

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.



This Anointing

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with

him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). — John 1:38-42

I won’t be preaching from the lectionary this week. In fact, I’m not preaching at all. Guest preacher J.J. Warren will be preaching and will in fact be preaching this text. And, I’m glad. I love this text — this week’s lectionary Gospel piece from John. It’s that part where, with just his presence and a few words, Jesus recruits his first disciples.

It’s also the first time Jesus is referred to, in John, as the Messiah. And here I love what the writer of John does. I love the little ‘helps’ the writer gives. In parenthesis: “(which is translated Anointed.)”

Last Sunday in worship we celebrated the baptism of Jesus in worship. I preached the Matthew text through the lens of our baptismal vows. More than 40 people came forward to interact with the water in the baptismal font to remember their baptism, to reaffirm their baptism, or to ponder what baptism would be like. It was my hope that no one would come to the water who wasn’t feeling called to be there. I encouraged everyone to come as they were so moved, not because the person sitting next to them went. I encouraged, in the message, a deeper understanding of our baptismal vows — not “Methodist” vows — but vows that mark the Christian life and experience.

Now there is Jesus, after his baptism, beginning to live the baptized life — beginning to fulfill the requirements of being marked by faith. When he leaves the waters, his message becomes one of right living, reconciliation, care for the poor and marginalized, denouncement of the powers and principalities of the world, and loving your neighbor as God has loved you.

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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

The family and friends of **Jane Manning**, as they mourn her death

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 husband, **Scott Bell**, as he cares for her.

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

Jeri Ashley’s health concerns

(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

The UMW will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Worship Center on Tuesday, January 21st. The Evening Circle will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Worship Center on Monday, January 27th. The Evening Circle is starting a new Lenten study from Philippians, "Because of This, I Rejoice." Visitors are welcome!

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. (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 January 27th. 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

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!



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But let's not miss that word.....anointed. For Jesus, Anointed — a name — a claiming of God. If someone is anointed that means that they are consecrated — dedicated to a service or sacred purpose. John the Baptist was baptizing in a water that would encourage a turning away from sin — an absolution of a past life. When Jesus was baptized, the sky opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove, anointing him — consecrating him for a service and sacred purpose.

When we are baptized, we don't *only* receive the waters that cleanse us — that point us away from a sinful life. It doesn't end with a washing as white as snow as some of our hymns purport. We are anointed, like Jesus, by a Holy Spirit that consecrates us for a service and a sacred purpose. We are chosen by God, again, in that moment — filled in a way that nothing else could possibly fill us.

Of course, then we leave the waters. We leave the waters and that chosen-ness accompanies us. That Spirit doesn't leave us when we climb out of the river. We go and it's up to us to go as Jesus went. It's up to us to claim that anointing — that holiness — that being set apart for a sacred purpose.

And it is my prayer for us each that in our leaving the water, again and again, we may take the same path of the one who, like the disciples, beckons us too, to follow him.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Sara



Financial Report

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year!

It is indeed a happy New Year. We are people of faith who are blessed to be both Christmas and Easter Christians all year long. We are Trinitarians. We believe God is with us and that the Holy Spirit fills us and guides us. We are people with big hearts who know what it means to serve and to be committed to developing lives as disciples of Christ. In fact, as people who belong to Trinity in one way, shape, or form, we get to celebrate because these are all the things we have going on:

UMW Day Circle	Room in the Inn
UMW Evening Circle	Evergreen Garden Club
5 Sunday School classes	Covenant Discipleship
Worship	Choir
Manna on Mondays	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Wednesday Communion	Trunk or Treat
Midtown Montessori	Vacation Bible School
4 different NA groups	Tiny Pantry
Scouts (<u>so</u> many scouts)	Binghampton Food Pantry
New Spark (theater group)	Food Voucher and Utility & Rent Assistance program
Storytellers (club)	Community Playground
Pathway to Dignity	Guatemalan Mobil Consulate

We are busy, working hard, to embrace the plan we know God has for us knowing that God is not finished with us yet. BUT....

We need your help. Let me break this down. I'll begin with last year.

As of January 8th, 2019 we had a projected budget deficit of \$36,388.88. Now, our budget still included the expense of maintaining two buildings because we didn't know when the sanctuary building would sell. We were prepared for that to take a very long time when, in fact, it only took a month! See? God is in this. The projected cost of maintaining the sanctuary was \$26,000. We gave you this information. We expressed the concern. And, throughout the year, you responded. We ended the year with only a \$4,500 deficit! Read that again: **We ended the year with only a small deficit.** This was you! This was you allowing God to work in you.

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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
February 6	Beryl Willard
February 7	Sally Ramsey
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

Let's Run the Numbers for 2019

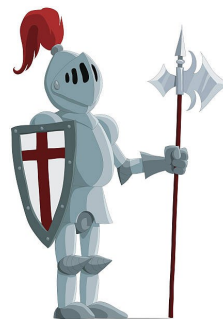
- Room in the Inn guests in 2019 totaled 349.
- Grocery vouchers redeemed—\$14,613.45
- Utilities assistance for 28 families totaled \$1,400
- Rent assistance for 11 families or individuals totaled \$750

No money came out of Trinity's regular operating budget. We were able to help these people in need because you cared enough to give the money necessary to purchase groceries, pay the rent, and keep the lights on. Thank you, Trinitarians, for your compassion and generosity.

Vacation Bible School 2020!

The weather may be cold right now, but by the time June 1st rolls around, things will really be heating up! Yes, it will be summer time, but that's also the first day of **Vacation Bible School 2020!** This year's VBS will be June 1-5, from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon daily. Our exciting theme will be **Knights of**

North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor. Kids 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."**



As always, it takes a lot of helpers to make Vacation Bible School happen. Susan Childress and Irene Dycus, co-directors, will be remembering our Banner Verse for this year's VBS (the words from Ephesians 6:10 that you see in quotation marks in the previous paragraph) as they begin planning activities and recruiting volunteers. We will need leaders and helpers for our activity centers (art/crafts, science, recreation, music, snack), leaders for our preschool class, group guides, and folks to help with decorations, registrations, and publicity. Mark your calendar now, and let one of the co-directors know in what capacity **you** want to serve at VBS this year!



COMPASSION MARKET FINAL REPORT

One vendor reported that her car broke down right after the Market, and sales from her booth helped her be able to get it repaired. Another thanked us for giving her mother, the artist, some useful and creative work to focus on. We didn't ask our vendors to report how much their sales were, but stories such as these tell us the first Compassion Market had an impact. We had shoppers who had never been in our building before. We were able to share the stories of organizations who benefited from the sale of arts and crafts. We connected with artists in Binghampton, and with the immigrant community there. These were goals we set during our discernment meetings last fall. So the Community Connections Steering Committee hereby declares our first Compassion Market a success!



RITI Clothes Closet is more than clothes

By Lois M. Young

Trinity has a fantastic Clothes Closet for our RITI guests. It offers much more than clothes and some of those items are needed at this time. Please share this list with friends and help us replenish our supplies.

- Travel-sized Gold Bond Powder
- Backpacks
- Winter gloves for men and women
- Sports bras (all sizes)
- Large boxer shorts for men
- Reading glasses
- New white T-shirts (sizes medium through XXL)

You can drop off donations in the blue Room in the Inn bin in the church lobby (next to the kitchen door). Thank you for thinking of our unsheltered neighbors during your holiday shopping.

Winter Meal Schedule

We still have 3 open dates on our winter meal schedule – January 14, February 11 and March 17. If you know a group who might want to provide a meal for our guests, please share these dates with them along with my contact info (loislane.young@comcast.net, 870-559-2228). Thanks!

(Financial Report—continued from page 4)

Why does that matter?

All of our missions (found in the list above) are funded outside of the operating budget. But none of those things can happen — nothing on that list can happen — unless we can maintain the Worship/Education Center and pay our staff. It matters.

Friends, this year we have a projected deficit of \$35,243.15. The biggest concern is that this projected deficit is **not** from having a sanctuary building to maintain. That projected deficit is in pledged giving. Pledged giving is down in such a way that, if something doesn't change, we'll have to dip into reserve funds to make up the difference. We are blessed to have those funds, but this is sustainable for only two years.

If you are a Trinity member and you have pledged to give faithfully this year, thank you! That has allowed us to set a budget and begin the 2020 ministry season in good faith. If you can stretch even further, believing in the ministries above, and help us make up this deficit this year, we ask you to consider it.

If you are not a Trinity member and you receive the *Trinotes* because you believe in the things we do, our impact on midtown Memphis, and our connecting with and affecting the lives of the people in our community, we ask you to consider it. Remember, ***the missions are funded***, but nothing can happen if we cannot keep the doors open.

And, they are open. They are open to everyone who wants to better know God. They are open to those who are hungry. They are open to folks straight out of prison. They are open to our neighbors without homes, to children, to youth, and to the aged. They are open. Help us keep it that way.

Grace and peace,

Rosemary W. Potter
Finance Chair

“PRAY FOR PEACE”

by Irene Dycus

During the recent Advent and Christmas season, about 400 “Pray for Peace” packets were shared with our Trinity Church Family, other church congregations, friends, and neighbors. Over fifty wonderful cover designs were created by the children of Trinity Church,



the Cub Scouts of Pack 13, and children from the EHDA Caroling Sunday; these designs were duplicated and attached to the fronts of the packets. Inside the

packets were candles to be lit to remind us as people of faith to pray for peace during the holiday season and also throughout the New Year.

All guests and helpers who were present at one session of Trinity’s Room in the Inn prior to Christmas lit candles, and a prayer for peace was shared before the evening’s meal. Some of the RITI guests took packets to share with others whom they knew. And so, the “Pray for Peace” campaign was also shared on the streets of Memphis. As a RITI volunteer, I know how very much these friends who come our way once a week and the hundreds of others in similar circumstances need peace in their lives.

May God’s peace be with us all in the year 2020, and may we be open to answering his call to be peacemakers.

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Jane Manning** from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of **Jane Manning** from Connie Johns*

*In memory of **Barbara Maddux** from Connie Johns*

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **David Randolph** from Sue Caradine*

*In honor of **Elaine Amis** from Sue Caradine*

*In honor of **Carol & Carey Miller** from Lee & Catherine Hutchison*

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH JJ WARREN

Come and worship
with us Sunday,
January 19th
as Trinity hosts
nationally-known,
United Methodist
speaker, JJ Warren.



J.J. Warren is a seminary student at Boston University School of Theology, a graduate of New York’s Sarah Lawrence College (’19), and a certified candidate for ordination in The United Methodist Church (UMC).

J.J. spent a year at Oxford University, England, where he studied Biblical Hebrew, Early Church history, and gender studies of late antiquity. He founded a progressive Christian community on his undergraduate campus, and founded Team Forward, an online collective of LGBT+ youth/young adults and allies who seek to grow in ministry, use their voices, and reclaim the Church through radical love.

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WORSHIP IS AT 11:00
IN THE TUMC WORSHIP CENTER
1738 GALLOWAY AVE. 38112

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