



Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter

“Live by Faith, Be Known by Love, Be A Voice of Hope”

June 2025

Volume III, No. 6

Is Christianity Declining?

A recent survey of religion in the United States by the Pew Research Center presents some interesting findings and suggest that the decline in Christianity we have seen may be slowing or even leveling off. At the same time, spiritual belief is widespread among Americans.

The Pew report is based on a survey sample of over 35,000 over the 2022–2023-time frame. The report can be found at <https://pewresearch.org/religious-landscape-study> and presents some interesting nation-wide data. For instance, 62% of respondents reported identifying as Christians, with 23% as Evangelical Protestant, 11% Mainline Protestant, and 19% Catholic. Of the 29% who identified as unaffiliated with any religion, 5% identified as atheist and 6% as agnostic.

When asked about the importance of religion to them personally, 64% reported religion was important, but only 25% reported attending church one or more times weekly. Sixty-three percent of respondents felt the Bible was important, while only 25% read it at least once a week. Fifty-seven percent of the respondents considered themselves as a religious person, 67% felt that attending religious services when growing up was important to them later in life, and 63% reported that religion was personally important to them as a child.

Why are these findings important to Trinity? As Pastor Singh noted in a recent Church Council meeting, attendance norms have changed, especially since the COVID years. In person overall attendance has declined, although Trinity’s attendance has leveled off for both seasonal and nonseasonal periods, other churches have faced declining attendance or have closed. Interestingly, Trinity’s internet attendance (YouTube® and Facebook) has increased dramatically. Is the *status quo* where we want to be? Is internet attendance equivalent to in person attendance? Can it sustain Trinity’s ministry? Probably, but there is a qualitative difference between attending church online and in person. We also need to work on strategies to bring younger families to Trinity and build on that Pew Research finding that religious services were important when growing up. More on this soon.

Don Stacks



Pastor's Corner

Breathing Our Prayer

Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being—Genesis 2:7

Breathe, in the name of the Father,
Breathe, in the name of the Son,
Breathe, in the name of the Holy Spirit.



Our morning prayer at Trinity begins with the breath. It's a way of exhaling the concerns of the morning, uniting as a congregation through our collective breath, and opening our minds, hearts, and lives to God's gracious Word and Wisdom. Breathing is the way we center ourselves in God.

As we can see from the verse from Genesis, God first gives us life through our breath. When we draw our awareness to our breath in prayer, not only do we reunite with God, but we can also draw closer to the living Being God created us to be. We may be in the world, in this physical body, but ultimately, we belong to God, and we belong with God! Breathing can get us closer!

We can breathe in prayer anywhere, any time, in any circumstance

If, for whatever reason, we cannot find the words, we can simply reunite with God through our breath.

Some tips:

Find a quiet space with fresh air, or an open-air space where you can enjoy a bit of solitude. Sit or stand as you like. Or walk.

- *Relax* into an upright posture. Some of us may feel like we have to “work” at keeping our backs straight. If we simply allow the crown of our head to “float” up towards heaven, we may find our spines aligning naturally.
- *Breathe* from the lower abdomen. Expand and contract easily, gently, slowly. Let the exhale last longer than the inhale. Don't “work” at it, just become aware of it.



- *Cultivate* a sense of gratitude with every inhalation. Let's remember that this is God breathing life into us! May we be forever grateful!
- Take only as many breaths as you need for that session. This doesn't have to be long, and I hope this never feels like “work.” There is no success or failure here. Just “Breathing with God.” And on the final inhale and exhale, thank God.

At the very least, you may emerge refreshed and relaxed, able to handle the next thing with faith, grace, and love. But you never know: Entire sermons and other creative pieces have come to me in flashes! When we breathe in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we just might experience a mini miracle!

Try it! I hope you'll like it!

Anil

From Trinity's Sound & Media Department

H OPE...A multifaceted concept, resonating differently with each individual. It may embody a sense of anticipation and longing for positive change or serve as a foundation for believing that good things are on the horizon. While Hope can be drawn from various aspects of life, one steadfast source is:

Faith in The Lord!

I've always held the conviction that regardless of the challenges we face, the circumstances surrounding us, or the trials we endure, God will guide us through them. He grants us Hope that we are never given burdens we cannot bear. Throughout my own journey, filled with numerous obstacles and hardships, I clung to a singular truth:

Hope—Hold On, Pain Ends And it Truly Does!

As it is written: *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a Hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever*—Hebrews 6:19-20.



When we place our trust in the Lord, we acknowledge that our journey is part of a greater plan. The trials we face are often the very tools that shape our character, strengthen our resolve, and deepen our faith. Each challenge we overcome becomes a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of divine support.

In times of uncertainty, I encourage you to seek out the small blessings that often go unnoticed. Whether it be a kind word from a stranger, the beauty of a sunset, or the laughter of a loved one. Any of these can serve as reminders that hope is all around us. These moments can reignite our spirits and help us understand that we are never truly alone.

Furthermore, we can find solace in the community. Surrounding ourselves with those who share our beliefs and values, can amplify our Hope, creating a network of support that reinforces our faith. Together, we can lift each other up, share our burdens, and celebrate our victories, however small they sometimes may seem.

(Cont'd. on p. 4)



Mike and Tiffanie Fields

(Cont'd. from p. 3)

So, I want to leave you with this reminder: When life feels overwhelming and it seems like everything is falling apart, don't give in to despair. Look upward; there is a guiding presence ready to support you. Cling to that Hope, for it is a promise that pain will eventually fade. Ultimately, the only thing that endures is: His unwavering Love for You!!

We must accept finite disappointment, but NEVER lose infinite Hope!— Martin Luther King Jr.

Tiffanie Fields
Trinity MEDIA



Children's Sunday School Art



*Trinity Men's "Older than God" Group.
Front left to right, Ken Roberts, Sam Rhodes, Phil Wright.
Back left to right, Al Fowler, Lowell Kafer, Don Frye.*

Summer Time! Prayer Time!

When we think of summer, we think of time off for a vacation, a change in the routine of the daily grind, or possibly projects that don't or can't get done other times in the year. We think of sunny days, relaxing, and enjoying some time at the beach or up in the mountains. I could add many things to the list of what comes to mind when we think of summer, but what about prayer time? During the summer do you keep your prayer life going? Do you keep that routine of spending time in God's word and prayer? God doesn't take a vacation from listening to our prayers and we shouldn't take a vacation from praying and reading His word. Why not make your summer time a prayer time too! Step back from the busyness of life, even the busyness of a vacation and spend some quiet time with God, reading His word and praying. What a great way to relax! Just relax in the shelter of His arms. Oftentimes just sitting outside on your lanai, under a shade tree, or on a quiet spot at the beach can revitalize your spirit. Listen to the sounds of nature and relax. While you are relaxing, read and think of your favorite scripture, praise God for the beauty around you and lift up your prayers to Him. The Bible teaches us to pray without ceasing. *Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you—*1 Thessalonians 5:16-17.



We all have many things we can pray about and we certainly should be lifting up prayers of praise, but if you need another reason to pray, you can join our prayer team (just send Rick an email, stating you would like to be on the prayer team rdecker@trinityjb.org) and get notified by email of the needs within our church and you can join the Sunday prayer time in the Bob Ingle room each Sunday morning at 10:30. Most of all, wherever you are, whatever you are doing, make time to pray.

Rick



**Love is patient,
Love is kind.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

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Pastor: Rev. Anil K. Singh

Congregational Care: Rick Decker

Office: Anne Pappas

Communications: Randi Schwartz

Nursery: Sandi Mulvaney

Music: Cynthia Beam

Organist: Dr. MJ Montague

Choir Accompanist: Dr. MJ Montague

Facilities: Doug Evans

Media: Mike & Tiffanie Fields, Austin Parriott

The Art of Stewardship—Testimony

Last November we had the opportunity to read in our newsletter and worship bulletins several articles about stewardship. The five T's of stewardship: our *time*, *talents*, *treasure*, *temple* and *testimony*. We were briefly introduced to The Stewardship Tree along with its parts: roots (time), trunk (talents and temple), branches (treasure), leaves and flowers (testimony) and soil (growth).



During 2025 we will explore in more detail each of the parts of The Stewardship Tree. Each month we will dig a little deeper into each part of the tree. So far, we have looked at *time*, *talents* and *temple*. This month we will look at *testimony*. We will look at other parts of the tree in coming months.

Stewardship is a timeless concept that has evolved through generations, yet its essence remains pivotal in our modern society. At its core, stewardship is the responsible management and care of resources, whether they be material, environmental, or spiritual. But beyond the practical aspect, stewardship embodies the art of witnessing and testimony, a profound engagement with our world that transcends mere guardianship.

Stewardship is deeply rooted in ancient traditions, where stewards were entrusted with the responsibility of managing the estates and assets of their lords. These individuals were more than mere caretakers; they were witnesses to the wealth and well-being of their master's domain, and their testimony was essential in maintaining order and prosperity. This historical perspective underscores the dual nature of stewardship: The practical management of resources and the moral duty to witness and testify.

In many religious traditions, stewardship is viewed as a sacred duty. For example, in Christianity, stewardship is often associated with the parable of the talents, where servants are entrusted with their master's resources and are expected to use them wisely and productively. This parable highlights the importance of accountability and the moral obligation to bear witness to the gifts we have received.

Testimony is the voice of stewardship. It is through testimony that stewards share their experiences, insights, and observations with others. This sharing is vital for the collective understanding and appreciation of the resources we manage. Testimony also serves as a means of accountability, as it ensures transparency and fosters trust within a community. By bearing witness and testifying, stewards contribute to the greater good, promoting a culture of responsibility and care.

Testimony is both an art and a craft. It involves the ability to articulate experiences and observations in a way that resonates with others. Effective testimony requires clarity, authenticity, and compassion. It is through this craft that stewards can inspire and motivate others to join in the collective effort of responsible management and care.

Stewardship is more than just the management of resources; it is a profound engagement with the world that involves witnessing and testimony. As stewards, we are called to observe, understand, and communicate our experiences and insights. By embracing the art of witnessing and testimony, we can foster a culture of responsibility, accountability, and care, ultimately contributing to the greater good.

TUMC Finance Committee

"Live by Faith, Be Known by Love, Be a Voice of Hope"

Let's Get Growing! Whole-Person Wellness: Let's Expand the Church Experience Beyond Sunday

Believing that faith is meant to touch every part of our lives, not just our Sunday mornings, brings our faith to the forefront. That's why we're excited to share how we're growing in new directions that focus on whole-person wellness. From our fitness trail and soon-to-be herb garden/food forest to upcoming sound-based healing opportunities like drum circles and sound baths, we're creating more ways for people to connect, grow, and thrive. Our founder John Wesley believed in and incorporated healthy habits in his life. We know that when people feel healthy, engaged, and rooted in community, they're more likely to be invested—both spiritually and personally. And the more doors we open for connection, the more lives we can touch, and the more people we can bring to Jesus.



Body, Mind, and Spirit: New Ways to Engage

The Fitness Trail

Have you walked our Fitness Trail yet? It's a peaceful, refreshing path that offers a chance to read relevant scripture, and move your body while spending time in nature. Whether you're walking with friends or taking a quiet solo lap, the trail is a beautiful reminder that God designed us to live actively and care for our health. John Wesley would *love* this!

The (Developing) Herb Garden

Our new herb garden will be more than just a place to grow plants—it's a space for peace, reflection, and learning about God's creation and provisions for our health. Herbs have long been used for healing, and working in the garden offers gentle movement, fresh air, and a sense of calm. It will be helpful learning about the herbs God has for our wellness and healing. Interested in getting involved with this? Contact me: randi@trinityjb.org

New Season: The Drum Circle for Health & Spiritual Engagement

A *drum circle* can be a powerful tool for celebrating Pentecost, representing the diversity of the global Christian community and fostering a sense of unity through shared rhythm. By incorporating various percussion instruments, drum circles can embody the multiplicity of languages and cultures present on Pentecost, symbolizing the power of the Holy Spirit to unite people. The rhythmic energy of the drum circle can also evoke the spiritual power associated with Pentecost. Pentecost symbolizes the power of the Holy Spirit to unite people. The rhythmic energy of the drum circle can also evoke the spiritual power associated with Pentecost. We're especially excited to offer our first *Pentecost Spirit and Drum Circle*: A space where rhythm meets restoration. Drumming in a group has been shown to reduce stress, boost mood, and foster emotional healing. It's also just plain fun! Whether you have experience or not, this is a chance to join in, let loose, and feel the joy of shared rhythm. Experience the Holy Spirit working on our behalf, bringing us together through peace and community.



(Cont'd on page 7)

(Cont'd from page 8)

Looking Ahead: Sound Baths and Sacred Stillness

We're also *exploring* the possibility of offering *sound baths*—calming, meditative experiences where tones and vibrations help guide the body into deep rest. To be held in our Sanctuary, like prayer and worship, these moments create space to be still and reconnect with God and ourselves.

Why It Matters

These activities aren't about being trendy or adding "extras." They're about offering real, tangible ways for people to feel connected—to God, to each other, and to their own well-being. When we open up more ways to engage with our church community, we create opportunities for growth, healing, and belonging. The hope is that people will come for a walk, for the drumming, for the garden, and curiosity—then stay because they've found something deeper. Something Holy.

I may add here John Wesley, founder of Methodism, offers these thoughts: Wesley understood that physical and spiritual health were intimately connected. In a letter dated October 26, 1778, Wesley offers this telling advice to his friend, Alexander Knox. "Alleck ... it will be a double blessing if you give yourself up to the Great Physician, that he may heal soul and body together. And unquestionably this is his design. He wants to give you ... both inward and outward health."

Wesley taught that God cares for the health of our minds and bodies as well as our souls. The United Methodist Church continues in that tradition today.

And here we are at Trinity, embracing John Wesley's ideas on physical and spiritual health.

Come Join Us

If you've been looking for a new way to get involved, or if you're simply curious, we'd love for you to check out what's happening. Whether you want to dig in the dirt, dance to a drumbeat, or sit in sacred stillness, there's a place here for you. We're growing. Come grow with us. And of course, let me know what you think! Email: randi@trinityjb.org

Randi

OUR FITNESS TRAIL IS OPEN FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

CHOOSE A TIME TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS

ENJOY AN UPLIFTING TIME OF EXERCISE AND PRAYER



STRENGTH * BALANCE * STAMINA * PRAYER * REFLECTION

"A due degree of exercise is indispensably necessary to health and long life."

~ JOHN WESLEY



Music Ministry

As this season comes to an end, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated choir. They have been so supportive during the personnel changes, encouraged and appreciated the Pepper composer weekend that turned into a community SingFest, and sang to worship our Lord and Savior at both our Christmas and Easter Musicals. I'm so honored to lead this awesome group of singers who also dedicate their services each and every Sunday.



The choir will continue to sing through June, and then take a two month much deserved break. My hope is that you enjoy the summer break, and then we will reconvene in September to Worship together again with our music.

This summer I encourage you to let me know your favorite hymns and praise songs. Just fill out the form provided in the sanctuary, and I'll do my best to include them in worship this summer. Hurry as favorite hymns and praise songs start June 22nd.

May you always have a song in your heart!

Shalom,
Cynthia
Music Director



Worship and Work: A Faithful Balancing Act at Trinity

For over a decade, Douglas has called Trinity United Methodist Church his spiritual home. What began as a place of worship quickly became a place of purpose. A seasoned professional with a background in security systems, operations, and business development. Douglas did not come to Trinity looking for a job, but when the need arose, he answered the call.

Originally serving as a volunteer on church council, Douglas stepped up when Trinity needed leadership. In 2022, he became the church's Director of Facilities, bringing not just technical expertise, but a heart deeply committed to the mission of the church.

"I saw the strain on our staff and volunteers, and I knew I could help," Douglas recalls. "It wasn't about finding something to do, and it was about freeing others to do ministry while I took care of what I know best: the building, the systems, and the details."

Douglas's role touches every part of church life, making sure the AC is on for Sunday services, coordinating maintenance, overseeing projects, and supporting the day-to-day operations that allow the ministry to thrive. Yet working at the same place he worships presents unique challenges.

His goal is simple: to support the pastor, staff, and congregation by handling what he can, so they can focus on growing the church's outreach and spiritual life. "At the end of the day," Douglas notes, "I am here because I love this church. I am not just maintaining a building, I am helping make space for transformation. That is holy work too."

Doug Evans



June 15th



HOSEA | 28 OT



God told Hosea to marry a woman who would never be faithful, because the marriage is like God and Israel. Hosea obeyed God and married a woman who would not be faithful to him. He thus was able to prophesy with great passion about how God felt about all Israel's unfaithfulness.

The book contains warnings of the coming Assyrian invasion on the northern kingdom and the Babylonian invasion of the southern kingdom. The northern invasion was right around the corner, occurring in 722 BC. The invasion of the southern kingdom by the Babylonians, would happen 150 years later. Nobody listened to Hosea.



BREAKDOWNS

✓ BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSES SUBJECT

<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 1	Background: Hosea's Wife and Children
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 2	Background: Israel's Sins, God's Promises
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 3	Hosea Told to Reconcile with His Wife
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 4	God's Charge Against Israel
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 5	God's Judgment Against His People
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 6-7	Israel Refuses to Repent
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 8	Judgment and Sins Described
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 9-10	Israel, Other Nations, Great Crimes
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 11-12	God's Love in Spite of Sins
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 13	Final Charges
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 14	Call to Repent

Most Popular Verses

✓ BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSES RANK

<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 4:6	Hosea Rank: 1, Overall: 469
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Priscilla Circle

It is hard to believe that summer has arrived, but it is here. Priscilla Circle will not be meeting during the summer months of June, July, and August. Many of the ladies will be returning to their homes up north or maybe going on a summer vacation. This will not stop our circle from continuing our mission of supporting women and children locally and around the world.

As we go through the summer, we will continue to collect food on the first Sunday of each month for *House of Hope*. As of this date we have donated approximately 586 pounds of food to House of Hope and will continue to donate throughout the summer. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we will continue doing “noisy change” to aid the *Heifer International Project*. They help families lift themselves out of hunger and poverty by providing animals like chickens and cows plus seeds to grow vegetables. The families are given animals, seeds, and education on how to take care of the animals, grow the crops so they can eat and stay healthy.

We closed our May meeting with a Baby Shower for *Helping People Succeed* and an indoor picnic. We gave \$250 worth of diapers, and each member brought unwrapped baby gifts. Glenna Parrish, Gift Planning Officer, was asked to join us so we could learn a little more about her organization. It was an educational time and opportunity for a time of fellowship. We had lots of good food and an opportunity to look over all the baby items, as some were made by members of the Hooks and Needles group.

On behalf of Priscilla Circle, we say thank you for helping us provide for families locally and around the world.

Pat Williams



A TRINITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



“New Baby Collection”
Let's help provide basic baby items
for new mothers and infants.

Place new baby items in the box provided.

Meet Merri Byers

Hello dear friends at Trinity United Methodist Church. I have been attending this church for two years, and became a member over a year ago. Linworth United Methodist Church, located in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio, was my home church previously. I retired from a Military Helmet Manufacturing Company as Director of Human Resources and Administration in June of 2019, and then moved to Port St Lucie in 2020 to be closer to one of my sons (this was during covid times and obviously not being in cold weather during the winter months). I attended several different churches in this area, searching for the one that said “home” and I finally found Trinity. Services were held in a true chapel, the Pastor was so sincere and heartfelt with his sermons, and he wore a “robe” (which I had grown up seeing and, personally, I believe it shows respect and reverence). Trinity felt like “church” and the people I met were welcoming. Each time I walked in the door I could feel the spirit of God.

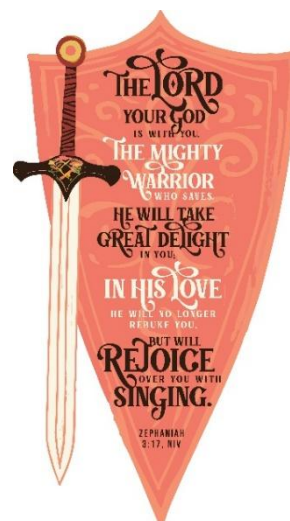
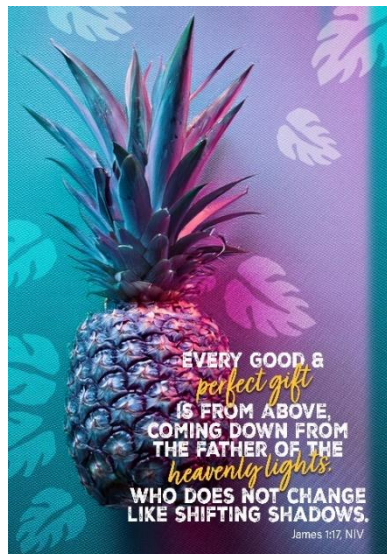


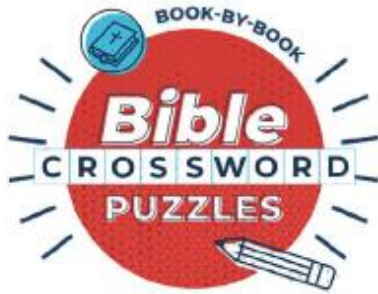
While most people love to be retired, I missed working. So, I decided to work for an attorney who was getting started in private practice. I thought that would not be as stressful as my previous positions. While I truly enjoy everything I’ve learned and the work that I am doing, I have found that the stressful part is more a result of my personality and my devotion and commitment to doing the best job I can, which is how I really approach everything. So, to avoid the stress part as much as possible and experience a good day, I start my day with God and rely on him tremendously for the strength and wisdom to do the best I can in all situations.

I have two sons who are truly wonderful. My oldest and his family live in a suburb of Pittsburgh. My daughter-in-law is a true blessing, and the two children they have raised are my “heart’s delight.” My granddaughter graduated from Westminster College in PA and is an assistant buyer with a large golf course in the Hamptons during the summer and here in Florida during the winter. My grandson is a walking encyclopedia and will start his junior year in the fall at High Point University in North Carolina.

My younger son lives in Hobe Sound; has an exciting IT position he loves in West Palm and has been dating a wonderful woman who is very busy working and raising her children. So, you see, between church and family, I am truly blessed!

Merri Byers





HOSEA



ORDER IN THE BIBLE
OT: #28



WRITTEN BY:
Hosea
the Prophet

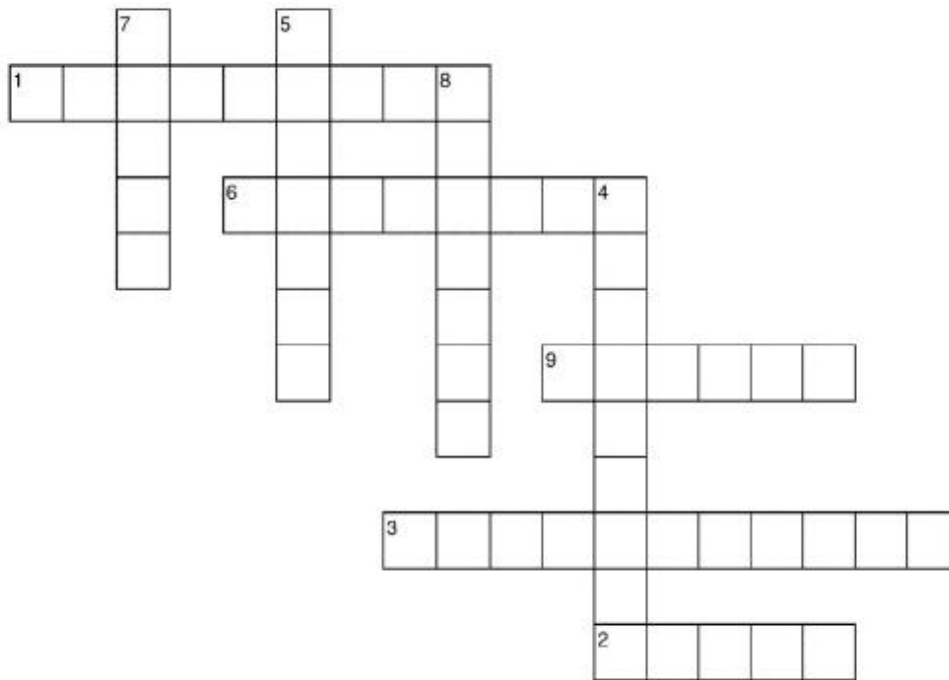


TIME PERIOD COVERED:
750 BC to 6 BC

OVERVIEW

Hosea directed his early prophecies to Jeroboam II, the 13th king of the northern kingdom around 750 BC. Israel was full of idolatry, and God planned to allow Assyria to invade if people didn't repent (they didn't).

He prophesied early, around the same time as Isaiah and Jonah. Hosea obeyed God and married an unfaithful. He was thus able to relate to God's feelings of betrayal by Israel.



Across

- God's people are destroyed because of the lack of _____ (4:6)
- Hosea 11:1 is a famous prophecy that was fulfilled when Jesus' family fled to this country.
- As a symbol of Israel's infidelity, God told Hosea to marry this type of woman (1:2)
- Israel stumbled day and night, along with these authorities (4:5)
- Israel, in its early activities, is described as being like this type of fruit (9:10)



Down

- God desires mercy even more than He desires _____ (6:6)
- A city in which a massacre totally displeased God (1:4)
- The name of Hosea's unfaithful wife (1:6)
- One of the tribes of Israel that has surrounded God with lies (11:12)

United Methodist's Men's Group

On Saturday morning May 3rd 20 Trinity United Methodist Men gathered for their monthly breakfast meeting. After a breakfast of scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausage, coffee, and orange juice, Don Frye opened with a devotion and prayer after calling the group to order at 8:17 a.m.

Jon Smith reported that the group's treasury held a balance of \$4,764.56. He then suggested that the group support *Helping People Succeed* through a \$500 contribution. Don Stacks motioned the contribution, and Austin Parriott seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Levi Miller reported on the Easter Sunrise Service, noting that more than 1,300 attended the service and that almost \$4,000 was collected. He also noted that some people were unsure what the gathering was about and when told, attended. Levi then thanked those who worked the Sunrise Service for their time and talents.

Don Frye spoke about the free picnic being held on Sunday June 1st immediately after the 2nd service. He noted that last year's picnic's attendance was about 100 individuals, and noted that the Pancake Breakfasts thus far had drawn almost as many per event. Discussion then turned to advertising and other planning.



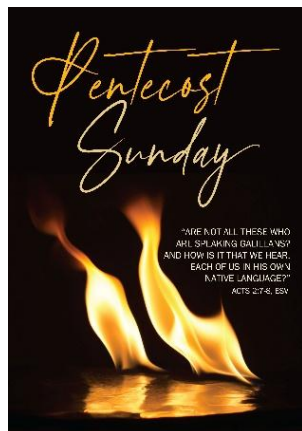
Roy Emmett's memorial service to be held that afternoon was then discussed, and Pastor Singh thanked the group for its donation toward the service.

Several members added to the business discussion, and Dale Forbes, Rich Dampf, Terry Tychan, Levi Miller, Brent Rassmussen, and Doug Evans were thanked for volunteering to spread mulch over three Wednesdays saving hundreds of dollars if the work had been contracted out. Jon Smith, after being approached by a widow, asked if there were any men who might help get small projects done that were beyond her ability.

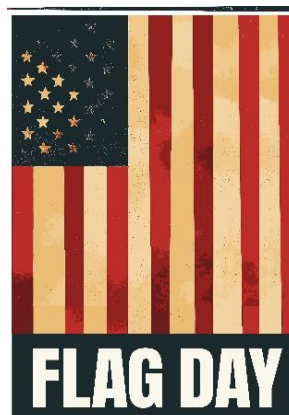
Discussion focused on what kind of project would be considered and it was agreed the Men's Group would investigate how to help those in need. Don Stacks then thanked Doug Evans for his article in the May *Newsletter* noting that this was the kind of story that he would like to see more of. Pastor Singh then praised the group for doing a great job in helping build Trinity and spread its word throughout the community.

As there was no other business to discuss, Pastor Singh then closed the meeting with prayer at 8:55 a.m.

Don Stacks



June 8th



June 14th

LOVE

AT-A-GLANCE

FIRST

First time the subject appears in the Bible:

Genesis 20:13: And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your **love** to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."

LAST

Last time the subject appears in the Bible:

Revelation 22:15: Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who **loves** and practices falsehood.

THREE VERY IMPORTANT OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES ON THIS SUBJECT:

- **Proverbs 3:3-4:** Let Love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
- **Genesis 20:13:** And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your Love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."
- **Psalms 17:7:** Show me the wonders of your great Love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

THREE VERY IMPORTANT NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES ON THIS SUBJECT:

- **Matthew 22:37-39:** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- **Luke 6:32:** If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. Change in the subject's nature from the Old and New Testament:
- **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



God's Important Messages about Love:

God does not ever stop loving his children. He may be disappointed and correct them but he will never desert or forsake his children.

God's love is bigger and better than our human love. Our love only wants to extend itself to those we find easy to love, like family members and friends. God's love will extend to those who are not easy to love and who are not acting loving toward us.



BIBLE STORIES SHOWING LOVE:

- Luke 15 is a great resource for God's Love, containing both the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7), The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The Parable of the Lost Coin, a lesser known parable about God's love, falls between the two (Luke 15:8-10).
- Of course the ultimate story of love is Jesus' death on the cross. However, the explanations provided are in other passages that aren't imbedded in the story. John 3 contains not only the "God so loved the world" famous verse (16) but many others that bring understanding about the depths of God's love.



HOSEA



ORDER IN THE BIBLE
OT: #28



WRITTEN BY:
Hosea
the Prophet



TIME PERIOD COVERED:
750 BC to 6 BC

OVERVIEW

Hosea directed his early prophecies to Jeroboam II, the 13th king of the northern kingdom around 750 BC. Israel was full of idolatry, and God planned to allow Assyria to invade if people didn't repent (they didn't).

He prophesied early, around the same time as Isaiah and Jonah. Hosea obeyed God and married an unfaithful. He was thus able to relate to God's feelings of betrayal by Israel.



Circle the **BOLD** words in the puzzle.

Hosea's family was an example of Israel being **UNFAITHFUL** to the Lord **COMER** was the wife of **HOSEA** (1:3)

Israel is charged with **CURSING, LYING, MURDER, STEALING** and **ADULTERY** (4:2)

God's people are destroyed by their lack of **KNOWLEDGE** (4:6)

God desired **MERCY** even more than he desires **SACRIFICES** (6:6)

Israel is described like **GRAPES** and a fig tree (9:10)

This famous prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus' family fled to **EGYPT** (11:1)

EPHRAIM is one of the **TRIBES** of Israel that has surrounded God with lies (11:12)

U	N	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	E	E
S	A	X	E	C	X	M	J	R	A	G	E
A	V	A	O	P	U	G	E	X	E	Y	E
C	A	R	D	L	H	R	X	R	K	P	I
R	R	K	K	U	Y	R	S	Q	C	T	S
I	M	Q	E	M	L	I	A	I	E	Y	T
F	H	O	S	E	A	T	N	I	N	R	E
I	H	H	R	O	G	E	E	G	M	G	A
C	B	G	R	A	P	E	S	R	I	D	L
E	T	R	I	B	E	S	X	Z	Y	U	I
S	J	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	N
G	S	P	N	M	U	R	D	E	R	G	G

Church Council

Trinity's Church Council met on Sunday afternoon, May 18th, to discuss matters of concern to the church, hear committee reports and recommendations, and act on motions brought before it. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by Jim Williams at 2:00 p.m. The April 2025 meeting minutes were accepted.

Trustees: Levi Miller then updated the Council on Trustee projects. He reported that the Memorial Garden Committee was working on updating the Garden, that new doors would be installed the coming week, and the sanctuary stage will be removed soon. He also noted that the Landscaping Committee had been working on irrigation plans.

Finance: Dale Forbes reported that Trinity's finances were healthy, noting that finances are up, and providing options for purchasing an additional CD.

Lay Leader: Roz Miller reported attending a lay leadership training class at First United Methodist Church that focused on building a beloved community.

SPRC: Jennifer Baker reported that the pianist/accompanist position was now active and that the Committee was working on clergy evaluation.

Lay Delegate/Line Dancing: Randi Schwartz reported that the Blessings in a Bag would be closing down with school summer vacation coming soon.

Music Ministry: Cynthia Beam reported that music was slowing things down for the summer and focusing on collecting the congregation's favorite hymns for the summer. She also noted that she was planning in case a new pianist/accompanist was not hired in time for the fall.

Congregational Care: A report was included in the agenda that included Family Movie Night, White Elephant Potluck Christmas Party, Transfiguration Fire, and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon dates for next year. A "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" class may be offered late May and June of this year. Several other activities were in the planning process.

Priscilla Circle: Pat Williams informed the Council that Priscilla Circle had 11 members, plus Pastor Singh and special guest Glenna Parrish for a picnic/baby shower for the Helping People Succeed ministry. The next meeting will be September 8th.

Men's Ministry: Don Frye reported that the Methodist Men's Ministry group were planning free picnics on June 1st and August 31st. The next meeting will be on June 7th.

Communication: Randi reported on the new sign for the church front yard and that "Trinity Youth Art" was now being added to Fellowship Hall.

Newsletter: Don Stacks reported that the *Newsletter* will continue to be produced over the summer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Singh reported that he will be out of town in June. He reported that a Children's Bible Study at the Apple Tree Academy offered a way to expand our community and he was considering helping them out and asked for volunteers to help him. He reported that he is planning a "lunch and learn" program for the congregation. He then led a discussion of the latest Bishop's Report, which included a revised vision statement. He then noted that attendance after the seasonal membership is stable and that Trinity needs to focus on a younger adult, family membership campaign.

Jim Williams then asked if there was any other business. There being no other new business, Pastor Singh closed the meeting in prayer at 3:06 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

Seattle, Washington, to Jensen Beach, Florida

It was another damp, cold, and rainy day in Seattle when Bruce woke up, his job was to take his dog outside to use the bathroom. He got dressed and called his dog and they walked outside, just another typical day in Seattle. However, it was a day that would change a little boy forever, for some reason his dog ran out of the yard into the highway that ran by his yard. Bruce heard the horrible sound of screeching brakes, horns blowing, and a thump. Bruce ran back to his home to get his mother, like any good mom she picked up the dog and laid it in the car with Bruce and hurried to the vet, praying the dog could be saved. However it was in vain, the dog died before they could get there.



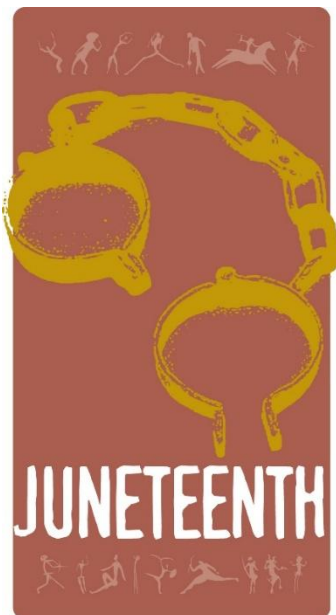
At that time Bruce made a promise to himself, he would grow up and become a veterinarian, Bruce was only five years old, I'm sure mom and dad gave him a lot of encouragement and I'm sure they must be proud of him. I think it's amazing, and I believe Bruce had some help, I think that God must have touched Bruce, and healed his heart so he would never forget his promise.

Bruce has treated dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and pocket pets since 1977. He has treated hundreds of animals and reptiles. Bruce got his degree from the University of Washington State in 1978. In 1991 he got his degree in animal acupuncture, and in 1992 he got a degree in chiropractic. He is now in his 47th year of practice.

We have a small dog, and Bruce is our vet. Buster is 17 years old now and I can tell you, Bruce has been seeing him for nearly 9 years, and we think he has done a wonderful job.

You can find Bruce at the *Atlantic Animal Clinic*, 1315 NE Sunview Terrace, Jensen Beach, FL (772-334-5901) www.jensen-vet.com. Bruce Bierbaum DVM.

Don Frye



Trinity's Impact Noted

Trinity recently received a Thank You letter from the Florida United Methodist Conference expressing their appreciation for our sending 100% in Apportionments last year.

Trinity's contributions are having a real impact. Thanks to each of you very much for your faithful stewardship at Trinity! We are truly a loving and giving church family.

Jim Williams

Finance Committee Chairman



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Office of the Treasurer

450 Martin Luther King Jr Ave Lakeland, FL 33815

April 23, 2025

Trinity UMC
2221 NE Savannah Rd
Jensen Beach, FL 34957-5426

Dear Jim Williams,

Along with the Council on Finance and Administration and all ministries supported through your apportionment gifts, I would like to express our appreciation to you and your church members for your hard work and commitment to our shared ministry. We are grateful for your church's dedication to the ministry of The United Methodist Church shown by paying 100% of your allocated apportionments in 2024. Apportionments are your church's share to fund the budgets of The United Methodist Church around the world, the Florida Conference, and your district.

When every local church contributes 100 percent of its apportionments, the entire church is able to meet its many commitments to mission and ministry. To name only a few of these beautiful expressions of God's love, we see churches reaching out to provide needed resources in areas with families facing food insecurity. We see caring United Methodists meeting the needs of older persons through items like food and housing, but also through spending quality time with people reminding them of God's love and care for them. We see The United Methodist Church making a difference in the lives and faith of people every day! With your support of The United Methodist Church through apportioned connectional giving, leaders have been trained, churches have been resourced, clergy have been supported in ministry, outreach beyond the church walls has flourished, and much more. We are grateful for you sharing in ministry and supporting God's work through The United Methodist Church.

While we continue to acknowledge the difficult season we have come through following the pandemic and disaffiliations, we are looking forward with hopeful anticipation to the next season of ministry in The Florida Conference and The United Methodist Church. Florida Conference churches met and rose above the challenges of this season and contributed \$9.6 million in apportionments in 2024. This was not done without sacrifice, and your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

We look forward to the hopeful future of The Florida Annual Conference and continuing in ministry with you. I hope you will pause in one of your worship services and share this letter with the people who made this 100% support possible. It truly is a sign of the living God at work in your midst. Please share with your church our gratitude and excitement as we move forward together making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Sincerely,

Christine Dodson
Interim Treasurer – Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Courageous Leadership • Missional Engagement • Spirit-Led Innovation



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June 2025 Happenings

Sundays

- Celebration Service (9:00 a.m.)
- Fellowship Hour (10:00 a.m.)
- Traditional Service (11:00 a.m.)
- Children's Sunday School (9:00 a.m.)
- Adult Bible Studies (9:30 a.m.)
- Prayer Time (10:30 a.m., Bob Engle Room)
- 1st Sunday:
 - Communion
 - House of Hope Donations
- 3rd Sunday: Loose Change
- 4th Sunday: New Member Sunday

Mondays

- Line Dancers (1:00–3:00 p.m.)

Tuesdays

- Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays

- Hooks & Needles (11th, 25th, 10:00 a.m.)
- Treasure Coast Singers Practice (10:00 a.m.)
- Line Dancers (1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.)

Thursdays

- “Perfectly Flawed” Women's Bible Study (5th, 12th, 19th, 10:00 a.m.)
- Line Dancers (1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.)

Fridays

- Family Movie Night (20th, 7:00 p.m.)

Saturdays

- Men's Meeting (7th, 8:00 a.m.)
- Church Picnic (1st, 12:30 p.m.)

Trinity United Methodist Church

2221 NE Savannah Rd.
Jensen Beach, FL 34957