

**It is still Christmas, so  
Merry Christmas from my  
family to yours!**

We are beginning the year in worship with Star Words- at the beginning of last year, we received words of intention, or prayer focus words. This isn't a Star WARS thing, though most of you know I'm such a nerd my whole life is a Star Wars thing (see the detail in the pjs in the picture!). This is a practice for Epiphany when the magi followed to star to discover the Christ Child.

For some people, Star Words are not their favorite tool for

spiritual disciplines, but for others it can help clarify how God is at work in their lives. My word this year was *delight*. I thought this was pretty funny since a few weeks later my family went to Disney World for the first time and that can be a place of delight! I also thought it would a good word as the mom of young children- they are so full of delight! It also turned out to be the Year of Trinity Weddings- after a few years of not officiating any weddings, I had six that were all truly delightful. The matching pajamas are a gift from Christa Spears and Nate Walker who got married December 6!

However, I think where the word helped me was in times that were not as delightful- like changes in my body from perimenopause or just a lack of sleep or nutrients, or like when the church office caught on fire, or all the deaths of loved ones I prayed for you through, or the struggles with new immigration policies and cuts in government spending that directly affected our church members. In the back of my mind, when I am feeling worn out from the deluge of bad stuff happening in the world, my Star Word flickers, shining around me to help me notice the happiness and pleasure and goodness that are still all around. Delight has given me strength this past year.

And of course, all your prayers and love, not just for me but for one another, have also delighted me and given me strength. We are so blessed to be at Trinity. Aaron is thankful for all those checking in on him- both to tease him when he is traveling amazing places, but to check in on how he's feeling with the schedule. Zeke and Remi are so thankful for all their church friends, especially Becky Pepper Thompson and the children's ministry team for starting up weekly children's church and of course for Vacation Bible School Camp! We are praying to always keep our hearts open for the way God delights us in ministry here in Frederick. May God bless you with delight as well!

**STAFF GIFT THANK YOU!!**

On behalf of Trinity Staff, we would like to say thank you to those who donated to the 2025 Staff Gift. We are very grateful for your generous donations to make this gift possible. Thank you again and may the new year bring peace and blessings.

-Church Staff

**NOTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Here's an on-boarding notice for our January Meeting: Come one, come all! Our first One Board meeting of 2026 will be Monday January 5th at 6:30 (hybrid). Even if you aren't a member of the board, you are welcome to join in the meeting, especially this one as we'll begin the meeting with a presentation on affordable housing as we continue to explore what to do about the 701/703 property, and we'll end the meeting praying over the new board members and commissioning them for service this year.

## Recycle Your Christmas Cards

What to do with all your Christmas cards? Why not recycle them for a good cause? The ARC of Carroll County uses the fronts of Christmas, birthday and all sorts of cards for various projects throughout the year. If you would like to donate your cards, please cut off the fronts and place them in the Collection Center in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Buckingham at 301-473-5563.



Happy New Year Trinity!

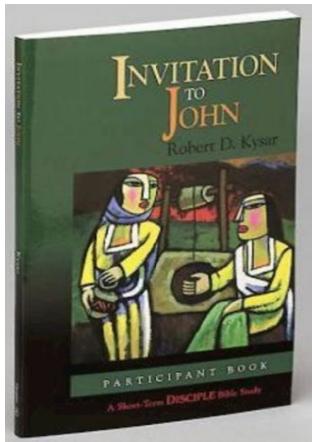
hello  
2026

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**FILL IT FULL OF FOOD**

The Mission Team is asking you to fill the back pew of the sanctuary with non-perishable food on Sundays, January 4 and 11. The food will then be delivered to the Frederick Food Bank for distribution to hungry people in Frederick.

**UPCOMING  
BIBLE STUDY****PASTOR SHANNON'S BIBLE STUDY "INVITATION TO JOHN"**  
**Tuesdays at 6:30pm Beginning January 6**

*Excerpt from the synopsis...* The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me". Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.... (read more and to purchase the book go to: <https://www.wonderbk.com/shop/product/2716337-invitation-to-john-participant-book-short-term-disciple-bible-studies>).

**COME BE PART OF *STARTING STRONG...***

**TRINITY LEADERSHIP EVENT**

**IF YOU FIND YOURSELF LEADING ANY GROUP OR EFFORT HERE AT TRINITY,  
PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY**

**JANUARY 8 | 9:30AM-12:30PM**

***PLAN NOW TO BE PART OF KICKING OFF THE 2026 MINISTRY YEAR IN A MEANINGFUL & INTENTIONAL WAY***

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



On January 18, 2026, right after service, the 703/705 Visioning Team will be having a panel discussion with local church pastors on Affordable Housing and what they did with their property in order to address the local affordability needs. Food will be provided.

## Housing Continuum



### **Property with a Purpose**

By Curtis A. Osborne

In April of this year, as most of you know, we had a fire over in our old office building. There was a lot of smoke damage to the building and we lost many documents and valuables. Office staff was displaced and we had to relocate to the church building and occupy the former Youth room.

It has been a long process and we are finally digging out of the mountains of boxes of items that were salvaged from the fire, but we have more to do since we have less space. The decision has been made to keep the office in the main church building but we have to decide what to do about the old building.

When Pastor Shannon first came on board, she had a vision for Trinity that included being more missional in the local community. We were selected to be in a 2-year cohort called the Source Collaborative through Wesley Seminary and with much prayer and discussion, we planned to try a few different things that included a partnership with West Frederick Middle School, food truck, fundraising and exploring affordable housing on our property.

All of a sudden, people started contacting us about the property. We had meetings with Heartley House, Episcopal Housing, Interfaith Housing Alliance and Habitat for Humanity and they all had different housing needs.

Then Trinity became a part of the Frederick County Housing Solutions Task Force.

A group called AP3 did a whole assessment on us. The owner of the firm runs has a master's degree program at Georgetown University for real estate students who want to work with houses of worship on utilizing their church space and land.

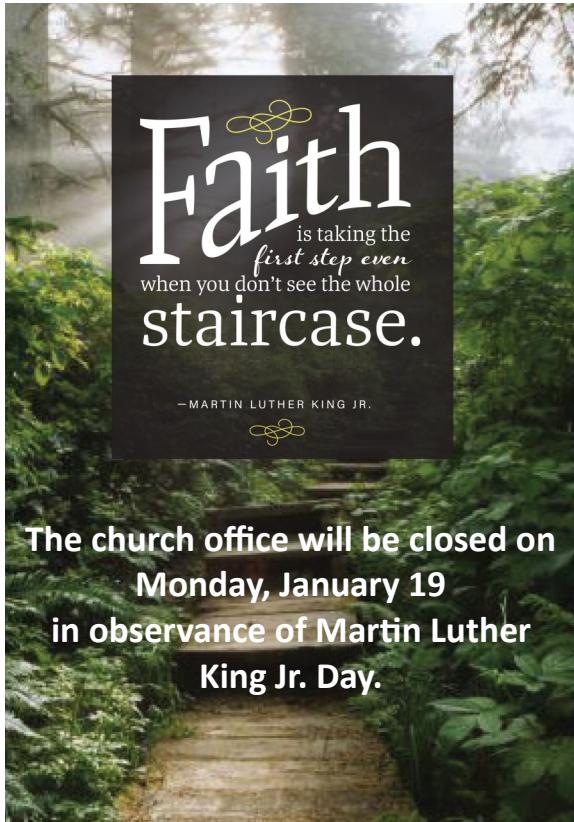
As Pastor Shannon and I have noticed in the past several years since she has been here, housing has been a huge need. Whether it was for housing the homeless, transitional housing, affordable housing for those making limited incomes like teachers, workforce housing, or housing for seniors.

There is a huge housing spectrum.

What if our church could be a part of solving this problem for people in our community? What if there was a way to provide housing on the 701/703 property through leasing our land to partners with development experience and property management with social services? And what if we could make a little money off of it too? Whatever we choose, we want it to be missional.

*Learn with us to see that's possible!*





The church office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



The AFC Champions will be taking on the NFC Champions in the Super Bowl on February 8, 2026. It's also an opportunity to help feed hungry people in Frederick.

If you're going to watch the game, please plan to donate at least \$1 to the Souper Bowl of Caring during worship on Sunday, February 8th.



*To learn how Stephen Ministry could be of help to you or someone you know, contact Pastor Shannon or Heather in the church office at 301.662.2895*

(MT=Ministry Team)  
(OCC=Operation Christmas Child)

## January 2026

### TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 8:45 am   Grow Time “Open Door” 10:00 am   Worship Service 11:30 am   Youth Grow Time		<b>WEDNESDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE</b> 6:00 pm   Chancel Choir 6:30 pm   Praise Team		1 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 11:30 am Trinity Brass 5:00 pm Youth/Children Music	5 7:00 pm Handbell Choir	6 8:30 am Men’s Bible Study 6:30 pm Study of John	7 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts	8 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	9	10 9:00 am Leadership
11 11:30 am Trinity Brass 5:00 pm Youth/Children Music	12 7:00 pm Handbell Choir	13 8:30 am Men’s Bible Study 6:30 pm Study of John	14 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts	15 6:30 pm Missions MT	16	17
18 11:00 am Potluck and Housing Panel 11:30 am Trinity Brass 5:00 pm Youth/Children Music	19 MLK Day Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Handbell Choir	20 8:30 am Men’s Bible Study 6:30 pm Study of John	21 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts	22 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	23	24
25 11:30 am Trinity Brass 5:00 pm Youth/Children Music	26 11:30 am Senior Luncheon 7:00 pm Handbell Choir	27 8:30 am Men’s Bible Study 6:30 pm Study of John	28 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts	29 6:00 pm Monthly Virtual Prayer Service	30	31

All baptized and confirmed Christians are the ministers of the church.

## CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor.....	<i>Shannon Sullivan</i>	Director, Chancel Choir.....	<i>Valerie Wittkamper</i>
Minister of Visitation.....	<i>John Morrill</i>	Director, Youth Choir.....	<i>Denise Berry</i>
Director of Program Ministries.....	<i>Heather Throckmorton</i>	Director, Trinity Brass.....	<i>Matt Stegle</i>
Administrative Assistant.....	<i>Jenna Cintron</i>	Director, Jacob's Ladder Praise Band .....	<i>Jim Chamblee</i>
Director of Community Engagement.....	<i>Curtis Osborne</i>	Director, Audio/Visual/Media Ministries.....	<i>Guy Berry</i>
Coordinator of Music & Arts.....	<i>Denise Berry</i>	Audio/Visual/Media Ministries technicians.....	<i>Jim Clark</i>
Facilities Caretaker.....	<i>Sandra Berry</i>		<i>Trevor Forman</i>
Organist.....	<i>Tamara Cashour</i>		

## SIMPLIFIED BOARD

Co-Chairpersons, Church Council.....	<i>Don Fine, Dick Gessner</i>	Missions Team.....	<i>email tumc@trinityfrederick.org</i>
Lay Leader.....	<i>Michele Pickens</i>		<i>to be added to the list</i>
Chairperson, Stewardship & Finance Team.....	<i>Wanda Osborne</i>	Chairperson, Women's MT .....	<i>TBD</i>
Treasurer.....	<i>Gail Fitzgerald</i>	Co-Chairpersons, Altar Guild.....	<i>Sue Rowland</i>
Financial Secretary.....	<i>Sandy Wiles</i>		<i>Pamela Lesperance</i>
Chairperson, Board of Trustees.....	<i>Guy Berry</i>	Chairperson, Member Care & Nurture MT.....	<i>Don Hott</i>
		Chairperson, Fellowship & Hospitality MT.....	<i>Dick Gessner</i>

\* Ministry Team



We are trying to be better stewards of the church's resources and are offering an electronic version of the monthly newsletter for those interested. If you would like to receive an electronic version instead of a paper copy, please e-mail the church office at [tumc@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:tumc@trinityfrederick.org).



## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your information or article for the monthly Newsletter in one of the following ways :

- mail or deliver to the church office
- email to [TUMC@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:TUMC@trinityfrederick.org).

Information for the February 2026 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of January – January 11.



The church office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9am-4pm and Fridays from 9am to 12pm with the phones being available until 4pm. Your pastor is here for you: Rev. Shannon Sullivan (off on Fridays): 301-662-2895 (work) 410-937-8835 (cell) [seniorpastor@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:seniorpastor@trinityfrederick.org)



Trinity United Methodist Church  
703 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

301-662-2895  
tumc@trinityfrederick.org  
www.trinityfrederick.org

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*John Wesley Covenant Prayer*

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE  
PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.  
PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.  
LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.  
LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.  
I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS  
TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.  
AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,  
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,  
THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.

**SO BE IT.**

AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,  
LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.  
**AMEN.**