

Trinity United Methodist Church
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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.

The Ripe Banana

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. — Colossians 1:9-10

There's a ripe banana on my desk. Yes, I'm temporarily out of good illustrations to write about, so let's go with the banana.

There's a ripe banana on my desk. Debby and I just came across a pair of them in the kitchen while we were surveying our cleaning supplies in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Two bananas...just sitting there... perfectly ripe. In a few hours they'll be mushy and no one will want them then. It would be senseless to let them stay there and go to waste.

Debby is eating her ripe banana and I'll take mine home to kids who LOVE ripe bananas. They love them so much that they were both bummed last night to discover that our newly-purchased bananas are still green-ish.

Bananas are funny. As they age they get better. As they age they become exactly what we need them to be.

Yesterday afternoon, after worship, I was lying out in the driveway of the parsonage. It was a beautiful day and I had a project. I'm helping the Snowden music department prepare for a big concert this Thursday where the kindergarten through 5th grade students will sing alongside the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. It's a big deal and a big undertaking. The music director is a friend of mine and knows that I like to paint, so I'm helping with some big props for the performance. I spent the entire afternoon rolling around the driveway, painting this giant 7 foot by 10 foot painting for a prop.

All of this resulted in a very sore 35-year-old me last night. According to my fitness tracker I managed to walk 20k steps yesterday and then I rolled around the driveway maneuvering this painting. As I laid down in the bed last night, under my breath, I had words to say about getting older. I know some of you who are much more 'mature' than I am are

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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

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

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

Katie, young mother of an infant & toddler, in abusive relationship and suffering from major depression (concern shared by **Chris Glover**)

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

Gene Opel, very weak, but in good spirits; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

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

Nancy's sister, **Mary Ellen Koehler**, in hospice in New Jersey

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

Jeri Ashley's health concerns

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

The family and friends of **Jane Collins**, who died February 22nd at age 95

Albert Seals, on dialysis, just diagnosed with colon cancer (our new custodian **Lisa Seals'** father)

(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

UMW Unit Meeting: Tuesday, March 17th Worship Center, 10:30a.m.

UMW Evening Circle: Monday, March 23rd Worship Center, 6:30 p.m.

March Committee Meetings

SPPRC—Conference Room, March 15th following worship

Church Council—Worship Center, March 22 following worship

Congregational Care—Conference Room, March 24th at noon

Youth Group—The Youth will not meet on March 18. On Thursday, March 26th, they will gather at Global Café at Crosstown from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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. (See article on page 8.)

Holy Communion

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

Binghamton 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 March 23rd. Please email office@trinityumcmemphis.org or deliver any articles to Debby Marston in the church office. *Trinotes* is now available as an electronic file. Make a note on your Sunday attendance sheet or call Debby Marston 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

Committee Chairs

Lay Leader: Kay Jordan
Church Council: Rev. Mike Potter
SPPRC: Charlotte Comes
Trustees: Jinx Winn
Finance: Rosemary Potter

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laughing about that right now. “Wait until you’re 50, or 60, or 90!”

It was only recently that I began to grumble about my age. I hit 35 a few weeks ago and the next big milestone doesn’t feel as fun as, say, 16. But....

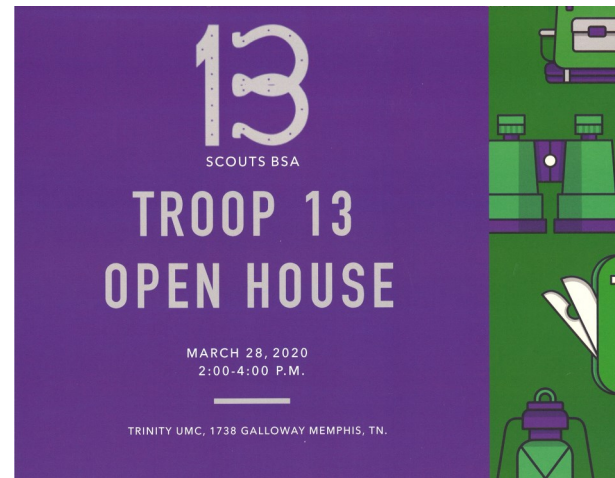
As I sit here and look at the ripe banana I find myself giving thanks to God. As the days and years have ticked on, I, like you, have simply grown closer and closer to being who I am intended to be. Where I was once “green” and “straight out of seminary,” or a “first-time mom,” I know a thing or two now — I’ve been a place or two — I’ve read a bit about or learned some things about ‘that.’

I often hear churches woefully decide that they are an aging congregation and, again, as I sit here and look at the ripe banana, all I can think is, “They should celebrate that!” We may creak and crack, stumble and grumble at times, but we know a thing or two about faith now — we’ve been a place or two together on this journey — we’ve read a bit about or learned some things about Jesus, or the church, or the Spirit of God at work and alive in us. We aren’t ‘aging.’ We are ripe and there is so much that we, then, are capable of accomplishing!

Church, perhaps we are just now who we are meant to be. I wonder what we’ll do with our spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Where is our hope leading us next?

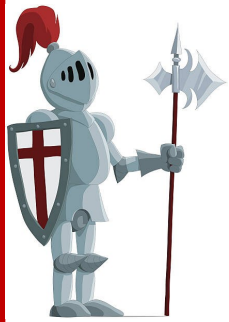
With you in the Wilderness,

Rev. Sara



Troop 13 Girls—Interested in fun, adventure, and trying new things? Troop 13 Scouts BSA for youth in grade 6 through high school is forming a girl Troop to tackle all the challenges we can! With 135 merit badges, you can explore not just camping & outdoor skills, but also Space Exploration, Game Design, Animal Science, Graphic Design, Art, Aviation, and Engineering, to name just a few!

To learn more, come to our Open House March 28th from 2-4 p.m. at Trinity UMC, 1738 Galloway, or call or text Lisa at 901-340-5177 or email info@scouts13.org.



Vacation Bible School

“Be strong in the Lord and the strength of God’s power.” This is the theme verse for our 2020 Vacation Bible School, and it is one upon which we are relying as we plan this faith- and fun-filled week for our children. 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 claim the promise this passage from Ephesians 6:10 holds for all of us.

What can you do to help? There are several wonderful options:

- Volunteer your time and talents as an adult or youth helper. See below for the list of jobs that must be done before and during the VBS week.
- Invite children to join us for this fun- and faith-filled week. The personal invitation is a vital part of the gracious hospitality that God calls all of us to extend to others. And remember, parents are already planning their schedules for summer vacation, so this is the time to issue that invitation.
- Share VBS flyers with family, friends, and neighbors who have children or grandchildren.
- Help deliver flyers to community businesses.
- Help purchase snacks and other supplies.

Susan Childress and Irene Dycus, co-directors, are still looking for leaders and helpers for:

- Activity Centers (We have no leaders yet for Art/Crafts and Science.)
- Preschool Class – adult helper needed
- Group Guides - a few more needed
- Floaters and subs – Only have a day or two you can help? That’s okay; we will welcome your help.
- Decorations – lots of helpers needed on the afternoon of Sunday, May 31st.

God calls us all to help raise our children in the faith. Where will you serve at VBS this year?



Friends, unless you live in a bubble, and perhaps we should these days, you are likely aware of the ‘outbreak’ of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, that is steadily making its way across the United States and this week has found a home in Shelby County. I want to encourage you, alongside the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control, to stay calm, to seek out the facts, and, above all else, to WASH. YOUR. HANDS. Please know that at Trinity we’ll be taking the necessary precautions to ward off the spread of the disease; however, those practices will appear to reflect what we already do to prevent the spread of things like the flu in this season.

But...as an extra precaution, we’d like to ask for your help. If you have an extra hour in your week, can you volunteer that time to help us do some extra cleaning at the church? Our new custodian, Lisa, has a lengthy list of things she works to accomplish every week. It’s a good time to assist her in some *extras* for the sake of safeguarding our building and ourselves. Can you come and wipe down the hand-rails? Will you come and disinfect the doorknobs? We will put you to work, if you’re willing to give your time.

If you can help, please call Debby at the church office and let us know you’re coming.

I’ll add a few tips about safe practices as well.

Church is communal. There are important reasons that we gather together — that our worship is corporate. However, I’m sure you’ve heard that social distancing may be good to practice for the time being. If you’re in worship, and I truly hope you are, let’s avoid shaking hands for a bit. I’m encouraging the kids to bump elbows. Maybe our signs of peace can reflect hand signals from the 60’s. Also, growing up, I was taught to cover my mouth when I cough or sneeze, and so I’d sneeze into my hand. Of course, then I’d touch everything with that hand. Today we tell our kids to sneeze/cough into their elbow. If you need a reminder about hand-washing, singing “Happy Birthday” through twice is the correct length.



Super Tuesday for Room in the Inn

By Lois M. Young

Despite the Super Tuesday election happening in our same building, we

had a nice, quiet Tuesday night with our eight unsheltered neighbors. It was a great night for the city-wide RITI-Memphis program. With six housing sites available, all 88 individuals seeking shelter had a place to stay that night. This does not happen often. There are usually many more people seeking shelter than beds available. What that means is RITI-Memphis needs more congregations involved, not fewer. I'm hoping Trinity will find a way to continue this ministry, but if not, I hope you will help spread the word to other churches in a way that encourages them to become RITI sites.

Last Tuesday was also special because our friends from Redeemer Presbyterian Church provided the evening meal. Redeemer has been providing multiple evening meals for our Room in the Inn guests each year since January 2015. It has been a blessing to have their enthusiasm for this ministry. They have also held many supply drives for us, gathering new needed items for our Clothes Closet.

Most recently, one of the community groups within Redeemer held a Christmas collection. A Sunday school class at Independent Presbyterian also pitched in. They collected many items for the Clothes Closet, including underwear, backpacks, toiletry items, gloves, etc. But even more generous was their donation of 221 bus passes, worth more than \$770. Wow! Our guests ask for these often, but we usually don't have them. That donation was enough for us to give one bus pass to every guest until the end of the winter season. One of our guests recently told us bus passes are like gold on the streets. They need them to get around; they need them to stay out of the cold. When we are at Carpenter's House picking up the guests, I've seen guests walking to our van hand their bus passes to those who did not get a place to sleep for the night. They do this so those individuals caught out in the cold and wet can ride the busses part of that time to stay warm and dry.

Homeless individuals helping others. Churches helping unsheltered neighbors. People helping people. This is what Room in the Inn is all about. We would love to see you during a Tuesday evening session.

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

In memory of Jane Collins from Elaine Amis

In memory of Jane Collins from Shirley Flint

In memory of Jane Collins from daughter Barbara Kelly

In memory of Jane Collins from son Robert Collins

In memory of Jane Collins from Mac & Mary McConnell

In memory of Jane Collins from Dorothy Kelly



March 13	Leanne Wilson
March 14	Anne Steinaway
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 19	Alyson Foreman
March 19	Charles Abraham
March 31	Hadley Keller
April 10	Rita Allmon
April 20	Bob Binkley
April 22	Mark Hudson
April 24	Karen Willard
April 25	Rachel Adkins
April 27	Jeff Potter



Wednesday, March 11
at the Saucy Chicken
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18
No Youth Group
Spring Break

Thursday, March 26
at Global Café
5:30-6:30 p.m.

New Spark Performing Arts

- ⇒ Our resident youth theater company is providing singing, acting and dancing classes on Saturday afternoons through the end of April. If you know of any kids from 2nd - 8th grade who might like to attend, please visit their website: www.newspark901.org.
- ⇒ Summer camp space is filling fast. *High School Musical 2* runs from June 8th-19th and *Willy Wonka* from July 6th - 17th. If you have any kids or grandkids who might be interested, please contact Raejah at newspark901@gmail.com to see about the \$50.00 discount for Trinity members.
- ⇒ As with all of our youth groups, New Spark has adopted Trinity's Safe Sanctuaries policy that requires two adult supervisors for all activities. If you know of any adults who might have time this summer to volunteer for summer camps (in 2-hour increments), please email: newspark901@gmail.com or phone: Bob Hartmann - (901) 331-8891 or Lisa Sanchez-Sullivan - (901) 283-5472 for more details.

Easter Bunny Fun for Kids

It's getting closer all the time! Saturday, April 4th will be a big day at Trinity Church! We will have **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** at 9 a.m., followed by the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** (rain or shine) at 10 a.m. Lots of helping hands filled almost two thousand plastic eggs at last Sunday's church-wide breakfast. (We still have over 800 more eggs to fill, believe it or not.) Many thanks go to those generous folks who made special donations toward the purchase of the Easter candy.

Of course, on the big day we will need lots of **volunteers to help at the breakfast and hunt**: greeters, cooks, egg hiders, activity supervisors, and cleaner-uppers. Please contact one of the following leaders to volunteer your services:

- Sam Goff – set-up of dining area and pre-prepare breakfast
- Beryl Willard – table decorations
- Joan Smith – crafts and games
- Rob Landrigan, Brad Moritz, Irene Dycus – hide eggs
- Irene Dycus – greeters and supervisors for the hunt.



Here's something we **all** can do: Be sure to invite neighboring children, family members, and friends to join in the fun! Voluntary cost of admission for all who attend the April 4th events is canned food or cash donations toward the Binghampton Food Pantry.

Several hundred eggs stuffed with candy will also be donated to New Directions Family Residence, a ministry of the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope, so the children in that program can enjoy their very own Easter Egg Hunt.

Questions? Contact Irene Dycus at irenebdycus@hotmail.com or 652-1105.

Trinity folks stuffed eggs in preparation for the April 4th egg hunt.



Over 2,000 plastic eggs were stuffed with candy by members of Trinity's congregation following the March 8 fellowship breakfast.



An example of grace . . .

A couple of times a month, Melba Abraham takes calls from folks who are struggling with the dilemma of which bill to pay, which prescription to have filled, or how to buy groceries. Trinity's grocery voucher program helps some 40 neighbors each month to purchase food. On "Voucher Day," Sue Taylor hands out the vouchers to the callers Melba talked to the previous Friday. Many more people call in than we have vouchers available, and there are always going to be people who have to be turned away.

A few days ago, one of our voucher friends mailed us a thank you letter expressing her appreciation for the food voucher she received on January 22nd. Enclosed with the letter was a \$25 money order, "to replace the help you kindly gave me." We helped her when she needed it most, and she is now able to pay it back so we can assist someone else. Now that's grace.