

Trinotes

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to proclaim God's love by building community and living by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.



From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

The End of Things (or, Not Yet the End of Things)

“Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. —Matthew 24:4b-6



Yesterday I joined the thousands of people who walked away from their busy lives to stand in their yards staring at the sky. It’s amazing how a natural phenomenon like a solar eclipse could bring the world together. I was privileged to be able to pull the boys from school and drive to Little Rock where some UM pastor-friends of mine live, and be with them to witness this incredible moment where the earth stood still, the skies got dark, the crickets began to chirp, and the solar-controlled porch lights came on. It was a little eerie, but oh-so-incredible. Aiden shouted, “Look at the corona! (the ring of fire created by the complete totality of the moon crossing paths with the sun).” Science had taught my two well. They knew what to expect.

But on the drive to Arkansas, Cooper piped up from the backseat, where he’d been listening to music with his headphones on for over an hour. “Mom, what’s with these people saying this is the end of the world?” I laughed a little. I had to laugh a little. We’ve grown to laugh at the absurdity of doomsday predictors. It was a lot to unpack with a 12-year-old and a 9-year-old, but I did. I explained that there is a contingent of what the Bible refers to as “False Prophets” who are looking anxiously for the end of time. Then I unpacked what I thought the end of time meant. I chatted with them about the Book of

Revelation and how it came to be — about the signs in the heavens and so forth, and so on. They were wholly focused and entirely interested, so I went on. I explained to them why I thought something like a naturally-occurring, created-order occurrence was not a sign of the end times, even though John pointed toward those a bit in his vision from his prison cell on the Island of Patmos. I explained what I thought was more important — that we look to Jesus first, for answers.

And Jesus gives us the most right answer, which tends to be how Jesus ‘rolls.’ Jesus, in Matthew 24, reminds us that there will come a time when all things shall pass away, and he uses some colorful language to describe it. His is not as colorful as John’s, but John had nothing better to do than ‘envision.’ Most importantly is how Jesus finishes his discussion about the end of things in verse 36 when he says, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” The trinitarian language can confuse us here. This is one of those both/and moments regarding the Trinity. Though they are one, they are



(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

also different, and here it's the Father figure of the Trinity that is the all-knowing head of the God-head. Jesus can surmise, but chooses not to. It isn't for him to know, because it plays no part in what he is sent to do — to teach us how to love one another and help us to know the God who loves us, too.



I told the boys that no earthquake in New York or landslide in Haiti — no eclipse, tornado, or tsunami was ever going to point me toward the apocalypse, because the end of things is not my concern. It is the now — it is **this** moment that matters the most. What we are doing with **this** moment to make the created order that still exists, is what matters. I encouraged them to not be distracted by folks concerned with the end of things, because the people who need us now, need us to recognize their reality and not be distracted by what we cannot know. Whatever will be, will be, concerning matters that we cannot control. Whatever will be, will be up to us, concerning things we can. We can make a difference, now. We can love, now. We can build, now. We can create unity, now. We can change our world, as long as there is one to change, and as long as our eyes are set to Jesus (first): the pioneer and protector, the guide and friend, the teacher and prophet, who sets us free to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

In the end, Cooper declared, “You should be a pastor-scientist, mom!”
And I am. I study Jesus and I study the world around us. Will you join me?

In awe and wonder,
Rev. Sara

Pictured on page 1 & above: Rev. Sara, Cooper, and Aiden. Rev. Jeanne Williams, Rev. Heath Williams, Natalie, Marcus, and Eli.

...from our Lay Leader



What a blessing it has been to be part of this congregation, especially these past few months! I am so uplifted by the work you have done, and, as a result, the harvest. Can you feel it? Have you noticed it? There has been a positive change in our enthusiasm-- a dramatic change in the dynamics and energy!

What evidence is there? Just look at all the smiles. Witness the ever present and growing number of guests, the new members and their engagement. To use a cliché, we're on a roll!

So let's make sure we continue by building on these results. Let's continue to be inclusive and welcoming. Isn't that what our Lord asks of us? I know it is, as I know you will, because that is who we are as a church. Praise the Lord for what we have been given: a church, a family, a home where we may worship as our Lord would have us do.
—Sam Goff

UWF Happenings



United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet for potluck and fellowship in the Worship Center Friday, April 26, at noon. We will continue our study in chapter 2 of 12 Ordinary Men by John MacArthur. Sue Taylor will once again lead our discussion. Key Bible passages for this month are: Mark 3:13-19; Luke 5:17-6:12; John 1:47; I Corinthians 1:26-29; and Timothy 3:2-7.

At our last meeting we heard a program from Sista2Sista. At this meeting we will decide whether to adopt them as our Christmas project, possibly assembling “shoe boxes” of toiletries and personal care items for the ladies on the street. Currently, 24 ladies are being regularly served. We will also hear from Sara Goff on Response and from Mary McConnell on the reading program.

If you have not made your annual pledge, Sandy will have a pledge card for you. Remember to bring your can, box, or dollar to support our Tiny Pantry. As always there will be lots of food, fellowship, and some special fun. I hope to see you there.
—Joan Smith



Offer God's Blessings to Others

Our **FAITH WORD** for this month's unit in our Children's Sunday School Class is **SHARE: to offer God's blessings to others**. This month our children will be putting this FAITH WORD into action, and we are inviting the Trinity congregation to join us in our efforts. We are having a **GIVING CONTEST** to raise money and collect food for our Trinity food pantries. There will be no prizes awarded because in this GIVING CONTEST everyone is going to be a winner, both those who give and those who will benefit from the services offered through our food pantries.

At this past Sunday's worship session, our children passed out envelopes to those in attendance. In each of those envelopes was a \$1 bill and a letter inviting those who received that "seed money" to help make that money "grow" in some way, either in a financial gift or through the purchase of canned or boxed goods for the food pantries. Those who received the letter were reminded of Jesus' words in Mark 4:30-32:

What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to rest in its shade.

Our group of children at Trinity may be small in number, but we're thinking big when it comes to giving! In fact, we are thinking of Kingdom-sized giving. We hope you will think big in terms of generosity, too.

Later this month in our children's class, we will study about the early Christians being "one in heart and soul." These first followers of Christ took this commitment to the Lord and to one another so seriously that "no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." This scripture from Acts 4:32-35 was one of the lectionary readings for this past week, and it is what largely prompted our initiating the Giving Contest. The daily devotions from ***The Upper Room Disciplines*** for the week focused on "Creating Caring Communities." The author, Theodore Hiebert, commented, "We may not choose to join or to create such a first-century community in the twenty-first century, but we can't lose this vision of how **intentional** a caring community should be. **Intentionality is the foundation on which we continue to create caring communities.**" [The editorial emphasis is mine here.] How does Trinity United Methodist Church (yes, as a small church) ensure that these food pantries become an ongoing reality? How do we live out the mission of the church to love God and love our neighbors through this ministry? We do it by becoming fully **intentional** and by seeking every creative way of making it happen. We pray for these ministries daily, and as we do that, we always keep in mind that nothing is impossible with God.

In closing, I'm combining two of the prayers from last week's devotions in ***The Upper Room Disciplines***. I invite you to join me in praying these prayers this week: "God, remind us how much intention it takes to care for others in our lives and in our communities. May the first Christians remind us that caring includes wealth as well as words. Amen.

Peace in Christ,
Irene



Frank Cantrell	April 5
Rita Allmon	April 10
Rachel Adkins	April 25
Judi Hoffman	April 28

Tiny Pantry

Our **Tiny Pantry** is still perched in place on Trinity’s front lawn, and we occasionally see neighbors come by to replenish it. It’s easy to forget how important the gift of a little food can be.



Most of us don’t miss many meals. There are, however, hungry folks who come by looking for a can of tuna or soup, or for just enough to get them by until their food stamps arrive. Those neighbors who are chronically unsheltered may not even have public aid in the form of food subsidies. Imagine going to bed hungry, not just one night, but almost every night.

Remember to keep our Tiny Pantry stocked. Next time you go to the grocery store, pick up some extra food that can be eaten “as is,” without cooking, like Vienna sausages, fruit cups, or tuna packets with crackers. Pop-tops are best. Not everyone owns a can opener!

SUPPORT THE LAKESHORE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



LAKESHORE
united methodist camp & retreat center

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

- CHARLOTTE COMES FROM TOM & LEANNE WILSON
- CHARLOTTE COMES FROM BONNIE ERICKSON
- CHARLOTTE COMES FROM DAVID & ELIZABETH HOPPER
- GEORGE & CHARLOTTE COMES FROM WILMA C. BICKERS
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM TOM & LEANNE WILSON
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM DAVID & ELIZABETH HOPPER
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM LEWIS & CHARLOTTE PITTMAN
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM RONNI Z. KIRSCH
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM BETSY BLACK
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM BARNEY ROLFES, JR.
- ROSEMARY POTTER FROM SALLY RAMSEY
- NELDA GRAY FROM SALLY RAMSEY
- CHARLOTTE COMES FROM SALLY RAMSEY

SCOUT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
11:00, ONLINE AND
IN PERSON AT
1738 GALLOWAY AVE.

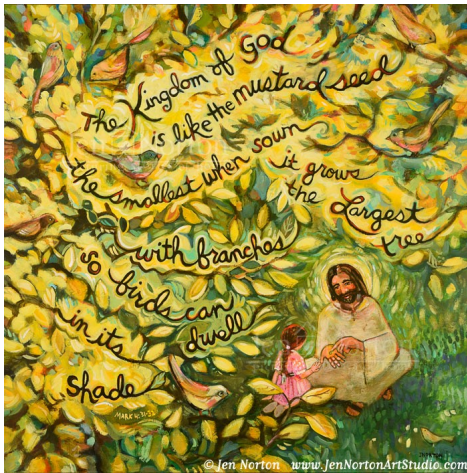
@TUMCMemphis

Trinity Food Ministry News



Trinity's Food Pantry will again be distributing bags of food on April 22nd, the fourth Monday of the month. The children's Sunday school class has stepped up to support the pantry by initiating a giving contest. The envelopes they handed out last Sunday contained "seed money." When the first envelope was opened Monday morning, we found a \$1 bill (seed money, perhaps?) and a **\$20 bill**. It appears the giving contest has already borne fruit!

When hungry people call the church looking for a Kroger card, we'll be telling them about various opportunities around the city for free meals, as well as free groceries. We've been supporting Binghampton UMM's Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry for years, and we are not trying to compete with them or any other local source of food for the hungry. Rather, in cooperation with BUMM and other area churches and ministries, we can help to alleviate the



problem of hunger in our community and make sure no one goes to bed at night with an empty stomach.

The parable of the mustard seed quoted in the letter the children included with their "seed money" can become a symbol of the growth we hope and pray we will see as we work to build our ministry to the poor and disadvantaged in the Memphis area. Join in by donating canned and boxed food to our Food Pantry. Keep the Tiny Pantry filled with pop-top and easy-to-open cans and containers that don't need can openers. Donate money to the Food Voucher Assistance Fund so we can buy more Kroger cards. Remember: You can make memorials and honorariums specific to the cause closest to your heart by writing your preference on the memo line of your check. Remember: Feed His sheep!

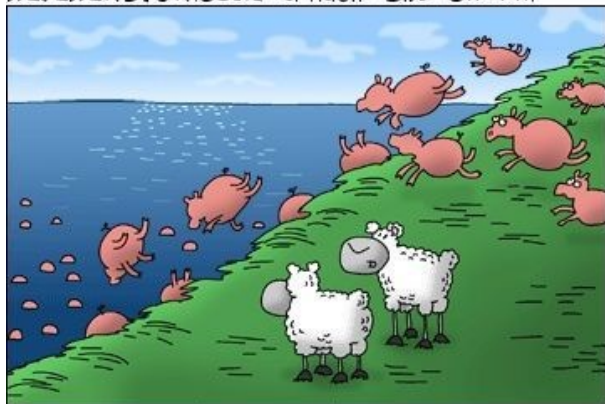
SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

Granola bars
Oatmeal packets
Cereal
Canned fruit
Pasta
Soup
Pasta sauce

Peanut butter
Canned vegetables
Mac & cheese boxes
Canned chicken
Jelly
Spam
Minute rice

Canned tuna
Snacks
Gift certificates for grocery stores
Monetary donations
Plastic grocery bags

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Thanks to Josh Lucas (See Mark 5:1-19) 01-04-2013
I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT GOD PREFERS SHEEP



PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those endangered by the war between Israel and Hamas and for families on both sides who have lost loved ones; for victims of natural disasters; for those families and communities who have fallen victim to the horror of gun violence in our country; for the people of Ukraine who are imperiled by the invasion of Russian troops, shelling of residential areas, and the terror being experienced by the civilian population; for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and variants; for people of faith around the world who are experiencing persecution; for refugees seeking asylum from war and social unrest; for safe drinking water for those living in developing countries; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who still struggle due to lost jobs and lack of resources; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice and for families who have lost loved ones due to race related violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. Bill McAlilly; and for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. David Weatherly;

Trinity UMC - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for new visitors joining us as we worship in person and online; for all families who are grieving; for our congregation as we deal with transitions; and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

The family and friends of **Rosemary Potter** as we grieve her loss

Charlotte Comes' family and friends as we mourn her passing

Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**

Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith).

Amelia Strickland's mom, **Rosemary Batorski**, has been sick for over a month; weak, but some improvement

Chris Glover's sister **Carol** is in hospice care at home and heavily medicated.

Mike Baloga, encephalitis, at home with nursing care, and wife **Juli** (neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake)

Olivia Dunn, 29 year old with uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)

Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS - both the Millers' friends

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Kanyon Glover has recovered from pneumonia, but has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.

Jacob Foreman, chronic back pain and nerve damage in left leg; doctors have no answer.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, has moved to a nursing home; torn ligaments in shoulder; upbeat despite recent hospitalization.

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has cancer in five locations; receiving radiation therapy.

Val Coates, ongoing serious health concerns; struggling with depression

Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration

Seth Genes, 14 year old friend of Debby Marston; PT is ongoing; being treated for pain as his leg heals; down to 90 pounds, as pain meds cause appetite loss; feeding tube has been implanted.

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

For **Living Word Christian Church**; for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13, Troop 13G, and Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

(Please contact the church office if you have additional prayer concerns, need a concern removed, or need to make a change or correction.)