



September 14, 2026

Houston Trinity News

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4:18-21 (NRSV)

Friends,

I usually start Monday by thinking about the Lectionary Scripture for the week. I rarely am still contemplating the Scripture or the message from the day before (unless the next Scripture ties to it some way). However, this morning I am still not able to shake our Sunday discussion of the world's ethical and moral climate. Maybe it is just all the politics associated with mid-term elections. I am not sure. But I am still struggling to reconcile the hate that is so prevalent in everything around us with our call to listen and follow the truth that is Jesus Christ. I am struggling with the prevalent use of fear to motivate us to follow.

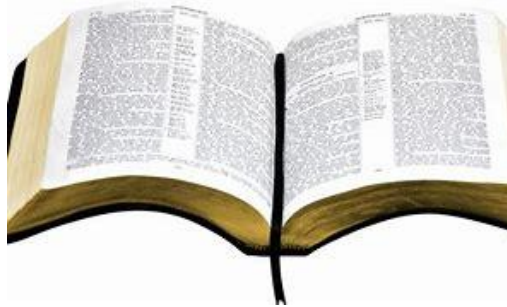


Did you know that the word hate is found 448 times in Scripture (at least in the NRSV)? That is often but did you know that the word love is found 994 times? Love is far more prevalent in Scripture than hate. How do we make it the same in life? I find the words in 1 John to be a poignant guide. *"There is no fear in love" (1 John 4:18a)*. We do not have to use fear to motivate us to love because *love casts out fear (1 John 4:18b)*. We can look at all that is going on in the world around us and be assured of two things according to 1 John.

- We love because God loved us first. We can love because Jesus set the example of love before us every day.
- When the world says it loves God but hates its brother or sister it is telling a falsehood. *"for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen." (1 John 4:20)*

Don't let the ways of the world change the way you think for *the commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.* (1 John 4:21)

God bless you. See you Sunday



Scripture Reading

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. **23** I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; **24** but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. **25** Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, **26** so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, **28** and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. **29** For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- **30** since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

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

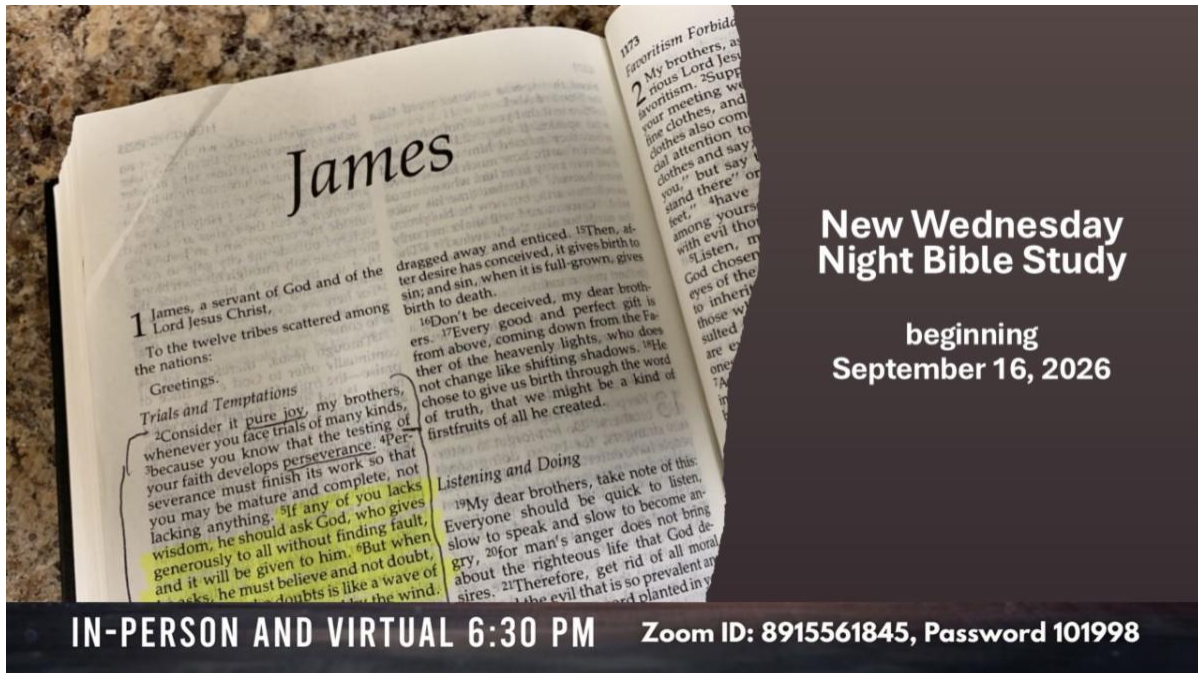


Our September/October Sermon Series Pressing On

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 - In Full Accord
October 4 - The Heavenly Call
October 11 - Rejoice in the Lord



James

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:
Greetings.

Trials and Temptations
2Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

dragged away and enticed. 15Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing
19My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 21Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, so that you can bear the fruit of peace, which God has promised to the obedient.

New Wednesday Night Bible Study
beginning
September 16, 2026

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL 6:30 PM Zoom ID: 8915561845, Password 101998

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.

Happy Birthday Offering

We will celebrate our Anniversary by having our annual Happy 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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