

TRINITY TIMES



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September 2026

God Works While We Wait

If Trinity's pastoral search has felt like a long wait, you're not alone—and God may be doing His best work right here.

Recently, Wade Schondelmeyer gave the Session a detailed update on Trinity's pastoral search process. It was helpful but also highlighted the difficulty of a faithful search as Presbyterians. The PNC is working extremely hard, yet often find themselves at the mercy of waiting for PCUSA to match Trinity with a candidate or waiting anxiously for a pastor candidate to respond to their invitation to begin dialogue. It has proven to be a slow steady progress in a deliberate pastoral search.



That got me thinking about waiting rooms. Not just the ones at the doctor's office, the dentist, or the DMV—though those can stretch anyone's patience—but the kind life builds around us. The seasons where you sit, restless and uncertain, watching others get called ahead while you wonder if anyone still remembers you're there. A long pastoral search can feel like one of those waiting rooms. The church knows something important is coming, but the door hasn't opened yet. And that can stir up everything from impatience, to anxiety, to the quiet fear that maybe we're not going to find the right pastor — or even wondering whether we'll get another pastor at all.

Recently I read an article from ChurchStaffing that honestly talks about these feelings saying, "losing a pastor creates a real void, and the temptation is to rush just to fill it. But as the article wisely says, the only thing worse than not having a pastor is having the wrong pastor. Amen, right? So, what do we do in the waiting room we find ourselves in?"

We bring our impatience, our questions, and our hope to the God who meets us in the waiting. And often, in that waiting, God invites us to see things differently — to look at the same situation with new eyes. It reminds me of that old story about the two shoe salesmen who visited the same rural villages and came back with completely different reports.

One returned discouraged: "I'm coming home. Nobody here wears shoes."

The other returned energized: "This is incredible! Nobody here wears shoes."

Same situation. Different eyes. A long pastoral search works the same way. We can see only the inconvenience, or we can ask, "Lord, what might You be doing here that we'd miss if we hurried?"

The ChurchStaffing article goes on to remind us that this transitional time is a time for a congregation to unify as a congregation in powerful ways during a difficult season. I've watched that happen among us—people faithfully engaged in the life of the congregation, worshipping together, serving together, and generously giving together. Trinity's attendance has been strong, financial giving has grown, membership has increased, and leaders have stepped up, not away. You see, waiting has a way of clarifying what matters, and Trinity realized what matters is Christ first and foremost and the realization that what makes Trinity so special is the people who make up this wonderful congregation. The church is well positioned to receive your next pastor who will find a well-oiled, working, and thriving church.

And as Trinity continues in this season of waiting, I want to share a small update about my own role. After twenty-one months with you, I've sensed the need for a healthier rhythm — more time at home in St. Charles with my family and the ability to travel to North Carolina to be with my daughter and her family. The Session has graciously agreed to a part-time transitional pastor covenant that allows me to serve Sunday through Tuesday, with one week off each month. The good news is that even when I'm away, I'm still less than two hours down the road and fully available for emergencies or pastoral needs. I remain your transitional pastor — just with a rhythm that helps me care well for both my family and this congregation. Even with this adjusted rhythm, I'm grateful to keep walking with you as God continues shaping Trinity for what comes next. And the clarity we gained last fall through the Mission Study echoes exactly what the ChurchStaffing article highlights as vital for a healthy search.

The article also encourages churches to reassess their health—attendance, giving, volunteer engagement, ministry effectiveness—not as criticism, but as clarity for the next chapter. Honest reflection helps us discern what kind of pastor we truly need. That is what is so exciting about this transitional time because Trinity faithfully did this in the wonderful Mission Study the Mission Study Team created. Now that we discerned who Trinity is, who Trinity is called to be, and what kind of pastor is needed to lead Trinity into God's call, now is the time to keep praying and to trust God in the waiting.

Friend, handled well, a long search can position a church for greater fruitfulness when the new pastor arrives. And I believe that. God is not late. God is not idle. God is not anxious. This waiting room is not empty. God is here, shaping us, strengthening us, preparing us.

So let's keep praying.
Let's keep serving.
Let's keep trusting.

And let's keep watching for the quiet, steady ways God is already at work in this long, grace-filled season of waiting.

Rev. Ronnie Osborn

Trinity News

August/September Worship Schedule

*** Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

Black and Gold Sunday

*** Sunday, September 6, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Kathie Jackson

*** Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

*** Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

*** Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

Preaching: Rev. Ronnie Osborn

* In person services, are also live-streamed on YouTube (Trinity Presbyterian COMO) and Facebook (Trinity Presbyterian)

TO VIEW PAST WORSHIP
SERVICE VIDEOS

go to:

<https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>

On August 30th, the congregation is encouraged to wear Mizzou attire – black, gold, white, etc. – as we welcome back the students and fans prepare for the first football game on September 3rd.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day Holiday.



Submissions for *Trinity Times*

The deadline for the October *Trinity Times* is September 25, 2026.

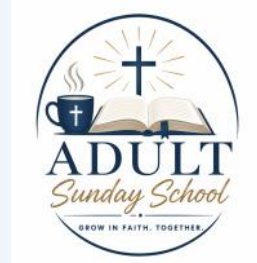
Email: newsletter@trinity-presbyterian.org

Kyle Groshong is our editor.

Christian Education

New Fall Series Begins September 6

Unbreakable Courage: Strong Faith in an Age of Anxiety, Chaos, and Exhaustion



Join us at 9:15 a.m. in Rm. 12 downstairs as we begin this six-week study which includes streaming video with author Max Lucado.

Bring your coffee and your questions and join us as we explore the lives of the prophet Elijah and learn how his story informs ours today.

Youth Sunday School will also resume on September 6 at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Christian Education Chair Cathy Stubbs for more information.



Georgia Morehouse fell on Monday evening while at home and injured her arm. Please pray for healing for Georgia.

Continuing prayers are requested for **Ed Coe, Bill and Sharon Daly, Peggy Jeffries, and Linda Rose.**

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by letting the church office know of any changes.

If you are going through a difficult time and would like a confidential prayer partner, please contact the Trinity office at (573) 445-4469 or trinity@trinitypresbyterian.org.

Trinity News



Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 13
5:00 p.m.

Parking lot behind the church

Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided.

Please bring a side dish to share and a chair or two.

A **signup sheet** for homemade ice cream will be posted on the kiosk in the church lobby.

Outdoor games will be available.



Trinity Pastor Search

Your Pastor Nominating Committee ("PNC") continues meeting regularly to diligently review Personal Discernment Profiles ("PDP") of pastors matched to Trinity's filed Ministry Discernment Profile ("MDP") with the Church Leadership Connection ("CLC"), or who have self-referred through the CLC. In fact, since we started work in the fall, 2025, we have met thirty-six times! The PNC first had to develop the MDP for Trinity and we went "live" on the online CLC in December 2025.

Since then, we have reviewed approximately seventy ministers' PDPs. We then invited certain of these ministers, who we thought might be a good fit, to apply for the Trinity pastor position. The committee uses the internet to review background information on applicants, and view online sermons. After we decide who to interview, the committee conducts online interviews through ZOOM meetings. We have conducted second ZOOM interviews with some candidates.

At any time during this process, the "matched" or interviewed pastor may withdraw from consideration, and several have done so. The PNC has hosted an in-person meeting with one candidate who later withdrew from consideration. The committee has also posted Trinity's open pastor position to several PC (USA) affiliated seminary job boards, that seminary graduates and alumni use.

Please keep the PNC in your prayers as its members do this important work!



Build connections
by joining one of
these small groups.

Fiber Fellowship - **Saturday, September, 26th**
10 a.m.—noon in the Youth Room

Dining Out - Please contact Cathy and Larry Holder if you are interested.



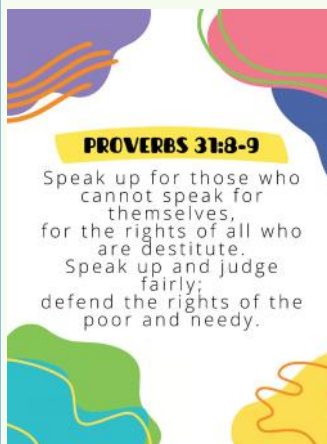
Men's Breakfast - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, **September, 9th**, at 8 a.m. at JJ's Café, 1712 N. North Providence Road. All men are invited!

Mahjong Group - Meets most Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Kennedy is the contact.

Women's Coffee Group - Meets the second Friday of each month, **September, 11th**, at 9:30 a.m. at Love Coffee on the Business Loop to socialize. All women are invited!

Public Witness Group—**Monday, AUGUST, 31st**
at 2 pm. Room 12 at Trinity. Contact is Cathy Nelson.
(see additional information below)

NEW SMALL GROUP



PROVERBS 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

The Public Witness small group will support one another as we bear witness to our faith in our community, state, and country. Do you have an issue that you feel needs to be addressed, as it does not seem to fit with your Christian faith? Join us as we meet to work on these issues. The next meeting is **Monday, August 31st at 2 p.m.** in Room 12 at Trinity. All are welcome!

Granny's House Open House

Saturday, August 29, 2026
3:00 to 5:00 PM

with a short presentation at 4:00
110 East Worley Street.

Trinity regularly contributes to Granny's House and has for many years. Due to a well funded home expansion project sponsored by the Veterans United Foundation and Anderson Homes, Granny's House is celebrating 25 years of service and opening the new space.

Trinity News

Members of Trinity, Trinity Friends: If you have a special birthday, anniversary, accomplishment, family news, special thanks, upcoming children's events/concerts, or acknowledgements you would like to share, this column is just for that purpose. We want you to be able to share what is important to you, with your friends at Trinity!

Trinity Shares Its Joys

Ronnie and Margaret Osborn welcomed a grandson named Sutton; and **Baby Grace** now a year old!

Returned to Worship!! Bill Daly, Marianne Fues, Karen Kennedy, Martha Schondelmeyer, Anne Seymour, Sue Young

90+ yr Birthdays in July: Janet Krause, 93; Don Bay 91 (celebrated with cake and song). **Anne Stahr** turned 92 in August.

Brad and Debbie Calder and family members successfully climbed Mount Cardigan, NH, in honor of the wishes of Brad's late mother.

Jo Norris left to spend her high school senior year in Chile. We pray for her safe travel and successful learning opportunity.

Carol Virkler received the Evelyn Bedell award at the Presbytery meeting August 22. Congratulations Carol!



On behalf of the entire Muench family, we thank you for the tremendous support since the passing of Jim's mother, Esther Muench Plonk. Your words of encouragement, cards, and meals have been a source of comfort. We appreciate that so many of you attended her memorial service and provided food for the reception.

We are grateful to be a part of the wonderful community of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Jim and Fran Muench

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for completing nearly 100 Festival of Sharing school kits and for providing generous donations to cover the cost of shipping!

Your generosity will make a meaningful difference for children around the world.

Reminder: Please return completed kits to the church by Sunday, August 30th.

~Cathy Nelson, on behalf of the Mission/Outreach Committee



August Session Highlights



Approved a three-month covenant extension (September 1 – November 30, 2026) for the Rev. Ronnie Osborn, Transitional Pastor. Starting in September, Rev. Osborn will take one week off per month. During the weeks he is at Trinity, he will be in the office Sunday-Tuesday. He will also be available for emergency pastoral care and memorial services, as needed.

Approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of formulating a hospitality plan and procedures for Trinity.

Approved Cathy Nelson as a new Sunday morning offering counter.

Discussed updates to usher instructions for Sunday morning and reaffirmed the previous decision to lock the front doors after the worship service begins. The doors will be locked at 10:50 and unlocked during the Choral Benediction.

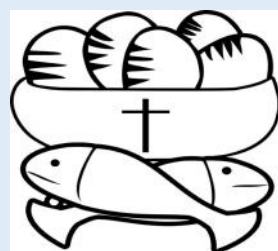
Discussed a protocol for recognizing the birthdays of those 90 and older.

Approved date changes for 2027 committee budget submissions and Pledge Dedication Sunday.



Wednesday evening choir rehearsals will resume on **September 2 at 7:00 p.m.** The choir rehearses downstairs in the choir room (enter through east door). New singers are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Music, J. West.

Opportunities For Service - God's Work, Our Hands



LOAVES AND FISHES

Trinity serves next
**Thursday,
September 10**

Please use the link sent out in the Friday emails to sign up to donate food items or to serve. We are always grateful for monetary donations as well.

Donated food items need to be dropped off at Trinity by 2:30.

Those serving will need to be at the new Voluntary Action Center Opportunity Campus, 1300 Bowling St. by **4:00 p.m.**

Please call our Loaves & Fishes Coordinators, Susan or Bob Winkelman if you have questions.



The Wardrobe:

Columbia's all
volunteer,
non-profit thrift store

Please Note:

There is no Wardrobe event for Trinity in September and no donations will be accepted in September.

The Fall/Winter sale starts September 30th.

Trinity News



Library Talk

with Marianne Fues, Trinity Librarian

Sometimes You Win - Sometimes You Learn: Life's Greatest Lessons Are Gained from Our Losses by John C. Maxwell

Learning from failure. Successful people ...“understand that life's greatest lessons are gained from our losses – if we approach them the right way.” John C. Maxwell believes any setback, professional or personal, can be turned into a positive step forward. He suggests tools to turn a loss into a gain and examines eleven elements that successful learners face. Through personal storytelling and insight, Maxwell lists humility, reality, responsibility, improvement, hope, teachability, adversity, problems, bad experiences, change, and maturity as elements to be faced.

Maxwell's book is available to check out in the Trinity Library between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Materials can be checked out using the three ring binder on the desk in the main library, and also in the Children's Library.

Crop Walk

Please consider participating as an individual or group or just donating.

Food prices are up, Hunger is up. CROP Hunger Walks invites us to get our awareness up, our compassion up, and our bodies up so we can Walk, Give and Improve lives in Columbia, around the country and around the world.

Columbia Crop Hunger Walk

Stephens Lake Park, Sunday, September 20,
2026 Registration opens at 1:00 PM
Facebook link <https://facebook.com/comocrop>

Fundraising envelopes and brochures are available from Cathy Stubbs.

Cross Missouri CROP Hunger Walk

Don Harter's link – <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/columbiamo>

Please follow Don on Facebook and encourage him.



Women's Circles



All women are invited to join either the afternoon or evening circle. This year's Bible study is *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*, a study of First Corinthians.

The Evening Circle will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, in the Fellowship Hall**. The Afternoon Circle will meet on **Wednesday, September 2, at 1:00 p.m. in Rm. 12**.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	31 2:00pm Public Witness Small Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	1 11:00am Missouri Symphony League 7:00pm Evening Circle	2 1:00pm Afternoon Circle (Rm. 12) 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00pm Worship Committee (Zoom)	4 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	5
6 9:15am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	7 Labor Day - Church Offices Closed	8 12:00pm PEO Chapter "JJ" 7:00pm Christian Education Committee 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers	9 8:00am Men's Breakfast-JJ's Cafe 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 4:00pm Loaves and Fishes-Opportunity Campus, 1300 Bowling St.	11 9:30am Women's Coffee Club - Love Coffee 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	12 1:15pm AAUW Book Club
13 9:15am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 5:00pm Ice Cream Social Potluck Supper	14 9:00am PEO Chapter "LM" 12:00pm Garden Club Potluck 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom) 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance Committee (Zoom)	15 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 71859 7:00pm Session	16 4:30pm Love Coffee Board Meeting 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 3:00pm Property Committee (Rm. 12)	18 11:00am MUP PW Coordinating Team Meeting (Rm. 12) 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	19
20 9:15am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time	21 2:00pm Public Witness Small Group (Rm. 12) 7:00pm Boy Scout Court of Honor	22 7:00pm Sacred Harp Singers 7:00pm Technology Committee (Zoom)	23 10:00am Congregational Care Committee (Rm. 12) 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00pm Mission & Outreach Comm. (Zoom)	25 1:30pm Mahjong Group 5:30pm Women in Recovery	26 10:00am Fiber Fellowship
27 9:15am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Time 2:00pm Jane Austen Book Club	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 71859	30 6:00pm Yoga Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			