



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.



Looking Ahead With Hope

“...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” — Isaiah 40:31

I'd love to say that the day began like any other, but that's far from the truth. Last Monday didn't begin like any other either. Mondays don't feel the same without gathering for corporate worship on Sunday — something I've done every Sunday for most of my life — a story I believe you share. No, today was different — even more so than last Monday.

Last week was Spring Break and the boys were gone to their dad's. Today they were supposed to go back to school and begin the last quarter of the school year. But that's not how the day went. The boys woke up at 8:30 (a miracle in and of itself.) We fixed breakfast and made adjustments to our bathroom. All of our toothbrushes have always hung out close to each other in a slotted toothbrush cup. Everyone has their own cup now. The boys often share a towel for different things — wiping toothpaste off their mouths, drying their hands....honestly I probably never should've let that happen, but you learn to choose your battles. No more. Aiden's towel is the flamingo towel. Cooper's towel is the penguin. “Everyone take your vitamins!” Then we were ready for the day.

After checking in with the church, and everyone finished their late breakfast, we began. I put Aiden at the kitchen table and Cooper at the dining room table. Aiden used my iPad to log into [ABCMouse.com](http://ABCmouse.com) and do kindergarten-level interactive work. Cooper's English teacher sent a PowerPoint presentation that the 2nd-graders are used to working through and then some worksheets. I got him started on my laptop. Josh came in and sat down with Cooper, put his ear-pieces in, and logged into a Zoom meeting (digital, video/audio meeting) with his seminary class. He'd be out of commission for two hours. I set up a science experiment on the kitchen counter and an art project in the living room floor. It was 11:15. I finally sat down to work.

But...

I had no computer. I had no iPad. My collection of commentaries was in the office at the church. I had emails to answer and Debby was

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; 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, **Mary Ellen Koehler**, died March 24th in New Jersey.

Please pray for Nancy and her sister **Betty Bell**, as they both grieve.

For **Rev. Sara** and her father, **Tilmon Corum**, as they grieve the loss of **Kathleen Corum**, Rev. Sara's grandmother

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 and being treated for colon cancer (our new custodian **Lisa Seals'** father)

Jim McMahan, son of **Julie McMahan**, as he is being treated for a non-COVID-19 related illness at the VA Hospital.

(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

Worship Opportunities

For the duration of the COVID-19 civil emergency, our alternative to in-person worship is offered via Trinity's Facebook page. Every Sunday morning at 11:00, Rev. Sara and Music Director John Holtzman will live-stream music, a homily, and prayer. You are invited to prepare yourself for worship by reading the lectionary Scripture each week.

- Sunday, March 29th: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45
- Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11
- Easter: Matthew 28:1-10, Jeremiah 31:1-6
- 2nd Sunday in Easter: John 20:19-31, 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 3rd Sunday in Easter: Luke 24:13-49, 1 Peter 1:17-23

Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00-11:00 a.m., fresh produce is distributed as it is available. Supplies are limited.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is April 6th. Please email office@trinityumcmemphis.org or deliver any articles to Debby Marston in the church office. *Trinotes* is now available as an electronic file. Call Debby Marston at 901-274-6895 or send an e-mail request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or if you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Access it on our website at:

www.trinityumcmemphis.org/e-newsletter.html

[For the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, Trinotes will be delivered electronically to your e-mail address.]

Committee Chairs

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

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going to need me to email her a newsletter article — this article. Sigh* I guess I'll get my turn later.

Just then the younger one needed help on the iPad and the older one needed me to check his work. The even OLDER one traipsed through the kitchen for a glass of water, still chit-chatting with his seminary class through his ear-pieces. It was going to be a long day.

The boys finished their work and we fixed lunch (Josh still “in class” at Memphis Theological Seminary). We quickly did a science experiment and I sent the boys outside to play in the driveway — a safe distance from passersby. Josh finished class and ate his lunch. Then we went for a family walk around the neighborhood. We wanted to walk over at Rhodes, but they're not letting anyone on campus (even if we're familiar neighbors). When we got home, I set the boys to work on an art project. In a little while the Snowden teachers are going to drive in a caravan around the neighborhood waving at their students (because they love their students), so the boys made a sign that says, “We Miss YOU!”

By then it was 3:30. Normally the office would already be closed and a number of things would be accomplished and here I am just starting. I didn't know the day would look like this.

None of us did. None of us could've known, even a week ago, that the day would look like this. And none of us knows how to handle it — how to balance it all. The reality is that we have been forced to change every facet of our lives in a short period of time, and it's going to take a bit to figure it all out.

Every few days I think of something new — some new way for us to connect — without being in person. Making phone calls with my now homeschooled children underfoot is a challenge and not one that I can alter right now. I'm adjusting the ways that we do things as best I know how. In a few days I'm going to read a faith-based children's story via Facebook Live because I miss being with our children. Congregational Care team will meet via Zoom Wednesday. I'll encourage everyone, again, to either mail their tithe or use the PayPal account (the DONATE button on our website) to give. We'll video worship again as John and I find the best ways to be present with you at home.

Please understand, though. All of this is hard. I cannot shake hands or visit you at home. I'm not allowed in the assisted living quarters. I'm not even allowed in most hospital rooms. I miss hugs — and Trinity has some wonderful huggers. I miss communion. I miss Debby — she is an amazing right-hand — and our desk volunteers. This is hard. I know.

But it WILL end. It will.

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Vacation Bible School

“Be strong in the Lord and the strength of God’s power.” The theme verse for our 2020 Vacation Bible School is a good one for us all to keep



in mind and in our hearts as we face the challenges of these difficult days. We hope that by the time the week of June 1-5 rolls around, we will have lots of VBS participants, as our children take on the role of Brave Knights in their **Quest for the King’s Armor** and as they learn how to claim the tremendous promise this passage from Ephesians 6:10 holds for all of us.

But this may be a VBS unlike any we have ever done at Trinity. We will see

how things unfold in the coming weeks and months. It may be that we will have a virtual VBS this time around, with our wonderful Pastor Sara in her role as **Armorer** sharing the Bible story each day via Trinity’s Facebook page. God our Creator made us in his image, and those of us in Trinity’s Children’s Ministries will do our best to be creative in our approach to ministry, as we explore new ways to share the Good News with our Trinity children and the children of our community. This includes VBS, Sunday school, and all other ways we encourage our children’s growth in faith.

When the Lord spoke to Moses during his encounter with the burning bush, He revealed his name: **I AM (or I WILL BE)**. Our God is a Verb, a Living Word, and we will seek to emulate Him, as we step out in faith, as we adjust and adapt, as we seek to learn new skills, and as we envision a future with hope for us all.



Remember the Poor in Our City

I don’t know when I’ve been that tired. Maybe the first day back from high school band camp when we rarely got to sleep before 2:00 a.m. Our band director ran a tight ship and insisted that our cabins be spotless, the blankets on our bunks so taut you could bounce a quarter off them. And we marched every day, honing our half-time show to perfection (or something as close as amateur musicians could accomplish.) Have you ever cleaned a cabin floor with a toothbrush?

But, of course, I’ve gotten off track, and you’re wondering when I was “that tired.” Once we committed to handing out grocery vouchers to families with school children and invited our neighbors to participate by making donations to our voucher fund, there was no turning back. Not that we wanted to, but we really had no idea that the pace would be so frantic. People started calling right away, so many of them that both phone lines were tied up constantly for two-and-a-half days. I had an outdated voicemail message on my phone (think January), but couldn’t figure out how to change it to reflect our new normal when I couldn’t get a free line.

We started Friday, March 13th, with Melba Abraham fielding calls for 40 vouchers. She’s done it before, so was prepared to take 40 requests within 45 minutes. (Melba is the “voice” of Trinity to people calling for grocery assistance.) Later, those of us less experienced with that kind of phone activity, well—we weren’t so well prepared.

Donations started coming in after Rev. Sara put out the call for financial assistance on Trinity’s Facebook page, and we set up a PayPal “Donation” button on our website. The response was incredible. Friends, neighbors, and Trinitarians all pitched in to help children who would be missing school meals because school was being cancelled. I’m still doing the data entry, but the tally on vouchers actually distributed was 172. Volunteers who helped make it happen were Melba Abraham, Shirley Flint, Rosemary Potter, and Sue Taylor. Sue worked Wednesday the 18th, Thursday the 19th, and a half day on Friday the 20th, when we closed the church office until there is some resolution to the COVID-19 crisis. If Melba’s the voice, Sue’s the “face” of Trinity to people who get food vouchers, and she handles that role with a smile and a lot of grace.

The crisis isn’t over yet. There are still hungry people and children who aren’t getting the meals they need and deserve. But we can’t endanger our volunteers and staff by ignoring social distancing. So be safe, friends. Take precautions. But also pray for the poor and hungry in our city.

—Debby Marston



COVID-19 ends RITI winter season early

by Lois M. Young

Last Monday, I was working out all the details of how we were going to hold a Room in the Inn session using increased infection control practices. How were we going to avoid a COVID-19 infection? More gloves, more hand washing, disposable dinnerware, fewer volunteers, plenty of disinfectant wipes and spray cleaners, fewer people per dining table, etc. I was still worried. We have many volunteers who are either older than 60 or who have chronic health problems. I was not comfortable placing them in harm's way.

I'm not saying our guests are more likely to have the COVID-19 virus. I don't believe that is true, but getting people together in groups was going against current health guidelines. I also wasn't comfortable leaving our guests on the street by cancelling at the last minute. I'm thankful that decision was taken out of my hands. Monday afternoon, the Room in the Inn-Memphis staff decided to cancel the rest of the RITI winter season. I know they had to face all our unsheltered neighbors and give them the bad news. What a horrible feeling that had to be.

When I got up early this morning to take out the dogs, it was dark, cold and raining. I immediately wondered where our RITI guests were staying. I'm certain many were outside. I know we all have our concerns about getting ill and being stuck at home. Will there be enough supplies in the stores? Will there be enough masks if everyone gets sick? Will they be able to create drugs to keep people from getting too sick? How long will it take to find and manufacture a vaccine? Will the economy dip into something worse than a recession? All these worries are understandable, but let's not forget that some people are lacking the basic necessities, especially shelter and food. My guess is that many of the places that normally offer free meals to the homeless are shutting down or limiting their services.

What can we do? I'm working on finding answers to that question, beyond the usual. By the usual I mean, we can always vote in elected officials who will make positive changes for our unsheltered neighbors. We can give to organizations that help our unsheltered and poor neighbors. Trinity provides food vouchers. Let's help make more of those food vouchers available by giving to that fund. Let's keep the Trinity tiny pantry filled with needed food. If you give to the Room in the Inn fund at Trinity, Rosemary and I will make sure that money is used in a way that will benefit our unsheltered guests.

You can make a difference during this crisis even if you have to sit at home. Pray for our neighbors who have no home and for those who are not sure where they will find their next meal.

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

In memory of Jane Collins from Tom Wilson

In memory of Jane Collins from Dr. & Mrs. Spencer Lee

Staying in Touch

A team of Trinitarians is calling each member of the congregation to say, "How are you doing? Are there any ways the church can help you during this crisis? Is there any way you want to help? Is there anything you want other members to know?" Those doing the calling include Amy Moritz, Sally Ramsey, Carol Miller, Craig and Kay Jordan, Sara and Sam Goff, and Mike Potter. If you have not been called, it may be that we are using an outdated phone number. Please contact the church office by phone (leave a message—the voicemail is being monitored) or by email at office@trinityumcmemphis.org to help us update our information. We are also sending notes to some members we have not been able to reach by phone. So far we have uncovered health updates, offers to help others, and thankfulness for being able to stay in touch. Isolation is a health problem in and of itself; it's important that we help each other through this unusual time by finding many ways to reach out. If you know of other ways the Pastoral Care and Visitation Team can help, please call Craig Jordan, our convener, at 901-412-1893 or email him at jordanck2@gmail.com.



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

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I saw this yesterday and wanted to share it with you.

*When this is over,
May we never take for granted
A handshake with a stranger,
Full shelves at the store,
Conversations with neighbors,
A crowded theater, A Friday night out,
The taste of communion,
A routine checkup,
A school rush each morning,
Coffee with a friend,
A stadium roaring,
Each deep breath, A boring Tuesday,
Life itself.
When this ends, May we find that we have
Become more like the people we
Wanted to be, we were called to be,
We hoped to be.
And may we stay that way —
better for each other Because of the worst.
— Laura Kelly Fanucci*

Yes, everything has changed. Even when it ends, I cannot imagine we'll go back to the way things were. I think that **we** will be changed, and hopefully it is for the better. We'll value gathering, singing, laughing. We'll meet with joy, because we can. We'll hang onto every random thing the children say during worship. We'll potluck. I look forward to that day.

As I said at the end of my sermon Sunday, I know that we'll get through this because I know that we are not alone. The God we've come to know, in Jesus Christ and by the presence of the Holy Spirit, is one we know will never leave or forsake us. And, as some of us are truly sitting alone at home these days, there is comfort in recalling that God dwells alongside us.

Hold fast to this truth in the days to come. Check in with your neighbors. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Look ahead with hope to the day that we'll gather again and celebrate all that we will surely see the Lord do.

With You in This Wilderness,
Rev. Sara

Easter Egg Hunt Alternatives

Due to concerns about COVID-19, the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg Hunt, which were scheduled for Saturday, April 4th, are cancelled. Pastor Sara shared these loving words with our neighbors on Trinity's Facebook page in regard to the cancellation: "It is with broken hearts that we have to cancel this event. In the wake of a pandemic, and under recommendation of the CDC, for your safety and ours, because we love you and all our community, we have to cancel our 2020 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt. As soon as we know for certain, we'll let everyone know if there are alternative plans. Thank you for understanding and supporting your neighborhood church."

We greatly appreciate the time and effort on the part of all who have been helping prepare for these two big events, and we are thankful for those who had committed to help on that Saturday. We do, indeed, have alternative plans, but we're not sure when it will be safe to offer them to our neighbors. We are in the process of preparing "Bunny Bags" for families to use to have their own mini-hunts at home. We will be packing the candy-stuffed plastic eggs in zip-lock bags, 10 eggs per package, and offering them to families who have children who are toddler age through 5th graders. Families who have children in that age range will be invited to pick up one package per child, with a limit of four packages per family. Once again, this will not be offered until it is deemed safe to do so.

We will be delivering several hundred filled eggs to the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope this week, for the children at their New Directions Family Residence. This program provides individualized services for women with children who find themselves caught up in the cycle of crisis and vulnerability that so often repeats generation after generation. Through intensive case management and assistance, families are helped to overcome challenges such as unemployment, unstable housing, and lack of education, with the ultimate goal of leading them to increased stability and self-sufficiency. The New Directions program houses up to 17 families, women and children, nightly, with a maximum stay of up to two years. The Children's Ministries at Trinity, with help from the church at large, has provided special Easter fun for children at New Directions for many years now. We appreciate your help as we continue to reach out in love to the children whose families are part of this program.