

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.



Expecting the Best

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

*For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord,
'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.
— Jeremiah 29:11*

How amazing is it that God looks at us with such incredible expectation and hope? That shouldn't make you feel pressure. Just know. Know that God looks at you — EVEN you — and has a dream that you would grow (in age or in faith — preferably both) to become a world-changer, a world-SAVER — someone who fights for justice, turns over the tables of the powers and principalities of this world, and does radical things like loving your neighbor as yourself. That is God's expectation of you before you are even born. It's 'big deal' kind of stuff, but not outside the realm of your ability because God created you able. You need only be willing.

I tell myself something like this every morning to ward off the doubt and remember. I tell myself this to taste and see that not only the LORD is good, but so am I. I am fearfully and wonderfully made, in God's image and after God's likeness.

I love that God looks at us with such hope. I wish we did a better job of modeling this and expecting the best in and from each other.

American culture has become so volatile of late. Keyboard warriors set out to discredit everything they read, not considering how their tone might be read. As I type this, I do the opposite. With each word, I do my best to consider how it might be read. I care about you and your heart. I also know that it is our tendency, these days, to read words and hear what we want to hear. Because we have a propensity to flock to the more dramatic (who doesn't like a good reality TV show? Me. That's who.), too often we err on the side of the negative. What if we didn't? What if we shifted our way of thinking to be more like God's, in assuming the best, assuming a positive tone, assuming goodness?

And maybe that is being idealistic, but a girl can hope, because I believe that if we started thinking that the motives are pure, that the words are life-giving, and that the intention is for the greater good of humanity — I think that if we start believing that is the reason the people around us move, and live, and have their being, then we will begin to see the goodness in the world around us that is often consumed by the bad. I believe that as we expect the best in one another, that it will beget goodness. I've watched it happen in children. When you set the expectation that they make the right choice and do the right thing, and they know that is your expectation, more often than not, they aim to reach that expectation — they aim for 'right.' What if, people of God, fearfully and wonderfully made with the bar set heavenward in expectation, we began to make it clear that we know that the best exists in our neighbor. What if I told you that I know in your heart you mean well, you seek goodness, and you love me. What if I reminded you, often, that I, too, mean well, seek goodness for you, and love you?

That would change the world, wouldn't it? Isn't that what God expects us to do?

Meaning well, seeking goodness, and loving you,
Rev. Sara



Unexpected Blessings

"Father Abraham" is a children's song with a jaunty tune and lots of fun bodily motions that accumulate as the song goes on. As with other children's faith songs, this song has a deeper spiritual meaning than it might appear to have. It reminds us that we, as Christians, are grafted onto the family tree of Abraham through our faith in Jesus Christ. As such, we, too, are inheritors of the promise that God made to

Abram in Genesis 12; we have been blessed by God, and we are called to be a blessing to others.

Our Children's Sunday School Class has studied the stories of Abraham and Sarah for the last few weeks, including the birth of their long-awaited son Isaac, who was finally born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90. This week's lesson from Genesis 25:19-28 features the sibling rivalry of Isaac's own two sons, the twins Jacob and Esau, and details how the younger son Jacob tricks his slightly older brother out of his birthright. Although we may see Jacob as a manipulator, a deceitful conniver, and a supplanter, this is all part of God's plan. During the month of November, we will travel with Jacob and witness how God's plan is worked out through him in the varied twists and turns of his own journey. Our personal journeys also can have some surprises along the way. My journey this past week involved a fainting spell that resulted in a hard blow to the head and a trip to the hospital. I want to share one of the blessings (among many) that was a part of that experience.

Several weeks ago, a young neighbor down the hall from me talked me into purchasing an Apple Watch. Our daytime security officer, as well as some of my neighbors, have been concerned that I might take a spill while on one of my walks outside in the neighborhood, and they thought this might be a good safety measure. This young woman even sent me information on the specific model of the watch to purchase and where to order it. It was one of the more affordable models, so I bought one. One of the first things I did was to set up the emergency information on the watch.

On the morning that I conked out, I had just come in from a 35-minute walk outside and was reading the emails on my phone. I felt slightly faint and reached out to touch the wall. The next thing I remember is lying on the floor, flat on my back, with a painfully swollen head, and trying to figure out how I got there. Eventually, I realized my phone was ringing. When I located it, it was six feet away from me. I then remembered I could answer the call on my watch. Guess who was calling me! It was the operator from 911, telling me my watch had contacted them, notifying them that I had taken a "hard fall." I was able to share what had happened to me, and she ordered an ambulance for me. My watch had also contacted my sons and daughter-in-law with that same information. Patton called me from Bozeman, Montana, right after I talked with the 911 operator. His call was followed by Jessica's and then Andrew's.

Modern technology is frequently daunting, and the idea of Artificial Intelligence is scary to me. But I am praising God for my Apple Watch and for its "looking out for me." I will also continue to praise God for Zoom and the way it kept our Children's Sunday School Class going for quite some time when we were unable to meet face to face. God does indeed work in many mysterious ways, including modern technology, and I thank Him for every means that He uses to get the job done.

Peace and love,
Irene

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

Don't forget to keep our Tiny Pantry stocked with non-perishable food, especially portable protein like tuna & crackers, protein bars, peanut butter crackers, and Vienna sausages, as well as fruit cups and healthy snacks.



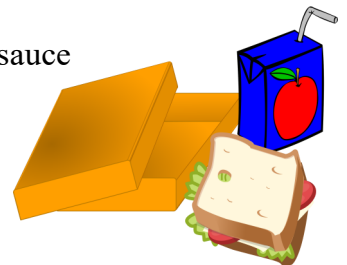
| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Joan Smith | November 7 |
| Katy Spake | November 12 |
| Cooper Tate | November 14 |
| Mary McConnell | November 17 |
| Carson Witt | November 25 |
| Venoma Newhart | November 26 |
| John Allmon | November 29 |

“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.)

Where in the world is Leo Chang?

by Debby Marston



Maybe the question should be, “Who in the world is Leo Chang?” Leo is a graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary and an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister. I met him when he started attending Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church back in 2009 (or thereabouts). Leo came to the U.S. from South Korea as a young adult. He had some tough years at first and somehow wound up in Memphis, Tennessee. His initial connection with Colonial CPC was through Rev. Dr. Barry Anderson, who was then recruiting students for MTS. Barry tended to send new seminary students to Colonial because he knew they’d be welcomed there. His wife, Rev. Lisa Anderson (our pastor), once said — from the pulpit — that our congregation was a collection of misfits, thus allowing just about anyone to fit in. Leo fit. He played the guitar and sang during worship once in a while. He and I sang together and led the music at Iona Fellowship, a Celtic congregation then meeting at the Andersons’ home (and still meeting every Monday night via Zoom).

A seminary class on urban ministry was offered by MTS, and the decision was made to hold the class in the Colonial Church fellowship hall. Several of our members sat in while Barry Anderson and/or Andre Johnson taught. Students were encouraged to come up with ideas for urban ministry that could be led by the laity. One idea was a summer day camp for kids who would otherwise be latchkey kids. The other was to pattern a homeless ministry after Room in the Inn in Nashville. Leo was one of those students.

Leo used to show up at the Andersons’ home with all sorts of unlikely cargo. Once it was a stack of army cots stacked on top of his car. Those were the first “beds” we offered our guests. We served home cooked meals, played Scrabble, cards, and all kinds of board games. But mostly we talked. We had conversations with people whose lives had no connection with ours, except for our desire to offer hospitality to folks who otherwise would be sleeping on the streets.

One summer, Leo decided to hitchhike his way across and up and down the country, visiting homeless communities. (Barry and friends talked him into riding the bus for most of the trip, but every so often Leo hitched a ride and met and made new friends.) In Albuquerque, New Mexico, he met some Hispanic ladies who served burritos to people living on the street. When Leo got back home to Memphis, his enthusiasm helped birth the Burrito Ministry, now led by Barry Anderson and a mixed bunch of people from every church and non-church group imaginable. From that grew The Urban Bicycle Food Ministry, now about to celebrate its 11th anniversary.

This story started as a brief biography of one Leo Chang. Leo could be anywhere. His ministry is to the homeless population in urban settings. He may be living in a tent. Or under a bridge. But the larger story is one of a passionate desire to serve people living without the most basic human needs. As the founder of Nashville’s Room in the Inn, Father Charlie Strobel, once said, *“When someone experiences hospitality and safety and a feeling of belonging, they experience sanctuary. Sanctuary is defined by the people, not the space. Everyone can become an expression of sanctuary. Ultimately, sanctuary offers one an experience of something sacred, something holy.”*



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Welcome, Lilly!

Lillian Octavia Hargrove was born at 11:34 p.m. on October 19, 2023. She weighed in at 8 lbs, 15 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. She is pictured here with her proud grandmother, Raquel Norton, our hard-working custodian. Mother Cassandra and Lilly are both doing fine. Don't be surprised if they all show up for Trunk or Treat Sunday night. Raquel is ready to show her off to all the sweet folks at Trinity who have been so supportive.



(continued from page 4 - Where in the world is Leo Chang?)

Trinity has an opportunity to share space once again with people experiencing homelessness. It will take some ingenuity and creativity, since we don't have as many members still able to make beds, sweep floors, cook meals, and do all the myriad other tasks that made it possible for Trinity UMC to host 12 to 14 people one night a week during the coldest part of the winter (November through March). Rev. Sara compiled a list to help us explore how Trinity could rejoin the host churches in the Memphis area and again serve the homeless community. Please consider the following list prayerfully and contact Kay Jordan, Rev. Sara, or the church office with your questions, ideas, and suggestions. Here's what we need to do to start thinking through this challenge:

- Poll the congregation and make an in-house list of folks willing to volunteer for RITI and in what arena(s) they are willing to serve.
- Reach out to other community organizations to partner. In the past, 'blocks' in the EHDA area helped serve meals, greet, etc. Lisa Anderson suggests Peace Lutheran, Redeemer Presbyterian, Evergreen PCUSA, and Mercy Hill. I would add Rhodes college AND U of M.
- Organize with RITI Memphis when we would need their transport vehicles and their drivers to transport guests to and from the church (since we no longer have an insurable bus or drivers).
- Get a feel with where Trinity members are in availability to stay overnight. Connect with Rhodes to see if they have students who need service hours and can stay overnight with guests. The minimum is two. Folks from community partner organizations may also volunteer. This was the hardest volunteer spot to fill in former years.
- Organize who will prepare and serve meals.
- Partner with Debby to choose a day that will work on the TUMC calendar to host. Things already on the calendar will have to shift. She can be the communicator to make that happen.
- Communicate with volunteers weekly to check in and offer reminders.

From Debby: I have been a part of Room in the Inn-Memphis since its inception. My husband George and I were on its first Board of Directors. We helped host guests every Tuesday night from November 1st through March 31st at Colonial CPC every RITI season. It changed the way we look at and react to people. It changed us. We will never look at disadvantaged people the way we used to. We now recognize them for who they are: our neighbors.

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:

Rosemary Potter, successful hip replacement surgery October 23rd; at home recovering

Mike Baloga and wife **Juli**, neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake; Mike has a serious infection in spine & brain and is currently hospitalized.

Rita Baker, friend of Sue Taylor, in ER awaiting admission to Methodist University for serious health issues

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, auto accident; at home with fractured leg

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.

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**

Seth Genes, 14 year old friend of Debby Marston; malignancy found in leg; starting chemo at St. Jude Oct. 27

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.)