

# 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.**



## Yesterday's Palms...

*"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." — Job 42:5-6*

They've been high atop a shelf in my office, laying on top of the pan in which they will burn — the same pan the palms burned in last year. I've watched them all year long, periodically thinking of their story and, in many ways, counting down the months until they, like the Phoenix in Greek mythology, will completely die and take on new life.

The children paraded in with them last Palm Sunday. They danced around, twirling in circles. I had to remind several of them, primarily my own, that the palms are not, in fact, light sabers. They made a mess with them, spreading them along the floor in front of the communion table and just within reach of the quilt that we put down for the children's message. More than one child was disappointed to leave the palm branches, understanding that they had much more interesting possibilities — more interesting than Lenten decor.

And then I gathered them after worship and brought them to my office until Maundy Thursday when I took a good number of them, only slightly wilted, and placed them on the communion table reminding us of that Palm Sunday celebration — of the joy of the people who lined the streets in Jerusalem — the children singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!" They were joy-filled and poised to receive their king — their Prince of Peace. And it was important to remember that celebration as Jesus said those words on Maundy Thursday, "Love and serve one another. Do this in remembrance of me," — these words the night before hosannas turned into, "Crucify him!"

Good Friday. Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday.

Then, they sat. They've been there on the top of the bookshelves all year. It's really the safest place they could be. Things get moved around a lot in the church and especially so in the last year as we "right-sized," and have had to make room for things. They've been where they won't get lost — where I won't lose them (let's be honest). They've been slowly but surely losing their life-force and preparing for the next great thing.

In two weeks I'll take the palms down and go outside to patiently burn them. It's sort of a sad thing. What's left of the green will turn to black and gray. The smell of an ashy death will be pretty apparent in my office. I'll mix them together and crunch what didn't fully burn. In the end I'll mix them with a little bit of oil and the ashes will look a bit more like a black paste.

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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

**George Stokely**, **Chris Glover's** nephew, autistic high school honor student suddenly acting out & dealing with anger.

**Paige Warmath**, **Alyson Foreman's** cousin, continuing treatment for brain tumor

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

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

**Jane Collins** still in rehab following a fall.

**Gene Opel**, very weak; currently in rehab to help him walk; **Irene Opel**, ongoing health concerns

**Nancy Rankin's** sister, **Betty Bell**, as she recovers from abdominal surgery & undergoes rehab; Betty's son **Matthew** as he cares for her in his Florida home

**Rev. Sara's** grandmother, **Kathleen Corum**, now home—please pray for her and Rev. Sara's father, **Tilman Corum**.

**Jeri Ashley's** health concerns

**Jane Waldrip**, recovering well following heart valve surgery

**Vivien Allen**, sister of **Elaine Amis**, recovering from a heart attack

The family of **Dennis Brown**, a military veteran and **Rita Allmon's** cousin, who died recently in Phoenix, AR

*(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

## **Upcoming UMW Meetings in the Worship Center**

The UMW Unit Meeting takes place in Tuesday, February 18th at 10:30 a.m. The UMW Evening Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24th. The Evening Circle is engaging in a Lenten study from Philippians, "Because of This, I Rejoice." Visitors are welcome!

## **Committee Meetings**

**Congregational Care** team will meet at noon in the Conference Room on Tuesday, February 18. **Community Connections Steering Committee** will meet February 19 in the Conference Room at 1:00 p.m.

**Youth Group**—Go to <https://www.trinityumcmemphis.org/weekly-childrens-programs.html> for upcoming Youth activities. (See schedule on page 5.)

## **Room in the Inn**

Please e-mail Lois Young at [loislane.young@gmail.com](mailto:loislane.young@gmail.com) or call her at 901-359-4047 if you wish to volunteer for winter season tasks. (See article on page 8.)

## **Holy Communion**

A Service of Holy Communion is held in the Chapel each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

## **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 February 24th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston at [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto: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](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org/e-newsletter.html)

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On Wednesday, you will come in to mark the beginning of the season of Lent — a season marked by personal wildernesses and self-examination — where bad habits will no longer linger as we deal with the nitty gritty — as we welcome a cleansing — as we reclaim, "Hosannah," and prepare for the coming of the Lord — the reign of Christ apparent in our lives — something that, at times, like the life-force in the palms, slowly and surely *seems* to leave us.

It's really amazing what the palms go through. They pull us into a beautiful and joy-filled celebration and then they wither and die a painful sort of death to prepare us for a time when we are to face our humanity and handle the blemishes and struggles, so that when Easter comes, the death of the palms (the claiming of our humanness) — the relinquishing of our sin — might usher us into new life, life abundant, and resurrection hope.

But first Lent. First we prepare to, over the course of 40 days, let things die. Maybe it'll be sad, like watching the life leave something we once thought was beautiful. Maybe it'll hurt, like a fire that burns to destroy rather than refine. Maybe we'll fight it. Maybe we'll welcome it. Just remember, like the palms, this season is preparing us for the next great thing.

With Hope, In Faith,  
*Rev. Sara*

## ***Save the Dates!***

There's so much coming up at Trinity UMC!

We want to give you lots of advance notice. Mark your calendars.

- February 17th: The office is CLOSED in observance of President's Day
- February 26th: Ash Wednesday. Service is at 6:30 in the Worship Center
- April 4th: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny: Breakfast 9:00. Egg hunt: 10:00
- April 5th: Palm Sunday
- April 9th: Maundy Thursday: Service TBD
- April 10th: Good Friday: Service TBD
- April 12th: Easter Sunday
- April 19th: Scout Sunday — Celebrating its 100th year
- May 10th: Mother's Day and Children's Sabbath
- June 1st - 5th: Vacation Bible School, 9:00 - 12:00 daily
- June 15th - 19th: New Spark Performing Arts Theater Camp
- June 22nd - 26th: New Spark Performing Arts Theater Camp
- July 6th - 10th: New Spark Performing Arts Theater Camp
- July 13th - 17th: New Spark Performing Arts Theater Camp



## Vacation Bible School

During the week of June 1-5, from 9 a.m. to 12:00 daily, as **Knights of North Castle**, our VBS participants at Trinity, in their **Quest for the**

**King's Armor**, will take on the role of brave Knights as they learn how to **"be strong in the Lord and the strength of God's power."**

What great promise this passage from Ephesians 6:10 holds for all of us who will be spending this wonderful week together - learning, playing, growing in faith, making new friends, laughing, and singing!

The time is NOW to volunteer your time and talents as an adult or youth helper at this year's VBS! The time is NOW to start inviting children to join us for this fun- and faith-filled

week! Today's parents start very early in the year planning their schedules for summer vacation. We have flyers available for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors. That personal invitation is a vital part of the gracious hospitality that God calls all of us to extend to others.

Some of you have already responded very graciously to the invitation to serve as a leader or helper at this year's VBS, and we thank you and praise God for that. Susan Childress and Irene Dycus, co-directors, are still looking for leaders and helpers for:

- Activity Centers (Art/Crafts, Science, Recreation, Music, Snack)
- Preschool Class
- Group Guides
- Decorations
- Registrations
- Publicity

Where will **YOU serve the King** at VBS this year?



## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting that marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. We enter this season with worship.

Join us.

Wednesday, February 26th

6:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist  
Church

Worship Center

"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." -- Genesis 3:19



## The Green Dress

We had an awesome night Tuesday with our 13 men guests. I know you have probably heard this before,

but our men guests are the best. They are easy going and just easy to hang around with – no drama. Many thanks to our friends at St. Stephens United Methodist Church, including Rev Deb, Alice, and Ric, for providing a wonderful homecooked meal. Our guests loved the big green salad, baked chicken, green beans and enormous baked potatoes with all the fixin's. For dessert they served homemade banana pudding and two different cakes. The men loved the giant, perfectly-cooked potatoes. I don't think it is something they eat very often.

Special thanks to Ila and Kudzai for spending the night so the men could be out of the rain for the night.

I forgot to show you the attached photo last week. I pulled this dress out of the laundry hamper we put out for guests to trade in clothes they don't need. I've seen things like this before from our women guests. This is a totally impractical piece of clothing for someone without a home, but it has several gauzy layers of beautiful material, and it was well cared for. Most women and some men have a favorite piece of clothing. In the case of women, we will hold onto that favorite dress, blouse, perfect jeans, whatever for many years even if it no longer fits. It represents a time when something was exactly as we wanted it to be. Mine is a light-weight gauzy white shirt that I probably will never fit in again, but I'm keeping it just in case. I think one of our guests finally had to let go of this green dress. When you have to keep everything you own in a backpack and maybe one other bag, this dress takes up too much room. Let's not forget that our guests have lost more than a warm place to sleep at night. In many cases they have lost almost every precious possession tied to good memories.



*(Adapted from an e-mail from Lois Young to Room in the Inn volunteers.)*



February 12	Jane Collins
February 12	Myra Finch
February 19	Paul Skjoldager
February 22	Eli Witt
February 27	Amy Moritz
February 27	Rev. Sara Corum
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



Wednesday, Feb. 12 at  
Elemento Neapolitan Pizza  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 16 SS, Topic:  
Sins & Oaths, Matt. 5:21-37,  
9:45-10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Area 51  
Ice Cream, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23 SS. Topic:  
The Transfiguration  
Matt. 17:1-9, 9:45-10:45

Wednesday, Feb. 26  
Ash Wednesday  
No Youth Group





## Trinity Trivial Pursuit?

How would you like to play Trinity Trivial Pursuit? Are you ready?  
Let's go!

Question #1: How many people does it take EVERY SUNDAY in the Children's Department to man/woman the Children's Sunday School Class, the Nursery, the Card Factory, and the Children's Table in Worship?

Answer to Question #1: At the very least, it takes five adults. There are actually nine "slots" that must be filled every Sunday: two in Sunday school, four in the Nursery (both Sunday school and Worship hour), two in the Card Factory (Worship hour), and one at the Children's Table in Worship. Some of our adult members fill more than one slot on a given Sunday; technically, the number on any Sunday could be as many as nine individuals who serve in one of these capacities. Our *Safe Sanctuary* policy, which was adopted for the protection of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults, requires that a minimum of two adults be present for every ministry with children. During the worship hour, guess what! There is one adult in charge, and everyone else in the congregation is the second adult, especially if there is no other adult at the Children's Table.

Question #2: How many slots need to be filled in the Nursery right now?

Answer to Question #2: Four slots are currently open. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's Worship time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday's Worship time, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's Sunday school time, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's Sunday school time.

Question #3: Where do you see yourself serving in Sunday's Children's Ministries?

Answer to Question #3: Of course, this is not a trivial issue. It is a vital one, in terms of our faithfully answering God's call - His commission to each and every one of us - to raise our children in the faith. To volunteer your services as a nursery helper, contact Sue Taylor, who is our Nursery Coordinator. To serve in any other area of Children's Ministries, see Alyson Foreman or Irene Dycus.

## Honorariums & Memorials

***Memorials have been received:***

*In honor and memory of **Jane Manning** from*

*Mac & Mary McConnell*

*In memory of **Jane Manning** from Eddie & Sally Ramsey*

***An Honorarium has been received:***

*In honor of **David Cook** from Chris Glover*

## Immigrant Advocacy

*An event for immigration advocacy and  
supporting newcomers in our community:*

**Sunday, February 23**

**3:30 pm – Service of Lamentation and Hope**

**4:30 pm – Immigration Agency Fair**

**El Redentor United Methodist Church**

**2969 S. Mendenhall Road, Memphis, TN**

The United Methodist Church Immigration Planning Team has put together a great worship service to draw us nearer to the heart of God and to the experiences of our neighbors, including a story-sharing from one of the women impacted by the poultry plant raids in Mississippi last year.

We also have arranged for the participation of agencies and groups directly engaged in supporting asylum seekers and the immigrant community in Memphis. You'll find opportunities to learn more how immigrant neighbors are being impacted and discover new ways to get directly involved!

In addition to the Immigration Agency Fair, we will have time for fellowship and food following the worship service.

We hope to see you there!

Amy Moritz and Joni Laney