



The Spire

A Monthly Publication of
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Sent in Prayer to:

Bible Quiz

Who was Moses' father-in-law, and what was his occupation?

- A. Joshua; shepherd
- B. Miriam; tentmaker
- C. Aaron; farmer
- D. Jethro; priest

Answer: D (See Exodus 3:1.)



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Volume 19, Issue 9

September 2018

Sunday School—It's for Life!

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

The United Methodist Church wants to re-energize Sunday school and spark new ministries. Can you imagine a Charge Conference where the Sunday school teachers are the first people elected to hold office for the up-coming year? Can you imagine a church where 60 to 75 percent of those who attend worship also attend Sunday school? Can you imagine a Sunday school so vital that it has sparked so many other ministries that the church building is used seven days a week?

Here at Trinity Church, we don't just imagine these scenarios at Sunday school, they are our immediate goals for 2018-2019, and we're making things happen. We offer classes for people of all ages, and they're taught by the members and staff of our Trinity family. Some classes are sharing the teaching and leadership role rather than having only one teacher. New and exciting opportunities for Christian Education are offered this fall and spring. Check them out!

Our denomination, at the national level, is encouraging us to fill in the generational gaps. We're learning that by doing that it tends to move the local church forward. It also tends to draw people with children who boost attendance in the children's and youth classes.

As the nation's third-largest religious body (behind Roman Catholics, and Southern Baptists) we United Methodists are more influential in seats of power than people realize. This means that what is taught in our Sunday school classes helps determine the religious morals and values on the larger scale. Sunday school is where the action is. Trinity Church kicks off the new Sunday school year with a celebration on September 9. On the 9th, we will also have a backpack blessing. All followed by a church-wide picnic. Please plan to join us. Sunday School - It's For Life!

When Isolation and the Church Intersect

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

Loneliness is big problem in our culture, in our society, in our country. You don't have to look at research to uncover this trend. All you really have to do is pay attention and ask questions. It isn't only among the elderly. Younger and younger people feel lonely. Is the reason because social media and technology have led us to become more isolated? Is this isolation leading to fewer people attending church regularly?

To look at the topic of loneliness in America, I checked with Barna Group, a research company focused on faith and culture. Here's what Barna found.

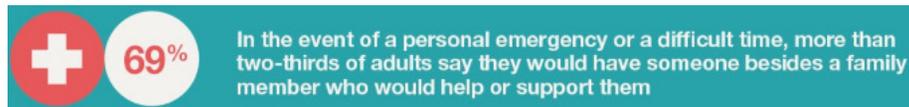


A lot of us struggle with loneliness.

Who are the lonely? It turns out millennials are four times more likely to feel lonely than the elderly.



I found this statistic very telling.



Nearly seven out of ten people say they would call on someone other than a family member to help in an emergency. This is where the church can come in. By getting to know one another, we become the fill-in family. We become the ones others call on in times of need. We must be to all the center of compassion and care.

How do we do that? We do it by coming to church, getting involved in Next Level Innovation teams, and seeing church as more than just a Sunday morning one-hour commitment. Church can and should be a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. That's how Jim, Keith and I see Trinity. Won't you join us?

Graphics and statistics: Barna Group, barna.com.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship Services
at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) – 9:30 a.m. (Sept–June)

Children's Education – 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Communion and Healing – Noon

Celtic Evensong & Communion—5 p.m. (last Sun. of month)

Here to serve Christ and you:

James C. Sprouse — Senior Pastor

Eileen Gilmer — Associate Pastor

Keith Lee — Associate Pastor

Jerry Rich — Director of Music

Catherine Wethington — Dir. of Children's & Youth Choirs

Harriet Latta — Office Manager

Jose Luis Nuñez-Ruiz — Sexton

Janine Whitfield — Director of Parents Day Out Preschool

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone: 703-356-3312

Fax: 703-356-9119

E-mail: info@umtrinity.org

Web Site: umtrinity.org

Instagram: [trinityumc_mclean](https://www.instagram.com/trinityumc_mclean)

Facebook: Trinity UMC, McLean

Twitter: [UMTrinity](https://twitter.com/UMTrinity)

Blog: tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Youtube: [UMTrinity](https://www.youtube.com/UMTrinity)

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a vibrant, growing church home for all who seek companionship, direction and inspiration in their lives as they develop a personal, relevant relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We are anchored in Scripture and energized by congregational commitment. Trinity Church fosters the Christian values of joy, faith, service, hope and love.

Trinity extends the opportunity to experience the Grace of God through worship, discipleship, study and fellowship in the traditions of the United Methodist Church.

Schedule of Events

Sept. 3	Office Closed	
Sept. 6	Trinity Ringers, 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m.	Thursday rehearsals resume for adult choirs. All new ringers and singers are welcome. For more, contact Jerry Rich, jrich@potomacschool.org
Sept. 9	Martha's Table Sandwich Making Sunday, Back to Sunday School, Backpack Blessing & Picnic	Backpacks will be blessed during the 10:30 a.m. service. A picnic for everyone will follow; see page 5 for more information
Sept. 10	Crafts for a Cause, 7 p.m.	Learn about the latest projects: https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-rg
Sept. 11	Book Chat, 6:30 p.m.	This month: <i>Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill</i> , by Sonia Purnell, More below.
Sept. 12	Trinity Trebles, 6 p.m.	Trinity's children's choir for ages 4–6th grade will resume their Wednesday rehearsals with dinner in Langley Hall. For more, contact Catherine Wethington, cwethington@umtrinity.org
Sept. 24	Crafts for a Cause, 7 p.m.	Learn about the latest projects: https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-rg

BOOK CHAT

The Trinity book club is starting a new season! We'll meet on Tuesday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Trinity Library to talk about *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill*, by Sonia Purnell, a tribute to the woman who was the great man's closest confidante, fiercest critic, and shrewdest advisor. Bring a light dinner, if you like (dessert is provided), and enjoy fellowship and lively conversation. Reading the book isn't even required! Coming up on October 9: *Exit West*, by Mohsin Hamid. Contact Kathy Maher (Kathyngs@gmail.com) to obtain a copy of the full reading list.

Three Take-Aways from This Year's Vacation Bible School

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

Intergenerational Ministry

One of the buzzwords in ministry is intergenerational ministry. According to Wikipedia, "Inter-generational or intergenerational ministry is a model of Christian ministry which emphasizes relationships between age groups and encourages mixed-age activities." It contrasts with traditional ministry style where groups are divided according to age. Traditional ministry style is still needed but it should not be the only method found in the church. This year's VBS reflected intergenerational ministry style. One teacher recruited her granddaughters as volunteers so in one group, three generations of Trinity members were represented. In two of the stations the main leaders were older teenagers (a station is where a specific lesson is taught; groups rotate to different stations throughout the day). They did a wonderful job. At my station, the volunteers ranged from rising 5th graders to 7th graders. Even though I was much older, they took a lot of initiative in decorating the room, the way our teaching materials were presented and leadership in many activities. The cooperation and interaction between different age groups truly added energy, creativity and success of this year's VBS.

Importance of Youth/Preteen Volunteers

This is a follow-up to the first takeaway. I want to emphasize this because they are part and parcel to VBS; they made up over 60% of our volunteers! Most of the time they serve as assistants to main teachers or group leaders. They help with interacting with and supervising students. Having groups that range from 12 to 16 kids, these young volunteers are vital for a productive and encouraging experience. Also, they help make connections with students because the lead teacher cannot make significant strides in relationship-building with all the students. Another area of contribution they made this year was being leaders for VBS stations. For older high school students who want to take up the challenge of leading a VBS station, we provide appropriate leadership opportunities. Fortunately, two older youth, Sarah Beth and Adelaide took up the challenge and did wonderful jobs in their respective stations. Youth/Preteen volunteers are fantastic!

Serving the McLean Community

VBS is one of the many Trinity ministries that serve the greater McLean community. We had ninety seven students registered and over sixty volunteers. Because of limitation in space and time, we had to turn away some students. Due to Trinity's reputation as an open and welcoming church with excellent programs, many parents depend on us as essential part of their children's summer experience. Most of the VBS students are not Trinity members and are grateful that we provide this opportunity to

(Continued on page 4)

(Lee, Continued from page 3)

learn, grow and interact with other children from McLean. Our volunteers and teachers do awesome work! Moreover, Jen Calsyn and Marci Thomas are fantastic administrators who work wonders with logistics, recruiting of students and volunteers, and ensuring VBS operates with excellence. Through VBS, Trinity serves the needs of McLean. Let's keep up the good work!



NLI Update

Next Level Innovations (NLI) is an investment in churches that have a recognized potential for reaching more people and inviting them to become disciples of Jesus. Trinity has formed four new leadership teams.

1. **Vision Team** - Create a vision for Trinity's ministries. Design a volunteer recruiting and membership training event.
2. **Vision Fundraising Team (VFT)** - Develop a kick-off sermon series; launch a fall Stewardship Campaign; plan and execute a Capital Campaign.
3. **Hospitality - Communication Connection Team (CCT)** - Develop a comprehensive plan to improve our hospitality. CCT with the Staff will create a **Worship Planning Team (WPT)** to connect Trinity's worship to the community.
4. **Discipleship** - Create a pilot program of small groups that can begin to pursue a deeper spiritual life together.

For more information about ways you can use your spiritual gifts, please contact:

Jim Sprouse	jsprouse@umtrinity.org
Eileen Gilmer	egilmer@umtrinity.org
Keith Lee	klee@umtrinity.org

Bounce Back to Sunday School & Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 9

Casual Sunday

Casual Sunday means to come dressed comfortably to worship, fellowship and picnic.

youth & children's games
hot dogs, burgers
bring a side dish to share

Come celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of school with your church family. See old friends and meet new ones!

Membership Update

New Members

Jason Sprouls

Baptisms

Rhea Mae Edwin
Ivy Isabelle Hanlan

Are you moving?

Please send your new address to the church office (703-356-3312 or info@umtrinity.org). Thank you. This will ensure that we have all the correct information to send news and contribution statements to the correct address.

What's New on Our Blog:

tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Ask Henny

- What can kids do at church?
Find out: <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-r6>

Crafts for a Cause

- September Update of projects and meetings:
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-rg>

Mission

- Update from The Leadership Center: <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-ra>