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Subject: July 2026 NOUS
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To: office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org



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NOUS

JULY 2026

Reflective Note

Last month, Columbia Theological Seminary announced a restructuring that impacted 18 staff members. “[S]even employees accepted early retirement through an incentive program, and a reduction in force affected eleven employees.” That’s what Columbia’s official press release said. What it did not name was that the early retirees are mostly white, and nearly all of those who were let go are people of color. The changes go into effect today. Columbia has a very robust and growing endowment, and many people I know who are connected to Columbia have raised serious questions.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

Worship

7/5 - Communion -Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Sara Holben preaching - Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21

7/12 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Proverbs 8:1-7, Esther 1

7/19 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

7/26 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Hymn Sing - No Livestream

In Our Prayers



Hesychia

The Greek word for rest... rest in God in the midst of a very intense daily struggle... rest which flows from unceasing prayer...a prayer of the heart.

~from *The Way of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen

As you enter into this “prayer of the heart” you are invited to use the following prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession from the Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer as you engage with your own prayers and with [the weekly prayer list](#)

Eternal God, we rejoice this today in the gift of life, which we have received by your grace, and the new life you give in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the love of our families ...

the affection of our friends ...
strength and abilities to serve your purpose today ...
this community in which we live ...
opportunities to give as we have received ...

God of grace, we offer our prayers for the needs of others and commit ourselves to serve them even as we have been served in Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for

those closest to us, families, friends, neighbors ...
refugees and homeless men, women, and children ...
the outcast and persecuted ...
those from whom we are estranged ...
the church in Africa ...
the global community ...

Don Allen's Service

We will gather at Trinity on July 10, 2026, at 11am to celebrate Don Allen's life in a Service of Witness to the Resurrection.

Help is needed for the service and reception. Please use the Signup Genius link to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4FABA72CA5F85-64652123-donallens#/>

We continue to keep Don's family in our love and prayers.



Fellowship



July Birthdays

Penelope Callahan, 1st
Scott Crannell, 1st
Rick Orem, 1st
Jessi Brown, 2nd
Chip Sonifrank, 4th
Elizabeth Klemt, 6th
Harry Atwood, 7th
Sarah Gallagher, 12th
Eric Ruple, 14th
Teresa Harris, 14th
Zechariah Sachs, 14th
Nancy Camp, 15th

Jeff Carr, 15th
Nate Carothers, 15th
Janet Dewey, 16th
Mark Dewey, 21st
Isaac Wing, 22nd
Ellen Atwood, 23rd
Robin Atwood, 24th
Chloe Richard, 25th
Shannon Richard, 25th
Lisa Wilson, 25th
Rachel Cale, 26th
Mary Garber, 29th

July Baptisms

Jim Newman, 1st
Jessi Brown, 2nd
Sally Boucher, 5th
Stacey Short, 7th

Paul Ma, 20th
Penelope Callahan, 21st
Jenny Bolt, 23rd
Tanya Davis Sparks, 24th

Carolyn Hinshaw, 9th
Sarah Ann Whitmore, 13th

Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, 25th
Amy Lemmons, 31st

Get To Know our House Steward: Stephanie Gardner (Class 2027)

How long have you been at Trinity?

6 years!

Favorite Bible story?

Elijah encountering the Lord in a still, small voice.

What makes you feel appreciated?

A thank you

Path you almost took but didn't

Being a historical reenactor interpreter

Most meaningful thing...

In the past year?

No Kings March

In the last decade?

Helping people connect to history through books, programs and reference work
AND Helping pollinators through educating people and creating pollinator habitats

In life?

Helping return ancestral remains from a museum setting to the indigenous people with whom they belong.

Out of Office

- Stephanie will out of the office until July 8, then out again July 20 - August 2.
- Barbara Bowman will be out July 31- August 2.
Mark Dewey will be on call for pastoral needs on those days.
- Christabell will be out of office July 28th - 31st.

Office Closure

The office will be closed July 3 in Obervance of Independence Day.

Nurture

Explorers' Class



Are you interested in joining Trinity? Or are you just curious to know more about who we are? You're in good company! Stephanie will offer two Explorers' classes in July. **Join us on July 13 or 19 right after worship!**

This is a great opportunity to get to know a few more people - some who are also new, and others who have been around for a while. We'll cover the basics of what it means to be Presbyterian, and you can learn more about Trinity and how to get involved. For those who are interested in joining, there will be an opportunity to meet with the Session immediately following the class.

If you are interested in participating please let Stephanie or the church office know.

Camp Glow



A CAMP FOR KIDS AGES 2-14
UN CAMPAMENTO PARA NIÑOS DE 2 A 14 AÑOS
AUG. 3-7 2026, 5:30-8:00PM
3-7 DE AGOSTO, 5:30-8:00PM

Join Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for Camp GLOW (God's Love, Our World) Aug. 3-7, 2026, 5:30-8:00pm 281 E Market St., Harrisonburg. Free dinner for the whole family each night from 4:30-5:30pm.

At Camp GLOW, children will learn about the love of God through Jesus that empowers them to spread love in their community! This year, our curriculum will focus on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). We will explore these stories through music, games, crafts, and hands-on projects! Neurodivergent children and children of all gender identities are welcomed. Suggested donation of \$35 / registered family.

[Registration](#)

Mission

From the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is hard at work again! Last time spring we agreed with Barbara Bowman that she would serve with us as our Pastoral Care Associate on a temporary basis, and her time is rapidly coming to an end. Her last day will be September 20 and we will be planning an appropriate celebration to thank her for her work with us. As she plans to depart, we have begun our search for our next Pastoral Care staff person.

In the last four years, we have had four people serving in this position. For long-term stability, we would like to make this position attractive enough that it would be highly desirable for the right candidate. After much discernment, the Personnel Committee in consultation with Stephanie, agreed that our goal was to expand the position as financially possible, and negotiate time and benefits to make this a sustainable position for the right candidate.

Finding the right candidate is a challenge. Our job announcement is below and we

welcome your sharing it to help in our search.

Job Announcement

On Skip Whitmore

Thank you to Kathy Sutphin for sharing this video of her son, Tim, giving this speech about his late uncle. Here is the note she sent:

"Thought you might be interested in seeing this video taken back in March of this year. It's of our youngest son, Tim Sutphin, reading a script I wrote for the Vietnam Memorial Dedication held in Harrisonburg. An interesting note about Tim and my brother Skip (Tim's uncle he never met) is that they share the same birthday!"

[The video can be viewed here](#)

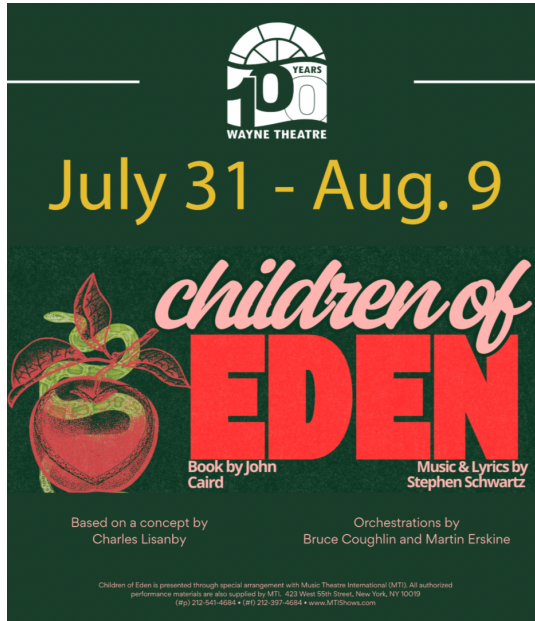
Tools for Schools

From now until August 3rd, Trinity will serve as a collection site for United Way's "Tools for Schools." The collection box can be found outside the church office. We are accepting donations of notebooks, pencils, and other school supplies. The [full list can be found here](#). Last year, our community distributed 1,813 no-cost backpacks filled with essential supplies to local students!



Children of Eden

Based on the stories of Genesis, the age-old conflict between parents and children takes center stage in this epic, heartfelt musical from Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Godspell, Pippin) and John Caird.



Children of Eden tells the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, and the generations that follow. More than a retelling of familiar biblical stories, it is a powerful exploration of family, faith, forgiveness, and the choices that shape our lives. Through soaring music and deeply human storytelling, the show examines themes of growing up, letting go, rebuilding after failure, and finding hope for the future.

This visually inventive production brings the world of the play to life before the audience's eyes.

[Tickets](#)





Trinity Presbyterian Church gathers on land that was part of ancestral hunting grounds and travel routes of various groups of indigenous peoples. We acknowledge, with gratitude, these stewards of the land through the ages.

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Our mailing address is: 725 South High Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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