

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.

Jesus and Caesar

It's election season. Did you know that? Unless you live under a rock in the middle of some undiscovered forest somewhere on another planet, you know that it's election season. It's impossible to turn on the TV, read a newspaper, or open up any social media account and not see the vitriol between candidates, but perhaps more importantly the vitriol between voters on all sides (because there're many more than two). We are fighting about how things were and what's changed. We're fighting about how things ought to be and who can best bring us there. We're criticizing age, weight, mental capacity, skin color, gender, stance on justice issues, and every little thing we might could pick apart about a person. Where I've experienced small bits of that here and there in my profession, I cannot imagine the barrage of judgment thrown at the candidates on the platforms right now.

And we all get sucked into it, myself included. Perhaps I shouldn't be drawn in. Perhaps the people of God shouldn't be pulled into the fray. Politics are politics. Religion is religion. Never should the two meet.

I'm not entirely sure how that argument began...at the beginning of civilization faith and public life (so, politics) ran parallel. They overlapped. They intermingled. There was no "secular life" and "faith life." There was life. It was when people began to see that their faith practices were not the same as everyone else's and that faith life compels us to live differently than the secular public sector that we said, "We can't accommodate the two." But we cannot ignore the reality that scripture tells us again and again how to respond to the law of the land, how to handle unjust laws, and how to hold our leaders accountable. Just take a look.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. Titus 3:9

"Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:17-21

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. Titus 3:1

And there are so many more. The Bible is filled with statements of faith that are also very political. They show us and remind us that there really aren't two separate identities — that our faith and politics overlap (or that they should). And no matter how badly we want to divorce the two and live two separate identities, we can't. Matthew 6:24 reminds us that we cannot serve two masters. We cannot have two identities and if we esteem that our faith comes first, then our faith ought to inform our politics (rather than the other way around). But how on earth should that look when we are also followers of the Prince of Peace (not negating the fact that this same Prince was also known for turning over temple tables)?

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It means that we are to live into what it means to follow him, which includes turning over tables, fighting for justice, prioritizing the hungry, the least of these, and the marginalized within the realm of how we understand politics to work in our current culture. It also means that we are to do so only in profitable ways. Being denigrating isn't profitable. Telling the truth is only profitable when it's told in love. If we fight, it should be for that which pleases the heart of God and in such a way that we do not bring shame to the name of God, because **we are never not Christians**, and the world is forever watching us — not for the purpose of being critical (we hope), but to see how it ought to be done.

So, it's election season and we are people of faith — not, or we are people of faith. How we respond, in every sense, matters in ways that we cannot see. It is my prayer for us that the choices we make, what we say, how we act or respond, is, in all ways, in line with the Prince of Peace.

Go be a Blessing,
Rev. Sara



This Monday morning's devotion from *The Upper Room Disciplines* spoke to me very directly about the importance of our Children's Sunday School study about God's creation of the world. The last sentence of the devotion said, "We belong to this God who created us and covenanted with us to be partners in creation." During Sunday's meeting on Zoom with our children I was once again impressed with our children's amazing imaginations and creative abilities.

This week we studied about the fourth day and the first part of the fifth day of creation, during which God created the animals that inhabit the earth. During the time for art, our children were charged with coming up with an idea for an imaginary animal, drawing what that animal might look like, and describing where it might live and what its unique qualities and abilities might be. Some of them created "hanimals," using the outlines of their hands held in different positions. Carson did this, designing a "Rainbow Breaker."

Kaylee came up with the idea of a Bat-Dragon. This unusual creature is seen only at Halloween each year. It has the combined features of a bat and a fire-breathing dragon. A word of caution: Avoid coming into contact with this scary fellow on Halloween night, if at all possible!

Rowan created a Scorpupinewolf. According to Rowan, these animals can be gray, white, or black. Rowan's "Scorpy" that she drew is named Thorn, and is white. This creature has porcupine quills that can shoot at food or enemies and a scorpion-barbed tail. She has three razor-sharp claws on each of her paws and very sharp fangs. She lives in the forest and can swim if she has to, but she doesn't enjoy it. The males attack a threat immediately, but the females always sniff first to see what the thing is unless the thing is too close to the baby Scorps or the den. It is also HUGE, about as tall as a three story building.

Sean created a Turcle. Sean says that Turcle hybrids can be any color, according to their purpose. Natural Turcles care for flora and fauna and are brown and green. Healer Turcles heal hurt animals and are pink. Fire Turcles control fires and are orange and red. Stone Turcles care for mountains and rocks and are grey. Fruit Turcles care for our foods and are purple. Snow Turcles control the climate and are white. Sun Turcles care for space bodies and are yellow. Ocean Turcles care for seas and are blue. Sean's Turcle that she drew is named Tsunami. She has a blue body and a pink head, so she is an ocean healer.

Are you as impressed with these vivid imaginations as Ms. Alyson and I are? Next week, we will continue creating wonderful imaginary animals. But this time, we will be coming up with three-dimensional models of "critters." Some of our children will be using art supplies that they have on hand, such as Model Magic. Others will be creating "junk art," using paper bags, paper towel holders, plastic water bottles, etc. (Don't forget your Scotch tape, masking tape, twist ties, etc., all you creative kids! Something's got to hold these critters together.) This is a fun, hands-on way to learn about God's amazing creative power and a reminder that he created us in His image! Thank you, God, for these wonderful children with whom you have blessed Trinity Church!

—Irene Dycus

ROOM IN THE INN UPDATE FOR SEASON 2020-2021

Due to the continued pandemic, Room in the Inn will work very differently, at least for the months of November and December. Here is an outline of the plan and how Trinity may be able to plug in and help:

There will be only three centers for overnight shelter:

- Germantown UMC Cottage across from Germantown UMC
- Ozaman Center, 1306 Monroe west of Social Security office - Madison & Monroe
- Manna House Women's shelter house on Greenlaw
- Women and transgender individuals will be given priority as guests.
- Guests will be limited to 6-7 per center with the same guests assigned to each center for a week.
- Each guest will sleep in the same bed every night. This will reduce the need to do laundry every morning.

Host congregation volunteers will number 3-4 with PPE guidelines in place

Meals: Dinners and breakfasts can be provided by other congregations not hosting. Commitment will be for the same night/ morning each week during November and December with a reassessment for the rest of the season in late December. Dinners should be enough to serve 15-20 people, allowing for second helpings. Breakfasts will be for 6-7 people and should include disposable plates and cutlery. All meals are to be dropped at the curbside of center.

Transportation: 15 passenger vans and drivers are needed for transporting guests to and from the centers. Social distancing will be observed as much as possible in the van. Bag limit per guest is one small bag like an airplane carry-on.

All guests will have on masks and will have been screened by RITI staff, i.e. temperature taken, prior to getting on the van. RITI staff will outfit the van with plexiglass protection for the driver and will clean the van after the morning delivery back to RITI. Josh McClurkan has graciously volunteered to drive on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Hallelujah!

There will be no clothes closet availability at least at the beginning of this season.

What does this mean for Trinity and our participation in this ministry? Because most of our volunteers from our membership are in the high-risk category, Trinity is limited to providing food and transportation, both of which are really needed.

We need volunteers to prepare dinners. Here is the dinner schedule thus far:

November 3rd: Next Generation Sunday School
November 10th: Janet Partridge from St. Jude
November 17th: Elizabeth Hopper
November 24th: Open
December 1st: Redeemer Presbyterian
December 8th: Open
December 15th: Redeemer Presbyterian
December 22nd: Open
December 29th: Open



If you are interested in providing a dinner, please call Rosemary Potter at (901) 493-6744 or email rosemary.potter@att.net. If cooking isn't your thing, your financial support for Room in the Inn is always welcome! As one of our outreach ministries, Trinity can still support Room in the Inn in its holy hospitality mission.

October

— BIRTHDAYS —



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

Best news ever!

Thanks to everyone who sent cards and encouragement to Nancy Rankin before, during her hospital stay, and after her surgery. The surgeon removed stitches on October 6th, and Nancy and Nelda were happy to hear that Nancy is now cancer-free. The surgeon removed 1/3 of her right upper lung and one lymph node. It was Stage 1 cancer. Nancy will follow up with a pulmonologist and has to take it easy for a few weeks, but she wanted to express her appreciation for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and concern.



Rest up, Nancy!
You'll be back to normal in no time.



A sweet "Thank You" note was received in the church office last week from Irene and Gene Opel, expressing gratitude for the cards and calls celebrating Irene's 90th birthday. Please keep these dear friends in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to stay home in order to stay safe and healthy.

Church Council Reflections

Trinity's governing body, the Church Council, has continued to meet during the pandemic, using the online platform Zoom. All members are welcome to log in. We are closing each meeting by reflecting on this question: "What have you heard today that gives you hope?" In this time when it is easy to drift into negative thinking, it gives us great joy to reflect on hope. Here are the reflections from the September 27 meeting:

Reflecting on what we heard today that gives encouragement, members lifted up these thoughts:

- We have found a van driver for RITI (Josh McClurkan).
- We discovered that we are able to participate in RITI in new ways.
- Our budget is in the black.
- Children's Sunday School is meeting online, thanks to Alyson Forman and Irene Dycus, and their cards for the homebound members are bringing much joy.
- A 100-year-old member, Dr. Hugh Stuart, felt our love on his 100th birthday in spite of social distancing.

Pastor Sara summarized that we are grateful that the church has been able to continue so many ministries in so many ways during these exceptional times.

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received

In memory of Dorothy Ann Brink from Shirley Flint

In memory of Bill Brown from Fred R. Martin

In memory of Doris Webster from Sally & Eddie Ramsey

In memory of Doris Webster from Caley & Alyson Foreman

In memory of Doris Webster from Raymond & Barbara Bible

In memory of Doris Webster from Jane Waldrip

In memory of Doris Webster from Wight F. Boggs

DON'T FORGET

WORSHIP ON THE LAWN

11 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
CALL OR E-MAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY 3 PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH,
FOR RESERVATIONS.
OFFICE@TRINITYUMCMEMPHIS.ORG
(901) 274-6895



Trinity United Methodist Church

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2020

November 1st, 4:30-5:00

Charge Conference is November 1st from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. All church leadership is asked to attend. All church members are encouraged to.

Halloween Event

On Sunday, October 25th, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Trinity's Children's Ministries will be offering a "Trick or Treat on Wheels" to the children of our church and neighborhood. Families are invited to drive by the Galloway side of Trinity Church to pick up plastic zip-lock bags of candy for each child in the family. This will operate in much the same way that Pastor Sara has done the drive-by Communion; it is a drive-up and drive-off event. Kids are welcome to dress in their Halloween costumes, but there will be no getting out of vehicles. Bags of candy will be given to families through open windows, and we hope families will remember to wear masks. Our "candy car-hops" will mask up and glove up for this event to protect everyone's health and safety.

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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; 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.

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 in the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they go back to 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, continuing treatment for brain tumor

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 Opel, in good spirits despite being confined to their home; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns, but strong in her faith; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

A PRAISE! **Nancy Rankin** is cancer free, recovering at home, & being followed by a pulmonary specialist.

Maggi Comes, experiencing back pain

Elwood Oliver, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, recovering from his strokes

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 recently been diagnosed with lung cancer.

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

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, at Encompass for rehab after surgery for a broken hip

Prayers for healing of Elaine Amis' son-in-law, **Robert Lawson**, who is very ill; and for daughter **Diane Lawson** and Elaine as they worry about his recovery.

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

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.)