



Trinity United Methodist Church
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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



Approaching the Manger

Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more.
1 Thess. 4:9-10

And we're here. We wrapped up worship for the second Sunday in Advent yesterday, recalling and reclaiming the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness to, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord and make straight his paths!" Some Sunday school classes are working on Christmas projects — sorting letters to our homebound members (because we love you very much), or gathering goods for Christmas families in need. Our Compassion Market, last weekend, empowered artisans from our neighboring Binghampton community. Our Tiny Pantry is full (and empty, and full, and empty), as we place food in it and continue to encourage the Evergreen Historic District to join us. We're feeding people. We're meeting people. We're loving people.

We have prepared our hearts to come to the manger...again.

Why do we do this every year? Sometimes the pomp and circumstance of it all is lost on us regular Sunday attendees. We know the story. Jesus parents were on the way to register themselves with the census in Bethlehem when they needed a place to stay overnight. There was no room in the inn. They stayed out back in what we've always called a stable but was more likely a cave with a feeding trough and a manger. There, with no midwife and no epidural, Mary birthed Jesus — the Messiah — the Son of God — God incarnate, and the story begins again. We move quickly from there to wise men, Jesus in the temple, water-to-wine, Lent, the Last Supper, and BOOM — Easter again.

We know the story. We know what it's all about. We 'keep Christ in Christmas.' It's what we do. Why do we come back to the manger every year? Why is this story on eternal repeat? What happened, happened and yet we act like it's happening again for the very first time, every single December.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in recent 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 deal with transitions. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, just turned 15.

Donnie Glover, chemo for leukemia continues, but doing well

Paige Warmath, **Alyson Foreman's** cousin, completed six weeks of treatment at West Clinic, but learned her brain tumor remained about the same, so she will receive six more weeks of treatment.

Kanyon Glover, heart transplant survivor; in and out of hospital

Jane Manning, friend of **Joe Hatter**, lung cancer, now home on hospice; **Joe**, as he cares for Jane at home

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosed with ENS & undergoing treatment; prayers still appreciated

Jane Collins still in rehab following a fall.

Gene & Irene Opel, ongoing health concerns

Dan Hoffman, Jr., recovering from November 20th heart bypass surgery

Tom Hassler, **Mary McConnell's** brother, recovering from a serious fall

Nancy Rankin's sister, **Betty Bell**, hospitalized for emergency intestinal surgery; to go into rehab for a month. Her husband, **Scott Bell**, as he provides for Betty's care at home in Colorado Springs.

Rev. Sara's grandmother, **Kathleen Corum**, has been hospitalized with atrial fibrillation. Please pray for her and Rev. Sara's father, **Tilman Corum**.

(Please contact the church office if you have additional prayer concerns, need a concern removed, or need to make a change or correction.)

Upcoming

EVENTS

Church Office Closings

The office will be closed from December 24th through January 1st for the Christmas break. We will return to regular hours on January 2nd.

Upcoming UMW Meeting

The UMW will meet at 12:00 noon at Shirley Flint's home on Tuesday, December 17th.

Youth Group—Go to <https://www.trinityumcmemphis.org/weekly-childrens-programs.html> for upcoming Youth activities.

Room in the Inn

Please e-mail Lois Young at loislane.young@gmail.com or call her at 901-359-4047 if you wish to volunteer for winter season tasks or meals.

Manna on Monday

The next Manna on Monday meal will be served on December 30th at St. Stephen's UMC. Servers/clean-up volunteers welcome! Plan to arrive by 11:50 a.m.

Holy Communion

A Service of Holy Communion is held in the Chapel each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. (Communion will not be served on Christmas Day or New Year's.)

Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00-11:00 a.m., fresh produce is distributed.

Covenant Discipleship

The Covenant Discipleship group continues to gather at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is December 9th. 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/e-newsletter.html

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I'm drawn to this verse from 1 Thessalonians 4. These words from Paul petition the churches in Macedonia to continue to love one another as God has taught them in Christ Jesus. I love most, however, the way it ends: "But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more."

Since January we've met continually as a church to discuss all of our next steps and the question has come up. We already feed people. Why add another feeding program? We already love people. Why are we talking about being more inclusive? We already house homeless people. We already have a clothes closet. We already engage our neighbors. We always say, "Yes!" Why are we talking about adding? Why are we talking about doing more?

Every December we come to the manger again to meet God — wrapped in swaddling clothing — small and helpless. We know the story. He will grow up. He will teach those who follow him. He will save us from ourselves that we might be one with God but also...

...that we might, "do so more and more."

Jesus said that we'll always have the poor with us, and we do. Jesus' ministry to the lepers, to the Gentiles, to the tax collectors, and to the blind are a message to us about those who are sick and marginalized. Jesus' continual rebuke of "the way it's always been" and the systems of this world that would put money-changer's tables in the temple, echo through time to now — before the manger again — calling us to remember what it meant that God chose to come into this world — that we might know love and so that we might do so [love] more and more.

Coming to the manger every year is so that we might again claim the mission of God who came to us that we might know love and that we might love, always, more.



In the Peace of the Christ child,

Rev. Sara

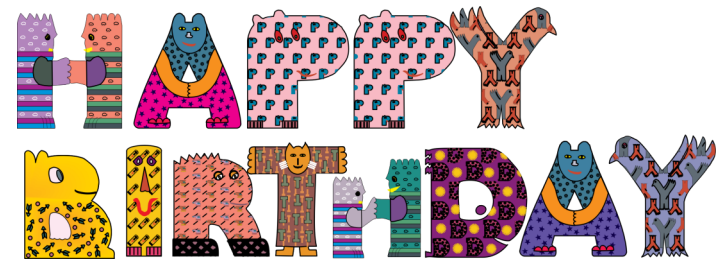
Children's Ministries to Host Holiday Party

This coming Sunday, December 15th, Trinity's Children's Ministries will be hosting a Holiday Party for the Cub Scouts of Pack 13 and the carolers from the Evergreen Historic District Association. This will be a two-part affair, due to there being two separate events taking place at different times that afternoon.

Therefore, **we need lots of volunteers to provide cookies and brownies for this fun afternoon!** (Cash donations toward the cause will also be greatly appreciated, if you don't have time to bake or buy.) The families of both these groups will come anticipating the same gracious hospitality they have enjoyed in past Advent/Christmas events, and we don't want to disappoint them. If you can provide a batch of cookies or brownies or if you want to make a cash donation, please contact Irene Dycus by emailing her at irenebdycus@hotmail.com or calling her at 652-1105. Please bring your treats to the church kitchen on Sunday morning, using dishes that do not have to be returned to you. **We also need hosts and hostesses who will help serve the treats and greet our neighbors who attend these events.**



Our Children's Ministries leaders are looking forward to another delightful time of food, fun, and fellowship with our scouting and neighborhood families! We hope you are, too!



December 16	Sue Taylor
December 17	Daniel Hoffman, Jr.
December 18	Bill Berry
December 18	Phil Isbell
December 21	Melba Abraham
December 21	Stephanie Potter
December 25	Carey Miller
December 28	Leslie Potter
January 1	John Curry
January 3	Kay Jordan
January 5	Eleanor Brooks
January 5	Roscoe Dodson
January 6	Tom Wilson
January 12	Doris Porter
January 15	Jeff Corbett
January 16	Joan Foley
January 16	Jay Keller
January 25	Irene Dycus
January 25	Lila Ruth Dycus
January 29	Caley Foreman
January 30	Carol Miller

[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.]

KIRK WHALUM
PRESENTS



8TH ANNUAL
**A GOSPEL
ACCORDING
TO JAZZ**
CHRISTMAS

FEATURED GUESTS



MAYSA



JOHN STODDART



KEVIN WHALUM



ADAM HAWLEY

FRIDAY **CROSSTOWN THEATER | 1350 CONCOURSE AVE**
DECEMBER 20, 2019 | 8:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT KIRKWHALUM.COM

In support of




**ROOM
IN THE
INN
MEMPHIS**
Celebrating 10 Years



Shelby County Commissioner
Mark Billingsley

Holiday Joy and Congregational Care

One of the ways that Trinity has traditionally shown extra love to our Special Care family members (names are listed below) is by sending Christmas cards. If you wish to participate, please bring your cards to the church before December 15th, with the recipient's name only written on each envelope. At the end of the service on the 15th, the cards will be on the tables in the back of the fellowship hall. If you feel led to deliver cards to one of our Special Care members, you'll have an opportunity to take those cards with you that day and make a special visit. Both you and your Special Care member will be blessed.

Jan Baker
Allane Demetrio
Julie McMahan
Ron Raybuck
Doris Webster

Jane Collins
Roscoe Dodson
Jean Moss
Hugh Stuart
Pat Lovington

John Curry
Richard Hackleman
Vanoma Newhart
John Stuart
Virginia Walters



Sean & Rowan Booth show off the Noah's Ark they constructed with Nana Joan Smith.



The Children's Sunday School class pauses to pose for a group picture. They do know how to have fun and learn, too!



“Pray for Peace”

by Irene Dycus

“Peace on earth, good will to people.” This was the message sung by the heavenly host to the shepherds on that first Christmas night, as they proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.



During this Advent and Christmas season, the children of Trinity Church will be helping prepare gift bags holding small candles

to share with our church family, as well as many others during the coming days. These candles are to remind us as people of faith to pray for peace during this holiday season and also throughout the coming year.

Whatever prayer you offer to God is up to you, and if you feel moved to seek peace in any manner great or small, then we give thanks for that. I will personally be praying for peace within each heart, within our families, with friends and neighbors, in our community, in our country, and throughout the world. We will also have examples of prayers to share, such as the beautiful Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. In addition, we hope that you will want to share our prayer candles with others whom you know. This will be an ongoing project for quite some time, and we appreciate your participation in it.



Interested in a game of Hearts?

A group of friends get together here at Trinity once a month

for a friendly game of Hearts. Everyone is welcome to join for a game once in a while or on an ongoing basis. All you have to do is show up on the 1st Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m. to gather in the Youth Room. The goal? Fun and fellowship!

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

by John Holtzman



I was prompted to write this article when Debby sent out an email to those of us contribute to the Trinotes which stated this would be the last installment for 2019. So I wanted to look back at what had taken place in 2019 in the music ministry.

First: I want to express my appreciation to each choir member who faithfully comes to choir practice each week. We are blessed to have vocalists who are willing to learn new music and work on songs from our library so they can be a blessing to the congregation each week. I have the opportunity to reap the harvest of the seeds that have been planted in our choir members by previous directors who have taught them how to sing together as a choir. I will admit I would love to have 25 or 30 choir members; however, I don't believe our Lord is looking at numbers. He is looking at faithfulness, and each week He sees that demonstrated through the lives of the Trinity choir. They are here, they sing, they minister.

Second: This year we elected to not do a musical or cantata for Christmas. However we chose to add something extra in each service. You may have noticed the choir is singing a selection each week before the lighting of the Advent candle. The song we have selected will grow each week as we journey through Advent and head toward the manger. We also have some great “Choral Acts of Praise” that we will be presenting each week. There will also be a few musical surprises in the coming weeks.

Last: 2020 is just days away. None of us know what lies ahead in the future. This sentiment is best written in the words of Ira Stanphill:

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said.
And today I'll walk beside Him, for He knows what is ahead.

Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand.
But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.

So we can look to the future with hope which is part of what the child in the manger brought to us on that first Christmas morning. For He is the one who holds tomorrow, and He gently and lovingly holds our hands.