

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 Way It's Always Been Done

"...and you have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator."
Colossians 3:10

Our newsletter has taken a turn as of late and I really have enjoyed it. Our writers have been asked to reflect on something positive that has happened or has come from the pandemic. Where this could, very really, be a daunting task, it doesn't appear to be so. The reflections have been an encouragement to us each to see things differently.

When I was in college and studying for my art degree (did you know I have a degree in art?) we studied a little book that's still on my shelf in the living room of the parsonage called, "Ways of Seeing," by John Berger. We had to drag ourselves through this tired, old book before Lendon Noe, my art professor, would actually let us 'do' the work for Design 101. Every week, just to get off campus, the little group of budding artists, myself included, would meet at Davis Kidd Booksellers in Jackson and sit around discussing this book. It dragged on at first, but, as Ms. Noe always managed to help things do, the book began to change us. Things I once labeled as "white" took on every color of the rainbow. Shapes, which I'd been taught since I was a child were one thing (and often one thing only), could morph into something I'd never have imagined they'd be without the permission — the freedom — for them to change into something else. Suddenly the world was really beautiful — more-so than it had ever been. The mundane I'd taken for granted became a living work of art. Things like blackbirds and everyday ducks were just gorgeous and the leaves on one tree or another were simply magnificent. And, because I was also getting a degree in Religion, these simple things (that were no longer simple) were designed by the greatest artist there ever was. God got that much 'better' for me, as I began to notice things I'd never noticed before.

Our newsletter article writers have been challenged to try and see the covid-19 pandemic differently — to find the beautiful moments that have come to the surface. And as they've reflected, we've been able to catch meaningful glimpses of the God who makes beautiful the mundane.

One thing I've found to be beautiful since last March is our abandoning the concept that this is the way it's always been done. Josh and I joke a lot about how on any given day we'll hear the word "unprecedented," half-a-dozen times. It was the theme of 2020 and has bled over into 2021. What's beautiful about it hasn't been our having to abandon the way it's always been done because normally that's a very good way. What's beautiful about it is that it's stretched us to a place where we can imagine things that we wouldn't have been able to otherwise. Where we've lamented not having that

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thing, whatever it may be, it's familiarity or comfort, we've created new things — new ways — that maybe (just maybe) are better. Thus it is my prayer that we don't go back to the way it's always been done — not entirely — lest we lose those glimpses of what we wouldn't otherwise have seen. It's also my prayer that, as we move closer to the season of Lent — another liturgical season laced with tradition and experience — we're able to embrace new possibilities of wilderness wanderings.

The God we serve is a creative God — always making, sewing, painting a newness into this world. It's always unprecedented, magnificent, and holy. Take some time to find it. It won't be the way it's always been. Can you see it?

Searching With You,
Rev. Sara



Loving All God's Children

This past Sunday's lesson in our Children's Sunday School Class was based on Matthew 5:43-48, which is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This passage focuses on showing love to those we consider our enemies. Toward the end of the prior week's session, our discussion touched on situations in which our children have encountered bullying. That was a natural lead-in to this week's lesson.

This scripture from Matthew emphasizes that everyone is a child of God and that it is important for us to recognize that quality in all people. Our teachers' preparation notes on this lesson reminded us that this does not mean that we must let others treat us poorly or to support bigotry or animosity. Sometimes to love means setting boundaries, naming wrongs, and standing up for what is right. We can know we all are created in love and still disagree with others. This is a timely suggestion for us to consider during contentious times in our society.

It is hard for any of us, adults included, to love someone who has been rude, mean, or hateful toward us. As teachers, we are trying to help our children see that God is love and that they should do their best to be an example of that love in their interactions with others. This may mean standing up for a friend or talking to an adult when being bullied. We hope they know that we, as their Sunday School teachers, are always open to helping them deal with difficult situations in which they might find themselves. My friend, Ms. Alyson, is especially gifted with showing empathy for others and being a caring and compassionate listener. Our children recognize that special gift in her, and I am personally always learning from her.

Our FAITH WORD for this unit of study is **INCLUDE**. We want our children – all children - to see that love can be a reminder that they are included. We are ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, and ALL ARE LOVED.

—Irene Dycus

[Editor's Note...]

I've never been much on writing obituaries, but I need to write this one, and ask your indulgence for the sideways approach I'm adopting.

For years following my beloved grandfather's death, I avoided funerals, wakes, visitations, graveside services, and the like, not because such events reminded me of my own mortality, but because I thought it almost barbaric to have an open casket so people could make inane comments on how "natural" the deceased looked.

And then Uncle Jack died.

Uncle Jack wasn't my uncle, but was related to my mother-in-law, whose opinion was very important to me. I forced myself to go to Uncle Jack's home, where the family was gathering to view the body and visit the widow. Yes, his body was there, on display in the living room, in an open casket. As soon as possible, I retreated into the kitchen, where I found a growing crowd of Uncle Jack's descendants and loved ones. There was a lot of food, mostly of the casserole variety, and a lot of laughter. As the day wore on, I discovered that I no longer found an open casket barbarous or unseemly. This was how a loving Christian family was saying "good-bye" to someone they cherished. They didn't have long faces; rather, they told stories about Uncle Jack and his twin, Uncle Jill (honestly, that's what they called him) and laughed, celebrating the life of a man who had been a loving father, husband, grandfather, and friend. I finally learned how to celebrate a Christian's passing: with joyful abandon and laughter, celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord with every Christian's death. Now to the real purpose of this "obituary."

I met Deloris Clayborne shortly after coming to work at Trinity. She was eager to borrow space for a series of classes intended to help recently released folks convicted of various crimes. All had served jail time, and all needed assistance getting back into society. So Pathway to Dignity was born, and Deloris was its founder. She was passionate about moving people into stable employment and networked with potential employers and other non-profits in order to secure the jobs and housing her students needed. Through the Pathway to Dignity program, those students learned the skills they needed to function responsibly in our society.



Deloris' death was sudden and unexpected. She was taken to the ER, where the overworked and overwhelmed staff was dealing with too many COVID victims, along with the usual battery of injuries, heart attacks, strokes, etc. In the midst of all that chaos, on January 15, 2021, Deloris slipped away, leaving those of us who knew and loved her bereft.

I didn't make it to Deloris' funeral. Like most of you, I don't get out in crowds during this pandemic that has, it seems, taken over our lives. I will miss Deloris, her good humor, her dedication, her joy in service to "the least of these." Pray for Pathway to Dignity and for those who helped Deloris in that ministry. Pray that her legacy will live on.

(A good woman) opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy... She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. —Proverbs 31:20, 26

Grace and peace,
Debbly Marston

For more about Deloris' accomplishments, go to: <https://www.ccwtn.org/about/ccwtn-staff/deloris-clayborne/>

Financial Report as of December 31, 2020

The summary for the financial performance for January 1st – December 31st, 2020 is as follows:
The income and expenses are presented by major categories.

January 1, 2020—December 31, 2020:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Non- Pledged	\$ 42,872	\$ 48,000	\$ (4,128)
Pledged	\$129,523	\$118,940	\$ 10,583
Facility Use	\$ 43,238	\$ 46,820	\$ (3,582)
Total Revenue	\$227,221	\$229,895	\$ (2,674)
Expenditures			
Administrative/ General	\$108,599	\$134,323	\$ (25,724)
Apportionments	\$ 22,140	\$ 20,195	\$ 1,945
Maintenance/ Operations	\$ 69,323	\$ 89,090	\$ (19,767)
Program Expenses	\$ 3,991	\$ 10,064	\$ (6,073)
Total Expenditures	\$204,053	\$253,672	\$ (49,619)
Net Income	\$ 23,168	\$(23,777)	\$ 46,945

As of December 31, 2020, our total revenues exceeded our expenses. Hallelujah! Pledged giving for the year was over budget by \$10,583. Non-pledged giving was under budget YTD by **(\$4,128)**. Memorials & Bequests were down only by **(\$305)**. Facility use was under budget for the year by **(\$3,419)** because we have not rented out the Fellowship Hall very much due to the pandemic, causing the shortfall.

Expenditures for the year were **(\$49,619)** under budget. Excellent! All the major categories except for apportionments were under budget and that helped the bottom line.

The summary projection of Unrestricted Cash Balance as of 12/31/20 is also attached. It shows that we had net income for the year of \$35,555 loan/grant funds for payroll expenses of \$17,956 and the Trustees reimbursement for the parsonage loan of \$12,049 are 85% of the net income. What that does tell us is that we would have **still** had net income of \$5,000+ without those extraordinary funds. Given this past COVID-19 year with all its challenges, that is significant. Thanks to all who contributed so generously!

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Potter, Finance Chair

UNRESTRICTED CASH BALANCE REPORT as of 12/31/20

Cadence Checking Account Balance	\$ 68,928
Endowment Fund Interest	<u>4,029</u>
Total	\$ 72,957
Less:	
Special Purpose Revolving	\$ 35,171
Reimbursables (flowers)	214
Current Liabilities	<u>2,017</u>
Total	\$ 37,402
Net Unrestricted Cash	\$ 35,555
Net Cash Available	\$ 35,555

As of December 31, 2020, we ended the year with net unrestricted cash available of \$35,555. December was a better month financially than anticipated in income, both pledged and non- pledged. Again, the PPP loan and the Trustees' reimbursement gave us \$30,000 in relief. The good news is that Trinity would still have had net income for the year of around \$5,000. Given the pandemic circumstances in 2020, it's nothing short of a miracle. God has truly been with us through this really tough time!

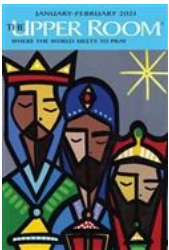
Memorials & Honorariums

A memorial has been received

In memory of Doris Webster from Connie Johns

An honorarium has been received

In honor of Carey & Carol Miller from Irene Dycus



The January/February issue of *Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out. Leave a voicemail message at (901) 274-6895 or send an e-mail to office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print.

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org so your e-mail address can be added to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to *TRINOTES* is included in ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]



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| February 6 | Beryl Willard |
| February 7 | Sally Ramsey |
| February 12 | Myra Finch |
| February 19 | Paul Skjoldager |
| February 27 | Amy Moritz |
| February 27 | Rev. Sara Corum |

Welcome to Trinity!

It's official! Rob Landrigan, Lisa Wong, and their children, Alex and Helena are the newest members of Trinity UMC. They joined January 24, 2021.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those in our country and around the world who are 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; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who are struggling 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 in their first days in office—pray for their wisdom; and for those impacted by the violence in Washington, D.C. on January 6th

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 members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they attend school, whether virtually or in person; for new visitors joining us as we worship 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

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Paige Warmath, Alyson Foreman's cousin, died January 11th after a long illness. Pray for her husband and two sons and her mother and two brothers.

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

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, still battling leukemia

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

Gene and Irene Opel, grateful for all the cards from TUMC members and the children, but still medically fragile and missing daughter **Anita Bunn**, who is not allowed to visit.

Jeri Ashley, multiple health concerns

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

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

Sally Ramsey, out of her back brace and having physical therapy

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, at Allenbrooke Rehab

Carol Bruce, Chris Glover's sister, living alone & grieving the death of her last companion, a talking bird

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia with broken hip, in rehab, struggling with depression

Charles Abraham, following successful surgery, has moved to step-down ICU. Praise God!

Rev. Richard Hackleman, in rehab in Somerville, TN, said to be doing well

For all members and friends of **Trinity UMC** as they shelter at home, as they work from home, and as they look forward to a time when they can see — in person — the faces of their church family

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