



Trinity United Methodist Church  
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*Trinotes*

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## Great is OUR Faithfulness?

It's a touchy thing – talking about faithfulness. Our lack of faithfulness tends to be the foundation of our confession. Forgive us God for, essentially, our lack of follow-through. We have not heard

the cry of the needy. We have not tended to the weak. We have not worked against oppression (when that is clearly your calling and commission for us), and, in the sacramental theology of our communion liturgy, “we have failed to be an obedient church,” so, “free us for joyful obedience.”

It's in our liturgies. We recite them. Then, oftentimes, we leave them.

It's not touchy to talk about God's faithfulness. It's a tenet of our faith to believe and exclaim (in word and in song) that, “Great is Thy Faithfulness!” We believe that God never leaves us, God never forsakes us, and we are not alone. These are creedal. When someone loses a loved one, the best thing we can remind them is that God is with them – that God has always been with them. We welcome God, who's already there to begin with, into our worship services, into our wedding vows, and into the life of our small children as we commit them and commit to them a life of immersion in the love and faithfulness of God at their baptism. God. Is. Faithful.

But back to that hard part – that touchy part at the beginning – our faithfulness.

Don't misread me. I'm not writing about faithful attendance in worship, although at one point or another, most of us committed to upholding the church with our prayers, PRESENCE, gifts, service, and witness. Perhaps a large piece of your faith puzzle is communal worship. Maybe it does, in fact, feed you, arm you with a shield of faith, and prepare you to be of greater service to God's Kingdom. I hope so. That's really the point. If that's the case, sure, check your faithfulness concerning where you are at 11:00 Sunday morning.

Our faithfulness to God ought to extend beyond what happens at 1738 Galloway Avenue. If you have, indeed, been in worship lately, I hope and pray you've heard that. I hope that you've heard me preach that our response to God – our faithfulness to what we know to be true about God in the world and God in us – is intended to filter from our head and heart

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in school 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 Tate and her sons, Cooper and Aiden; 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 facing difficult decisions.

Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**Joan Smith's** granddaughter **Sean's** vision

**Molly Rosson**, newborn baby of Joan Smith's cousin **Dianne**, with serious health problems—hospitalized for undetermined period of time

**Qahtan, Dalia Alnaaman's** uncle with metastatic cancer

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

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

**Sue Taylor's** brother-in-law, **Allen Helms**, receiving treatment for cancer

**Chris Glover's** friend **Joanne James** with multiple major problems; and Chris' sister **Carol Bruce**

**Robert Lawson**, son-in-law of **Elaine Amis** and husband of **Diane**, as he begins treatment for throat and tongue cancer

**Sam Comes** applying for a new position

**Maggie & Chris Comes'** great nephew, five month old **Luke Turner**, died recently. Pray for his parents, **Tyler & Amy**, and sister, **Avery Grace**.

**Elizabeth Hopper** requests prayer for the **White Family** as the father undergoes treatment for cancer

From **Rev. Sara**: pray for **Pamela Baum**, as she works through a difficult time in her life

**Maxine Guerry**, friend of **Jim Schaeffer**, diagnosed with abdominal cancer

**Elise Davis, Nelda Gray's** niece in Baptist East Hospital recovering from surgery

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



# Upcoming

EVENTS

## Manna on Monday

Food preparation will occur on Sunday, March 18th at 2:00 p.m., with meal delivery to Highland Heights UMC at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 19th.

## Holy Communion

Served every Wednesday morning at 10:00 in the Chapel.

## Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00-11:00 am. In case of emergency, food can be obtained by calling Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

## Room in the Inn

Tuesdays through March 31st: volunteers gather around 4:00 p.m. in Education Bldg., guests arrive 6:00 p.m. Departure Wednesday a.m. at 7:00 a.m.

SPPRC Meeting March 18th at 12:30 p.m., Conference Room.

## Daytime UMW Meeting

First and third Tuesdays of each month. The next scheduled meeting is March 20th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.

## Evening UMW Meetings

The fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 26th in the Fellowship Hall.

## Covenant Discipleship

Meets Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for the next five weeks. The group is studying *Covenant Discipleship: Christian Formation through Mutual Accountability*. The Wednesday evening Covenant Discipleship group continues to gather at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

## Scouts

Cub Scout pack meetings are held Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. Boy Scouts meet Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There are no scout meetings when school is not in session.

## Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is March 26, 2018. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston, our administrative officer at: [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org). Trinotes is now available as an electronic file. Call Debby at 901-274-6895 if you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. You may also access it on our website at [www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org).

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to every facet of how we live. I'd contest that, often, other Faiths practice this better than Christians do. We are very good at separating our "faith life" from the "secular life," when scripture prescribes that we be faithful (specifically to the calling and commission of God in Christ and thereby the life of Christ and the tenets of his teaching) in ALL we do – that we take our experience of worship, of service during Room in the Inn, of filling Easter baskets for homeless children, of serving the church through committee work, and let the work of God we've come to experience in these things and more, shape our responses during the rest of our time.

This is the meat of our faith, instead of the milk, and perhaps we are in a season when the Kingdom of God needs us to take more bites. Maybe it's time to **pray daily** that God, "free us for joyful obedience," – that, "the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to You, O God, our Strength and our Redeemer."

I am praying for this to be so for you in this season. I hope you will do the same for me.

In Resurrection Hope,  
Rev. Sara



## TUMC's Schedule For Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship: March 25th, 11:00am

Maundy Thursday Worship: March 29th, 6:00pm

Stations of the Cross: March 30th, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Good Friday Worship: March 30th, 6:00pm

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny: March 31st, 9:00am - 11:00am

Resurrection Sunday Worship: April 1st, 11:00am

(All events will take place in the fellowship hall with the exception of the egg hunt.)



# LAKESHORE

united methodist camp & retreat center

Lakeshore is a camp and retreat center on the shores of the Tennessee River, providing Christian hospitality, rest, and reflection for guests of all ages and backgrounds. The mission of Lakeshore UMA is to offer ways for all to experience life, love, and the God of Grace.

**Summer Camp** - Lakeshore's summer camp program is filled with dynamic leadership, meaningful worship, lots of outdoor play, and opportunities to build relationships that last throughout a lifetime. Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High camps are available along with several specialty camps. For additional information and for online registration, go to [lakeshoreuma.com](http://lakeshoreuma.com).

Trinity has a limited number of partial scholarships available for members. If you are interested in a camp scholarship, please contact the church office or Carol Miller.

We count on member donations for these camp scholarships. Will you please donate to this wonderful program for our children? You may contact the church office or place your donation in the offering plate on Sundays. Please mark your donation for Lakeshore.

Blessings,  
Carol Miller

## Memorials & Honorariums

### Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Jim DeBardeleben** from Elaine Amis*

*In memory of **Jim DeBardeleben** from Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Jim DeBardeleben** from an anonymous donor*

## UMW Meetings



The UMW Day Circle will meet on March 20th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your lunch if you plan to attend. Mary McConnell will provide dessert. Please also bring toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, and/or socks for the Hospital Auxiliary.

The Evening UMW Circle will meet on March 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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after a painful collection of some heavy breaths over less than a half hour, my burning muscles and my tired mind had second thoughts. My group kept going and I found some inner strength to press on; I reminded myself that this was a "once in a lifetime opportunity" and I could not quit. A large portion of my group surrendered once we reached 6,000 feet – hours later! Five of us pushed on to reach the glacier, summing every extra muscle fiber within my body and any ounce of drive left in my soul. We made it after another hour or so, and the view was truly remarkable. Walking across the glacier was an

incredible experience bundled with fear, awe, and my legs nearly giving out. By far, this is the hardest physical challenge I have ever tackled, and it stood in stark contrast to the life of luxury and celebration I had enjoyed on the boat the previous night.

Midway through the hike I began to look for God's revelation during this time. It seemed like a good time for God to speak, since my fatigue left me in more silence than I normally demonstrate in a day. I became aware that my twelve friends were all exhausted but were also all pushing to the top of the volcano. We were all driven to see the sight of the top, to ascend to our goal. And for what purpose? Personal victory? Good story? Great photo? I confessed to God, "I have not ever worked this hard for *your* purposes. I have never pushed this hard for *your* goals."

This is where the comparison breaks down between my trip and Christ's Lenten extravaganza - Jesus chose to suffer and die on our behalf. I worked for my own gain. Christ's endurance through the suffering is as overwhelming as the vast Andes Mountains towering over the seemingly endless lakes of Chile. My prayer has now become that God would help me to work volcano-climbing hard for life-giving goals, restoring the Creator's kingdom to wholeness. I also pray that you will join me.





## A LENTEN JOURNEY

By Krissi Moore

Recently, a group of my coworkers (also lovingly known as my friends) were able to take a journey together to Chile. We had been heavily recruited to take this trip by another coworker who happens to be Chilean. The country is beautiful with rivers, lakes, ocean, and mountains at every turn. How could I behold this beauty and not sing praises to God? Yet, it was not just the joy of creation that spoke to me on this trip, and I wanted to share a portion of my journey with you that I felt was well-timed for the Lenten season.

Part 1 correlates to Palm Sunday, also referred to as the Triumphal Entry. Matthew 21 and Mark 11 record Jesus riding into Jerusalem and crowds of people gathering to see him and praise him. Scholars seem to imply that this is like the entry of a king coming home after being victorious in battle, riding high and feeling the adoration of the people.

We got a small taste of this royal treatment on my trip: an annual lights parade is held on the water in Valdivia along the Calle-Calle River. It is a celebration of the city's birthday and the ending of the summer season. People line up all along the riverfront with vendors selling foods and handcraft goods; all are waiting from midday to see the line of boats floating along at night, competing to have the best decorations and luminescence. My group was on a dinner cruise travelling alongside the boats of the parade, so we smiled and waved as if all the people had gathered to see us. We started chants with the people on the shore for fun, which further adds to the biblical comparison of people singing, "Hosanna in the highest" as Jesus passes by on his yacht-like donkey.

The party continued well into the night. We drove back to our cabanas and got fifteen minutes of sleep. Then, we begin Part 2.

Jesus begins Passion Week in the days following Palm Sunday. We recall the Chief Priests plotting, Judas betraying, disciples dining, and then Jesus stepping away to pray in the garden. We remember (or will soon be reminded) of Jesus' suffering as well as His faithful resolve to follow God completely all the way through the crucifixion. Each painful portion of Holy Week reminds us of another portion of Christ's misery. Yet, He kept moving forward toward the goal.

Here goes my group on little sleep, beginning our Day of Passion as we ascend Osorno Volcano. We began early in the morning so that we could see the sunrise as we climbed. As soon as we got out of the car at a few thousand feet above sea level already, I knew I needed to make it to the top, where a glacier covers the ground. I was instantly captured by the sight, with or without a sunrise. We climbed steadily uphill through left over lava ash at a forty-five degree slope. After approximately ten minutes, I felt like I might have to rethink the exhilaration I sensed when first stepping out of the car. That quickly,

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## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are a series of artistic representations of the Passion of Christ, depicting the story of his death from his sentencing to the laying of his body in the tomb. The fourteen images are used devotionally during the Lenten season for prayer and reflection.

The stations provide an opportunity for Christians to enter into the story of Christ's suffering and experience a relationship with a God who suffers with us.

This specific series of stations combine images depicting the struggle for LGBT equality through the 20th and 21st century. Each station illustrates the many ways in which the pursuit of justice for LGBT peoples is embedded in the history of the United States.

Trinity UMC, in partnership with and with help and encouragement from our sister congregation, Binghampton United Methodist Mission, is hosting this Stations of the Cross series, depicted by artist Mary Button, Good Friday, March 30th, from 12:00 to 5:00 in the TUMC Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to come and view this rendition of the last week of Jesus' life in it's modern interpretation. Come and stay as long as you'd like. You are invited to view, pray, journal your thoughts, and spend time in the presence of Jesus.



# ROOM IN THE INN MEMPHIS

Five new chances to  
share God's love  
through hospitality

By Lois M. Young

On Sunday, the Trinity Church Council approved our plan to have an extra Room in the Inn session each month during the off season. Room in the Inn-Memphis Director Lisa Anderson decided to not hold sessions during May and October, so we can be sure to recharge after this winter season and plan well for the next season in the fall.

So, we will hold five extra sessions, the last Tuesday of each month—May through September. I asked all our RITI volunteers to weigh in on this idea before it went to the church council. More than 20 people offered to help make this happen and four groups said they would be willing to provide meals. Now, I just need to arrange all the meals.

Many thanks to everyone who offered to help serve and feed our guests during these special sessions, and also to those who recently donated funds for RITI. I know those funds will make this new venture possible.

## Troop 13 to the Rescue

A few weeks ago, I emailed some groups that were signed up to provide the upcoming evening meals for our Room in the Inn sessions. I try to get to everyone a week or two ahead of their assigned dates. This time one group needed to cancel. A little panic set in, but I immediately emailed the leaders of several groups who have helped us in the past to see if they would be able to pick up the March 13 date. I heard from Rob Landrigan right away. He said, "The Scouts can do it." He arranged for the Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack families to pitch in. They cooked up a meal that our guests have been asking for – grilled hamburgers with tater tots. They even made Dutch oven cheesecake and cobbler. We are so grateful for their enthusiasm and willingness to jump right in when the need arose.

## What do our guests need

I am often asked what we need right now to help serve our RITI guests. Lately, we are short on reading glasses (all powers), book lights, paperback novels and current magazines.

They also need your prayers. One guest was worried a few weeks ago when she was about to have a pacemaker placed the following week. She came through the procedure well and has renewed energy. I'm thankful for everyone who prayed for her during that time. Keep up the good work.

## Easter Weekend Fun for Kids

It's getting closer all the time! Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> will be a big day at Trinity Church! We will have **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** at 9 a.m., followed by the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** (rain or shine) at 10 a.m. Many thanks to all who helped provide candy and eggs for this fun event. Lots of helping hands filled almost two thousand plastic eggs at last Sunday's church-wide breakfast. Of course, on the big day we will need lots of **volunteers to help at the breakfast and hunt**: greeters, egg hidiers, activity supervisors, and cleaner-uppers. Contact Irene Dycus ([irenebdycus@hotmail.com](mailto:irenebdycus@hotmail.com) or 652-1105) or Joan Smith to volunteer your services.

Here's something we all can do: Be sure to invite neighboring children, family members, and friends to join in the fun. Voluntary cost of admission for all who attend the Saturday events is canned food or cash donations toward the Binghampton Food Pantry.

Our Children's Sunday School Class also filled 80 Easter baskets this past Sunday for the children at New Directions Family Residence, a ministry of the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope. Generous donations of candy, toys, and cash from our church family helped provide the resources for this worthy project. We couldn't have done it without you!



## BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE

We cannot say "Thank You" enough for your generosity in donating to the grocery voucher fund so we can continue to help those who lack the basic needs for life. Although we had to curtail giving out vouchers for a time, we are happy to announce that the fund is still growing!

Thanks to you, we were able to start up the Grocery Voucher program again on March 7th. Nine individuals picked up vouchers on the 7th, and another 10 people will receive vouchers on March 21st. As before, we are limiting distribution of vouchers to the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and give out ten each time. When unable to fulfill a particular need, we refer folks to the Binghampton Food Pantry, where they can receive 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."