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TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Trinitas

June 28, 2018

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PokemonGo Ye Therefore (the reprisal)

I wrote an article 2 years ago this August called "PokemonGo Ye Therefore." I lived in Paducah then and the release of a new game for smartphones had swept, not the nation, but the world. Children and youth and young adults (and later I'd find, grandparents with their grandkids), were hitting the streets in droves in search of virtual mythical creatures. It was hilarious! You could walk through any public park, downtown street, or local suburb and watch zombie-like creatures that were once "human beings" somewhat glued to their devices while searching for the rarest of creatures.

Well, of course, I had to see what this was about. Our youth would be playing it. This seemed like a good enough excuse. I downloaded the app and soon discovered a thing or two I never expected to discover.

When the game released, I would go to downtown Paducah and watch as 100-or-so total strangers would gather together in parking lots, poised with their phones raised, trying to play the game – laughing, chatting, and comparing what they had. Night after night it would be the same. I soon realized that our church was a virtual 'gym' in the game and so I set up a water station outside the church with a prayer box every day because people would be walking right by the church to play and it was hot outside. The cooler emptied several times a day and a handful of people took the time to jot down prayer concerns. I set up a charging station for phones because, well, people were gathering together in ways that the church was unable to connect people, and this was something we could do to offer radical hospitality.

And on that…

You know, as a pastor, two years after the release of this game, and playing it frequently now with the boys and Josh, I'm still a bit confused. There is a "free" phone app that is creating community faster and better than any church that I have ever been a part of. How on earth did it happen? It's a really simple "game." It's fool-proof. It's got me coming back again and again baffled and hopeful that somehow the Church can figure out how to find the same sense of common-ground, community-like relationship outside its doors.

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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 Corum, her new husband Josh McClurkan, and their 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 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, baby born with serious health problems and not expected to survive, celebrated her four-month birthday on June 20th. Doing well!
Mary McConnell's niece **Laura Fellin**, cancer—pray for her family
Phil Phillips continues to battle leukemia at home.
Chris Glover's brother struggling with kidney stones.
Chris Glover's nephew's baby had successful surgery and was born June 9th.
Maxine Guerry, friend of **Jim Schaeffer**, diagnosed with abdominal cancer
Chuck Wood, **Rosemary Potter**'s brother, undergoing treatment for MRSA.
Dennis Vann, recovering from a serious on-the-job injury.
Micah Soard, 2 year old son of United Methodist missionaries, **Eric & Liz Soard**, in Tanzania with unexplained rare disease. Now in the U.S. for treatment at LeBonheur. (Friends of Rev. Sara.)
Kathryn "Gigi" Ellis, serious health problems.
Marico Mason, may be facing lung transplant.
Jay Allmon's fiancée, **Elizabeth Loggins**, completed surgery with good outcome. Continue to pray for her healing.
Jeri Ashley, heart catheterization scheduled for Monday, July 2nd.

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

Upcoming EVENTS

Board of Trustees Meeting
The trustees will meet on Monday, July 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Holy Communion
Wednesday communion will be served July 11th, but not on the 4th, 18th, or 25th.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee
The SPRC will meet in the Conference Room on Sunday, July 15th, following worship.

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

Room in the Inn—Emergency Summer Housing
On the fourth Tuesday of each month through September 25th, Trinity will provide overnight housing, a meal, and clothes closet access on an emergency basis. Housing will be limited to women without shelter.

Covenant Discipleship
The Wednesday evening Covenant Discipleship group continues to gather at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Church Council
The Church Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, July 29th, following worship. Members of the congregation are welcome.

Trinotes
The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is July 9th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston, our administrator, 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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I've made dozens of new friends since we moved to Memphis that have nothing to do with the church. We gather at Overton Park for PokemonGo Community Day once a month and meet up to play here and there during the week. Two of my best new friends in Memphis – folks I hang out with regularly now – are people we met playing PokemonGo. They are not connected to the church and are being introduced to the church in a new way because of who Josh and I are. When we gather with dozens of others, Poke-players know that we're the pastors. It baffles people (which, of course, is funny to us. We're just normal people.) We've seen some of Trinity's Scouts playing, as well as folks who frequently visit the church. I guess, somehow, this makes me the "cool pastor."

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider ***how*** to stir up one another to love and good works, ***not neglecting to meet together***, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Something is stirring the world. It's unfortunate for us that it's not directly the love of Christ, but the world is stirring. People are meeting together and fellowshipping – making relationships with each other – complete strangers – in a way that they never have before. It's coming easily, this common ground. I wonder what might be if we dared to wander about as well. Might we find that we are able to bridge gaps more easily than we actually ever imagined? Gospel opportunities happen best in relationships made – daring to make them our challenge. Don't be surprised when the opportunity to build a community happens in an unlikely venue. Embrace unconventional opportunities to be a part of a Gospel stirring.

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

UMC Quiz Time!

Interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church and its history? Go to ww.trinityumcmemphis.org and click on the "About" tab. Scroll down the page, which has the TUMC mission and vision statements at the top, and click on the "Take a Quiz!" button at the bottom. From there, you will be linked to the quiz of the week. Right now, it's about John Wesley, but you can follow links to other quizzes on the UMC website. Enjoy!

Rolling River Rampage is just a couple of weeks away now! Yes, **Vacation Bible School** will take place at Trinity Church July 16-20, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily. Many adult and youth volunteers have graciously volunteered to share their time and talents with the children who will come our way during this exciting week of faith, fun, and fellowship.

Here are two of the most important things we can **ALL** do in preparation for VBS:

- **PRAY** FOR ALL WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, and
- **INVITE** CHILDREN WHO ARE PRESCHOOL AGE THROUGH FIFTH GRADERS TO JOIN US!

Then continue to pray each day of this fun and Spirit-filled week as we help the children who are our "rafters" explore how to serve God and how to discover God's mission for their lives.

Volunteers are still welcome to join us as decoration helpers, registration personnel, or daily volunteers who are willing to serve wherever needed! If you can't be a hands-on helper, perhaps you will consider making a donation toward the general costs of VBS or to benefit one or both of this year's two mission projects for VBS — Room in the Inn and Binghampton Food Pantry. To offer your time, talents, or services of any kind, contact one of our VBS Co-Directors, Irene Dycus (phone 652-1105 or email at irenebdycus@hotmail.com) or Joan Smith (phone 218-8978 or email at smith.joan@hotmail.com).

Save the Dates!!

Saturday, August 4th, 4:00 – 6:00: Back-to-School Bash! Our 2nd annual back-to-school bash will take place on the church lawn. We'll have blow-up water jump houses, hot dogs, games, and fellowship. This is for the whole community so mark your calendars and spread the word!

Sunday, August 5th: Blessing of the Backpacks. During worship we're inviting students and educators to bring their backpacks, gym bags, brief-cases, and school totes for a special blessing to kick off the school year.

Saturday and Sunday, August 18th and 19th: Trinity is hosting the Guatemalan Mobile Consulate out of Atlanta. Please be in prayer for this event and how God might be leading us to show acts of kindness and hospitality to our guests.

Benevolence Giving Update

As of June 20, we have distributed 88 grocery vouchers in 2018 to individuals needing assistance. Another 20 people are registered for vouchers to be handed out in July. **Thanks to you** and your generosity, we are able to provide this vital service to the underserved in our community. A special thanks goes to our United Methodist Women for the money they collected at their June 25th dinner.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries School Supplies Distribution

In 2017, over 500 students in Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky received supplies. Items from the list posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen are needed and appreciated. Students will receive items on their "required supplies list" according to what is in stock at RRM at the time of their visit. Please bring the school supplies you wish to donate to the lobby of Trinity's education building during the month of July. We will have a box available for you to deposit your donations. The needs list will be available on July 1st as an insert in your worship bulletin. Monetary donations will also be accepted and can be mailed to RRM Community Center, 6923 Minnick-Elbridge Rd., Obion, TN 38240-3093 or put in the offering plate during Sunday worship.

VBS Science Supplies Needed

- 9" x 12" pieces of corrugated cardboard (or a size close to that)
- 50 craft sticks ("popsicle sticks")
- 2 liter soft drink bottles, empty, with their caps
- Plastic or metal lemon juicer (I will return this after VBS)
- Food coloring
- Large aluminum foil baking pans (like the ones for roasting a turkey)
- Plain kitchen sponges

Extra Mile Giving??

There's always a need somewhere, especially when you're thinking of the church. Our IT expert has advised us that our 5+ year old computers are on the way out. That doesn't mean that they are going to crash and burn next week, but rather that we need to be prepared "just in case." I know it seems like we're always asking for money, but, unfortunately, nothing seems to come free! We do not have money in the budget this year for the purchase of new office equipment, but if you want to go that extra mile in your giving, think about designating a few dollars to upgrading our computers. (This needs to be over and above your pledge or any giving related to feeding or helping those living in poverty.)
Call me at (901) 274-6895 of you have questions.

Wishing you enough,
Debby Marston

What Happened at Annual Conference?

By Jeri Ashley

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Memphis Annual Conference on June 3-5, 2018. It was held in Paducah, Kentucky (not far from my alma mater!). This was the 179th session as well as the 50th anniversary of the United Methodist Church. The theme of the conference was *"See all the People"* and it was 3 days of worship, celebration, reports, resolutions, and debate led by Bishop William McAlilly, who proved to be a deeply dedicated and inspired man of God. It was a great pleasure to observe him lead a very large group of people and to minister individually to those who came to speak with him. Although I am quite sure I will not cover everything that happened, I will hit the highlights that were most meaningful to me.

- Evening Worship on Sunday, June 3rd, Reverend Junius Dotson, the General Secretary for the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church, preached on the death of Moses as recorded in Deuteronomy. Rev. Dotson prepared us by giving us the message that Moses was not going to see the land of the promise. As Christians, our task is not to reach the Promised Land, but to prepare those who will take on the task of spreading the Gospel of Christ when we leave.
- As Bishop McAlilly announced the second day of annual conference, the Word was preached by Stephen Shephard, who encouraged us to love others like you find them. And he challenged us with this statement: "It is not the size of the congregation that matters, but the size of the faith of the congregation."
- The Board of Ordained Ministry Report by Jonathan Jeffords reported that there were seven candidates to be ordained as elders in the United Methodist. These seven included our own Rev. Sara Corum and the Rev. Mike Potter.
- On Monday afternoon, we were involved in the first teaching session by Rev. Junius Dotson called "See all the People." He spoke of the process of the "winning game plan" for engaging the community in the ministries and life of the church. He reminded us that the word "Go" is uses many times in the scriptures as a command to the church, and that the church is at its best when we go in service. And in going, Jesus gave the disciples specific instructions: go with prayer, go with urgency, and go unburdened by worldly worries. Rev. Dotson went on to describe the winning game plan for "seeing all the people!"
    - ◊ Stay true to the team identity. We go out as a surrendered people and as children of God who are sold on God's ministry!
    - ◊ Adapt to changing circumstances. We carry a message that never changes, but our methods of carrying the message will change over time.
    - ◊ The message of Christ always offers hope. Jesus must be the center of the message which is indeed the Good News!"
- A report on *Project Transformation*—the program that provides books and reading assistance to children in book-poor neighborhoods during the summer so that reading skills are not lost—was highlighted. Not only were the number of

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children who through the program celebrated, but so were the volunteers (many of them teen-agers) were also praised for their work. In Memphis, this work has grown from two sites (Long Street UMC and Centenary UMC) to a third site at Scenic Hills.

The 2019 Budget for the Memphis Conference presented the budget with a cover letter which said:

- The Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church is a connectional church. We operate as more than 400 churches working together to SEE ALL THE PEOPLE. Together, we fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In 2018 the Memphis Conference began a new system for funding its budget. The council on Finance and Administration (CFA) made a deliberate choice to follow a Biblical TITHING MODEL that invites each local church to faithfully respond to the resources they have been given for ministry by returning a tithe to the conference. A commitment has been made to continue this practice into 2019. We are challenged to adapt our thinking to serve with an expectation of abundance, not scarcity, and remain focused on our mission to shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time. Tithing to the conference is an understandable and achievable method of funding the conference for all our churches, whether large or small in membership, and whether located in an urban or rural setting. Tithing better enables congregations to support the connectional ministries of the conference and United Methodist denomination while also being able to launch and sustain neighborhood and community ministries. The Council on Finance and Administration has intentionally chosen to align the budget with the Memphis Conference's mission statement and areas of focus to transform all geographic areas God calls us to serve. Lastly, this budget for 2019 supports all areas of focus:
    * Investing in young people.
    * Engaging the mission field.
    * Creating transforming Lay and Clergy leaders.
    * Growing fruitful and faithful congregations.
- The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The 32-member Commission has been meeting since January 2017 in various places throughout the global denomination to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church. The Commission will present its final report to the Council of Bishops at the April/May meeting in Chicago. At that meeting, the bishops will decide what will be received and acted upon by the delegates to the Special

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Thanks for the memories…

(This is a letter from Dr. Philip K. Hoffman, reprinted by permission.)

Dear Rev. Sara,

Mom (Phyllis Hoffman) and my wife Cindy and I wanted to send a small offering to Trinity in memory of my grandparents Elsie and Walter Hoffman, Sr., and their children Margaret Ann Hoffman Reynolds, Walter Hoffman, Jr., and Dan Hoffman, all of whom moved to Memphis from Windsor, Connecticutt and joined Trinity UMC 80 years ago this summer. Edna Hoffman is the only one of us currently living in Memphis and attending Trinity, and we would like to honor her, as well.

Trinity has kindly been sending Trinotes to my mother for some time, and she really enjoys keeping up with what has been happening back "home." Mom is now 98 and in assisted living here in Maryville. When I stopped in to see her a few days ago, she gave me the most recent Trinotes and said, "Have you seen what the new pastor has been doing at Trinity?" She is most impressed, as am I. Trinity seems to be thriving, and we are grateful to you for all you've been about there. And I'd like to specifically mention how much we all enjoy your personal notes at the beginning of each Trinotes.

We have so many wonderful memories of Trinity, and I still see some names and faces of old friends in the bulletin. God bless you and Trinity UMC.

Sincerely,
Philip K. Hoffman, M.D.

July 1	Lois Young
July 2	Jamie Skjoldager
July 7	Julie McMahan
July 10	Joey Hopper
July 11	Laura Finch
July 13	Maggi Comes
July 15	Aiden Tate
July 16	Ron Raybuck
July 17	Tony Hayes
July 18	Elaine Amis
July 20	Connie Johns
July 22	Dorothy Sue Smith
July 22	Krissie Moore
July 23	Ron Maddox
July 25	Richard Ashley
July 26	Steve Humbert
July 26	Madeleine Edwards
July 27	Mike Potter

Troop 13 Campout

Fourteen Boy Scouts, including four new Webelo Scouts, attended summer camp at Camp Kia Kima in Hardy, Arkansas during the week of June 10-16. For the Webelos, this was their first camping trip as Boy Scouts, and the summer storm that passed through that week was pretty alarming. It included a hail storm, which made for some exciting —and even scary— times. However, the boys survived intact and were named the Honor Troop for the week. They were also recognized for the cleanest campsite that week.

During the camp, the Scouts cooked all their own meals, worked on earning merit badges, went swimming in the South Fork River, and found out exactly how many slushies they can sneak in before being cut off.

Summer Cub Scout Activities

Other upcoming activities include:

- June 23 at 4:00 p.m.—Cub Scout Rocket Launch on the Overton Park Greensward. They will hopefully avoid the rocket and kite eating trees, as well as low-flying FedEx planes.
- July (TBD) - Troop 13 Bike Ride from Trinity UMC down the Greenline to Shelby Farms, and, if they survive, ride back!
- July 22 at 3:00 p.m.—Cub Scout Planning Meeting. Parents interested in helping to plan for the 2018-2019 year, come lend a hand.
- August 4 at 2:00 p.m.—Youth Protection Training. Any adult involved with BSA youth is required to complete this training every two years.
- August 12 at 3:00 p.m.—First Cub Scout Meeting, boys and girls are all welcome.

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Session of the General Conference set for St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019.

At the Memphis Annual Conference, the report on the Commission on a Way Forward was to change verbiage in the United Methodist Discipline where there was disagreement about section P161.5. This section discusses same sex marriage and ordination of individuals who are self-avowed homosexuals, which impairs our ability to reach the LGBTQ community. At this annual conference, it was voted that this be changed to reflect a more open stance to same sex marriage and ordination. The report and further voting will take place in 2019 at the Special Session.

These are only a few of the things I learned at Annual Conference. In addition, the Conference is responsible for a number of ministries that are thriving and extending the word of Christ to a hurting world. I believe that it would be helpful for Trinity to be more aware of these services, but I would like to hear from you. If knowing more about the work of our denomination would be helpful, let me know and I will include short descriptions in future *Trinotes.*

The next annual conference will be held at Collierville UMC on June 2-6, 2019.

Top left photo: The laying on of hands for Rev. Sara Corum's ordination on June 4, 2018.

Photo at right: The ordination of Rev. Mike Potter on June 4, 2018.

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Mary & Bill McConnell*
*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Carol & Carey Miller*
*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Rita & John Allmon*
*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Connie Johns*
*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Flip & Cile Brooks*
*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Elizabeth & David Hopper*

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **Bertha Ching** from Doris Porter*
*In honor of **Debby Marston** from Doris Porter*

Thank you for your support and encouragement...

Hello, dear people of Trinity,

It's been a year since Jonathan and I packed up (well, with a lot of help from Jinx and Connie!) and made the move from Memphis to Grand Rapids. We think of you daily, and we continue to hold you in our hearts. Our years with you, though short, were deeply meaningful and formative. As I reflect on the past year, I especially want to thank you for the generous send-off you gave us with the baby shower. Adjusting to parenthood has been an adventure, to say the least, and every time I use any of the baby items you so lovingly gave us or made for us, I truly feel your support and encouragement across the miles. We are eager for you to meet Elliott at some point; we'll certainly let you know when a Memphis visit is planned. Until then, our prayers are with you as you continue such vital ministry and witness in Midtown.

Peace in Christ,
Jessica, Jonathan, and Elliott Bratt Carle

ROOM IN THE INN MEMPHIS

Donations abound

By Lois M. Young

You have probably noticed that Room in the Inn at Trinity receives periodic donations of needed items in the bin that sits just outside the church kitchen. This month, we had two very large donations that would not fit in that bin.

Bombas for All

We recently received an incredible donation of 576 pairs of socks from the Bombas Socks company. That is 288 pairs of medium and 288 pairs of large. Wow! For every pair of Bombas socks that is purchased, they donate a pair to groups that serve the homeless. They definitely follow through with that pledge, so please support Bombas Socks the next time you need good socks. This huge donation will serve our homeless guests for a long time, and we still have plenty to share with other Room in the Inn-Memphis sites.

Kim Guleff arranged this awesome donation for us. She and her son Logan have been volunteering and attending vacation bible school at Trinity since he was very young, and they have prepared evening meals for our Room in the Inn guests and donated to this ministry. Logan is now a member of the Trinity Youth group. Many thanks to Kim for taking the time to pursue this donation for our RITI guests.

Super Service Sorority

Keisha Brooks, who is a member of a service sorority, contacted Debby in our church office about donating some feminine hygiene products for our summer RITI guests. Keisha empathizes with the homeless experience, and she knows these items are hard to get. Keisha's sorority sisters responded to her plea in a big way. They brought four big boxes and several smaller boxes and bags full of supplies. We will definitely be sharing much of this bounty with the city-wide Room in the Inn-Memphis program. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Keisha and her sorority sisters for supporting our guests in this way.

Items needed for RITI season

July is Antiperspirant/Deodorant Month! If you are out shopping, please throw in a few small, travel-sized antiperspirant/deodorants. Then, bring them to the Room in the Inn donation bin outside the church kitchen. It is so hot outside, and our homeless ladies need this important item.

#HOLYHOSPITALITY