

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Psalm 107: 1, 8-9

“Blessings In Abundance”

Thanksgiving is one of those national holidays that is easy for a preacher to love. After all, from the very beginning, Thanksgiving has always been religious. Only secondarily did this religious celebration become a national observance, one to remind our nation of its abundance, its blessings, and to call it to a God-given ability to be generous.

The first Thanksgiving in Plymouth is now a foundational part of our national identity, with school children still reenacting a feast shared by pilgrims and Native Americans. The exact date is unclear, but likely it happened sometime between the end of September and the beginning of November, 1621.

This event was not observed again for some years. It was 1630, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony documents show that Gov. John Winthrop noted, “We kept a day of thanksgiving in all the plantations.”

It was in bitter weather and open fields, on their way to Valley Forge, that George Washington and his army observed a day of Thanksgiving. Then, as the nation's first President, Washington declared November 26, 1789, a national day of “thanksgiving and prayer.” He voiced his personal conviction that “it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God.”

(Historical information found at: https://www.theholidayspot.com/thanksgiving/national_holiday.htm)

In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states did the same. But only in 1863, when Abraham Lincoln issued a National Proclamation, did Thanksgiving become a National Holiday. It was observed on the last Thursday in November, likely to recall the anchoring of the Mayflower at Cape Cod.

Only with Franklin D. Roosevelt, did Thanksgiving come to be established on the 4th Thursday in November, an action ratified by Congress in 1941.

You will see, it took our nation some time to give Thanksgiving its proper and profound place in the regular observation and life of our nation. And my question, as a pastor and preacher: “Are we Christians sometimes like our young nation—blessed, god-fearing, overflowing with abundance and promise, and while thankful for all our blessings, yet slow to establish Thanksgiving as a ritual and routine in our personal lives?”

And, in our case, I am not talking about turkey and table—the feasts set by you for your families are some of the finest to be found anywhere! But what feast do we set for the children of God? (Think of Safe Haven and UMCOR [United Methodist Commission on Relief]!) What thanksgiving do we practice in our own lives? Has it taken us some time to establish a tradition of sharing our gifts through the ministry of St. Luke's? Is our thanksgiving and sharing seasonal, or have we, like our nation, come to a point where we try to model a hospitality born of plenty and the graciousness first shown to us—as Jesus says, “. . . from those to whom much is given, much is expected.”

On the verge of Thanksgiving, with Advent and Christmas before us, may our national observance of Thanksgiving and gift-giving be only reflections of a personal practice rooted in our lives, and established through faith, by a God who gave us Jesus Christ and, with Him, all things!

May God give to you abundantly, that you may abundantly give, not for a day, but for a lifetime!

Happy Thanksgiving, your whole life long! Pastor Lisa

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

will be observed on November 4th during the 10:30 am worship service. If you wish to remember someone in your family who died this past year, please call the church office to have their name listed. All those who mourn loved ones are invited to say a word or two if they wish, or just place a carnation in memory of them.

Schedule for Music Ministry of St. Luke's UMC

Sunday - November 04, 2018 - Mallet-percussion choir rehearse in music office - 9:15 - 9:45. Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Warm-up at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday - November 07, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the choir room - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Christmas choir rehearsals resume. Extra voices welcome!

Sunday - November 11, 2018 - Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Warm-up at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mel Burton will direct and play as Bob is on vacation. Sanctuary choir members assisting in charge conference massed choir in p.m.

Wednesday - November 14, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the choir room - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday - November 18, 2018 - Mallet-percussion choir rehearse in music office - 9:15 - 9:45. Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Warm-up at 10:00 a.m. Afternoon rehearsal for the Christmas handbell players. Time to be announced at a later date.

Tuesday - November 20, 2018 - Sanctuary choir members participating in the community Thanksgiving service at the Lutheran Church of our Saviour. Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. Worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - November 21, 2018 - No rehearsal for the sanctuary choir due to Thanksgiving Eve.

Sunday - November 25, 2018 - Mallet-percussion choir rehearse in music office - 9:15 - 9:45. Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Warm-up at 10:00 a.m.

The brass ensemble will practice as needed for special occasions. I will set times with individual players.

BOB AND GOD . . .

Have a new thing going! Thanks to Bob Ford for the formation of our youngest choir. The children's xylophone, drum and bell choir! This choir meets regularly from 9:15-9:40 on Sunday mornings, before the children's Sunday School lesson. We are thankful for the musical education that is part of Sunday School and for the praise we all enjoy as a result. Bob and God, you've got a good thing going here!



CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Larry and Cassie Russell who were married on October 20th, 2018, in Harrisonburg.

Justin Burnett and Lauren Blackwell will be married on Saturday, November 3, 2018. We wish them every blessing!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following families:

Proud parents of Oliver Henry, born September 8th, to Matthew and Heather Latham; and proud Grandmother, Aunt and Uncle: Cindy, Stephanie and Justin Burnett.

Proud parents of Autumn Grace and Summer Hope, born September 30th, to Ryan and Rena Johnson; and proud Grandmother, Joyce Johnson.

Proud parents of Luke, Holly and James, and big brother Jake. Luke is the newest of Betty Wellman's great-grandchildren.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE EXPECTING: Kelly and CW Rice

HUGE THANKS to our Fall Bible School Team: Becky Jenkins, Donna Miller, Brenda Staehle, Michele Hart, Ruth Wickstrom, Elizabeth Butler, Savannah O'Connell, Chris Halloran, Pat Knust, Karla Lacy, Ofelia Dunlap, Bob Ford and Carolyn Beecker! Our Christmas Bible School topic will be "Good Kings, The Bad King and The True King!"

HEARTFELT FESTIVE THANKS to our Fall Festival Team and Volunteers who are All Heart! Marcia Grubbs, Chair, and Committee; Karla Lacy, Bake Sale Chair, and Committee; Yard Sale Elves, too many to name! Men's Stew Team (co-ed!): Keith Miller, Wilmer Downs, Bobbie Strum, Rhea Strum, Clinton Gary, Shirley Gary, Jerry Anderson, Zeb Saunders, Ronnie Weade, Woody Smart, Brad Butler, and Ray Jenkins. (That was some good stew, gang!)

BE INFORMED

Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting —

<http://www.vaumc.org>

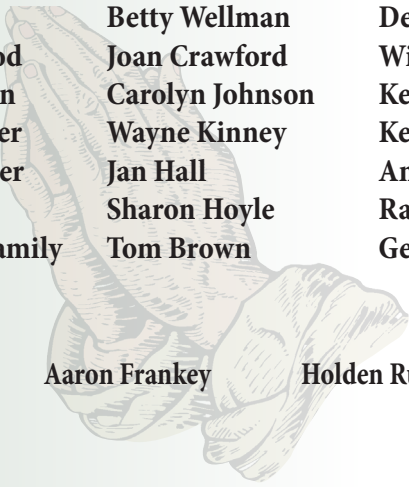
Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Kevin Leigh	Betty Wellman	Dean Smith
David Sherwood	Joan Crawford	Wilmer Downs
Marie Goodwyn	Carolyn Johnson	Kelly Rice
Margaret Tucker	Wayne Kinney	Kerry Myers
Opal Holshouser	Jan Hall	Andrew Schaeffer
Rena Hedrick	Sharon Hoyle	Raymond Fayle
Lori Jones & Family	Tom Brown	George Munford

Our Military

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Holden Russell
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Tutors for Jacobs Road Elementary

ANNOUNCING OUR 2018-2019 JACOBS ROAD TUTORS, coordinated by Debbie Smart:

Ray Kyle, Ray Jenkins, Lisa Sykes, Rachel Kaeser, Woody Smart and Joan Bowker. Just call them the "A-team"!

Thank You, Congregational Care Shepherd!

This photo provides an opportunity to thank all of our Shepherds who deliver communion, already consecrated by Pastor Lisa, to our homebound members. Shirley, who has been a shepherd for quite a while, is stepping down; but before doing so, she celebrated clown communion with one of our homebound members, to brighten their day and share the love of God.



Birthdays

November 7	Doris Teeter
November 9	Jennifer Miller
November 10	Joan Crawford
November 13	Olivia Gary Rachel Edwards
November 16	William Brown
November 17	Cameron Jones
November 19	Opal Holshouser
November 22	Addison Gary
November 24	Katelyn Heath Hazel Saunders
November 25	Eloise Durrett
November 26	Diane Williams Phyllis Downs
November 27	Nancy Ladd Sadie Jones
November 28	Mark Taylor

Anniversaries

November 10	Zeb & Hazel Saunders
November 13	Gary & Ofelia Dunlap



A message from your Treasurer

THANK YOU to those who have supported our church financially during the summer months. As we move toward Advent, please make every effort to keep giving strong and be as generous as possible so that there will be fewer financial worries as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Please prayerfully consider completing an Estimate of Giving Card for 2019 and returning it to Margaret Anderson. If necessary, your Estimate can be revised at any time during the year.

Scottie Kyle

Thanks!

THANKS TO REBECCA MORRIS who has undertaken the challenging, unpredictable, intriguing mission of . . . teaching our youngest children Christmas songs this Advent Season while Bob works with the older elementary children on Christmas Cantata preparation.

Charge!

Charge Conference will take place November 11, from 6-8 pm, at Asbury UMC. Churchill. Carpools are being arranged. All Council members and church leaders are requested to attend, and all congregation members are welcome! Call the church office by Nov. 5th to get a ride!

From Jacob's Road

"Dear friends and members of St. Luke's,

We wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the very generous donation you gave our school. It truly takes the efforts of the entire community to make our school successful, and we appreciate your generosity in helping our students and staff start off the year with all of the supplies that they need.

Thank you for all you've done in the past and continue to do to support our school! We look forward to working together!

Regards," Jennifer Lenz, Principal Joel Eberts, AP
Kim Hodges, School Counselor

St. Luke's UMC Youth Schedule

November 4 - Glean Vegetables at Gallmeyer Farms,
12:00 - 4:30 PM
November 11 - Hockey Game (Chris DeKrafft will be playing),
12:00 - 2:30 PM
November 18 - Christmas Play Practice, 4:00 - 5:30 PM
November 25 - No Youth Group
December 2 - Christmas Play Practice, 4:00 - 5:30 PM
December 9 - Christmas Play Practice, 4:00 - 5:30 PM
December 16 - Youth Christmas Dinner & Play
December 23 - No Youth
December 30 - No Youth

St. Luke's Face Book Page

Make sure you like the St. Luke's Facebook page to keep up with everything going on at church. Also, please like and share the posts and events. The more we share and like, the more others will see what a wonderful place St. Luke's is -- and all the things that we are doing! Here's a link to our page:
<https://m.facebook.com/St-Lukes-United-Methodist-Church-486188658201339/>



Mercy House

WHEN THREE RESIDENTS OF MERCY HOUSE, a local ministry almost literally in our backyard, came to testify in worship on September 30, we learned firsthand what courage looks like. All have overcome heroin addiction, and their descriptions of trials and tribulations, of personal tragedy and triumph, were more than most of us could imagine. All were in that small percentage that beat addiction through the Mercy House faith-based recovery program. There was not a dry eye in the sanctuary, and much praise do we give to God, for these wonderful young women who have turned their lives around and are now helping others do the same. We look forward to discerning how we can support this program that brings hope and new life to those who have faced such despair.



PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER NIGHT!

**VISIT St. Luke's Preschool
Christmas Town with Santa!
Stop by on Thursday, November
29th, between 5:30 and 7:30 pm.
(\$10/child). Cookies with Santa,
pizza, Reindeer Shop for kids to
make and wrap a special gift for
their parents; kid-friendly, silent
auction. Open to anyone!**

**We would love to have some cookie
donations! A sign-up sheet is on the
bulletin board. Thanks so much!**

Red Poinsettias

Red Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 23rd and Christmas Eve, December 24th. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. You may take your plant after the 10:30 am service on December 23 or the 5:30 pm or 7:00 pm service on December 24th.. Make your check payable to St. Luke's U.M.C. and designate in left hand corner of check "Christmas Poinsettias". *The deadline for ordering is December 16, 2018.*

Name of individual purchasing Poinsettia _____

Number of Poinsettias purchased _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



Richmond District Churches

The Dillard Forum at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, 23229 welcomes the Rev. Tom Berlin on Sunday, November 11 @ 7 PM and Monday, November 12 @ 12 noon and 7 PM. Please refer to the attached brochure.

Rev. Berlin will talk about UMC at a Crossroads. He will lead us in considering not only the possibilities of what may happen at the special session of the General Conference in February 2019, but even more the questions beneath the possibilities over issues of inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the United Methodist Church. These questions are also relevant for faithful Christians of all traditions and indeed for all persons interested in the relationship between faith, culture, and justice.

If you plan to attend the session at 12 noon on Monday, November 12, we ask that you call Trinity at 804-288-6056 to reserve a lunch.

Paula Cadden, Office Administrator
Trinity United Methodist Church
903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229
804-288-6057 x 201
pcadden@trinityumc.net
<http://www.trinityumc.net>

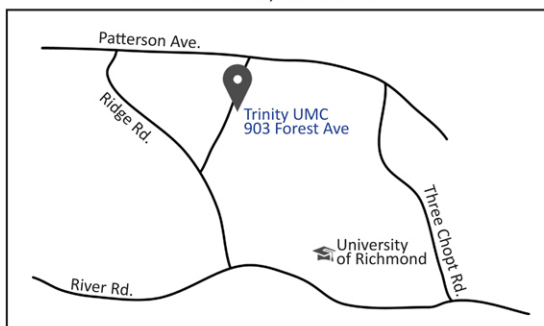
The Dillard Forum is a ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church designed to examine how faith communities speak to the 21st century. An annual event featuring a theologian or biblical scholar, the Forum was established in 2003 to honor F. Douglas Dillard, Jr. who, with his wife Marion, served Trinity for eight years (1981-1989) as senior minister and later three and a half years as minister of congregational care. An eloquent teacher and scholar, Dr. Dillard died in 2005.

Previous Forum speakers have included the Drs. M. Douglas Meeks, Amy Jill Levine, Leander E. Keck, Stanley Hauerwas, James "Mickey" Efird, Roberta C. Bondi, Brian K. Blount, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, L Gregory Jones, William H. Willimon, Kristin Swenson, Charles Marsh, R. Kendall Soulen, Peter W. Ochs, and G. Sujin Pak.

The Dillard Forum Endowment Fund provides the funding for this ministry. Gifts may be made payable to the Trinity Foundation/ Dillard Forum.

Trinity United Methodist Church

903 Forest Avenue
Henrico, VA 23229



trinityumc.net
804-288-6056



UMC at a Crossroads

Featuring:
Rev. Tom Berlin

Pastor and Author

Sunday & Monday
November 11-12, 2018

Trinity United Methodist Church
903 Forest Avenue ♦ Henrico, VA

Free and Open to the Public

Childcare will be provided.
Please call **804-288-6056** if you will need this service.

November, 2018 @ CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 1

7:00 pm-9:00 pm
NAMI (P)

Sunday, Nov. 4

(All Saints Day)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees (P)
1:30-2:30 pm Handbells (S)
4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Nov. 5

4:30 pm Safe Haven
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Boy Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)
Cub Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, Nov. 6

(Election Day)
1:30 pm
Making Veterans' Mats (P)

Wednesday, Nov. 7

10:00 am
Susannah Wesley Circle
6:30-7:30 pm
Girl Scouts (F.H.)
7:00-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S & M.R.)

Thursday, Nov. 8

9:00 am-3:00 pm
7:00-9:00 pm
NAMI (P)

Friday, Nov. 9

9:00 am-12 noon
Quilting Group

Sunday, Nov. 11

(Veterans' Day & Charge Conference)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Finance (P)
1:30-2:30 pm Handbells (S)
4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)
6:00-8:00 pm Charge Conference (Asbury Church Hill)

Monday, Nov. 12

7:00-8:30 pm
Boy Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)
Cub Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, Nov. 13

10:00-12:00 Noon
Dist. Mtg. Ramsey UMC
1:30 pm
Making Veterans' Mats (F.H.)

Wednesday, Nov. 14

5:30 pm-7:30 pm
VBS Advent Bible School
7:00-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S & M.R.)

Thursday, Nov. 15

7:00 pm - 9 pm
NAMI (P)

Sunday, Nov. 18

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Pastor/Parish (P)
1:30-2:30 pm Handbells (S)
4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Nov. 19

10:00-10:30 Preschool Chapel
4:30 pm Safe Haven
7:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts (all rooms upstairs)
Cub Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, Nov. 20

10:05-10:15 pm Preschool Chapel
1:30 pm Making Veterans' Mats (F.H.)
7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service
LCOS

Wednesday, Nov. 21

6:30-8:30 pm
Girl Scouts, F.H.
7:00-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S & M.R.)

Thursday, Nov. 22

THANKSGIVING DAY

Friday, Nov. 23

9:00 am-12 noon
Quilting Group (F.H.)

Saturday, Nov. 24

11:00am-4:00 pm
Anderson (F.H.)

Sunday, Nov. 25

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Administrative Council (F.H.)
1:30-2:30 pm Handbells (S)
4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Nov. 26

7:00-8:30 pm
Boy Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)
Cub Scouts (S)

Tuesday, Nov. 27

1:30 pm Making Veterans' Mats (F.H.)
6:30 pm-8:30 pm
BPSA (P)

Wednesday, Nov. 28

5:30 pm-7:30 pm
VBS Advent Bible School
7:00-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S & M.R.)

Thursday, Nov. 29

5:30-7:30 pm
Preschool Christmas Town w/ Santa



DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 6 - ELECTION DAY (VOTE!)
NOVEMBER 11 - VETERANS' DAY
CHARGE CONFERENCE - 6:00-8:00 PM
ASBURY UMC (CHURCH HILL)
NOV. 14 & 28 - 5:30-7:30 PM -
ADVENT BIBLE SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 20 @ 7:00 PM - Community
Thanksgiving Service, LCOS
NOVEMBER 22 - THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 29 - 5:30-7:30 Preschool Christmas
Town with Santa

Location Codes: F.H. - Fellowship Hall, P - Parlor,
B - Basement, M.R. - Music Room, S - Sanctuary

FALL BACK!

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4th.
Set your clocks back on Saturday night

Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes
stlukespastor@verizon.net

Shirley Gary
Office Manager
stlukesumc@verizon.net

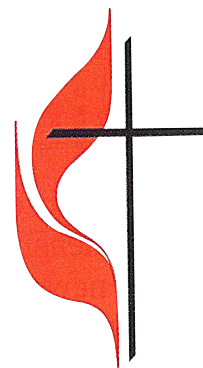
Bob Ford
Minister of Music
stlukesmusic@verizon.net

Margaret Anderson
Financial Secretary
stlukesfinsec@verizon.net

Scottie Kyle
Treasurer
stluketreas@verizon.net

Michele Hart
Preschool Director
director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools



St. Luke's seeks to be a spiritual community where all God's children experience Christ's love and redemption and where we share this through worship, fellowship, education and mission for the community and the world.

www.stlukesumconthehill.org