

# 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.**



From  
the desk  
of...  
The Rev.

## Purveyors of Peace

*“Many people shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”*

— Isaiah 2:3-4

Sunday mornings are an adventure in my house, as you can probably imagine. Josh leaves around 8:00 to make it to the first of his two churches on time. I stumble around trying to post our online worship guide, iron clothes, and get the kids moving. They have Sunday school at 9:30, but I'm out the door around 10:20 now to meet John at the church and warm up our voices, check all the technology, and get the ball rolling on worship.

This Sunday morning was different. Our teenager is in town and she was poised to stay home with Reid (8) and walk her through Sunday school with our fantastic Sunday school teachers online, and I was meeting John at the church early to pre-record next week's worship service since we will be camping next weekend with Trinity's Boy Scout pack.

I was late, of course, having not remembered where I'd thrown my keys last. The street was thickly lined with cars because this weekend was homecoming weekend for Rhodes College. You may or may not know that the church parsonage is directly across the street from the fraternity houses at Rhodes. Homecoming weekend can be quite.....interesting.

This one was different.

I finally found my keys, quickly sent a text message to John to tell him I was on my way, and raced toward the church. I made it to the end of Snowden Ave., where Snowden meets McLean, and saw it. To my right were half-a-dozen police cars and a police vehicle I'd never seen before. It looked like a large, boxy, van. Later I'd realize that this was a forensics van. Normally my curiosity would get the better of me and I'd gingerly drive by, the good nosy neighbor that I am. But, I was already late. I had two worship services to lead and a music director already waiting on me.

By the time worship was over, I'd forgotten about the commotion on McLean. It's not uncommon to see police cars in our neighborhood and there was no telling what had happened. Remember, it was homecoming for Rhodes.

As I made my way back home (down McLean), I saw that the police vehicles were still there. There was a lot more traffic now, so gingerly driving by was no longer an option. I headed home. I needed to put on my mom hat and get kids fed, scarf down something myself, and head back to the church for communion. I let my curiosity go.

*(continued on page 2)*

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Just before 1:00, on my way back to church, I took the same route and noticed the police cars were gone. Any lingering thoughts of concern went with them.

Then the news came.

A block from our house, just before dawn, a Rhodes College senior and his girlfriend had been shot in that house, killing the senior. It was tragic. No matter what the circumstance was, it was tragic. Anytime one human takes the life of another, it's tragic. It disallows for the image of God to be [more] present in our world.

Homicides aren't uncommon in Memphis. I cannot believe I just wrote that but it's true. We can point fingers in the direction of blame or reason all we want, but I think that at the end of the day, what's most important is that we claim this means of unnecessary death as the tragedy it is, acknowledge the pain God must feel when human choice supersedes the sanctity of a life created in hope, and do the hard work that we, as Christian disciples, are called to do to be purveyors of peace. This is the same in circumstances of murder/homicide, just war, and capital punishment. Any time we claim that we have the prerogative to decide whether or not someone should live or die, we are adopting a prerogative that is other than our own. When we understand that every human life was made in the image of God — every person (whether or not they believe this truth) is a child of God — to decide that, that image of God no longer has a place in this world (or deserves one), isn't a choice or prerogative we've been given.

As disciples of the One whom we claim is Prince of Peace, and heirs of the same Kingdom which is his, may we look closely at what it means to purvey peace, to beat our proverbial swords to plowshares and spears to pruning hooks, and to search avidly for the image of God in places where it might be hardest to see. It's still there.

Let us, too, join together in prayer for the families of those most affected by violence in our community and explore together what it might mean for us, as those who follow the Prince of Peace, to be hands and feet that bring about peace. In like fashion with our Savior it may truly mean first turning over a table and then calming a storm.

Wishing you Peace and Wellness,

*Rev. Sara*

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **JOHN STUART** FROM MARC & SUE TAYLOR

IN MEMORY OF **JERI ASHLEY** FROM MARC & SUE TAYLOR

IN MEMORY OF **JOHN STUART** FROM SALLY & EDDIE RAMSEY

### Don't Forget the Tiny Pantry!

We may not be using the building right now, but we still have unsheltered or needy neighbors who may come by to look for assistance feeding their families or just themselves. When you have groceries delivered or when you don your mask to brave the grocery store aisles, pick up some canned goods (preferably with pop-tops) that will fit in a backpack or duffel bag, something not requiring refrigeration, especially protein-rich foods such as tuna, peanut butter, or protein bars. Stock the Pantry!





## Fishes and Loaves

“Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people.” This is how it begins. The generosity on the part of a child leads to a miracle performed by Jesus.

The biblical story continues, “Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted. They all had enough to eat.”

It starts small, with a selfless effort on the part of a child. Then, in Jesus’ blessing of the bread and the fish, all are miraculously fed. At this past Sunday’s Charge Conference, the Rev. Autura Eason-Williams spoke of Jesus as the Bread of Life and reminded us that we are bread as well, that through our individual and collective ministries, we offer the life-giving and life-sustaining love of Christ to others.

How generous are we? At times I must overcome my tight-fistedness, my small-mindedness, my hard-heartedness, my own fears of not having enough for me and mine before I can be generous towards others. Perhaps you battle those same demons. And maybe we all need the Lord to work on our hearts.

In June, while our church family was having in-house worship services, Trinity’s Children’s Sunday School Class led our church in a food collection to benefit the **Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** operated by our partners in ministry, Binghampton United Methodist Mission. Our church family responded generously. While our children’s food drive ended on the last Sunday in June, the needs of hungry neighbors in our community did not come to an end. Those needs are ongoing, possibly even increasing, and we hope to revive that food drive, despite our not meeting in-person for worship at this point. This time, we are offering to pick up bags of food from members’ homes. Once you have collected a sack full of canned goods, please give one of the teachers a call: Irene at 901-652-1105 or Alyson at 901-734-2796. We will arrange for a convenient time to pick up your food items from your home.

The food pantry needs proteins, such as canned chicken, tuna, Vienna sausages, and peanut butter. Other items that are needed include boxed macaroni and cheese, evaporated milk, soups, canned fruit, and dried or canned beans. Please, no items that are in glass containers because of the risk of breakage. Also, canned foods that have pull-top openings are easier for folks to use.

In our Sunday School lessons this month, as we study about God’s leading Moses and the Israelites from Egypt through the wilderness to the Promised Land, our children are exploring **AWE through GRATITUDE**. **Awe** means “an amazing feeling of wonder inspired by God.” **Gratitude** is “focusing on what’s good in our lives and being thankful to God for the things we have.”

With GRATITUDE in our hearts for all our many blessings, we are seeking to bless others who have far less than we do. We hope you will join us in our efforts. We are praying for an AWESOME response from our church family, and we know you won’t disappoint us.

Peace and love,  
Irene and Alyson, on behalf of Trinity’s children

## Scouting, Trinity Style

By Rob Landrigan



I am bad about writing updates for Trinotes, but I wanted, as we near a century of Scouting here at Trinity, to start to give more small notes about these amazing kids I have the honor of serving. I wanted to start by sharing our weekend across all three units.



Friday, Troop 13B - the Boy Scout Troop, headed up to Fort Pillow for a weekend of easy camping and tubing on a pontoon boat - at a fancy campground with lights and toilets, even! Glamping - an easy time.

Saturday, Troop 13G - Our Storming Manticore girls, trekked to Missouri for a canoe trip - a fun 7 mile float with a long evening under the stars to unwind.

Sunday, The Pack got together and learned how to build fires, honor the flag, and how to help clean up.

That was The Plan, at least.

Friday went well, as the younger Scouts filling in had a first taste of what "Being In Charge" was like. Breakfast was delicious, if a little late, the tubing was fun...and then, tired teenagers met lack of proper planning. It ended well, but it was...well, a mess. Like, almost 4 hours to make dinner mess. But Sunday morning, our 14 year old Acting Senior Patrol leader and Acting Assistant Senior Patrol Leader understood, for real this time, what they were about to step into. The Scouts all started to remember that they were individuals, but a team. A Troop.

The Float trip was amazing - a 50 degree spring, rapids, and 14 miles of fun! Wait....it was 7? Nope, double the planned distance, for middle schoolers (and one brave 5th grader!) But they had the support of our amazing friends at Troop 1 (Also Methodists, from The Well at Lewisburg), so tired, soggy, and sore, they even had enough oomph left over for a campfire skit that night.

The Pack was having fun, and our Webelos - including a certain Cooper - built their first fire under the same tree that has sheltered so many scouts learning something new for the last 100 years (on cinderblocks, no grass was harmed, don't shoot me, Sam!). Some were scared of lighting matches. Some were afraid to get burned. They all walked away smiling and proud.

We don't teach camping because we want our kids to be master survivalists; we teach camping because it's the best metaphor for life that we have available to us. Plans get changed. Things break. You learn to overcome. Kids don't get to fail any more. They aren't allowed to mess up - and there is simply no way to learn new things if you can't fail at them first. So having a space - a home - to learn, practice, fall down, and pick your self up again - is vital. It's ministry. Our Trinity home has given us that - the gift of not having to be perfect. So, from me, from all of us, thank you for our home.

## BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

**Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

Once a month, folks can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.



**Trinity members:** Be sure and read the article on page 3 that details what the children’s Sunday School class and their teachers are doing to revive their summer food drive. Also, donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with “Fishes & Loaves” on the memo line, will also help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let’s commit to feeding our neighbors in need!



October 1	Davis Hopper
October 2	Clara Farrabee
October 7	Tom Edwards
October 7	Irene Opel
October 8	Nora Dycus
October 13	Sullivan Potter
October 18	Gracie McClurkan
October 19	Jacob Foreman

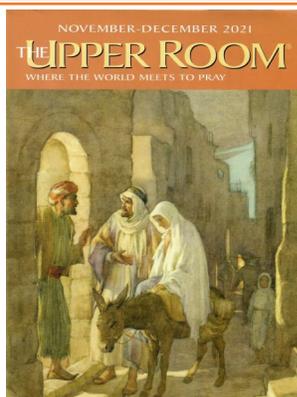
*If any birthdays have been omitted, please send the name and date of birth to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message so we can make that correction.*

### ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

[**Editor’s Note:** If you wish to receive Trinity’s ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to:

[office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org)

We’ll add your e-mail address to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to the *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]



### November/ December

The latest issue of *The Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building. Both large & regular print are available. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out.

E-mail [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895). Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant; for Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake and hurricane; 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 year in office—pray for their wisdom.

**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. Autura Eason-Williams

**Trinity UMC** - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; 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

**Kanyon Glover**, now 3 years old and doing well: a happy little boy, according to Chris

**Donnie Glover**, now on oral medication, as well as chemotherapy; needs blood & platelets weekly, but back to driving a truck. (You can't keep a good man down!)

**Bobby Glover**, Chris' brother, moved to assisted living: pray for his adjustment.

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

**Irene Opel** is back home with **Gene** at The Glenmary! She just celebrated her 91st birthday on October 7th.

**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.

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

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center; had to sell home and store her possessions.

**Charles Abraham**, now at home and using his new ramp for physical therapy.

**Val Coates**, serious heart condition; still in pain after shoulder surgery

**George Marston**, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure; COPD

**Nancy Rankin**, pancreatic cancer, on chemotherapy; for **Nelda Gray** as she cares for her

The family of **John Stuart**, who passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 16th

**Jean Moss**, now at Alan Morgan Health Center in Trezevant View Place on Highland, Room 339

**Margaret Rucker**, Irene Dycus' sister, moved to assisted living

**Phil Isbell**, fighting Parkinson's Disease, and for **Kathy** as she supports him; Phil had a pacemaker implanted September 22nd

**Jim Schaeffer**, now at home and having rehab following repair of a broken femur and hip

**Aiden Tate**, youngest son of Rev. Sara, tested positive for COVID-19, but is asymptomatic. The family is quarantined at home until Friday, October 15th.

**Rosemary Potter** fell in her driveway last Tuesday and broke her femur, which required surgery. She is recovering at home.

**Nora Dycus**, who tested positive for COVID-19, and for the **Dycus family** as they quarantine

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