

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.



From Bible-Thumper to Beautiful Feet

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

I'm going to admit something embarrassing in this writing. It's something I'm not sure I've ever mentioned. When I was a teenager, I was in a band. You are more than welcome to laugh. I was in a youth praise band at my church. I mostly sang lead vocals and strummed a little clumsily on my guitar (not unlike today). We had another, much better, guitar player as well (think Marc Taylor). We had a bassist (my friend Erin), and a djembé drummer (Hillary), and a full-set drummer (Kathryn), and occasionally others. The youth ministry interns at my church (students from Lambuth) helped us assemble and often played alongside us. It was really very fun, and every week, we led youth

worship during the time our youth group met.

When we founded the band, we weren't sure what we'd call ourselves. Being a very young, very skilled little Bible-thumper, I turned to scripture. It wasn't too hard to find verses about praise. The Psalms are steeped with them. It was a little harder to find verses about exhortation. Finally, after a good bit of reading, I stumbled upon the very best thing and a verse that, since the day I discovered it, has been my favorite: Romans 10:15.

In the beginning of the 10th chapter of Romans, Paul is sharing the Gospel news that salvation is a gift offered to all Creation, and he is drawing very distinct lines about confessing Jesus but not living Jesus. In the end, the Word is good (as it tends to be), but he doesn't stop there. In the next little bit (where my favorite verse is), Paul points out a problem in both an instructive and constructive way. He says, "But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Beautiful Feet. That's who we would be. The fulfillment of this text is who we believed ourselves to be for the church, for the youth, and for anyone who might darken the doors. At the same time, our being God's Beautiful Feet was with the intent that anyone who'd hear what we had to offer, would then, too, become beautiful feet.

And that is the church. A body of people who gather to receive the Good News of God's salvation for all people, who then offer that to others.

Trinity, we have a mission. Not only does Paul remind us that professing Jesus means very little if we are not living Jesus, but he also reminds us that we have a collective responsibility to offer Jesus to the world. That only **begins** on Sunday morning. That invitation — to know God, know God's love, and find a home in a Savior — it doesn't live at the church. It has to leave the church and live in the world.

I've been thinking a bit (or a lot) about church growth and decline lately, specifically our own, and I wonder...where are the beautiful feet? A church cannot grow if the invitation stays there Sunday when we leave at noon. The Good News of God's work at 1738 Galloway needs beautiful feet to share an invitation with others. It requires an invitation to friends, neighbors, strangers. When was the last time you invited someone to church? It very really can be as easy as hitting a share button on your computer screen or as meaningful as a conversation across your lawn. It might mean a phone call to someone you think needs community (and a follow-up phone call, and maybe a second follow-up phone call).

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The Kingdom of God wasn't meant to grow in some small terrarium on a shelf. It was meant to spread like a rampant wildfire across the globe through the hands and feet of Jesus-living Disciple-makers with beautiful feet, making an earnest attempt to bring others into the arms of a God who loves them. The Kingdom of God needs you.

Can you commit to inviting a specific someone to church every week in 2023? Can you commit to sharing our Facebook posts once a week if you are on social media? Every week? Over and over? Can you help people find a home where they can experience the love of God? Will you share your story of faith and church? It's the stuff beautiful feet are made of.

With Beautiful Feet and Great Hope,
Rev. Sara

First Council Meeting of 2023



Church Council Meeting

We will meet for our first 2023 TUMC Church Council session following morning worship on January 15th. If you are a committee or work area chair, please send your written report to Kay Jordan (jordanck2@gmail.com) by Wednesday, January 11th for distribution to council members prior to the meeting. Written reports save meeting time for holding ourselves accountable to our mission and vision statements.

Sam Goff has volunteered to prepare our main dish for lunch. We need two volunteers to round out the menu: one for beverages and one for dessert. Please let Kay know if you can help on one of these.

During the meeting, we will be looking ahead to ways we can be in ministry in Memphis and beyond in 2023. As you speak to Trinity folks who are not Council members, please invite them to this open meeting.

Joining together in love and service,
Kay Jordan
Chairperson of the Church Council

Upcoming Youth Activities



- ♦ Trinity's Youth Group will be gathering in the youth room on Friday, January 13th to work on self reflection and New Year's crafts and will enjoy pizza together.
- ♦ On the weekend of January 21 & 22, the youth will go to Cordova Skating Rink for an outing, date and time TBA.
- ♦ On Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m., the youth group will be going to support Kaylee Bauer at the Tipton-Rosemark Academy of Fine Arts' production of "Willie Wonka."



Is the Bible Real?

The **FAITH WORD** for the current study in our Children's Sunday School Class is **BELIEVE: to know in your heart what is true about God and faith.** Last Sunday, during the video about the story of Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:4-11, the child host in the video mentioned something about the Bible. Eli, our five-year-old, asked Ms. Alyson, "Is that real?" His question was really, "Is the Bible real?" Ms. Alyson then had a golden opportunity to witness to this precious child about how very real the Bible is and how its stories can guide our lives.

A letter to parents at the back of the **CELEBRATE WONDER BIBLE STORYBOOK** reminds us that "wonder is the way children engage with the world. Children are constantly wondering...Through curiosity and exploration, children demonstrate their faith and their spirituality...When children are given the opportunity to wonder about our faith stories, they can begin to make meaning and make its stories part of their lives."

Is that Book real? Is the Bible real? Our children read these stories in our Bible storybook, and they may wonder and find awe in them. But what makes this Book, this Bible, this God, this Jesus, this Spirit real to them is when they see us live into those stories in our lives as God's family at Trinity Church.

This coming Sunday's story is "Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand," which is found in John 6:1-14. This is the only one of Jesus' miracles that is recorded in all four Gospels. In the Book of John, the miraculous feeding of thousands – five thousand men plus women and children – begins with a young boy's offer to share his lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. While the disciples are overwhelmed by the challenge of feeding all those people, Jesus is miraculously able to use the boy's gift, small as it is, to provide for everyone. And there are twelve baskets filled with fragments of barley loaves after all have eaten.

How about you and me? Do we think our gifts are too small to make a difference? We may not have enough to feed all the hungry neighbors in Memphis. But when each one of us gives what he or she can to the two food pantries we support – and does it regularly - our collective gifts can make a difference in the lives of many people. When we act together as the body of Christ, when we demonstrate our love for God through our love for our neighbor, our children will witness our actions. And then they can truly see and believe that this book that we call the Holy Bible is real.

Peace and love,
Irene and Alyson

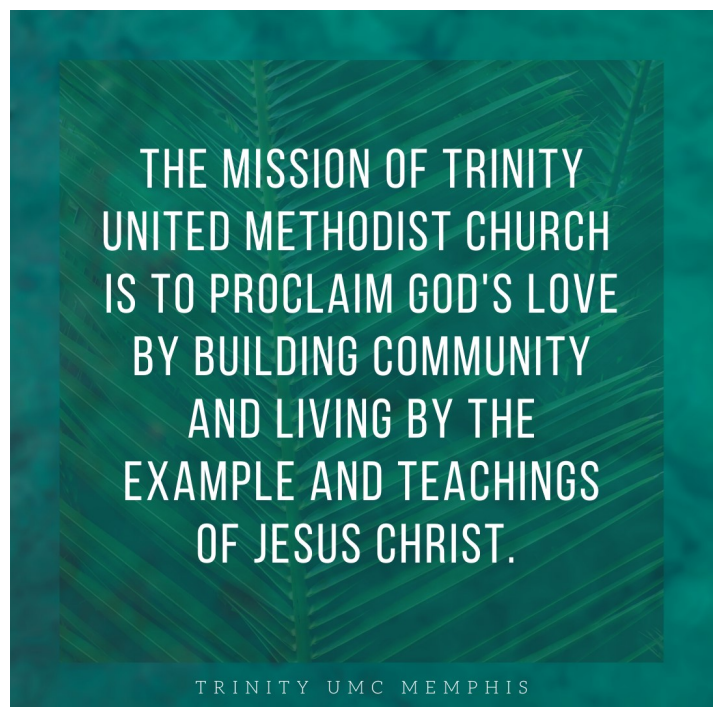


Safe Sanctuaries



After a long hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, we find ourselves ready to resume stricter observance of Safe Sanctuaries. In-person children's Sunday school is back in full swing, our youth group is again active, and we are able to visit our homebound members and friends once more. All Trinity UMC members and attenders who are involved with children or vulnerable adults are required to adhere to the guidelines detailed in our Safe Sanctuaries Policies and Procedures Manual. A copy of the most recent version of those policies and procedures can be found on our website under the "ABOUT" tab. Scroll down to the bottom of the page (which includes our Mission and Vision Statements) to the button marked "SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY." That link will take you to the full document.

In order to be in full compliance with Safe Sanctuaries, all volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults must be fingerprinted and have online background checks run. The church will cover the cost of the fingerprinting. Our administrative officer, Debby Marston, will run the online checks. All you will need to do is sign appropriate release forms and register for fingerprinting by an approved Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) contractor. Fingerprinting is digital and results will be sent to the church office electronically once your clearance goes through. We know that, in rare cases, an individual's fingerprints do not register on the digital scanner. In those cases, the TBI can provide a clearance by a name search. All background checks are completely confidential and results are kept locked in the church safe. In order to obtain release forms and for assistance in registering, contact Debby Marston in the church office: call 901-274-6895 or e-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org. If you work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults, don't delay. Contact the office to start the process.



Feed His Sheep

Peace Lutheran Church has put Christ's words into action in their lunch program for disadvantaged persons in the community. We have been offered the opportunity to contribute to this work by providing lunches. The current need is for 24 lunches, to be delivered to Peace Lutheran on specific dates. This will be a team effort and the first "assembly line" to put lunches together will be after the Fifth Sunday Breakfast on January 29th. Call Sue Taylor at 901-491-2113 for further details. Gather your forces, jump in & volunteer!

Each lunch will need to include the following:

- Peanut butter & jelly sandwich
- Meat & cheese sandwich
- Bottled water
- Juice
- Fruit (1 apple/orange/pear & applesauce or fruit cup)
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

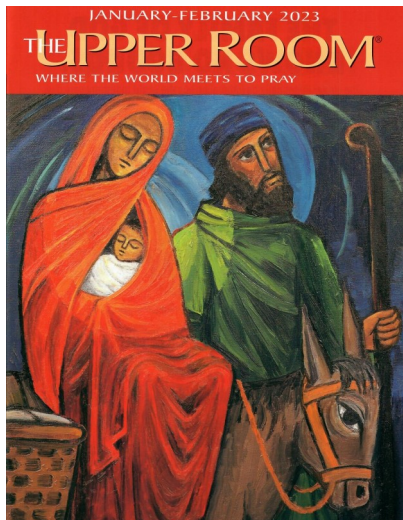
IN MEMORY OF **IRENE OPEL** FROM
ROSEMARY POTTER

IN MEMORY OF **IRENE OPEL** FROM
CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

IN MEMORY OF **IRENE OPEL** FROM
FRANCES NAUER

AN HONORARIUM HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN HONOR OF **ALYSON & CALEY
FOREMAN** FROM IRENE DYCUS



The January/February *Upper Room* is on display at the reception desk just outside the Worship Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



January 1	John Curry
January 3	Kay Jordan
January 5	Eleanor Brooks
January 5	Roscoe Dodson
January 10	Tom Wilson
January 10	Joan Foley
January 12	Doris Porter
January 15	Jeff Corbett
January 16	James Keller
January 16	Jay Keller
January 25	Irene Dycus
January 25	Lila Ruth Dycus
January 29	Caley Forman
January 30	Carol Miller

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for those families and communities who have fallen victim to the horror of gun violence in our country; for the people of Ukraine who are imperiled by the invasion of Russian troops, shelling of residential areas, and the terror being experienced by the civilian population; for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and variants; 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; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who still struggle due to lost jobs and lack of resources; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice, and for families who have lost loved ones due to violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders.

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 interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. David Weatherly

Trinity UMC - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for new visitors joining us as we worship in person and online; 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

Kanyon Glover, pray for his speech therapy and the use of his left arm (due to a stroke)

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

For the family and friends of **Irene Opel** as we mourn her passing, and for **Gene** as he remains on hospice.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis, paralyzed on one side after stroke, asthma & COPD

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer, but doing better.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, receiving in-home care

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 97 year old cousin, now residing permanently in a rehab center

Val Coates, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father last year

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure

Rosemary Potter, recovering at home from her falls, having physical therapy

Lori Brown has aggressive HER2 breast cancer and is receiving gene therapy.

Eddie Ramsey, multiple health concerns, and for **Sally**, as she supports him

Edward Thigpen, good report from cancer doctor; will continue chemo through March of 2023

For **Charlotte Comes**, who will have surgery January 24th

For **Karen Willard**, who has been in rehab to regain her strength

Pray for Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilyn Hawkins**.

Debby Marston's sister, **Katie Edge**, as she receives radiation therapy for cancer

Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Rev. Kyle Dearen**, as they worship and do ministry here on the campus of Trinity UMC.

For **The Lab School**, as their students learn, grow, and develop, and for their adult Guides

For **Pathway to Dignity** as they work towards starting classes in the near future

For all our Scouts in **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**, and for all their leaders

For those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity and for their continued determination to succeed

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