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

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

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.

Making Space

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. —Joel 2:12-13

When I was a youth it was always a fun game to give something up for Lent. Every year it was a commitment of mine, because my love for chocolate goes DEEP, to give up chocolate for Lent. I and one of the youth leaders, who was like my 'other mother,' would give up chocolate together and when Easter was over, she and I would go to one of many places to eat in Jackson that had fabulous chocolate desserts and eat ourselves sick with chocolate — a few calories lost but nothing really gained.

I guess that was a loss for me, though. You are supposed to gain something by giving something else up for Lent. The idea is that we fast from something that inhibits our relationship with Christ. When we give that something up, we gain something. We gain a closeness with and dependency upon our Creator. We gain the wisdom and assurance of God's presence with us. We receive the assurance that the Spirit dwells in us because we are more sensorially attuned in our fasting. All these things empower us to a greater awareness of, not only God, but what God has done for us when Easter is finally here.

Perhaps "righteous indignation" keeps you from the "peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding," and so your commitment is to give up indignant reactions for the channeling of peace during this season. In so doing, the Spirit of peace becomes more obvious and present in how you live. Giving up chocolate never begot the results that might bring.

Perhaps giving up sleeping in on Sundays is your fast because we are called to be connected — to be the "ecclesia" (the Church). We were gifted each other by God. Being together means we have mutual support in our faith-walks and at the same time,

(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
Mary McConnell's niece **Laura Fellin**, cancer—pray for her family.
Phil Phillips, undergoing transfusions; low blood count and very weak
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed Tumefactive MS
Dorothy Sue Smith, on the loss of her sister, **Annabelle Chumney**
Patricia Bladon, **Nancy Maddox**'s sister, continues to improve at home.
Kanyan Glover, Chris Glover's great-nephew, waiting on heart transplant; on artificial heart in ICU at Le Bonheur.
Marico Mason, needs lung transplant; trying to get back on transplant list
Julie McMahan, upper respiratory infection
Bryce Smith, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
Doris Webster, recovering at home & receiving in-home nursing care
Dick Faulk, Charlotte Comes' cousin, moving to nursing facility from rehab
Chuck Comes, esophageal cancer; home now with Home Health Care
Joan Foley, recovering from back surgery
Family and friends of **Donald Taylor,** who died recently of a stroke

(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 Today & Always on Wednesday, March 20th, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. On March 27th, they will have dinner in the Youth Room at TUMC at 6:00 p.m.

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 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. (See article on page 4)

Discovery & Discernment Churchwide Gathering
Saturday, April 6th from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Worship Center.

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 7.)

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 Dates!
The Consulate will be on site at TUMC on May 18-19 and September 21-22. (See article on page 8 about other important upcoming events.)

Trinotes
The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is March 25th. 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)

God yearns for our worship. I'm not sure fasting from chocolate could ever give me that me 'support.'

Maybe grumbling or chronic displeasure keeps you from seeing the good and thereby the God in things. Perhaps you're being called to fast from grumbling and take on praise and positivity. I know God waits hopefully for those expressions of joy from us. The only thing giving up chocolate ever did for me was make be grumpier.

There are many things we could give up. There are many fasts we could engage in, in the weeks to come. It's not too late to prayerfully engage the Spirit in this process. What is keeping you from the fulness of what your relationship with God could be? There is nothing better than, during a time of introspection, being able to purge ourselves of that which inhibits so that we might receive more in return from a God is who waiting for us to make space for Him to dwell.

Lenten Blessings,
Rev. Sara

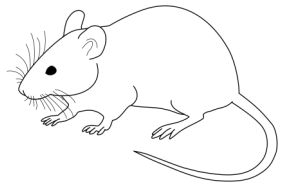
Pastor & Family at Disneyworld

Rev. Sara, husband Josh, Cooper, & Aiden send greetings from Disneyworld, where they are spending Spring Break. Everyone is having a great time. Rev. Sara will be back in the office on March 19th.

UMW Report

The Evening Circle of the UMW will begin a new study on obtaining a a better understanding of the parables of Jesus based on the culture of the times. The study book is *The Short Stories of Jesus*, by Amy Jill Levine. The Evening Circle meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. Visitors are always welcome. A gift of $50.00 was donated to the Pastor's Program Fund to assist families struggling to pay rent or utilities. The UMW encourages others in our congregation to support this important cause.

Attn: We Have a Rat!!



Rats! That is to say, we really do have a rat. Or two. Or more. Our intrepid custodian, handy-man, and all-around great guy, Joe Hatter, has been tasked with the mission of exterminating a pesky super-rat we have christened "Lucifer" (Lou, for short). Our normal pest control man had run out of ideas when Joe decided that an old-fashioned rat trap was what was needed, baited with good old-fashioned peanut butter. He set out two really big traps and caught two large rodents right away. Unfortunately, Lou has so far eluded all attempts to capture or exterminate him. But never fear! Joe is here! And he is a man on a mission.

Please be sure to put up all foodstuffs in one of the refrigerators or in a secure container. Be advised that Lou is capable of chewing through plastic, so metal containers are best. Do not leave any food out on the counters. Rodents are persistent and, in Lou's case, quite intelligent. Joe is working on outsmarting him, however, so give him a hand by securing your edibles and emptying the trash.

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Maynell Horton** from Sally Ramsey*
*In memory of **Maynell Horton** from Rosemary & Mike Potter*
*In memory of **Maynell Horton** from Lois & Jan Young*
*In memory of **Maynell Horton** from an anonymous donor*
*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Lois & Jan Young*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from an anonymous donor*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from Elaine Amis*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from Shirley Flint*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from Melba & Charles Abraham*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from Mac & Mary McConnell*
*In memory of **Marie Park** from Eddie & Sally Ramsey*
*In memory of **Annabelle Chumney** from Eddie & Sally Ramsey*
*In memory of **Annabelle Chumney** from Shirley Flint*
*In memory of **Annabelle Chumney** from Elaine Amis*
*In memory of **Maynell Horton** from Play Do Learn Preschool Staff*

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE
WORD, WATER & WITNESS
2019 MEMPHIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Another "Save the Date")

The 2019 Memphis Annual Conference will be held at Collierville United Methodist Church on June 2—5. You can go to the Conference website for details: https://www.memphis-umc.net/.

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!

- 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.

Surrounded by Love

By John Holtzman

We are all aware of the results of the conference in St. Louis a few weeks ago, which I do not want to explore. I was well aware of what took place in St. Louis and, as a member of the LGBTQ community, it was hurtful, but I felt more of a concern for others, especially those wanting to enter into ministry within the UMC. However, it is the backdrop of what happened the following Sunday at Trinity. The story I want to share, I shared in part on Facebook the following Monday.

When I came into the lobby of our worship center, Pastor Sara was the very first person to greet me and give me a hug. It was the start of a day in which I would be "surrounded by love." I spoke with other people who expressed their love to me as well. For those of you who were there that morning, you may remember Barbara Vann giving us stickers with the word "love" on them and the "o" in love shaped as a rainbow flag heart. I put one on my sweater that morning, as did many others. Pastor Sara gave a passionate message that was followed by a very loving invitation to the Communion Table. As always, she says, "this is not Trinity's table, this is not the United Methodist Church's table, this is the Lord's table and all are invited." However, one other statement she made that caught my ear was, "this is His table, not your table. You don't want it to be your table, you want it to be His table." That was a very powerful, impactful statement in regard to the sacrifice He made to give us this table.

What followed is what truly captivated me that morning. As the congregation came forward to receive communion - and as I played the piano - I looked back and all I could see was a river of love headed to the front of the church. I saw so many people wearing the "love" sticker on their clothing that I felt a wave of love coming in my direction. I truly felt "surrounded by love."

I came home and removed the "love" sticker from my sweater and placed it on a piece of paper so I could take a picture of it and then hang it on the corkboard on the wall next to my desk. I wanted to be able see it while I work. That picture, along with a portion of this story, I shared on Facebook.

Trinity, on Sunday morning, March, 3, 2019, you did your job as a church. You surrounded me and anyone else who was willing to accept it with love. That is something for which I will be eternally grateful.

A GOD MOMENT AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

By Rosemary Potter

Early one Wednesday morning after our Room in the Inn women guests had had a good night's rest and breakfast, several gathered in the foyer to wait for the van. Casandra, one of our guests, asked me what the large wooden stand was and could she see what was inside. I told her it was our baptismal font and that we used it when someone was being baptized.

We moved the lid over. She looked at me and said, "But there are rocks in it!"

I explained that the rocks were there to be taken and kept with you as a reminder of your baptism. Casandra asked if she might have one. "Of course!" I said. Overhearing our conversation, several other guests approached the font and selected their rocks to keep. As they made their selection, I was overwhelmed by the look on their faces—pure joy, renewed hope, and gratitude. I was reminded, once again, of the great faith they all have even in the worst of circumstances. I knew in that moment that God was surely present with us that morning.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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
April 2	Richard Ashley
April 10	Rita Allmon
April 19	Mary Alice Taylor
April 20	Bob Binkley
April 24	Karen Willard
April 25	Rachel Adkins
April 27	Jeff Potter

(If your name or that of a loved one has been omitted from this birthday

Faithful and thankful

By Lois M. Young

Unlike some ministries to the homeless, our Room in the Inn program does not require guests to take part in a worship service or listen to a sermon in order to receive food and shelter. Many of these individuals already have a strong faith in God. And I don't think forcing people to listen to a sermon when they are tired and hungry is the best way to teach the Good News. Instead we try to model our faith through actions.

Before each evening meal, we always offer a blessing. Sometimes our visiting meal provider will give the blessing. I've never felt comfortable giving a blessing out loud in a crowd, so I will sometimes ask everyone in the room, "Does anyone want to lead us in the blessing?" A guest will always reply, "Yes." These blessings are well-spoken and moving. They are both faithful and thankful. I always feel the Spirit is present in those moments.

Last Wednesday morning, Mike Potter came in at 6:15 a.m. to offer our Room in the Inn guests a short Ash Wednesday service. As I said above, no one is required to take part in these offerings. But after breakfast, three guests and two volunteers attended. One man in particular was interested in the renewal that Ash Wednesday represents.

A lot of people underestimate the faith that is alive and well in most of our unsheltered neighbors.

If you would like to meet our guests, please join us on a Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. or a Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. We have two more winter sessions – March 19 and 26. Then, we will hold five off-season sessions: May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27 and September 24.

Like a hen . . .

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."