



September 21, 2026

Houston Trinity News

"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

Friends,

I came home Saturday to find a package on my front porch. I wasn't expecting anything, but it was addressed to me, so I brought it in and opened it. It was a compressor for my refrigerator. It was the third one I have received. My refrigerator quit cooling about six months ago. It is only a year old, and I had a five-year warranty. I have been dealing with the manufacturer's warranty department for the last six months. They have replaced the compressor once. That unit lasted about two months. They sent another and it was damaged and now I have received the third. In the meantime, I have been trying to convince them that it cannot be repaired and please send a new unit.



It just seems like most items are now manufactured with a very short life span. They are not meant to be repaired but replaced. Isn't it wonderful that we are not created that way?

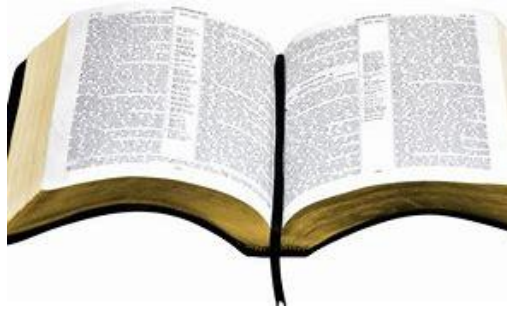
As I prepared this sermon series on Paul's letter to the Philippians I encountered in his words a significant amount of struggling. A substantive brokenness. We struggle, we face adversity, we face uncertainty; and often the result is a feeling of brokenness. That feeling can lead to a feeling that we can't be fixed. That is far from the truth. We are not like manufactured products. We are repairable. Jesus asks the lame man at the well: *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* (John 5:6 KJV) Jesus commands the man to get up and walk. Thirty-six years unable to walk and a second of belief to become whole. Having a relationship with Jesus will bring us wholeness. We are repairable.

My refrigerator may need to be replaced eventually. Maybe this compressor will work. However, I know that God accepts me how I am. I know that God is with me when I feel broken. I know that together in the family of faith we can live life to its fullest because Jesus promised us its

abundance. Even when we feel broken. Even when we struggle. We are repairable. We are saved through the love, grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior. We are made whole in the body of Christ. In the words of 1 Peter: "*the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*" 1 Peter 5:10b (ESV)

You can't get a better warranty than that.

God bless you. See you Sunday



Scripture Reading

4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly d call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)

This Week's Hymns

Opening Hymn

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 142

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: Georg Neumark

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
and hope in God through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that naught can move.

2. Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Maker's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent;
we know our inmost wants are known,
for we are called to be God's own.

3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do thine own part faithfully,
and trust God's word; though undeserving,
thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul that trusted God indeed.

listen to the accompaniment here: <https://www.hymnsite.com/midifiles/umh14201.mid>

Hymn of Preparation

My Hope Is Built

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 368

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When Darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
(Refrain)

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood
supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.
(Refrain)

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!
(Refrain)

Calendar Reminders - August

August 31 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel
September 2 - Confirmation - 5:30
September 2 - Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM
September 6 - Sunday Worship - Communion
September 7 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel
September 9 - Confirmation - 5:30
September 9 - Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job- 6:30 - in person and ZOOM
September 13 - Sunday Worship
September 14 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel
September 17 - Confirmation - 5:30
September 17 - Wednesday Night Bible Study - James - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM
September 20 - Sunday Worship

- Worship Committee Meeting
- Council Meeting

September 21 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel
September 23 - Confirmation - 5:30
September 23- Wednesday Night Bible Study - James - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM
September 25 - Youth Night - 6:30 - 9:00 PM
September 26 - Women of Faith Prayer Meeting - 2:30
September 27 - Sunday Worship

- Congregational Visioning Workshop



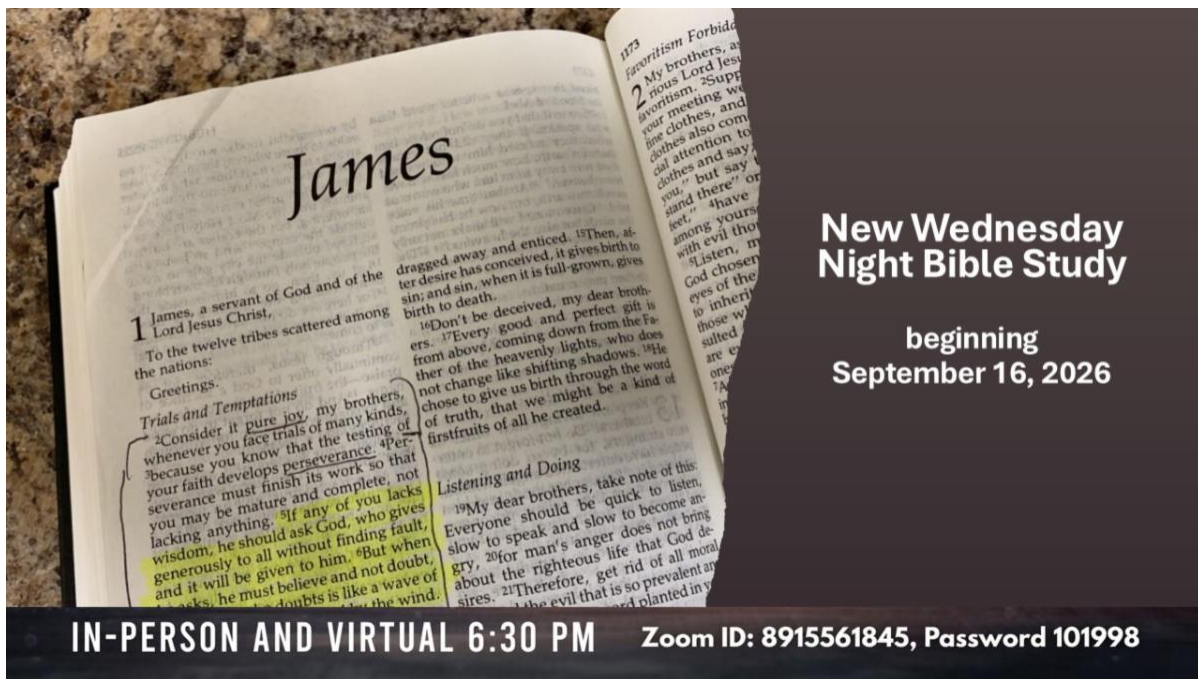
Our September/October Sermon Series Pressing On

Join us beginning September 20 as we spend four weeks in Paul's letter to the Philippians. The beginning of fall is a busy time for all of us. We sometimes lose our desire to keep coming to church and working in the community. It isn't because we don't feel called but rather that we are overwhelmed with the amount to be done. Paul's Letter to the Philippians can be that stimulation to keep going and a reminder of the joy and fellowship that is part and parcel of being the church. Or as St. Paul reminds us, we are to press on to the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Join us in "Pressing On."

September 20 - Striving Side by Side

September 27 -The Heavenly Call

October 4 - Rejoice in the Lord



Youth Night

Youth night was a great success. Our next Youth Night will be August 25th at the Church. Join us for fun and fellowship as we take a quick break from our back to school activities.

Make sure to RSVP to the email you received. If you didn't receive an invitation, please contact Blessings Ignacio to be added to the email list.



October is our Anniversary Month



We will be celebrating our 28th anniversary in the month of October. The highlight of our celebration will take place in Worship on October 11. Make sure you attend as our youth lead us in Worship to celebrate 28 years of doing God's work but also as we celebrate the next generation of church leaders. Worship is currently being planned but the preliminary plans are full of excitement for our God, our congregation, our community and the future of the church (our youth). Mark your calendars! You do not want to miss this Sunday.

Photos anyone?

We are looking for digital photos and videos of our youth taken since 1998 for use during our Anniversary Celebration. If you have either, please send them to Corbin Abril. You can email them to the church (info@houstontrinity.org) or directly to Corbin (corbinabril@gmail.com).

Anniversary Sunday will also be a day of Baptism, Confirmation and new member recognition.

Our Anniversary Worship Service will include an opportunity for Baptism, Confirmation and a time for becoming a member of Houston Trinity. We have three Baptisms and Confirmation scheduled for that Sunday. Please attend to celebrate and recognize our newest members of the body of Christ.

We will also have a special invitation to join our congregation to those in attendance in addition to our new Baptized and Confirmed.

Everybody's Birthday Offering

We will celebrate our Anniversary by having our annual Everybody's Birthday offering. During the closing song we will make our birthday offering. There will be twelve baskets along the altar rail. Birthday offerings will be placed in your birthday month basket.

2026 Congregational Focus Corner



Community Outreach/Missions

We are nearing the first actions of our Missional Community program. Stay tuned for exciting information of the first effort we are taking in our community.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Velma Bailey, Mei Mei, Angela Leslie or any member of our Outreach committee.



Samaritans Purse - Operations Christmas Child

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our outreach to Samaritans Purse. We have distributed all of our Christmas boxes and they are slowly returning. When they are all received we will take them to FFAUMC for distribution.

Your generosity will touch the lives of many young boys and girls. God bless you.

Prayer

September Prayer Focus - Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Our prayer focus for September is an important reminder that we are called to move beyond our walls.

To move beyond the church property. To move into the world to share the good news that is our Savior Jesus Christ..

During this month pray unceasingly for each other, for the church, and for the world. When the Holy Spirit helps us align our prayers with the works of God, they are powerful. Remember that we are created in God's image, called to continue Jesus' ministry and mission and this world and convicted to that work through the Holy Spirit. Allow the Spirit to guide your prayers and they can create works greater than we can imagine.



As we continue to walk our prayer journey this year pray daily to understand where our faith lies. Pray daily to understand that the power of men is nothing compared to the power of God. pray daily that we, the body, the church are beholden only to Christ, not to men.

If you are interested in being a part of the planning for our monthly prayer focus, please contact Mel Bernardo or any member of the Prayer Team.

News from the Marvin Rader School

Awaiting our next news!

Regards to all and please keep us in your prayers.

Prayer Corner

Please let Nini or me know if you would like to have your prayer request added to the newsletter.

This weeks' prayer requests.

Prayers for Healing

Jose Liwanag
Saffa Gabba
Christopher Hilton
Bruce Jocz
Pam Custer
Anita Solas
Louise Mosley
Michael Bhola
Jared Davis
Rev. Steven Newcombe - FUMC
Bill Robinson
Josh Bridges
Florante Paz
Fawn Cumby
Christian Mirasol
Leticia Abenojar
Juanita Miller
Ruben Paz
Shellie Robertson
Teddy Ellison
Mel Bousley
Ben Bailon
Zandy Aquino
Ed Roethlein
Linda Litt



Gracious God, as we embark on this new journey to cast our vision, we seek Your wisdom. Help us to put aside our understanding and trust fully in the direction that You will send us.

Open our minds to think beyond what we can imagine. Open our hearts to feel the Spirit working here. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear the direction you wish us to travel.

We hear your call Lord, upon the life of Houston Trinity and we want to answer. Yet we are not sure how. We pray Lord, that You bless us, bless our visioning exercises, bless our decisions so that we may go into your world and bless everyone we meet.

Guide our thoughts and actions so our choices will reflect Your will. May we

Prayers for the World

The peace of God to reign.
For the Marvin Rader School

Open Hearts and Minds; Eyes that See and Ears that Hear

Houston Trinity United Methodist Church

Prayers for Comfort

The Rillo family as they grieve the passing of Rod this week.

September Prayer Focus - Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

participate in this effort not swayed by the past but grounded in your divine truth.

Give us peace of spirit and confirmation that we are proceeding on the right path. We surrender our plans to Your and pray that You lead us in Your perfect way.

We pray all this in the name of your son, our Redeemer, our Savior, Jesus Christ,

AMEN



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