



Trinity United Methodist Church  
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**PAID**

**MEMPHIS, TN**  
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*Trinotes*

November 14, 2018





## With Great Thanksgiving

*All of this is for your benefit so that the grace  
that is reaching more and more people may  
cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of  
God. —2 Corinthians 4:15*

Praying has rarely been something that I have found to be challenging. Once I discovered that prayer, very really, is a conversation between me and the One who loves me more than I could ever imagine, it became easy. I spend time in some semblance of prayer every morning from 9:00 to 9:30, which is why you will rarely find me in the office first thing. The prayer begins by looking over my calendar and the prayer ends, in some fashion, when my head hits the pillow at night. There is no “amen” because it is never really finished. It’s a conversation with my best friend laced with all sorts of requests...

“Dear God, dad isn’t feeling really well. Please send him some relief.”

“God, I’ve got a hard phone call to make. I could use some peace.”

“Hey God, if you could just give me the patience to get through  
Cooper’s homework...”

“God, I just need sleep. If I could just rest tonight...”

I think I do a good job of keeping up with daily prayer. I remember who I can bring my things to – who will take my concerns and worries and needs – who actually covets those things because, well, God is God and that’s part of why God exists in loving relationship with us.

I’m good at bringing God things. I’m very good at taking the things that God has to give in return. But, here’s where I feel like I fail. Now, this is me offering you some vulnerability. This is a real fault of mine. I’m terrible at coming to God when I don’t need things and simply saying, “Thank you.” Or I’m very good at beginning a prayer by giving God thanks, knowing that I’ll end it with my list of needs. I’m horrible at just taking the time to praise God for God’s goodness, my promise of God’s presence with me, and all I have to look forward to is life abundant – now and in the future. I also know that when I’m bad about this, I’m not modeling the kind of gratitude I wish my children would learn, and then I get frustrated with them for not being more thankful for what they have. I’m not the best

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in school or workplace shootings; 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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; safety for children going to and from school and while at school; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for the Dreamers, who seek to remain in the United States legally.

**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 District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith.

**Trinity UMC** - For homebound members in the congregation. For children and youth ministries. For new visitors to this congregation. For families who are grieving. For our congregation as we face transitions. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council.

Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**Joan Smith’s** granddaughter **Sean’s** vision .

**Molly Rosson**, now 9 months old and sitting up by herself!

**Mary McConnell’s** niece **Laura Fellin**, cancer—pray for her family.

**Mac McConnell’s** sister, **Peggy Sanderson**, cancer.

**Phil Phillips** continues to battle leukemia at home.

**Kathryn “Gigi” Ellis**, now back at home; wisdom on part of her caregivers.

**Amanda Rozinski**, 17 year old with muscular dystrophy & scoliosis.

The family and friends of **Snookie Mason**, in their grief at her passing.

**Sara Grace Mathis**, outpatient chemotherapy at St. Jude.

The family and friends of **Gwen Stuart** as they mourn her passing.

**Sara Jane Goodman**, whose sister, **Sallyanne Naile**, died unexpectedly. Be in prayer for the family.

The family and friends of **Roberta Henderson**, as they grieve her loss.

The family and friends of **Peggy Tate**, as they grieve her passing.

The family of **Bobbie Smith Blevins (Joan Smith’s cousin)**, as they grieve.

The family and friends of **Evelyn Hendren**, who died November 1st in Arlington, TX.

**Maggie Comes’** niece, **Katie Pendleton**, had a massive stroke. Katie’s parents are Paul and Mary Yager.

**Rosemary Potter’s** niece, **Taylor Wood**, was in a bad motorcycle accident.

*(Please contact the church office with any changes or additions to prayer list,*

# Upcoming

EVENTS

## **Church Office Closings**

Debby Marston will be on vacation November 19 & 20. The church office will be closed from November 21–23.

## **Manna on Monday**

Servers needed on November 19th at Highland Heights UMC between 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Clean-up workers needed from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

## **UMW Unit Meeting**

The UMW Unit meeting is scheduled for 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20th, in the Fellowship Hall.

## **UMW Evening Circle Meeting**

The Evening Circle of the UMW will meet 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 26th, in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Choir Rehearsal**

The chancel choir's regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. As the time nears for the choir's Christmas Musical, Saturday rehearsals are scheduled for 11:00–1:00 on December 1 at Ellendale UMC and 9:00–11:00 a.m. on November 17 & December 8 at Trinity.

## **Holy Communion**

A Service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. There will be no communion served on Nov. 21.

## **Room in the Inn**

Trinity UMC will host our unsheltered neighbors each Tuesday evening through the end of March. (See article on page 9.)

## **Binghampton Food Pantry**

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00–11:00 a.m., fresh produce is distributed.

## **Covenant Discipleship**

The Wednesday evening Covenant Discipleship group continues to gather at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

## **Trinotes**

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is November 26th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston at [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org). Trinotes is now available as an electronic file. Make a note on your Sunday attendance sheet or call Debby at 901-274-6895 if you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Access it on our website at:

**[www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org)**

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example of thankful living and still find myself wondering why I can be discontent. I know the kind of power thanksgiving and thankful living can have and yet, as I come to God in prayer, I find myself approaching the Creator and Sustainer of my life as though God is there just to meet all of my requests. I wonder.....well, I wonder how that makes God feel?

It's November. Traditionally social media is booming with daily reflections of thanksgiving because it's the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's become a pattern – a tradition of reflecting on that which we are thankful for. The danger - and this is what I've noticed - is that we reflect throughout November as if it's the only time we can be thankful and, again, I wonder how that makes God feel.

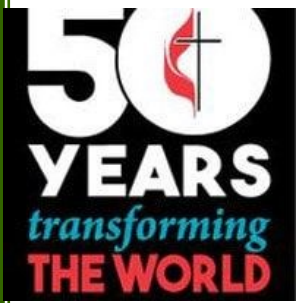
What do we do then?

Thankfulness, like prayer and any other spiritual discipline, is just that – a discipline. It's something we have to train ourselves to do. Noticing the small things that we'd miss were they gone, like a sunset or the food on our plates, and pausing to give thanks; it takes discipline. It takes being patient with ourselves and still accountability from our community of faith. We begin to be more thankful – more grateful – as we begin to recognize God's goodness as a part of all we are, all we have, and all we are able to do and, just as God covets our needs and yearns to respond to the desires of our hearts, so too does God covet our love and thanksgiving. So, we give God our thanks. We give God our praise. We live as those who are blessed by God's goodness and we model thanksgiving for those around us.

Stop. Pause. Reflect. Pray. Give thanks.

Many Blessings,

*Rev. Sara*



**We invite you to take a short quiz about the mascots and school spirit at some of the colleges and universities associated with The United Methodist Church. Go to Trinity's website at [www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org) and scroll to the bottom of the "About" page for a link to the UMC college quiz. See just how much you know!**



# Honorariums & Memorials

## **Memorials have been received:**

*In memory of **Snookie Flint Mason** from Joan Foley*

*In memory of **Evelyn Hendren** from Elaine Amis*

*In memory of **Evelyn Hendren** from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of **Evelyn Hendren** from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of **Evelyn Hendren** from*

*Rosemary & Mike Potter*

## **Honorariums have been received:**

*In honor of **Kathy Isbell** from Elaine Amis*

*In honor of **the Dano Napoli Family** from*

*Carol & Carey Miller*

## **BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE**

by Debby Marston

Again I have to say, "Wow!" **"Thank you!"** to all of you who have given to the Grocery Voucher Program. Your generosity continues to astound me. **Thanks to YOU, 201 individuals have received vouchers since January 1, 2018, and another 18 people will receive vouchers on November 20th.** We have been limiting distribution of vouchers to the first and third Wednesdays of each month and will continue to do so; however, we can now afford to give out as many as 15 each time (or maybe a few more) and will also be able to help out families when unusual emergencies arise. When unable to fulfill a particular need, we refer folks to the Binghampton Food Pantry, where they can receive further emergency help. Our partnership with Binghampton allows us to assist more families than we would be able to do otherwise.

The need for assistance in acquiring the essentials of life is ongoing among the poor in our community. We hope that you will continue your contributions to our grocery voucher fund so we can, in a small way, meet the needs of "the least of these."



## **The Spirit Always Delivers**

by Lois M. Young

I guess worrying is just in my nature, because, despite organizing everything that I can for our Room in the Inn ministry, I still worry before each season and even before every weekly session.

- Will we get enough meal providers?
- Who will pay for the breakfast sandwiches?
- Can we find enough overnight volunteers?
- Will our guests and volunteers get along?
- Will there be enough volunteers each week?
- Is the bus going to start, so we can pick up guests?
- Was all the laundry returned from the previous week?
- Will the NA organizers remove all the chairs from the sleeping room?
- Are we going to have enough money to make it through the season?

Despite all this worrying, it always works out. I can't explain it, other than there has to be some spiritual intervention happening, because it A-L-W-A-Y-S works out.

### **Breakfast source found**

One of these worries has already been put to rest. The Fellowship and Nowlin Sunday School Classes will once again supply the breakfast sandwiches for our guests. They cost almost \$30 a week. On top of that cost either Sally Ramsey or Beryl Willard deliver them to the church kitchen every week. They have been doing this for several years. Many thanks to everyone in the Fellowship and Nowlin classes for their generosity, especially Sally and Beryl.

### **Meal schedule filling**

We already have meals pledged for 19 of our 20-night season. My biggest concern was the November 20 meal. Thanksgiving week is busy for many volunteers, so this spot sat empty until today. I sent out a distress signal to our volunteer list. A group that always comes through in a pinch took the date this morning. Food for the Hungry Ministry led by Paula Dickson has provided several meals for the last three RITI seasons. Paula can put together an incredible homecooked meal for 40 to 50 people on super short notice. We are very thankful for her expertise and generosity.

Our only open meal date is December 18. If you know anyone who might be interested in providing a meal for this ministry, please send them my way ([loislane.young@comcast.net](mailto:loislane.young@comcast.net) or 870-559-2228).



## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL COMING!

by John Holtzman

The choir has been very busy the last few weeks working on our Christmas Musical, "Home for Christmas." We are beginning to have Saturday rehearsals now when we are combining the Trinity choir with the Ellendale UMC choir. During the musical there will be a slide presentation that coincides with the message of the songs being sung and the narrative that enhances the presentation. I am so proud of our choir and how well they have learned the music.

In addition to work on the Christmas musical, the choir works on music for the Sunday worship service. I am excited about the music that we have planned in the coming weeks as we conclude the season of Pentecost and enter the season of Advent.

The Christmas musical will be performed at Trinity on Sunday afternoon, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30. Please note the time was moved from 4:00 to 3:30. Invite your family, friends, and members who may have not been at Trinity in a while to enjoy this afternoon of music.

## Mittens, gloves, & knitted caps still needed!

Children at Title I Jackson Elementary School are still in need of cold weather gear. We will be collecting gloves/mittens and knitted caps through the end of November. If you haven't hung your donation on The Giving Tree in front of the reception desk, please do so. And even if you have, a few extras will be welcome! Thank you for your generosity!



November 1	Jay Allmon
November 4	Hayden Belue
November 4	Edna Hoffman
November 6	Sarah McFalls
November 7	Joan Smith
November 14	Cooper Tate
November 17	Mary McConnell
November 18	Jae Hechinger
November 21	George Pence
November 25	Carson Witt
November 26	Vanoma Newhart
November 27	Shirley Flint
November 27	Donna Windham
November 29	Cara Hechinger
November 29	John Allmon
November 29	Jonathan Goff

## BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

**Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

Once a month, persons can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

**Trinity members:** please continue to bring staple items for the food pantry each Sunday—one item per household member—as we partner in this vital ministry to the poor. A basket has been placed on the counter at the front desk if you prefer to give a cash donation.

## Alternative Market 2018

Friends, you outdid yourselves in turning out for our annual fair trade event, Alternative Market. The volunteers from Ten Thousand Villages Nashville store were so impressed by our unpackers, re-packers, and sales help. And the shoppers loved the items we had for sale. The total sales topped \$8,200, which was an increase over last year's \$7,000. This money will go back into the fair trade cycle, enabling more artisan contracts, which enables more artisans to support their families. And we did a great job of sharing space: Our re-packers had the sales floor cleared and packed into the Nashville cars by 3:30! So we didn't have a problem making the area ready for Bluff City Church in their 4:30 service. Thank you for shopping, for spreading the word, for volunteering your time. To me, Trinity's hosting of this fair trade sale is a work of justice.

Grace and peace,  
Kay Jordan

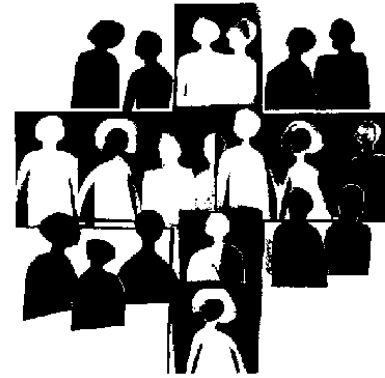
## Bake Sale Results

Thank you for baking, donating, selling, and buying at our Election Day Bake Sale! We raised \$861.00 for benevolences, most of which will be in the form of food vouchers. Each week on our prayer list we pray for our neighbors in need, and this is one way our prayers are answered: We see that we can bake! It makes voters happy, we enjoy the visits over the sale table, and we are building our ability to help those in need. We sold out by 11:00 a.m., and the pies were sold out in the first 90 minutes! So next time we will try to bake even more. But for now, THANK YOU!



## Living into a Prophetic Vision

By Amy Moritz



Building a radically loving community where everyone belongs, everyone is supported, and no one is alone is a *prophetic* vision. It is our vision at Trinity UMC and has been since adopting this statement in 2016.

A vision gives an image of the future. A *prophetic* vision evokes an alternative to the dominant culture that points us to the future that God has for us. Think of

the prophets of the Old Testament and the way they sought to point Israel to God's preferred future for them. Or, bring the prophetic image to your mind of new heavens and a new earth from Isaiah 65:17-25!

What is the preferred future that God has in mind for Trinity UMC and for the place (the corner, the neighborhood, the city) that God has called us to? I think the preferred future is named above in the first sentence.

Pastor Sara has shared with us many times that she senses Trinity UMC moving into a new season, a new season that "frees us for joyful obedience." How do we know what we are to be obedient to? I think our vision, our prophetic vision, gives us a great answer to this question. If this is the future we have been called toward, what shall our next steps be in achieving this future? How is Trinity UMC being called to co-participate with God in this vision becoming reality?

Early next year, the entire congregation of Trinity has the opportunity to enter into a period of discovery as we seek to take our next wise steps in actualizing this vision. I hope you will stay tuned as opportunities to be part of the discovery phase are announced. A steering committee to guide this process is beginning to take shape. If you would like to be a part of the steering committee, please contact Rev. Sara Corum (901-274-6895) or Amy Moritz (901-463-0983).

How will we use our freedom? I can't wait to discover this with you!