



Trinity United Methodist Church  
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**PAID**

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*Trinotes*

December 12, 2018





## The Mission

*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden."  
Matthew 5:14*

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was a Saturday morning in early April. I was sitting around sipping coffee. Josh had driven in from

Springfield, Tennessee, where he was serving a church in youth ministry. We were both pretty quiet and still and both, like most millennials are, attached to our phones. It was unusual for the ringers to be on, on a Saturday. Saturdays are for the "vibrate" option, but this day was different. Both of our District Superintendents had announced to their districts that this was "announcement day" for pastors, and the following day the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations chair would announce in worship who'd be the pastor come June.

I was pretty good friends with my DS in Paducah. He'd seen me through my mother's death and counseled me through my divorce. I could pick up the phone and call Sky at all hours and it never *had* to be about ministry. Five weeks prior he'd called me to give me a 'projection.' I was projected to move to an urban church setting in Memphis — a racially diverse congregation that was booming with youth and passionate about mission. It was in an area of Memphis I wasn't at all familiar with, and I'd be following someone very-well-loved — someone I'd looked up to most of my life. I was nervous. I was excited, but something felt *off* about the projection. This day — this Saturday — was the day I'd hear for closer-to-certain if that projection would hold. Nothing is ever final until it's voted on in June at Annual Conference.

My phone rang first. I'll never forget. I put the coffee mug down. My computer was in my lap. I looked down at my phone — Sky McCracken. I answered like I always did. "Hey." Sky was my friend. For five weeks I'd known and spent time preparing my heart and soul for what this move would mean. Knowing that it's not very smart, I'd already begun to pack my boxes. I'd snuck down to Memphis and looked around the church campus. Most importantly, I'd prayed. "God, just help me to be faithful." I was ready — hesitant, but ready.

"Sara, there's been a change."

My heart hit the floor. What? No.....Things don't change.

*(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** turned 17 in November and is now cancer free!!

**Maggie Comes' niece, Katie Pendleton**, continues to have strokes, but is up and moving around. (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 has started physical therapy.

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

# Upcoming

EVENTS

## **Christmas Eve Service**

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held on December 24th at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## **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 Luncheon**

The UMW Day Circle will be gathering for a Christmas meal at 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18th at Shirley Flint's home.

## **UMW Evening Circle Meeting**

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

## **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 December 19 or 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 January 7. 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).

(continued from page 2—*The Mission*)

Projections hardly ever change especially not for, you know, people like me. I'm young. I'm not being considered for some large church appointment. Folks really shouldn't be sitting around and thinking enough about me that this projection should change.

"You'll be going to Trinity in Memphis."

"Where's THAT? It's familiar. I'm sure I've been there. (I had.)"

"You know. Trinity. It's near the zoo."

Then, with my right hand holding the phone I began to ask all the questions I could muster. With my left hand, I google searched "Trinity UMC, Memphis," and this is what I'll never forget....

The very first thing you see when you go to our website is this statement of intent — a statement about who is included in this community of faith:

*Our congregation intends to reflect the love of God to all people and seeks a community of individuals who are diverse in viewpoint, age, physical and intellectual ability, economic status, immigration status, ethnicity, culture, gender identity, and sexual orientation.*

Wow, I thought. I can get behind that.

If you click on "about" the first thing you see (the first thing I saw) is the mission statement:

*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.*

Wow. If they really mean that, I can really get behind that. Oh, the places we'll go. Oh, the things we'll do!

Before Sky and I were finished talking, I was crying. He didn't know it. At least, I don't think he did. When I first felt a call to ministry nearly 20 years prior to my Saturday phone call, this is what I always envisioned I'd be a part of. And, at that point, I couldn't say: that's where I'd been serving. It had been hard, dirty, road-paving work that left me worn and weary of the call. Trinity promised to be world-changing — a city on a hill that couldn't be hidden, and it has been. I was being commissioned to be a part of it, and my heart was suddenly so full, it could burst.

And so, we have done much.

I want to air some caution, though. Admittedly, when I was trying to think of our mission statement the other day, I couldn't remember it. I remembered the gist. But, it's not enough to remember the gist. Our mission statement is the lens through which we see what we do and who we are. It's not secondary to what we do. It's **what we do**. Our statement of inclusion is who we've chosen to be in ministry with, so that we can fulfill

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3—*The Mission*)

the mission of this church — together and always.

Our mission is the lens through which we make every single decision we make. Do we sell part of our property? How does that help us “proclaim God’s love by building community and live by the example and teachings of Christ?” Who (other than us) in our inclusion statement is more included because we’ve let go of the responsibility of two campuses? Do we continue our Room in the Inn program in the summer? How is **that** building community as Christ taught? Who is more included because we did it? Do we take up hats for local school students in the winter? Do we have an Easter egg hunt for the community? Do we cut down a tree in the parking lot that is rotting and might hurt people? Do we agree to be a polling station during election season? Do we work around the schedules of everyone else we’ve said, “Yes,” to in our building? Midtown Montessori? Bluff City Church? Narcotics Anonymous? Scouts? The Evergreen Historic District Association? Are these things enabling us to build community as Christ taught? Are they engendering a culture of inclusivity? Is this our lens, still?

I hope you are better than I am. I hope you know our Mission and Vision statements by heart, especially if you are in church leadership. I hope when you reflect on who Trinity is, that you reflect like I do. Trinity is a beacon of hope and light in midtown Memphis. The neighborhood values its presence and supports its ministries. Trinity feeds hungry people, clothes people who are without adequate clothing, and houses the homeless. It values children and encourages connection, ministry, and relationship with them. Trinity isn’t afraid to be in ministry with those who suffer amid addiction. It isn’t afraid to bend and be flexible. It welcomes the sojourner — the nomad — the lost. Trinity is working hard, in every way, to be a glimpse of God’s Kingdom today.

I hope that is what you think of, when you think of Trinity United Methodist Church and I hope that all of our next steps can only bring to light more and more ways that our being faithful fulfills God’s mission.

With Great Hope,  
*Rev. Sara*

### **Please Feed the Pastor’s Program Fund!**

Believe it or not, the Grocery Voucher Fund is very healthy right now! Feeding people is really important, but sometimes folks need assistance with rent or utility bills. The Pastor’s Program Fund is set up in order to have a discretionary fund that contributes to such needs. If you had intended to give to the grocery voucher fund, please, for now, redirect that money to “Pastor’s Program.”



## **Room in the Inn: The Season of Giving**

by Lois M. Young

It’s that time of year, when we spend so much time thinking about gifts. Rosemary Potter and I decided what our guests often need more than anything else are bus passes. We are going to use some Room in the Inn funds to buy bus passes to give away to our guests on Christmas Day.

### **Join us Christmas Day**

We are holding a RITI session on Christmas Day. We will make room in the inn, because our unsheltered neighbors need to get out of the cold, and they need a safe, warm place to sleep.

Early this season, Jeri Ashley said she would like to gather some people together to provide the meal for our Christmas Day session. Some people don’t have a lot of family around on Christmas, so it would be nice for them to have a special place to go that evening. The odd thing is we are not hearing from many people about providing food items for this Christmas meal. Jeri has decided to bring two hams and a big pan of cornbread dressing. Doris Porter is bringing deviled eggs and another side dish. Won’t you bring something too? How would Jesus want us to celebrate his birthday?

If you have never been to Room in the Inn, I think you will be surprised by the kind gentlemen we have been serving. They deserve to feel special on this important day.

Email or call me if you would like to help ([loislane.young@gmail.com](mailto:loislane.young@gmail.com), 870-559-2228).

### **Clothes Closet Needs**

The Trinity Clothes Closet still needs more gently worn men’s winter coats and men’s jeans. They also need new men’s boxers and boxer briefs in all sizes and men’s travel-sized antiperspirant and Gold Bond powder.



## Reminder: 2019 Giving Cards Due by December 16<sup>th</sup>



Thanks to those of you who have responded and turned in giving cards for 2019. As of December 10<sup>th</sup>, we have received cards from 20 giving units for a total of \$84,580. A number of folks have increased their pledge for 2019 and the increase is greatly appreciated!

We are halfway to the 2018 number of giving units and the dollars pledged. Please remember that even if your pledge for 2019 is the same amount as this year's, a new giving card needs to be completed and turned in to confirm your continued financial support of Trinity.

If you have not returned your giving card to the church, please do so by this coming **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. You may use the return envelope that was included in the stewardship letter sent out in November or drop the card in the offering plate on Sunday. If you prefer, you may call the church office at 274-6895 to let Debby know what your 2019 giving will be.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Nursery Workers Needed!

Do you enjoy spending time with babies and toddlers? Would you like to have an opportunity to participate in an important service ministry here at Trinity UMC? Since we are not currently employing a nursery worker, two (2) volunteers are needed each Sunday to provide care for infants and toddlers during the Sunday School hour and worship. Two volunteers are required for each hour, in order to be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary policy. Why not spend some time with a little one (or two, or three...) and have a little fun watching our children's antics? Please call Sue Taylor at 901.491.2113 and ask to be put on the nursery worker rotation. You won't regret it!



## Honorariums & Memorials

### ***Honorariums have been received:***

*In honor of John Holtzman from Elaine Amis*

*In honor of Rosemary Potter on her birthday*

*from Margaret Spain*

*In honor of Mike & Rosemary Potter from Margaret Spain*



January 1	John Curry
January 2	Poppy Belue
January 3	Kay Jordan
January 4	Eleanor Brooks
January 5	Roscoe Dodson
January 6	Tom Wilson
January 8	Jan Young
January 9	James Keller
January 10	Joan Foley
January 11	Philip Brooks
January 12	Doris Porter
January 13	Irene Dycus
January 14	Lila Ruth Dycus
January 15	Jeff Corbett
January 16	Caley Foreman
January 17	Carol Miller
January 18	Sarah Humbert

*(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.)*



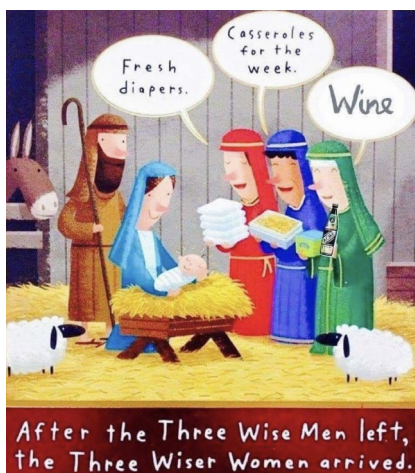
## Launch of TUMC Youth Group

As we know, God has promised to be present whenever two or three are gathered. During the first three TUMC Youth Groups on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm, we have experienced God's presence in some pretty exciting ways - and for our Youth Group - this has been a true blessing! (Blessing = those things that draw us nearer to God!)

TUMC Youth Group was kicked off in November with our youth offering input to determine what facet of their faith they wanted to have as our focus. The group elected to focus on God's presence in our lives, with the youth who are present for each Youth Group selecting the topic for discussion each time we meet. So far we have discussed the Life of Moses, Preparing for Thanksgiving, and Supporting One Another with Life Challenges. So far we have met at a different location in our community each week. Everyone brings their own funds to enjoy a snack while we meet. So far we have enjoyed ice cream, coffee drinks, and international foods, while we explore God's presence in our lives.

TUMC Youth Group will also hold special events from time to time. For our first special event, we will meet in the church Youth Room on Wednesday, December 19th from 6-8pm for our first Youth Group Christmas Party! Pastor Sara will be joining us as we celebrate Christmas and enjoy a potluck dinner and a holiday video! A virtual sign-up list will be used to ensure we have more than 10 different kinds of brownies for dinner! This is a perfect opportunity for all middle and high school youth to join the fun and fellowship as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

All Middle and High School youth are warmly invited to join the fun each week, or whenever scheduling permits. Please contact Brad Moritz at 901-530-0015, to be added to the Youth Group Text, and receive notifications and other information about the life of our TUMC Youth Group. Join us for the journey of a lifetime!



## Again, Thank you!

Once again, thank you for your donations of knitted caps, mittens, gloves, and scarves during our "Giving Tree" drive to benefit Jackson Elementary School. One hundred and eighty (180) children benefited from your kindness and generosity.



## CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



by John Holtzman

I am so proud of the Trinity UMC choir. Our Christmas musical, "Home for Christmas," was a great blessing to all those who attended at both Trinity and Ellendale. I do appreciate each choir member who worked diligently to learn each vocalist's part. There are so many people who were a part of making this happen: one slide creator; two choirs; three directors, John Lane, Cindy Foster, and myself; four musicians (sleigh bells, flute, trumpet, and piano); five narrators/speakers; and ten soloists. (That almost sounded like the lyrics to "The 12 Days of Christmas!") Each performance was amazing. Again I cannot acknowledge enough the hard work of everyone involved to make this possible - it was a gift to the Lord and blessing to His people.

We have two more Sundays with a lot of great music planned. Then we come to my favorite service of the year - Christmas Eve. One of the greatest pleasures I have as a musician is playing "Silent Night" as the congregation lights the candles. "Silent Night" was the very first song I learned how to play. Though I have played it hundreds of times, it never grows old. I believe the words so beautifully illustrate the age old story of that night in Bethlehem so long ago.

My wish to each of you is to have a wonderful, joy-filled Christmas.

## For the Beauty of Our Worship Space...



For all who have contributed to the beauty of our worship space, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude. To Mark Hudson, who gave us the gorgeous floral arrangement, and to each of you who purchased poinsettias in honor and in memory of loved ones, and to the "worker bees" (you know who you are!) who tirelessly and faithfully arrange everything perfectly: THANK YOU!