



Trinity United Methodist Church
1738 Galloway Avenue
Memphis, TN 38112
(901) 274-6895
www.trinityumcmemphis.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT number 817



Trinotes

November 28, 2018





Participate in Anticipation

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the

wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

It happened the moment the clock struck midnight Thanksgiving evening. Like a gentle rush through the house, the magic moved from room-to-room. It seems like just yesterday we were throwing on our costumes to go out in the pouring-down rain to trick-or-treat, but that day is gone. Thanksgiving felt like a blink. It was here and then it was gone and now.....now it's time for Christmas.

Except it isn't. It isn't actually time for Christmas. The Christmas season is Christmas Day (December 25th) through Epiphany (January 6th) — 12 days of Christmas. What it's actually time for is Advent — a season of great anticipation.

And so, to celebrate the season of Advent (at least I'll tell myself that) we put up three Christmas trees, hung lights from the parsonage roof, and at about 5:30 every night, now we plug in a blow up Santa train in the front yard. None of that feels very "Adventy" so I also made sure to put up the nativity.

Our nativity sits on a beautiful table inside the front door of the parsonage in front of a lovely antique mirror. I take no credit for these beautiful pieces. They belong to the parsonage, but they are my favorites, and it is the perfect spot for my favorite nativity.

This nativity is absolutely beautiful. It's lines are simple. The figures don't have faces, so one might imagine what they would reflect. There's the Holy Family, shepherds, wisemen (who don't really belong there just yet), a camel, a donkey, a few black sheep, a few white sheep, and a couple of goats. There are no small details. It's very simple and neutral. It makes me feel like Advent and *almost* keeps me from rushing to Christmas.

(continued on page 3)

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 all 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 10 months old and continuing to make progress.

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.

Sara Grace Mathis, outpatient chemotherapy at St. Jude.

Maggie Comes' niece, Katie Pendleton, had a massive stroke and continues to have mini-strokes almost nightly. (Katie's parents are Paul and Mary Yager.)

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

Her surgery is completed, and she will start physical therapy soon.

(Please contact the church office with any changes or additions to prayer list, or if a concern needs to be deleted.)

Upcoming

EVENTS

Church Office Closing

The church office will be closed from December 24th through January 1st, to re-open on January 2nd.

Manna on Monday

Servers needed on December 17th 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 Day Circle Meeting

The UMW meeting is scheduled for 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4th, in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW Evening Circle Meeting

The Evening Circle of the UMW will meet 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13th, at the home of Carol Miller.

Choir Rehearsals

The chancel choir's rehearsal schedule prior to the Christmas Musical is as follows: Wednesday, 11/28, at Trinity' at 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 12/1, at Ellendale UMC at 11:00 a.m.; Wednesday, 12/5, at Trinity at 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 12/8, at Trinity at 9:00 a.m. Performance at Ellendale UMC at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 9th. (See article on page 8.)

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 Dec. 26.

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 December 10th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston at 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

(continued from page 2—Participate in Anticipation)

I say almost because my beautiful Willow Tree nativity has one major flaw. No, it's not the wisemen, who are about two years too early. I can handle that. The one major flaw in its design is that you cannot remove the baby Jesus from the manger.

I have a fun history of visiting nativities, 'borrowing' the baby Jesus, and returning him Christmas Day. It makes some folks a little disgruntled. The baby is there to remind us what the season should really be about, right? Yes. The baby Jesus reminds us what the season of Christmas is really about. But go back and re-read for me. That season is 12 days long and begins on December 25th. An empty manger reminds us that there are other things that we must first observe in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

The season of Advent, which begins this Sunday, is a time where we participate in anticipation. It's a time where we look to the past and we look to the future so that we can understand Christ's influence on the present. We remember all that Mary and Joseph experienced before the manger was full—and God's presence with us—before God's incarnation was with us. We don't rush because we'll miss all of these things (and many more), and without them we can't completely embrace the reason for the season.

So empty your mangers if you can. It's not time yet. Participate. We'll walk through all of this together in worship, so I hope you'll be here to participate. Come and hear. Hear the stories from scripture. Hear the Advent offerings of the choir. Sing the Advent hymns. Connect. Connect to the Word until it's time again to celebrate, together, the Word incarnate.

'Tis the season.

Advent.

Holiday Blessings,
Rev. Sara



Circuit Riders

We invite you to take a short quiz about the early Circuit Riders associated with The United Methodist Church. Go to Trinity's Website at:

www.trinityumcmemphis.org and

scroll to the bottom of the "About" page for a link to the UMC Circuit Riders quiz. See just how much you do (or don't) know!

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of Evelyn Hendren from
Melba & Charles Abraham*

In memory of Evelyn Hendren from Sally Ramsey

In memory of Snookie Mason from Beverly Herriman

In memory of Peggy Tate from Linda & Wendel Stoltz

In memory of Evelyn Hendren from Linda & Wendel Stoltz

Honorariums have been received:

In honor of Lois Young from Nelda Gray & Nancy Rankin

PATHWAY to DIGNITY



On behalf of Pathway to Dignity, please accept our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for your generous donation of \$200.00 on October 23, 2018.

We already owe you a debt of gratitude for inviting us into your community and allowing us to hold our classes at the Church. The warmth and support you give us sustains us in our work.

Your financial support will buy books and instruction for individuals who have made a commitment to attend Pathway to Dignity classes twice a week for six months so that they can build a bridge out of poverty, prepare for employment, and diligently pursue meaningful work at a living wage.

As a startup grassroots operation, Pathway to Dignity has never needed your support as much as we do now. May God bless you for your generosity. I look forward to writing to you again soon to tell you what a difference your donation is helping us make in our students' lives — and we have only just begun!

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. Our prayer is that "God continues to grow your ministry and give you the desires of your hearts."

Yours in service,
Deloris Clayborne, MPA, CHSM, MBA



Room in the Inn at Trinity
needs you

by Lois M. Young

Our first two Room in the Inn sessions for the winter season were a success. We had 13 gentlemen each evening. They were so glad to be out of the cold that we heard many "thank yous" during these sessions. Our volunteers continue to amaze me with their commitment to this ministry, but more volunteers are needed.

More Volunteers Needed

Our volunteer base is smaller this year. A few of our volunteers have passed away, a few more have moved away, and others now have more pressing commitments. If you or anyone you know might be interested in helping with this ministry, please send them my way (loislane.young@gmail.com or 870-559-2228). These volunteer positions often need more helping hands:

- **Hospitality at Carpenter's House** (North Second Street and Exchange Avenue 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.) Welcome our guests as they wait at Carpenter's House to be picked up.
- **Setup sleeping areas** (Start at 4 p.m.) Making beds usually takes less than an hour.
- **Evening van driver** (5:15–5:45 p.m.) Drive church van to pick up guests downtown.
- **Greeters** (5:45–6:30 p.m.) help our guests find their way around the building.
- **Servers** (6:15–7:15 p.m.) help serve drinks and food and sit down to eat with our guests.
- **Hang out with guests during movie time** (7:30–9 p.m.)
- **Overnight volunteers** (arrive as late as 9 p.m. and leave as early as 5:30 a.m.) An experienced overnight volunteer will be present.
- **Morning cleanup** (7 until about 7:30 am.) Help us pull sheets, wipe down mattresses and put them away.

Clothes Closet Needs

The Trinity Clothes Closet is in great need of gently worn men's heavy coats and men's jeans. They also need new men's boxers and boxer briefs in all sizes and men's travel-sized antiperspirant/deodorant. Please consider donating these items and tell all your friends they are needed. I'm sure there are men out there who have too many coats and jeans.

One Meal Still Needs Sponsor

We are still looking for someone to provide the evening meal for Tuesday, December 18. This is right before the Christmas holiday, so it's a hard date to fill.

Jeri Ashley invites you to help her provide the Christmas Day meal for our unsheltered guests, Tuesday, December 25. She is bringing a turkey, a ham and a big pan of cornbread dressing. Doris Porter is bringing deviled eggs and another side dish. Can you bring something, too? Would you like to come serve our guests and share this special communion meal? If you can help, please contact Lois Young (loislane.young@gmail.com, 870-559-2228) or Jeri Ashley (jeri.ashley@bmhcc.org).

"Home for Christmas"

Sunday, December 9th
3:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

At the corner of Evergreen & Galloway

Featuring the combined choirs of Trinity & Ellendale UMC

Have you noticed the extra chairs on the stage where the choir is seated? What do you think it would be like to have all those chairs filled with choir members? Can you imagine what that would sound like?

On Sunday, December 9th at 3:30 p.m. you will be able to do just that as you enjoy the combined sound of the Trinity choir along with the Ellendale UMC choir as we present "Home for Christmas." I hope you have marked your calendar so you don't miss this great musical event, which will be a special blessing to you during this season. The choirs, soloists, and accompanists have been rehearsing for weeks and this will be an event you will not want to miss. I expect our fellowship hall to be filled that afternoon.

In addition to our work on the musical, the choir has begun working on special music for the season of Advent. The music will enlighten our paths as we journey once again to the manger to welcome the Christ child.

Blessings,

John Holtzman



December 1	Lori Brown
December 3	Libby Streete
December 5	Jean Moss
December 5	Kara Skjoldager
December 6	Tucker Shaw
December 8	Maynell Horton
December 9	Rosemary Potter
December 16	Sue Taylor
December 17	Daniel Hoffman, Jr.
December 18	Bill Berry
December 18	Phil Isbell
December 21	Melba Abraham
December 21	Stephanie Potter
December 25	Carey Miller
December 28	Leslie Potter

(If your name or that of a loved one has been omitted from this birthday list, please contact the church office at 901-274-6895.)

Kroger Community Rewards

According to Kroger Company Family of Stores, 20 households are already designating Trinity UMC as the non-profit organization to receive a percentage of their grocery purchases. Once a quarter, Trinity receives a check from Kroger from the proceeds of those purchases. If you are not already participating in this program and do your grocery shopping at Kroger, we encourage you to consider linking your rewards card to Trinity UMC. The newly assigned organization number for Trinity is HC876. All you need to do is go to the Customer Service desk at your Kroger store and ask the clerk to help you sign up. (Those already participating do not need to make any changes to their rewards cards, but these need to be renewed annually.) Also, we have been assured that, in order to meet their customers' expectation of privacy, Kroger has adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information.

Let the Children Come

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Friends, I'm sure that you have noticed how impassioned I am about the church being a safe, welcoming, loving, and comfortable place for children. Jesus held a special place in his heart for them because children are known to exhibit faith without doubt. That is motivating and encouraging for those who come to faith with answerless questions.

And so, reserving a special place for children in our church is important. Remembering that they have just as much to teach us about believing as we have to teach them is invaluable. Claiming that they are not only the church of tomorrow but also of today is necessary. Turning a deaf ear to their not-so-quiet whispers in worship, handing them a hymnal when it's time to sing (because how else will they learn?), and giving them a crayon to scribble on their bulletins when their short attention spans are challenged, is a gift to the church of tomorrow because this is where they'll want to be now **and** this is where they'll want to be years from now.

We have made beautiful steps in the direction of hospitality when it comes to our children and worship. They have a neat little nook in the back corner of the fellowship hall that is just for them. It's the hope of the Children's Ministry Department that this space could become even more child-friendly in 2019. We have hopes to set up a pallet board wall for their corner (replacing the lattice walls) – something that will identify the space: "Children's Corner." We'd like to outfit the space with "quiet toy" bags. The nursery wants to bring a rocking chair upstairs so that there's a place in worship where any parent with an infant can rock a child without having to bring that child to the nursery. We hope that with all that we are, Trinity might 'say' with this corner that children are welcome, not only in the building, but in worship, and maybe even that we want them there.

If you would like to contribute to Children's Corner, please do so. It won't take much to make this makeover happen, but it'll make a big, long-lasting difference.

Rev. Sara

Christmas Greetings for our Special Care Members

Yes, that time is here again: time to remember our homebound members by showering them with Christmas cards. Your cards share memories, joy, and love with our friends who are no longer able to be with us in Sunday school or worship at Trinity. Please take an extra moment—or two—to remind them of your love by preparing Christmas cards.

It's simple. Prepare the card, put it in an envelope with only the recipient's name written on it, bring it to the church by December 16th, and put it into the "Christmas Cards" box in the lobby. After worship that day, the cards will be on tables in the back of the hall so that they can be picked up to be hand-delivered to our friends. If you choose to deliver cards, you will be blessed with a memorable visit with a friend.

Thanks in advance for your caring participation. Listed below are the names of our Special Care members:

Jane Collins
John Curry
Allane Demetrio
Roscoe Dodson
Richard Hackleman
Maynell Horton

Pat Lovington
Jean Moss
Venoma Newhart
Marie Park
Virginia Walters
Doris Webster



Christmas Blessings