

A centrist doesn't fit well with any one political or cultural ideology. In those formative years of my 20s when I was beginning to sense a clear call to ministry, the tipping point (though not the primary or only criteria) that led me to be a "Moderate" is that those I knew seemed to be kinder and less angry.

Today, I hope I am still a Moderate overall. I still value and love being a Baptist Christian, and I value deeply the contributions of Baptists to the larger story of Christianity. I am still drawn to folks who are kinder and less angry. I hope I am representative of that. Today I tend to be less concerned about how others describe themselves, and how they decide to live out their brand of faith. We are all God's children, and we are not competing against each other. In the final analysis, I am Chrisitan. I am a believer, and disciple, of Jesus Christ. One day, I pray he will say, "I know you, come and enter my rest, friend." His definition of me (and you) is all that truly matters. I hope that however you and I label the kind of Christian we are today that others will have been able to see Jesus in our lives.

~ Mike



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Trinity Tribute

Your Story, Our Story, God's Story
Coming Together at Trinity



Dr. Mike Oliver
Senior Pastor



Rev. Glenn Bowers
Associate Pastor



Rev. Billy Orton
Interim Minister of Music and Worship



Rev. Teresa Bowers
Minister to Families



Rev. Lane Craig
Minister to Students

Moderate (Centrist) Christian

September 2026

Over the years I have found it harder to define the type of Christian I am. There are so many labels for various kinds of believers that I find myself grasping for words to describe me. When I do find a word, a label, I then have to find a way to define the very word that I hoped would offer clarification in the first place. How do you describe the kind of Christian you are?

To begin, I am a Baptist. But, that really isn't enough of an explanation is it? My great grandmother was a Primitive Baptist. My granddaddy was a Southern Baptist. I used to live in a section of Alabama with many "Free Will" Baptists. Then, there are Regular Baptists, Missionary Baptists, National Baptists, Independent Baptists, and so forth and so forth. And, since the 1990s I have also been a Cooperative Baptist, which is a fellowship and not a denomination at all. Some Baptists practice "closed communion" and others "open communion." You can't tell by reading the sign out front. And we have women in ordained roles at Trinity, most Baptists do not. It's hard to pin us down and define us. I used to tell my friends in the Middle East that I am a Jimmy Carter type of Baptist. He was a famous Baptist who did much in that area of the world and is still known for his generosity and humble service to those in need. One of my adult children, when he was dating a new girl, said he was the son of a Baptist preacher, but "not one of those mean kind of Baptist preachers." With all of those variances, it's difficult to figure out what a Baptist is. Still, I am a proud Baptist Christian. So, I will start there.

I sometimes in the past have used the term "Moderate" to describe myself as a Christian. That is still a term I like because it was so common in my 20s and most in Southern Baptist circles understood it and would nod their heads. It communicated that I was not, for example, a Fundamentalist or a Liberal. I like to think of it as being a thoughtful and compassionate kind of Baptist Christian. One who has firm belief in Jesus, but a healthy sense of humility. And doubt too. I mean doubt that doesn't gnaw at me and draw me away from God, but doubt that I have it all figured out, doubt that causes me to draw nearer to God, doubt that makes me ask questions and investigate and try to "own" my faith and not just lean on the "borrowed" faith of others. I want to seek God myself and see what is revealed to me.

Some time ago, the term Moderate fell out of favor and now, I think, the term "Centrist" is more common, though I still have a hard time with labels much less keeping up with what is the latest to use. A centrist is one who, perhaps, is liberal in some ways and conservative in others. I am liberal is showing love for all, liberal is thinking men and women are equal in calling from God, but conservative in Bible reliability (though I don't like the terms some use for the Bible that the Bible doesn't use about itself).



Music and Worship Ministries

Music Groups in full swing this Fall!



Sanctuary Choir	Wednesdays at 7:00 pm	Choir Loft in the Sanctuary
Children’s Choirs	Wednesdays at 5:30 pm	Cherubs in Room (B-100)
		Hallelujah Kids in Kids Loft
Trinity Carillon handbell choir	Wednesdays at 5:00 pm	Handbell Room (B-209)
Vocal Ensembles	Wednesdays at 6:15 pm	Choir Room and Choir Loft
Praise Team	Sunday evenings TBA	Choir Room or Sanctuary
Instrumental Ensembles	As needed	TBA

New members are always welcome to be a part of these musical groups, all of which are characterized by warm fellowship, musical/spiritual inspiration, and the unique ministry opportunities which music groups provide.

Contact the church office or Billy Orton if you have questions or want more information.

Christmas Music is just around the corner!!



The Advent/Christmas season is always a rich, meaningful time in the life of Trinity Baptist Church. All of our music groups will be involved. Find *YOUR* place of service during this significant season ahead!

The Sanctuary Choir will kickoff their Christmas music preparations this month, on **Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00 PM** in the sanctuary choir loft. Save the date.....plan to attend and try it out.....and invite others to be a part!

The choir’s annual Christmas music morning retreat is **Saturday, November 7.** The morning includes some incredible breakfast delights and a couple of hours focusing upon the music for Advent and Christmas.

Numerous persons help to bring Trinity’s music and worship ministries to life: leaders, choir officers, music librarians, fellow ministers on staff, supportive families.....and those talented musicians who join me on a part-time music ministry staff which deeply loves the Trinity congregation. Join me in thanking and praising God for the devoted service of Dannie Walther (Church Pianist), Gayle Lavish (Church Organist), and Jennie Prinkey (Music and Worship Apprentice).

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Billy Orton, Interim Minister of Music and Worship



**Mission Friends’ and Mission Kids’
Pajama Parade & Party!
Wednesday, September 30
6-7:00pm
Goal: Collect 75 sets of pajamas for Kids to Love!**

Kids are invited to wear their pajamas, walk in a parade at the beginning of prayer meeting, and then return to their rooms for a Pajama Party!

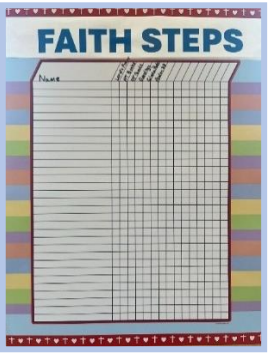
They are also collecting new pajamas and storybooks for foster children in North Alabama. We need kids and adult sizes (for teens) and a signup sheet and collection bin are in the Gathering Area. Our goal is 75 sets of pajamas!

Children’s Sunday
Our Trinity kids will help lead us in worship on September 20!

Wednesday, September 16 Practice in the sanctuary, 5:30pm
Sunday, September 20 Practice in the sanctuary, 9:00am

Preschoolers (with a parent) can help greet and hand out bulletins, both kids choirs will sing, and older kids can take up the offering, greet, read Scripture, lead a prayer, read for Be Still and Know, or the Missions Moment.

Please text or email teresa@trinitymadison.com to sign up your child up by September 6!



Faith Steps for 2025-26!
Wednesdays from 6-6:15pm

As we learn about missions on Wednesdays, our Mission Kids will also be learning Bible skills, Scriptures and songs that will be helpful for them to know as they make steps toward their own faith in Jesus.

We will focus on Books of the Old Testament and The Lord’s Prayer this fall and kids can put a sticker on their chart as they complete each step. We are looking forward to learning and doing so many new things together this year in Missions Kids!



Mission Kids meet
each Wednesday at
6:00 pm



I've been reading a lot about the desert lately. Let me clarify: I've been reading a lot about the desert mothers and fathers of the Christian faith -- which is such a strange concept. If you've never heard of the Desert Mothers and Fathers before, they were an ancient group of early Christian monks who intentionally chose to go out into the desert with no supplies. It's an insane idea! Why would they do this? To step out in faith and put themselves in a situation that if God doesn't pull through for them, then they are absolutely toasted.

These early Christians are numerous, but one of my favorites to read about is Anthony the Great. So much of his life is recorded in the book titled *The Life of St. Anthony*, and there's this one story in particular, where he goes into the desert and is met by some demons. He meets the devil, who tries to break his resolve through *subtle* temptations, such as intense boredom, sloth, memories of his past wealth and how good he had it beforehand, and these sorts of phantom visions, where his imagination gets the best of him.

If you think that's odd, you've got to check out his biography. But here's the key point in this story about Anthony: Notice how the devil didn't try to persuade, defeat, or trick St. Anthony with grand splendors, but rather through subtle temptations. How fascinating that the enemy doesn't always try to move in big and momentous ways in our lives to go against God's calling, but rather through the mundane, through the routine, through the things we consider "normal."

As our families, parents, and Students continue through this new school year, let us be reminded that we are made holy by God's Spirit in the everyday. Yes, we are transformed and made holy by Christ in the moment of our salvation, but when we commit to saying, "Jesus, I want to look more like you every day," it's in the hours that we grow unaware of.

So, how did St. Anthony defeat the demons? Through prayer, rigorous fasting, and relentless awareness. So then, let us be stirred up to pursue holiness again and ask God, "What areas in my life am I blind to your voice?" ~ Lane

Student Activities



ZIPLINING AT
GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK!



Sadie Pate and her dad, Justin,
at his deacon ordination



Church Life

MISSIONS:

Perry County Mission Trip: October 15-18

- Sign-up in Sunday School or Gathering Area
- Information meeting on Wed, Sept. 30 at 5pm in A109

English Learners Class: Began Wednesday, August 19 6pm in C-102

- This will be a conversational English class
- Paul and Joy Orton will teach from 6:00 to 6:55 pm

Dominican Republic Mission Trip: May 27-June 3, 2027

- Oct. 11 – Informational Interest Lunch Meeting at 11:30am in the Student Room where we will go over all aspects of the trip.
- This year we will be doing medical clinics, installing water filters in homes, leading VBS, and more in La Romana, DR.
- October 11 is also the deadline for signing up and a \$500 deposit is due.
- Cost for the 2027 DR trip is \$1,700 (includes transportation and all in-country expenses)
- Sign-up for the trip in the Gathering Area

SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

Trinity University: Oct. 11, Oct. 18, Nov. 1 and Nov. 22

- Four Sunday night sessions for adult discipleship from 5-6pm
- We will be studying the book *The Good and Beautiful Life* by James Bryan Smith about the Beatitudes.



Backpacks filled with school supplies and gifts cards were delivered to the Madison City Schools Central Office! The MCS staff was very grateful to Trinity for all the donations!! Please pray that the children who received them will feel supported and encouraged this school year.

Weekday Preschool News

I am so excited to begin our preschool year. I am very blessed to work with Laura Segraves and Carol Ford in this ministry. We are fortunate to have twenty-four wonderful and talented teachers sharing God's love with the children and families we serve at Trinity Baptist Preschool. We still have a few openings in some of our classrooms if you know of anyone looking for a preschool.

We will spend the month of September getting acquainted with the children and their families. Also, in September the children will begin chapel on Tuesday and Wednesday. We are grateful to the ministers for sharing God's message and love with the children.

We thank God every day for a loving and supportive church family. Please continue to pray for our preschool program, the staff, and the preschool families as our school year begins and throughout the year. ~ Nancy

MINISTRY:

Columbia Backpack Snack Ministry

- We are partnering again with Columbia Elementary School to provide the Weekly Backpack Snacks this school year. For more info and to sign-up your family or Sunday School Class for the packing and delivering of the snacks, please check out the sign-up sheets in your Sunday School classes.
- We are also collecting individual servings of macaroni and cheese and fruit cups. These may be dropped off in the airlock or in the Gathering Area.
- Remaining available 2026-27 packing dates are Nov. 8 and May 5.

CASA Christmas Food Bins: Oct. 4-Nov. 29

- Trinity has signed up to provide 30 bins this year for needy elderly families. Maybe you or your Sunday School class could do a food bin or two!
- The food list will be in the Gathering area and on our website. Available bins to be filled will be in the Gathering Area beginning on Oct. 4
- Filled bins need to be returned to the modular or the Gathering Area by Nov. 29

Fall Neighborhood Ministry Blitz: Sunday, Nov. 8, 11:30-3pm

- Lunch will be served immediately following the morning worship service.
- Afterward, everyone may then depart for their areas of service!
- We will be building a ramp, winterizing homes, delivering food, packing Weekend Backpack Snacks and other projects
- Projects for all ages and skill levels!
- Families with kids are invited to put together VBS kits for the Dominican Republic in the Fellowship Hall – work as long (or short) as works for you! ~ Glenn

~ September 2026 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Missions Groups, Adult Prayer Meeting, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship No Evening Activities	7 Church Office Closed 	8	9 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Missions Groups, Adult Prayer Meeting, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	10 6:00 Prayer Gathering	11	12
13 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship 11:30 25 th Anniversary Lunch for Glenn and Teresa	14 6:00 Young Adults	15 10:00 Game Day for Adults	16 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Missions Groups, Adult Prayer Meeting, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	17 12:00 Lunch Bunch 6:00 Prayer Gathering	18	19
20 Children's Sunday 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship	21 6:00 Young Adults	22	23 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Church Conference, Kid's Missions Groups, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00 Prayer Gathering	25	26
27 Church Directory Photoshoot 1 of 2 Opportunities 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship No Evening Activities	28 6:00 Young Adults	29	30 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells), Perry County Pre-trip A-109 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Pajama Parade, Adult Prayer Meeting, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal			

Happy Birthday!

- 1: Ella Keefer

4: Mike Hoover, Art Patrick

7: Lauren Caudle, Emily Jackson, Reid Reynolds

8: Debbi Marsh

10: Josh Brann

12: Brett Bowers, Dana Griffin

15: Brayden Farr

18: Bekah DeWitt, Charlcie Meyers

19: Jackie Newquist, Chuck Rehage
- 20: Jolyn Pearce, Jerry Valentini

21: Jessica Haywood, Janna Patrick

22: Mira Inglis, Sharon Robbins, Barry Watkins

23: Evan Brazeal, Roma Wing

24: Steve Ryan

25: Keith Davis, Gabriel Norman, Sarah Orton, Norman Robinson, Laura Segraves

28: Hazel Humphrey



If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Wendy at: wendy@trinitymadison.com



If you have questions about Realm, you may simply go to www.trinitymadison.com and click on “Realm” on the purple banner at the top of home page. This link will take you to the main sign in page for Realm.

Weekly Events

Sunday
Online & In Person Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Online & In Person Worship 10:30 a.m.

Monday
Young Adults 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Fellowship Supper 4:45 p.m.
Trinity Carillon (handbell choir) 5:00 p.m.
Kids Choirs 5:30 p.m.
Youth Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Kids Mission Groups 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
EL Class 6:00 p.m.
Vocal Ensembles 6:15 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

July 2026 Financial Report

Monthly Information
Target Income \$84,583
Actual Income \$67,549
Actual Expenses* (\$98,875)
Transfer to Escrow (\$0)
Monthly Gain/ (Loss)** (\$31,325)

Year-To-Date for 2026
Target Income \$592,083
Actual Income \$530,086
Actual Expenses* (\$606,812)
Transfer to Escrow (\$0)
YTD Gain/ (Loss)** (\$76,725)

Account Balances
General Fund \$151,121
*Includes pre-payment of employee compensation.
** Effective Year-To-Date loss is approximately \$58,000.

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- Press the "Subscribe" Button on the right
- Done! Now you will get up-to-date videos from TBC!"





Wednesday Night Meals, Music, and Missions are back!

