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**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.**

*Trinotes*



## General Conference A Way Forward

*I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* — Joshua 1:9

It's Monday morning and I lament that I am home and in bed trying to find the strength to attend a noonday funeral. Rest, I'm told, is always the best medicine for the sinus "fun" that accompanies Memphis' weather confusion. But I cannot rest. It is difficult to rest. I am unsettled.

As I lay here writing, live-streaming on another device is the called United Methodist General Conference in St. Louis. I'm listening because it's historic — only one other time has there been a called General Conference of the United Methodist Church. It's historic because it, inevitably, will change the church I love. No matter what is laid on the table, the church is facing a schism of sorts, whether that be in actual function and polity or in heart, mind, and soul. The church I love is on the chopping block and yet, the church I love does not yet exist.

The conference is meeting after nearly two years of organizing. A called commission, the Commission on a Way Forward, has been gathering with one purpose in mind — to place before this General Conference opportunities for the church to remain unified in its belief and practice concerning the Book of Discipline's stance on the ordination of gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bisexual candidates for ministry as well as our current clergy's ability (and the church legality thereof) of marrying same-sex couples. For many of us, the matters are very black and white. However, we are a global church. There are church conferences within our structure in places where being gay is illegal or where one might be killed for being so. The matter is complex because in those regions the church is growing and the

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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 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

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

**Phil Phillips**, undergoing transfusions; low blood count and very weak

**Maggie Comes' niece, Katie Pendleton**, having tumor removed, but no strokes for over a month; diagnosed with rare disease: Tumefactive MS, which attacks all parts of her body.

**Dorothy Sue Smith**, as she continues to recover from her auto accident

**Patricia Bladon, Nancy Maddox's** sister, continues to improve at home.

**Chris Glover's** sister, **Carol**, in crisis from heart surgery

**Marico Mason**, needs lung transplant; trying to get back on transplant list

**Julie McMahan**, upper respiratory infection

**Bryce Smith**, teen facing 6 hour back surgery February 26 to correct lordosis & scoliosis so he can breathe.

**Doris Webster**, recovering at home after a brief hospital stay and receiving in-home nursing care

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

# Upcoming

EVENTS

## Youth Group Mid-Week Meeting

The youth will gather at Global Café on Wednesday, March 6th, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. On March 13th, there will be no youth group meeting due to the school break.

## Manna on Monday

Servers needed on March 18th 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 Meetings

The Day Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5th. The UMW Unit Meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Evening Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 25th in the Fellowship Hall.

## Holy Communion

A Service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

## Room in the Inn

Trinity UMC will host our unsheltered neighbors each Tuesday evening through the end of March. (See article on page 8.)

## 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 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

## Guatemalan Consulate—Save the Date!

The Consulate will be on site at TUMC on May 18-19 and September 21-22.

## Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is February 25th. 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:

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delegation is larger than it is in our immediate context that, in most ways, is more progressive. Maintaining unity of spirit and practice is difficult and a clarity of conscience, for many, is on the line, including my own.

I lay here in bed, feeling terrible already, wondering what will become of a church that I am called to serve. The discussion is painful because I have many brothers and sisters in Christ who are LGBT brothers and sisters in Christ who exhibit clear callings to ministry and are stifled, painfully so, by our current polity. This conference will either open the door for people of God to serve the church they are called to serve, or will close it. The weight of that decision falls on the shoulders of many who aren't at all directly affected and there is no way that the conference's function can "do no harm." But here we are.

When I was being interviewed for my elder's orders, Rev. Steve Cavitt asked me a question that felt so very easy to answer at the time. "With what's on the line (the called General Conference), will you stick it out?" At the time I had no doubt that the UMC would remain forward facing — that we believed the love and ministry of God belonged to everyone called by God despite their sexual orientation. I knew we'd err of the side of love because that is a faithful response and the UMC has always been faithful. "Yes, Steve. The UMC is my home. It is just as much a part of me as I am of it." And yet, I lie here scared for it. I lie here embracing my "alternative spiritual gift" — that of worry. I am concerned for what tomorrow (literally, tomorrow) will bring for the church. Where I had once been hopeful, I can see with clarity now that some sort of death is inevitable.

And yet, there may be the hope. There may be painful, insensitive words shared during the "Christian conferencing" that's taking place in St. Louis today. Progressives may leave in mass exodus or traditionalists, for that matter. Church doors may close for good. Clergy with a crisis of conscience may leave for other denominations that are more affirming of inclusion. Death may very really come. And yet, can there be a resurrection without death? Was there an empty tomb without a cross or a cross

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without a trial? Is this our trial, church? I think so. Is this the hammer driving nails for the last time for many? Likely so. Is this the spear in our side releasing what's left of our life-source. No. It absolutely is not.

The people called United Methodist will find life tomorrow. Our hope remains in God our Savior -- a hope that belongs to everyone who is called "beloved" — everyone who is a child of God. History will continue to teach us what it means to truly do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God. The fresh wounds will become scars that remind us of either who we want to be or who we will be next. And regardless of the choices we have made or will make, the Spirit of God will never leave us or forsake us.

I am broken but never hopeless. Let us, together, remain steadfast — filled with hope, offering love, and walking in faith.

In the Grace of Christ  
Rev. Sara

## UMW Report

The Evening Circle met on Monday, February 25th. We shared a scrumptious meal that was followed by the final lesson in our study book. Sue Taylor led the session.

Our new study, which was recommended by Rev. Sara, will be about the parables of Jesus and how we apply them to our everyday lives. Any woman is welcome to join us in this encouraging study.

(The report penned above is typical of the Evening Circle's monthly meeting, which takes place on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Unless otherwise announced, meetings are held in the Worship Center/Fellowship Hall.)



## Honorariums & Memorials

### Memorials have been received:

*In memory of Jeanne Dycus from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of Jeanne Dycus from Alyson & Caley Foreman*

*In memory of Jeanne Dycus from David & Elizabeth Hopper*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Elaine Amis*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Mac & Mary McConnell*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Charles & Melba Abraham*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Tom Wilson*

*In memory of Maynell Horton from Cheryl M. Parker*

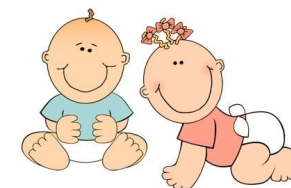


March 1	Nelda Gray
March 3	Heather Jacoby-Keller
March 6	Becky Waldon
March 6	Joe Spake
March 13	Leanne Wilson
March 14	Anne Steinaway
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 19	Alyson Foreman
March 19	Charles Abraham
March 31	Hadley Keller

(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.)

## Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We still need one more volunteer for the nursery! We have welcomed Evan James as our newest employee, and she is a wonderful asset to the nursery. She is also assisting in Children's Sunday School.







## We Want YOU There!

Here are some dates we hope you'll put on your calendar. There's a lot happening in the next few months at TUMC!

- Ash Wednesday Worship: Wednesday, March 6th, 6:30 (the Worship Center)
- Community Connections Gathering no. 2: Saturday, April 9th, 9:00-12:00 (the Worship Center)
- Trinity EGGstravaganza!: Saturday, April 13th, 9:30 until whenever all the eggs are found! (TUMC)
- Holy Week Services: TBD
- Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 21st
- Guatemalan Mobile Consulate Visit no. 1: May 18th-19th (TUMC)
- Memphis Annual Conference Gathering: June 2nd-5th, (Collierville UMC)
- TUMC Vacation Bible School 2019: June 10th-14th, 8:30-12:00 (TUMC)

Do you already see some things you want to volunteer for? We have many spots to fill and your gifts are needed, from leading crafts at the Easter egg hunt, to donating funds for Vacation Bible School. We need prayers for everything that's coming up. Please look and see where you can jump in and serve and if you need help deciding, give the church a ring and we'll help you discover just where your gifts are needed most.

## Ash Wednesday

*"Hear and I will speak; I will question you and you will declare to me. I had heard you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

*Job 42:4-6*



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a season marked by wilderness wanderings, ascetic practices (fasting), and embracing prayers as a means by which we are one with God. During Lent you are encouraged to give up something that works to separate you from a disciplined relationship with God. The imposition of the ashes is an external sign of repentance. Our ashes

come from the burning of the palms from last year's Palm Sunday Service. They signify life and death and are given new life as we repent and return to God. This year we will worship Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 in the Worship Center. Please join us for this meaningful service that begins the season of Lent.

## If others would join you, what would you do?

Some of us answered this question a few Saturdays ago. If you did not get a chance to write your answer or answers (you can write more than one!), I hope you will and then add it to the wall.

The key to this question is what would you do in ministry and service with others, especially those outside of the church? It is not what do you hope someone else will do, or what you think should be done, but what do you personally have passion enough about to commit yourself to. What has God put on your heart to act upon?

I hope you will also take time to read the wall of responses posted in the Worship Center/Fellowship Hall. Do you see one or more that you also have interest in doing? I encourage you to reach out to the person who wrote it and make a connection. Ask them where their passion and motivation to act comes from?

We will take a close look at all of the responses in the coming months with the hope of discovering what new ways God might be inviting Trinity UMC to be the body of Christ in our community.

If you have questions about the Discovery and Discernment process, please feel to contact me at [amycmoritz@gmail.com](mailto:amycmoritz@gmail.com) or 901-463-0983.

Also, please mark you calendar for our next church-wide gathering for Discovery and Discernment. It will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We will be discovering the power of our connections both with the people we serve and the partners we serve alongside.

## Human Sexuality & The Future of the Methodist Church



Dr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Wesleyan Studies and Director of the Methodist House of Studies at Memphis Theological Seminary, will speak here at TUMC on March 10th at 6:30 p.m. about the controversy over human sexuality in the United Methodist Church between 1968 and 2019. He will also provide reflections from the 2019 special called General Conference.



## Socks, socks and more socks . . .

By Lois M. Young

During the summer I told you that Room in the Inn at Trinity UMC received 576 pairs of socks from the Bombas Socks company. For every pair of Bombas socks purchased, they donate a pair to groups that serve the homeless. They definitely follow through with that pledge. Kim Guleff contacted Bombas again in January on our behalf. They agreed to send us a thousand pairs of socks in February.

There was a computer glitch of some kind, and Bombas ended up sending us 3,500 pairs of high quality crew socks. Wow! That is a ton of socks. Carey Miller and Jan Young can attest to the fact that it feels like a ton when you are lifting box after box after box. Carey was kind enough to place all these boxes in a storage closet upstairs, and then Jan removed them all from the closet when it was time for us to sort them and box them up for other Room in the Inn sites.

We could never use this many socks in our Trinity clothes closet, so we are sharing them with 16 other Room in the Inn-Memphis locations. That way all our unsheltered guests can get the socks they need. As a little “thank you” to Bombas, I ordered four pairs of socks. They are expensive, but I think they might be the most comfortable socks I have ever worn. I will be buying more soon. I encourage you to do the same. They definitely follow through on their pledge to help those in need.



Fifteen boxes of socks going to other Room in the Inn sites.