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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



Because the Holy Spirit Says So

“...because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was

weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

Romans 8:2-6

Have you ever sat down and planned something really important? In high school it was the ultimate plan for the rest of my life. I mapped out a to-do list. And, to my delight, I’ve just about stuck to it!

However, have you ever sat down and planned something really important and had a **holy interruption**? Has the Holy Spirit ever swooped in and said, “Not today!” or “I’ve got a different idea of what you should do.” It can be a disappointing reality for the type-A’s. We love our check-lists and plans. We love the illusion of control. Because the Holy Spirit doesn’t take control...we can still ignore what the Spirit is telling us. But that doesn’t usually go over well.

Early in ministry, I served a charge of churches outside of Trenton, Tennessee. It was my third year out of seminary. This particular week I’d fought hard with the sermon. Fighting with a plan is probably a signal that the Holy Spirit has a different idea — not something I was aware of just yet. So, I’d fought hard with the sermon. I’d “put words on paper.” I’d put really good words on paper. They spoke to the scripture. It was a thorough exegesis. It was a message worth hearing. It would ‘work.’ It was also complete junk. At least, that’s what the Holy Spirit said in the least friendly of ways.

That Sunday I took the sermon to my first church — Eaton UMC. I stood up to preach. About two sentences in, my stomach began to turn which became a terrible distraction. So I stumbled over the words. Even that early in ministry, I never stumbled over the words. I even tripped heading back to my seat when I was finished. I could tell by the looks on folks’ faces that, at the very least, they knew I felt like I’d failed. It was a

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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:

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 with Tumefactive MS

Kanyan Glover, **Chris Glover’s** great-nephew, waiting on heart transplant

at Le Bonheur. **Donnie Glover**, ongoing chemo for leukemia; his wife

Sandra has a broken vertebra; sister **Chris** also has broken vertebra from an auto accident.

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

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Dick Faulk, **Charlotte Comes’** cousin, now in Hearthside assisted living

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Paige Warmath, **Alyson Foreman’s** cousin, brain tumor removed, but

needs further treatment; Paige’s husband, **Brad**, recovering from illness

Family and friends of **Charlie Hopkins**, who died in his sleep on May 6th.

Tom Wilson, recovering from knee surgery at home.

Charlotte Comes, break in L1 vertebra, no surgery planned for now.

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

Upcoming

EVENTS

Guatemalan Mobile Consulate

Representatives of the Guatemalan Consulate will be on site here at Trinity UMC May 18 & 19. They will be meeting on the upper floor with Guatemalan citizens, so worship will take place on Sunday, May 19th, in the Worship Center as usual.

Youth Group Mid-Week Meeting

On Wednesday, May 15th, the youth will meet at Area 51 Ice Cream at 6:00 p.m. On Thursday, May 23rd, they will share a meal in the Youth Room.

UMW Meetings

The UMW Unit Meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. on May 21st in the Worship Center. The Evening Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. on May 27th, same location.

Manna on Monday

Servers needed on May 20th 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.

Holy Communion

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

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.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is May 20th. 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.

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terrible feeling and one that seemed to come out of nowhere.

That Sunday I had an hour between worship no. 1 and worship no. 2. Usually I went ahead to the second church and ducked in a Sunday school class to listen and chime in when invited. Instead, that day I went straight to the parsonage where I sat on the couch and cried like a baby. What on earth was happening!? It had been such a difficult week for no good reason. I'd completely stumbled through the message during worship, which was heartbreaking for me. You may or may not know this, but we really do put a lot of work and prayer and often our hearts into what we prepare for Sunday. At the very least, I'd prayed over this message and fought really hard with it. At the end of the week, I really thought I'd won the fight, but clearly I hadn't. What on earth was I going to do at my next church?

I sat on the couch in the living room and prayed again. It seemed like a good idea, and I didn't have any others. When I was finished praying, I sat and thought about all that had happened in the world that week. And when I did this, I realized that where my message was theologically sound, it wasn't addressing the problems and needs in our world. It wasn't anything that had filtered its way through my heart. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I couldn't preach it again — not that day. But what was I going to do?

When I arrived at the second church I was a nervous wreck. I knew what I had to offer in worship wasn't what I was supposed to give them. They deserved better than my train wreck with the Holy Spirit. When I stood up to preach, a wave of confidence overcame me and I decided to be authentic and truthful with my people. I admitted to the congregation what had transpired at Eaton. I told them that the Holy Spirit must be at work because it's the only thing I could imagine was interrupting **my plan**. I offered them the scripture and let the Spirit do the rest. Today, I can't begin to tell you what I said that morning. At the end of worship, my lay leader stood up and invited me to the altar to kneel. The entire congregation came around me and prayed and gave thanks for God's work in me. It's a moment I'll never forget.

That morning I gave thanks for God's work ON me. I recalled that I was still a work in progress and that the work we're commissioned to do isn't ours. It's God's. We aren't called to offer you words of constant encouragement — feel-good messages that let you leave inspired every single Sunday. That's impossible! There's no one message that'll do that for everyone. I promise. I've wasted time trying. All we **are** called to be is faithful and that takes on many different forms.

Perhaps this week it's a message that calls us to action around or concerning some injustice that works against the Kingdom ethic in our world. Maybe next Sunday it's a reminder to care for and love one another in times of hurt. Next month maybe it's time to hear about

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something we can do as a church to make the world a better place in the name of Christ. I don't know. We're not there yet. But I do know that even if we're not asking for it, the Spirit of God will show us the way. It'll comfort us when we submit our own wishes. It'll stand beside us when we are bold enough to allow It to work through us. It'll not forsake us in our faithfulness.

And so, Trinitarians, I hope you'll join me in praying, "Come, Holy Spirit. Come."

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

GET READY FOR BLAST OFF!



Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Perry Hughes*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Kay Rauscher Dortch*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Dana & Laurie Mitchell*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Margaret Dominy*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Sue Caradine*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Mrs. Peggy Kinney*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Nancy J. Deloach*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Mary Ann Sturdivant*

*In memory of **Chuck Comes** from Nancy J. Wheatley*

An Honorarium has been received:

*In honor of **Mike & Rosemary Potter** from Irene Dycus*



"Save the Date"

The 2019 Memphis Annual Conference will be held at Collierville United Methodist Church on June 2—4. You can go to the Conference website for details: <https://www.memphis-umc.net/>.



LAKESHORE

united methodist camp & retreat center

Lakeshore summer camps provide ways that our children and youth can experience life, love, and the God of Grace. If you are interested in providing this opportunity for your child(ren), please refer to the Lakeshore website (<http://www.lakeshorecamp.org>). You may contact Carol Miller at 901-647-1329 or the church office for more information. Partial scholarships may be available through the church. Also, please consider making a donation to the Lakeshore Summer Camp Fund. This fund helps to alleviate the financial burden for our families.

.....from the Music Ministry

by John Holtzman



Spring is soon turning into summer and summer means vacation season is on its way. Our wonderful choir who has worked tirelessly to sing in our services will be having a well-deserved break starting the third Sunday of June. This will continue until the end of July when the choir will once again minister in the services.

I know so many of you enjoy our choir as I enjoy directing and accompanying them each week. However during the break Pastor Sara and I have come up with an idea for the time in the service when the choir typically sings and it involves you. No, I will not be going out into the congregation, passing out music, making you come forward, and fill in for the choir (although that might be fun to do sometime). In the next few weeks Pastor Sara will be adding a form in the bulletin where you can write down the titles and/or page number of your favorite hymns. We will select from these requests each week and sing some of these songs during the time in the service when the choir sings. This will give you the opportunity to sing your favorite hymn that you have not heard in a while.

I am looking forward to this as it allows me to learn what your favorite songs are. When the form comes out in the bulletin, make sure to make your selection and I will do my best to play and lead us in the songs that are special to you.



2019 "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" Thank You

Alyson Foreman and the Children's Department of Trinity wish to thank everyone who helped make this year's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny the huge success that it was. Despite the rain, fifty children and thirty-nine adults from the community registered for breakfast and the egg hunt. An additional thirty-nine Trinity members logged over three hundred volunteer hours. Special thanks go to our Easter bunny, Julian; however, each person who decorated, worked on publicity, welcomed the community, found and set up the blessing tree, sorted and stuffed eggs, cooked breakfast, donated prizes, supervised crafts, hid eggs, cleaned up afterward, or took care of myriad other details has our sincere thanks. A great time was had by all. After our egg hunt, in outward facing ministry Alyson and Kathy Isbell delivered an additional six hundred eggs to the Salvation Army Purdue House for their children. Over one thousand new eggs are counted and ready for next year's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Save the date for the **Saturday before Good Friday 2020** and come have breakfast with the Easter bunny!

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

May 7 Allane Demetrio
May 10 Mac McConnell
May 14 Jeri Ashley
May 15 Bertha Ching
May 27 Mike Dodson
May 27 Jenna McClurken
May 27 Josh McClurken
May 28 Chris Glover

[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.]



May Calendar of Youth Activities

Sunday School—Youth Room
9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday
mornings

**Schedule for Wednesdays
(6:00 to 7:00 p.m.)**

May 15th—Area 51 Ice Cream
May 22nd—End of School
Dinner @ TUMC Youth Room

WHAT'S IN A
NAME?



Thank you for wearing your new nametags! As you saw in Rev. Sara's letter last week, we wore nametags at Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and decided to make them available on Sunday mornings for worship.

Debby and I have been pondering a way to make them easily available on Sunday mornings. As you have seen, we have a temporary solution. We'd love to have your ideas and assistance in coming up with a way to store the nametags that is attractive and accessible.

If you do not have a nametag, please email or call Amy Moritz, and I'll print one for you (amycmoritz@gmail.com or 901-463-0983).



Left: Carol Miller and Kathy Isbell laugh with a Clothes Closet "customer" from the 2018-2019 winter season of Room in the Inn. Above: Mike Potter helps winter guests unload .

Remember: The summer season of Room in the Inn began on May 1st and extends to September 30th. Participating churches host women and their children once a month during the summer. Trinity's host dates are May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, and September 24. CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS: Ladies items only! SUMMER clothes, deodorant, bras, and underwear; Gold Bond powder.

Please Feed the Pastor's Program Fund!

Believe it or not, the Grocery Voucher Fund is still quite healthy! (Praise God!) 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."