

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.



Gaza

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
Colossians 4:2

This morning I woke up a bit later than usual. It's Fall Break and the kids didn't have to be up as early. We got moving a little slower. I laid in bed for a few moments (hoping, briefly, that no one else would find me awake just yet). I heard the birds outside. I could already hear planes flying in the distance. We noticed the planes a lot just after we moved here. Now, we pay little attention. I could hear cars passing by on University. It's a very busy road. In our room, though, it was still a little dark, with the curtains closed. The overhead fan was on, so it was nice and cool. I had a few peace-filled moments before rising to hit the "go" button on the coffee maker. As I laid there in peace, I gave thanks, but my giving thanks didn't last too long, before my heart began to ache.

Saturday's attacks on Gaza are devastating. Never mind the reasons behind the attack that stretch far back into history now. Never mind sides of the conflict. War is war and it involves the lives, and deaths, of very real human beings who are no different from you or me. Yes, there is right, and there is wrong. There is a "just war" theory behind every war throughout history (one that seeks war to be just while also justifying it). I've struggled with that ethic for all my life. But the ages-old conflicts between Israel and Palestine are earth-shattering. They don't only affect our middle-eastern neighbors. They effect people here, too, whose roots in their faith stretch across the sea to a place where there seems to have never been peace as we know it.

American politicians have already poised themselves over the weekend to take or reiterate their side in the matter — that is, whichever side will benefit them the most with voting constituents. But closer to home, I have heard the cry of several friends of Jewish faith — literal cries from an abiding pain that, for them, in many ways, has always been and does not seem to ever dissipate (even a little). I reached out to my closest Jewish friend to say, "I simply want you to know that I am praying for you."

And maybe that's all we can do. Thank goodness we are good at it. We pray. We give thanks for our own democracy, and we pray for others who do not get to experience that sort of freedom. We consider the aching hearts of those who long for the kind of peace we experience everyday, and we pray. We pray for peace, not only for each other and America, but we stretch our prayers beyond ourselves — beyond what we know and live — to places we may never see, not because it effects us directly (though I believe prayer always effects us directly), but because very real human beings lost their lives this weekend without ever knowing the peace we have — because very real human beings lost their loved ones. We pray. Until we can effect some greater change in the world, we realize the enormity and blessing of our own peace, security, and freedom, and we let our prayers for those things for other people be heard. That is loving our neighbor.

I invite you to pray in the days to come for something bigger than what you and I experience. I invite you to pray for complete strangers on the other side of the planet — not for such-and-such side, but for the real people touched by continual unrest. I invite you to pray for people who's names we don't know on both sides of the war — for justice, for peace — for things perhaps we take for granted from time to time. I invite you to pray without ceasing.

Praying alongside you,
Rev. Sara

Trinity United Methodist Church

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2023

November 5th, 6:30 @TUMC

ANNUAL EVERGREEN AREA

trunk or treat



oct
29

1738 GALLOWAY AVE.
MEMPHIS, TN 38112

3:00-
5:00pm

TRINITY UMC, THE LAB SCHOOL,
ST. JOHNS UMC, EHDA, PACK13

October

— BIRTHDAYS —



Clara Farabee October 2

Nora Dycus October 8

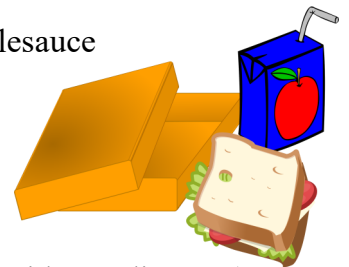
Valerie Coats October 29

“Feed my 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 next “assembly line” to put lunches together will be after the Fifth Sunday Breakfast on October 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 cup and/or applesauce
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin



(Peace Lutheran will provide condiments.)

Southwest Tennessee Creation Care Convening

Saturday, October 21st, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. John’s UMC, 1207 Peabody Ave., Memphis

Register at <https://shorturl.at/uEXZ6> (\$10 suggested donation)

Food Justice * Creation Justice Advocacy * Congregational Creation Care Ministries

Spiritual Formation & Creation Care

Lunch will be provided.

Election Day Bake Sale a Big Success!

Trinity's Election Day Bake Sale on Thursday of last week was a tremendous success, thanks to all those who baked goodies and who served as workers at our bake sale table! Our neighbors from the Evergreen Historic District were so happy to see us, and we were delighted to see them and to send them home with those delicious baked goods. Special thanks to Sam Goff for offering the enticing smell of muffins and scones baking throughout the morning and to Sara Goff for the coffee hospitality offered to all neighbors on the front porch. Joan Smith was our wonderfully efficient cashier who handled cash, Venmo, and credit card payments (kudos again to Sam for helping make those last two available).



The bake sale brought in a total of \$1,445! All proceeds go toward our new Food Pantry. We are participating in a beautiful process of neighbors helping feed neighbors in an ever-widening circle. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Before I started writing this article, I had reread the scripture in Matthew 6:30-44 of Jesus' feeding the five thousand. As so often happens, new insights came to me as I read this biblical passage once again. The story begins with the apostles gathering around Jesus, reporting to Him all they had done and taught in His name. Sensing their fatigue and their physical hunger because they had not even taken time to eat in all their ministry efforts, He says to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

But what happens when they get to that quiet place? They find themselves surrounded by a great multitude who have anticipated Jesus' movements. And what does Jesus do? He has compassion on that huge crowd of people and begins teaching them, even though it's – guess what - dinner time. When his disciples, whom He knows are already personally tired and hungry, approach him about sending the people away to buy food for themselves, he says to them, "You give them something to eat." (The emphasis is mine here, but I think it's very much implied in the reading.) What follows is the miraculous event in which Jesus turns five loaves of bread and two fish into an abundance of food that feeds that immense crowd of five thousand men, plus women and children, and still has 12 baskets of leftovers.

Every time I start the recruitment process for another bake sale, another Vacation Bible School, another Easter Egg Hunt, another whatever, I think, "Will there be enough this time? Will I have enough personally, and will there be enough others who are willing to step forward and say, 'Yes.'?" Sometimes I am already so very tired – physically, emotionally, and even spiritually – that I doubt HIS ability to produce great things from small beginnings. He continues to surprise me, and I do indeed give Him thanks and praise for that. "O ye of little faith" is so often an accurate description of me, but His gracious provision is always absolutely amazing.

Peace and love,

Irene



The Holy Spirit at Work

Sometimes things dovetail so perfectly. I used to think of those times as serendipitous. Now I firmly believe it's the work of the Holy Spirit.

This week we are celebrating the success of an event in which we were able to practice gracious hospitality with our neighbors in the Evergreen Historic District, namely the Election Day Bake Sale. The proceeds from that sale will enable us to practice further gracious hospitality with an entirely different set of neighbors, whose lives will be touched through our new food pantry. This food pantry began as a dream of a scout from our own Troop 13, Alex Landrigan, when he chose as his Eagle project a transformation of what was our former chapel into an entirely different type of ministry opportunity.

This week's lesson in our Children's Sunday School Class focuses on the story of "Abraham's Visitors" (Genesis 18:1-14). The story of Abraham and Sarah is one of many stories in the Bible about God's promises and people's faith in those promises. Our class has been traveling with Abraham and Sarah as God has sent them on a journey that has taken them far away from home and that has brought them many surprises. In our first lesson, God promised Abraham three things: a new land, many descendants, and that his family would be a blessing to other people. Many years passed between the time Abraham and Sarah moved from their home in Haran until they arrived in the new land. This week's lesson begins with Abraham, now 100 years old, and Sarah still without children of their own. BUT God appears in the form of three visitors who "suddenly" show up outside Abraham's tent. In the Old Testament Bible, hospitality to travelers and strangers is very important, so when the visitors arrive, Abraham goes out of his way to welcome them by generously providing a meal and caring for their physical comfort.

The heavenly guests surprise Abraham by telling him that in a year's time, he and Sarah will have a son. Sarah, listening at the door of the tent, laughs to herself; after all, she is well past childbearing age. The Lord's response to her laughter is, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" Abraham and Sarah keep their faith in the Lord, and, yes, they do indeed have a son of their own within a year.

Hebrews 13:2 reminds us, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." The question we need to consider as God's family at Trinity Church is this: Are we looking forward to practicing gracious hospitality through our new Food Pantry? Or are we thinking we're too old, too spent, too weak in resources to produce something new and wonderful? Are we laughing at God behind His back, or are we joyously anticipating giving birth to a vital new ministry? In all things, let's keep in mind this one essential thing: Nothing is impossible with God.

May God's peace be with you,
Irene

Confessions of a Church Secretary/Administrator

by Debby Marston

I have always enjoyed writing. I was one of those oddball adolescents who was in journalism class so I could work on the school paper. Only I was in journalism class for four years. No, I didn't fail the class. I just kept showing up. My freshman year, I edited the junior high page. My sophomore and junior years, I was feature editor, and my senior year I became editor-in-chief. I learned how to write in a journalistic style: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Those are the basic components of a good news story, and that's pretty much the order in which the story plays out. The "who" is most important: who is the main character in the story? "What" happened to make that person newsworthy? "When" did it happen and "where?" The "how" and the "why," while interesting perhaps, are left at the end to give editors something to cut.

When I was interviewed some seven years ago for my position at Trinity, I was asked about whether or not I was competent to write for a church newsletter. (Not the exact words, but you get the drift.) As I recall, I shared my journalistic history, noting that it was quite a few years back, but also that I had been called on to write for and edit a minor news "magazine" for a former employer and occasionally for church publications.

I'm sure my high school journalism teacher would roll over in her grave if she saw some of the layouts I've created since coming to Trinity, but very little of what is published in *Trinotes* is hard news. She always knew I preferred feature writing, where I didn't have to follow strict rules. Maybe she would forgive me.

There's a lot to the job of the Administrative Officer (yep, that's what is printed on my business cards), church secretary, and general factotum. I love the variety, both in job responsibilities and in the interactions with the people at Trinity UMC. I love being challenged to take on a particular task that's just a wee bit outside my job description. (Face it, that's what makes it fun for someone like me.) There was the episode of the defective crash bar on the front door. After learning how much the locksmith was going to charge to do the work (Yikes!), I ordered the part from Amazon, took said crash bar apart, replaced the



Dogging Kit

part with a new "Dor-o-Matic dogging kit," and (after discovering the door wouldn't open at all after Joan Smith and I worked on it all morning), came back the next day to finish the job. Would the locksmith have finished the job much faster and more efficiently? Certainly, but think what a great learning experience we had! (Some of the time wasted occurred when I insisted that some part should go in one way, and

Joan patiently let me discover it should go in the other way, which she had said all along.

Did you know locksmiths must have at least three hands? It took all four of ours to get that job done.)

It has been a interesting seven years, and I have enjoyed about 97% of that time. If I get stressed, most of you know just to stay out of my way for a bit. I'll get over it. I'm writing this in order to say, "Thank you, Trinity" for seven great years. During the pandemic, I learned I can work at home when I need to, and working from home allows me more time with my ailing husband, especially on dialysis days. It looks like I'm here for the long haul, or at least as long as you can stand me. Thank you for blessing my life. I hope God continues to bless Trinity as you have blessed me.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those endangered by the war between Israel and Hamas and for families on both sides who have lost loved ones; for victims of natural disasters; 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 race related 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; and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Gene Archer, friend of the Millers, diagnosed with stomach cancer

Lauren Crews, friend of the Millers, diagnosed with ALS

Melba Abraham's cousin, **Lydia Melton**, has cervical cancer.

Gracia Alequin, Amelia Strickland's friend, hospitalized in critical condition following an auto accident

V.J. Carter, Living Word Christian Church member Dru Phillips' aunt, broken hip and hip replacement surgery

Pray for the **children and youth** who returned to school in August: for travel safety, health, successes & recoveries from failures, and for teachers & parents as they guide them.

Bishop Bill McAlilly, surgery on his right ankle August 7th; full ankle replacement to be done later this fall

Chris Glover has had a second outpatient surgery.

Edna Hoffman, surgery for broken hip from fall July 24th; back at home with in-home care and PT

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks

Charlotte Comes, out-patient treatment using Y90 radiation therapy

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, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

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 cancer in five locations; receiving radiation therapy.

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

Val Coates, ongoing serious health concerns

Eddie Ramsey, now in hospice care at home; **Sally**, as she prepares herself for the future; the **Ramsey family**

Edward Thigpen, multiple serious health problems & financial difficulties

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

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**

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

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.)