

Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 9

September 1, 2023

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

ORGANIST

Daryl Robinson



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
2:30 PM

Daryl Robinson has earned international acclaim from critics and audiences alike, being described as an artist with "... a driving muscular poetry underpinned by nimble technique and a nuanced sense of style ..." (Choir and Organ) and possessing ... "flawless technique and rhythmic verve ..." (The American Organist). Winner of both First Prize and Audience Prize in the 2012 American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Performance, he has since maintained an active career as a recitalist, collaborative artist, church musician and educator. Mr. Robinson began his teaching career on the faculty of Westminster Choir College and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Organ at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music.

Join us for an exciting concert featuring a wide variety of music by composers such as Bach, Vierne, Widor, Liszt, Price, Laurin and more, played on Trinity's 54-rank Holtkamp/Reuter pipe organ. There is no charge for this concert although a freewill offering will be taken.

Congratulations Pastor K. and Pastor Lonnie!

On August 20th, Concorida University Texas (CTX) had a dinner honoring Pastor John Kieschnick and Pastor Lonnie Gonzales among others. Dr. Donald Christian, President and CEO of CTX, presented Pastor K. with The Rev. Dr. Ray Martens Award for Service to Christ and Church and Pastor Lonnie with The Rev. Dr. George Beto Christian Leadership Award.



**Pastor John Kieschnick and
Dr. Donald Christian**



**Joy & Pastor Lonnie Gonzales
and Dr. Donald Christian**

The Rev. Dr. Ray Martens Award for Service to Christ and Church is given to individuals who have demonstrated a high and unusual interest in advancing Christian education, by using in a special way the talents with which the Lord has endowed them.

The Rev. Dr. George Beto Christian Leadership Award is given to individuals who model servant leadership in both their church and community

Estate Gifts Enhance Worship Music

Recent estate gifts from a member and a former member of Trinity were designated toward enhancing our organ with some additional sounds. These additions consist of two 32' stops, 12 notes to complete our 16' Oboe, and a Harp stop. The 32' stops add a musical dimension to the organ that we did not have. They deepen and enrich the low frequencies of the organ - as only they can. One of the 32' stops, the Bourdon, is used under lighter registrations. The other is the 32' Trombone, a boisterous stop that is the crown jewel to the Pedal division of the organ. This stop is often added under more "full organ" settings. The Harp stop replicates a sound more like a marimba or xylophone, rather than the plucked harp. When heard, it often makes the listener smile.

In addition to the organ enhancement, two additional octaves of hand chimes were donated to fill out the depth of our handbell/handchime sounds.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of the donors for these musical additions. The families will be joining us as we dedicate the upgraded organ and expanded hand chimes during our worship service on September 17th.



Blood Donor Sunday - September 24

Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held September 24, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up by scanning the QR code (below right). While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups.

We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

All successful donors will receive a pair of **"We Bleed Orange"** socks.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.



Calling All Trinity Ladies and Friends!

We are kickstarting Ladies Circle on Thursday, September 7 at 10 am with a special presentation by Moms in Prayer International. Their mission is to impact children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers (Aunts, Teachers and Care-givers of children, too) to pray! Come find out about this organization and be ready to be inspired!

After the presentation, we are going to dive into a short time of Bible study. This year, we will be walking through a book called "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Each month when we meet, we will discuss the questions at the end of the selected chapter. If you haven't picked up your book and want one, please reach out to Trinity Garrett (trinitygarrett@hotmail.com). Please know that even if you haven't read the book for a given month, you will still be able to participate! The questions are pulled straight from scripture references that will be reviewed. For September, we will review Sarah and Hagar (chapter 1).

AND THE FUN ISN'T EVEN OVER YET! After Bible study time, we'll do what we do best - POTLUCK! Yes, ma'ams. For September, it will be a cold luncheon potluck (nothing that needs to be kept hot). So, break out that favorite salad/brunchy/fruity/sweetie (dare I say Jello-ey?) thing you like to make, and bring some for me...I mean, to share. We will be celebrating July, August and September birthdays.

This group is growing! So, all our gatherings for the 2023/24 school year will be in the Gathering Space so that it's easier to move around. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or trinitygarrett@hotmail.com. All ladies are welcome.



Finance Corner - September 2023

Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5 ESV

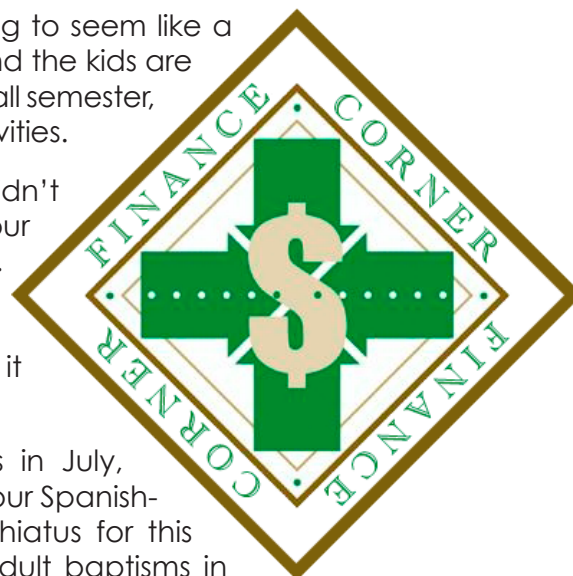
Well, summer has come and gone. Vacations are beginning to seem like a distant memory (except for the resulting credit card bills), and the kids are back to school. College students are buckling down for the Fall semester, and it's time for all of us to re-engage with our "regular" activities.

Trinity Downtown's programs, activities and ministries didn't slow down a bit during the summer, with mission trips for our students and greater-than-expected worship participation. Our Fall kick-off event was a huge success, and we are so grateful for our Discipleship Hour teachers who faithfully provide the opportunity for us to learn God's Word and put it into practice.

Our Discipleship Hour classes averaged 147 participants in July, which is a bit higher than 2022 despite the fact that CASA, our Spanish-language partner, put their Discipleship Hour classes on hiatus for this summer. Perhaps most importantly, we celebrated two adult baptisms in July, bringing out total baptisms for the year to 14!

Gifts to our Magnify Capital Campaign totaled \$708k at the end of July, with pledges of \$755k exceeding our \$750k goal. Although they were below our budget, tithes and offerings through July were just slightly lower than this time last year. Our YTD operational expenses through July were 1% lower than our budget and were 5% higher than what was incurred during the same period last year.

Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for July:



July 2023 Summary			
Average Worship Attendance	In-person 229	Online 180	July 2022 373
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	Adults 108	Students 39	July 2022 138
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted	Last Year
July 2023 tithes and offerings	\$123,858	\$145,000	\$139,791
Year-to-date 2023 tithes and offerings	\$884,631	\$1,005,000	\$899,520
	Received	Pledged	Last Year
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 07/31/2023	\$707,990	\$755,210	N/A

Your gifts of time, treasure and prayer are an important way you can participate in sharing the love of Christ to our city and allow us to joyfully share Christ's saving love with all people, NOW!

Honored to serve you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

Membership Report

The following are the changes to membership approved at the August 2023 Governing Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP IN

Faith Discovery Class (06/04/23)

- Zeke Cevallos
- Erik & Jessica Christenson, and children Addison and Jacob
- Ray Corbett
- Richard Davisson
- Beverly Duke
- Jerod & Lupita Fields, and daughter Allison
- Ryan & Emilie Hoffart, and son Bentley
- Marty & Lynn Meyers
- Ryan & Jennifer Nietzsche and children Ruth and Clark
- Myra Perea
- Ted & Barbara Turner
- Rachel Ullmann
- Alex Zimmerman

Transfer

- None

Baptisms

- Wayne Hambley Wagner — 6/11/2023
- Caleb Joshua Calafell — 6/18/2023
- Zeke Cevallos — 7/30/2023
- Salen "Shine" Cevallos — 7/30/2023

MEMBERSHIP OUT

Transfer

- Dian and Ron Merrick to Bethany Lutheran LCMS - Wichita, KS — 6/2/2023

To Glory

- Marie (Black) Heinke — 8/12/2023
- Dolores Auffarber — 8/7/2023
- David Frederking — 8/14/2023

Faith Discovery

Class for persons interested in joining Trinity Downtown and those wanting a refresh of the Christian faith.

Class starts on September 10th.
10:15 - 11:15 a.m. in Room 123

For more information, contact
Pastor Dorn at mdorn@trinitydt.org.

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chris Sonneborn	csonneb@gmail.com	713.854.8692
Mike Sterling	nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

Hey, Families!

Please remember to fill out and send back the photo release and liability form. One goal this year is to really up our (youth and children's ministry) social media presence and we need your help to accomplish that! We will be checking in with you at events to make sure we have this form, so if you want to save yourself time later, either [email](#) it to me or bring it in personally, I love having surprise drop ins!



Photo Release &
Liability Form

Beach Day was a huge success! Check out these pictures! Kick off was a blast! If you missed out on your backpack being blessed, let me know and I'll get you a tag! September looks forward to an exciting new youth event called Inflatable Day on September 10th, Acolyte Training on September 17th, college care package making on September 17th and planning for our big event in October!!

This year we are developing teams around events. If you are interested in planning, executing, and developing different events, please let me know!

Blessings,

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries





**Save
the
Date!**

Trunks 'n' Treats

**October 27, 2023
5-7 PM**

**Everything
is Free!**

**Rain or
Shine**

**Trinity Downtown
1316 Washington Ave.
Houston, TX 77002**



**Food
Treats**

**Games
Inflatables**

**www.trinitydt.org
713.224.0684**

Back to School Excitement and Apprehension

As the calendar flips towards another school or college semester, a mixture of excitement and apprehension fills the air. The return to school naturally brings with it a unique set of stresses that can sometimes leave us feeling overwhelmed. However, viewing these challenges through a Christian perspective offers a comforting lens through which to navigate these milestones in our lives.

Fear often accompanies new beginnings, be it the fear of inadequacy, the pressure to perform, or the unknown terrain ahead. Christians are encouraged to overcome fear with unwavering trust in the loving hand of God.



Balancing the rigorous demands of school and extracurricular activities with spiritual devotion can be a struggle. Yet, from a Christian perspective, finding equilibrium is an essential lesson. Just as Christ balanced His ministry with times of solitude and prayer, we should be good role models showing our children how to allocate time for both intellectual growth and spiritual nourishment.

And, of course, the cornerstone of Christianity is grace – the unearned love and favor of God. In the whirlwind of back-to-school preparation and the stress of re-entering school, grace will help our students embrace imperfections and setbacks with self-compassion, and foster growth without the burden of self-condemnation.

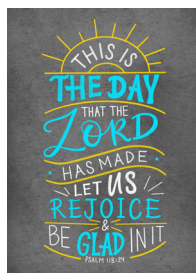
By embracing trust over uncertainty, faith over fear, and unity over isolation, students can embark on their educational journeys with a renewed sense of purpose and inner peace.

Are you feeling sad or anxious, facing financial difficulties or grieving the loss of a loved one? God never intended for us to go through these challenges alone. You can reach out to Trinity's Stephen Ministry for assistance. Stephen Ministers are laypeople in our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they have been equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at lacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.

Life Quotes - September 17

"No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"



Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



A Message from Travis Avant

Dear Everyone,

I want to thank y'all so much for the letters and prayers. Each time you shared with my parents that you were praying for me they let me know my church family was with me. I wanted you all to know I felt God's protection over me throughout my indoctrination. The indoctrination is intense military training. Everyone's letters and prayers helped me remember during tough times where I came from, and reassured me that I could succeed. I cannot wait to come home and tell everyone of all the laughs I had, as well as all of the things that happened to me that could only be from God. I know He is with me, and ask for everyone's continued prayers and support as I transition into the academic year.

Sincerely,
Travis Avant

M/C James Travis Avant
Company 3 Platoon 1
Naval Academy Prep
440 Meyerkord Ave
Newport, RI 02841-1519



Substitutes Needed for Our Sack Lunch Ministry



Every Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Trinity provides sack lunches and toiletries (when requested) to the homeless community around us.

We are currently in need of substitutes for our volunteers. All you need is a smiling face and heart for those in need. As a volunteer, you will fill the lunch sacks with Vienna sausages, crackers and bottled water and then greet the homeless with a lunch when they come

to the foyer door.

If you can serve on an occasional basis, please contact Rick Berg at oldhippie@gmail.com or 281.455.5413 if you can serve in this vital ministry or if you would like more information.

2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey
(Vice chair)
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder/Sec.)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

*Minutes of the Governing Board
are available to our members at
the Welcome Center.*



OCTOBER 15, 2023

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

(FOOD SERVED 11:30AM - 1:00 PM)

BRATS | BEER | MUSIC | GAMES

FREEWILL DONATION APPRECIATED

BRING YOUR TRINITY STEIN

BEER COURTESY OF ST. ARNOLD'S BREWERY

Houston Lutheran Chorale Seeks Singers for Fall Season

The Houston Lutheran Chorale has started its fall 2023 season of rehearsals in preparation for their Christmas concerts.

Anyone who loves to sing, praise God and enjoys fellowship with terrific people are invited to join us. All are welcome! Our new director is Jeff Armstrong from Our Savior Lutheran Church.

The Chorale rehearses at Trinity on Sundays from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. The remaining rehearsals are scheduled as follows:

September 10th & 24th, October 1st, 8th & 22nd
November 5th, 12th (if needed) & 19th

Christmas concerts will be held:

Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. - Memorial Lutheran Church (5810 3rd St, Katy, TX 77493)

Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. - New Life Lutheran Church (3521 E. Orange St., Pearland, TX 77581)

Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. - Immanuel Lutheran (1440 Cortlandt Street, Houston, Texas 77008)

For additional information contact September Nelson, HLC Secretary, 832.584.8242.



Magnify Campaign Update

- The Magnify campaign is the first step in our plan to revitalize our facilities and, through these improvements, carry out the Lord's Great Commission to bring others into our Trinity community through both worship services and other community outreach events, including performances and concerts.
- The final pieces of the Sanctuary Refresh are nearing completion with the installation of replacement lighting in the Balcony awaiting the arrival of the last three fixtures.
- We are pleased to report that through July 31st, pledges to the Magnify campaign total \$755,000, exceeding our pledge goal. Gifts through July 31st total \$707,990, or 94% of the total funds pledged.
- Any capital campaign gifts above the original campaign goal of \$750,000 will be used to defray the Sanctuary Refresh construction costs that were incurred and paid for out of cash reserves.
- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation, through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. The Magnify campaign will continue through the end of 2023, so if you have not yet contributed, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you might participate in this effort to bring the grace and love of Jesus to our community.



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Save
the Date!

TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

Concordia Symphony Orchestra

IRVINE CALIFORNIA
DR. JEFF HELD, CONDUCTOR



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
2:30 PM

Jeff Held, who grew up at Trinity, brings his collegiate orchestra from Southern California for a special concert of ever-expanding music. The CSO is known for its unforgettable programming of professional repertoire and regular nationwide appearances on PBS as part of the annual made-for-TV "A Concordia Christmas" episodes.

Lorca (arr.) - "Las Morillas de Jaén"
Vivaldi - The Four Seasons, "Autumn"
Whitacre - October (Alleluia)
Gabrieli - Canzona No. 2
Nielsen - Symphony No. 3 "Espansiva"
Brusick (arr.) - Hymn: "Splendor and Honor"
(joined by the Lutheran South Academy Symphonic Band)
Majo Insuasti '25, soprano / baroque guitar
Chi Zhang '23, violin
Daniel Laguilles '26, violin

Kickoff Sunday Was a Great Day!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Kickoff Sunday a big success. From wonderful worship, blessing of the backpacks, to fellowship and delicious food, a great time was had by all. Check out some of the pictures below!



↑ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS ↑



↑ DISCIPLESHIP HOUR OPENING ↑



↑ FELLOWSHIP TIME ↑



Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org. Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

Nursery (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds - Room 233

Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds - Room 232

Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade - Kingdom Hall (basement)

Casa 'de Oracion Spanish (all grades) - Room 209



SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

Confirmation (7th-8th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 208

High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Faith Discovery

Led by Pastor Michael P. Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person (Begins September 10)

Class for those interested in becoming a member of Trinity Downtown and those desiring a refresh on Christian Doctrine.

Isaiah - The Herald of the Messiah

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

Christmas in July is a popular summer device for sales, TV shows and movies. We will continue our own celebration looking toward Christmas with Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet who is quoted more than any other in the New Testament. Many, and probably most of these, point to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. This is not a thorough verse by verse study, but rather a look at selected passages that highlight God's promises of our Savior through Isaiah.

Liturgical Arts

Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday.

The Bible Alive ... God In Action

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

The “Hour” that Jesus is Glorified: John 18-21

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

In the final four chapters of his Gospel, the Apostle John recounts Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection—the “hour” Jesus is glorified. To human reason this is a foolishness that closes the minds of many from having the peace and the life God desires to give them. John wrote so that you would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at pbdorn6@gmail.com if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

The Lord Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Psalm 23 pictures life as deeply secure and richly blessed—life lived with awareness of God's intimate love for us. It speaks to our deepest longings and fears, which may be why we return to this Psalm so often. Join us as we discover its wisdom by pulling in other texts that show the same attributes of God—who guides us, protects us, feeds us and much more. Discussion-oriented.

The Spiritual Life - A Study on 1st Corinthians

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person (Spanish Speaking)

Paul writes to the Church in Corinth instructing them regarding spiritual life in the context of the local church. The Church is called to live a life empowered by the Spirit of God.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part II

Led by Karen Maynard - 10:00-11:30 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid (Resumes September 12th.)

This study is part of the LifeLight Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Young Adult Bible Study

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Virtual via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 870 6099 1252, Passcode: 694814)

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual fellowship hour diving into the Lord's word, celebrating one another's accomplishments, supporting each other through the trials of young adulthood, and praying over one another.

Who is welcome: Age is but a number. This Bible study is geared towards anyone that would consider themselves a “young adult”. Whether you are a seeker, a new Christian, or a seasoned disciple this space is for you.

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

I Am

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual (Begins September 13th)

This fall, we will look at the statements Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospels when He says “I Am”.

As we discover more about who Jesus is, we will discuss what this means for us as Jesus followers and how we respond in our daily lives.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

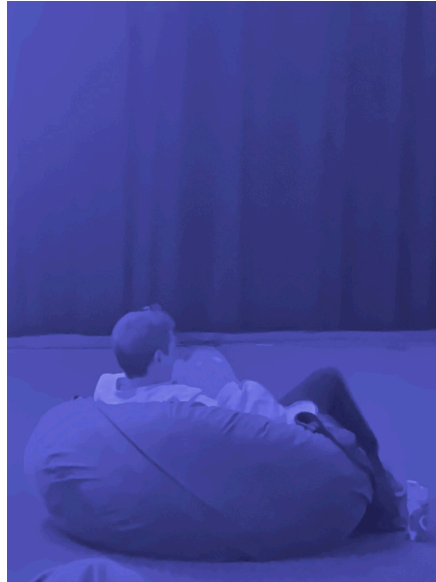
Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Bill Fischer, Pastor Black and individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.

Movie Day at Trinity!

On August 13th, the Stephen Ministers treated the congregation to the movie "Ratatouille" and pizza. Pastor "Chef" Dorn led a Bible study using the movie as a catalyst to dive into key themes covered in Scripture including identity, truth and character.



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*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving
Love With All People Now!*

www.trinitydt.org

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713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **September 13th** for articles to be published October 1, 2023.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.