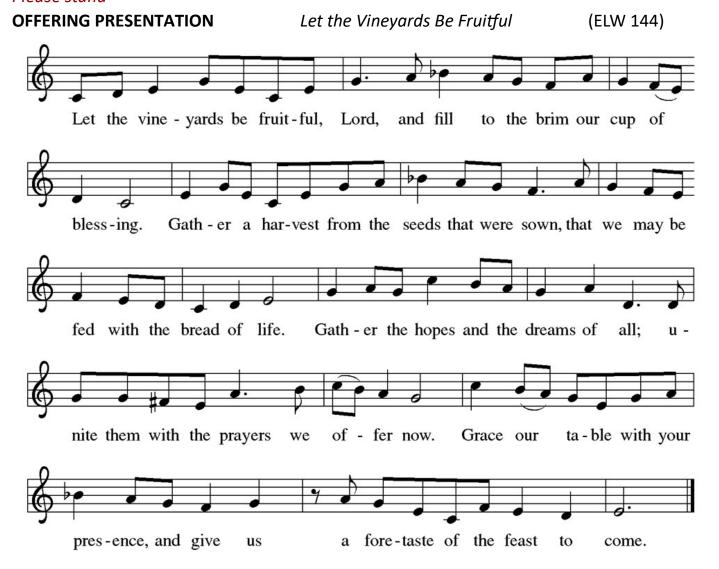
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING Simple Gifts Arranged By Martha Thompson **Trinity Chime Choir**

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by

mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

Please stand



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

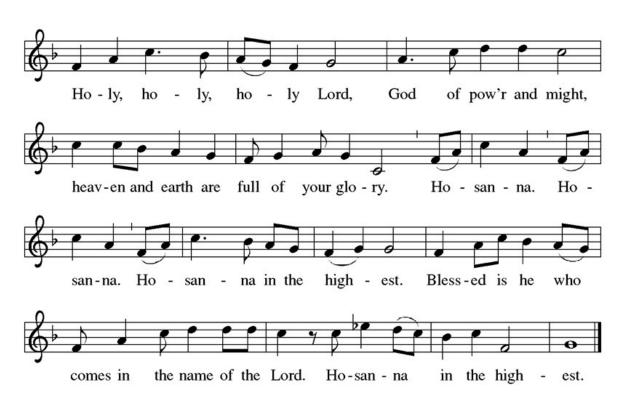
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who through the cross cleansed us from all sin. And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

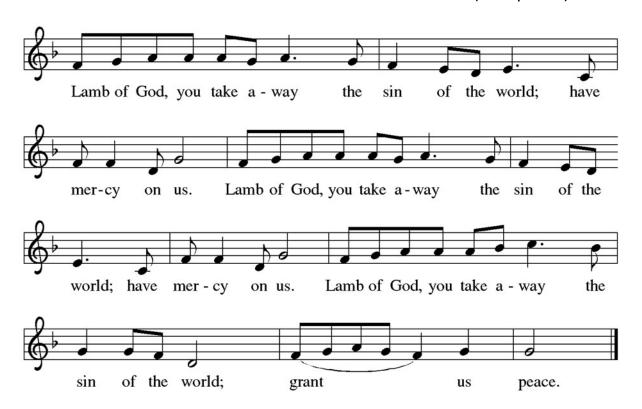
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.



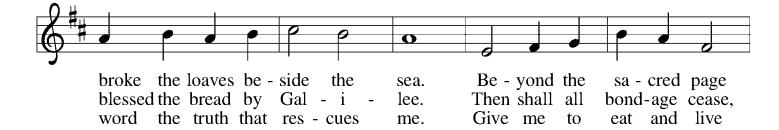
SONGS DURING COMMUNION

We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479)



(ELW 515)







Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © John B. Geyer.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary Flor Peeters

(1903-1986)

~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community 11eWS

IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

Please place used bulletins in the recycling basket located under the table in the Narthex entryway, where you picked them up.



New Books are here! Christ in Our Home - Free Devotional books for July, August, & September, are on the wall in the Narthex (next to the bulletin board)

Sunday Servants – Jump in and serve this August — be a greeter, reader, or holy hustler! Sign-up sheets are calling your name! contact Christine Cornwell or Sign up via newsletter link.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY Here's what's happening at a glance:

- iii Sunday, August 3
- Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall
- monday, August 4
- **Tuesday, August 5** (Jodie will be out of the office 5th & 6th)
- Town of Stephens City Policy Department
- ~ National Night Out | Newtown Commons 5PM
- **IIII** Wednesday, August 6
- III Thursday, August 7
- Friday, August 8
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Upstairs class room
- 🚃 Saturday, August 9 Route 11 Yard Crawl, 10 AM 4 PM
- Trinity open to the public with vendor sales, hot dogs, chips, and lemonade.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Happy Birthday to: 🞉

No Birthdays this week.

(Did we miss your birthday? Contact the church office to update your info!)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Output Celebrating 60 Years of Marriage

During worship on Sunday, August 10, we will offer a special blessing in honor of Tom & Nan Righter's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Join us as we give thanks for their enduring love and faithfulness—a beautiful witness to God's grace through the years. Let's celebrate this joyful milestone with them as a church family!



Blessing of the Backpack's – Sunday, August 10



Join us for a joyful and hope-filled worship as we offer a special Blessing of the **Backpack's** for all students, teachers, and school staff heading into a new school year! Whether you're starting kindergarten or heading back to teach, **bring your backpack** and receive a prayer of encouragement and protection.

All are welcome! Invite your kids, grand kids, neighbors, and friends. Let's send them back to school with love and blessings!

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting – September 7, 2025

Dear Trinity Congregation,

You are warmly invited to attend a brief but important Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2025, immediately following worship.

The purpose of this meeting is to seek congregational approval for:

- 1. The nomination of **Diann Dailey** to serve as **Trustee**, replacing **Ralph Gregory**; and
- 2. Approval of the recipients of a partial disbursement from Fund 10 (Mission Fund).

All **voting members** are encouraged to attend. Your presence and participation help shape the future of our church and our outreach.

Thank you for being part of this important process!



Bernie Jenkins would like to extend her sincere thanks to everyone for the wonderful birthday wishes, thoughtful cards, and beautiful flowers she received.

Your kindness and love truly made her day extra special, and she feels deeply blessed to be part of such a caring church family.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart!" - Bernie

Ongoing Announcements

• A Prayer Team Table

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Mistie McPadalin** to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession.

Hospital Visitation

Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted. To request a visit, contact the church office at **540-869-4019**, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at **540-848-5325**. You may also reach out to **Mistie McPadalin** or **Martha Cooley**.

- Choir (Mini) Rehearsals Sunday mornings 8AM.
 Interested in singing with the choir this summer?
 This is the perfect opportunity to join in—no midweek commitment required.
 Just come on Sunday mornings and help us make a joyful noise together! We'd love to have your voice join ours.
- Chime Choir Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director – music@trinitychurchvirginia.org



Food Pantry Item of the Month: Canned Fruit | Contact: Kim Begnaud-Hampton – kbegnaud0101@yahoo.com

Save the Date

August 10 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM - Blessing of the Backpack's.

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Tom & Nan Righter's 60th Wedding Anniversary.
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

August 12– Congregational Council Metting @6:30PM | Parish Hall

<u>Digital Skills Training</u>, Hosted by VA Career Works-Winchester | Contact Amber Hall
 240-433-4864

August 13 – <u>Digital Skills Training</u>, Hosted by VA Career Works-Winchester | Contact Amber Hall @ 540-433-4864

- CMPS Private Lessons @ 5-6 PM | Upstairs Classroom

August 17 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall
- Noisy Offering will benefit Froggy's Closet
 Noisy Offering will benefit Froggy's Closet
 Noisy Offering will benefit Froggy's Closet
 Learn more: frog-kids.org
 (Supporting families with clothing, diapers, and baby supplies)
- Jappy Birthday Pam Weinacht!

August 20– 🞉 Happy Birthday Juanita Ryan!

August 21– 🗩 Happy Birthday Brandon Hampton!

August 22 – Bible Study @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

- CMPS Private Lessons @ 5-6 PM | Upstairs Classroom

August 23– 🞉 Happy Birthday Holly Kowis!

August 24 - Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall
- <u>Tavern Night</u>, Hosted by Newtown Historic Center & La Grange Family Farm
 |@6:30PM RSVP Contact: christa@lagrangefamilyfarm.com

August 25— 🞉 Happy Birthday Ashley Landes and Julian Watson!

- (No scheduled events)

August 27 – Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Menu TBD)

Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

August 28 – Bible Study @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

August 29– 🞉 Happy Birthday Kim Barna!

- CMPS Private Lessons @ 5-6 PM | Upstairs Classroom

August 30– 🞉 Happy Birthday Greg Rogers, & Carole Pfisterer!

August 31 - Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

Stay in the Loop!

Want to receive our weekly Trinity Times Newsletter by email?

Fill out a welcome card (basket in the Narthex) with your name and email, and we'll add you to the list.

Prefer print? Pick up a copy **next to the name tag table in the Narthex**, or call the office to request a mailed version:

540-869-4019 | **(** Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM–1 PM