

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.

Joy with the Morning (Mourning)

*"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." — Job 42:2*

About six weeks ago, I was looking at the month of October and the lectionary texts, trying to decide what direction we needed to go for worship. Worship is hard right now. To many, it symbolizes our collective grief of interaction lost because of another turning point in the pandemic. For me there are still moments of hope, but I admit that looking out into the empty space of the worship center on Sundays is hard. It's hard to know what needs to be said when I cannot see, or even hear, where everyone is. I can only imagine that we are in much the same place — missing the moments where we see each other and actually sharing in our life of faith. It's a part of who we are.

As I looked through the lectionary possibilities, I saw that the Old Testament texts were going to take us through a 4-week journey in the book of Job and I thought, "That couldn't be more perfect!" Job is sad, and challenging. It's where **we** are. Surely this is 'it.' Surely this is the Holy Spirit.

Then Job and I began a four week arm wrestling match that I simply could not win. How could this possibly be what we needed to hear?! It's terrible! There are hardly any moments of hope! Job's friends are awful, AWFUL friends! His wife isn't that much better. He loses everyone and everything else. GOD LETS IT HAPPEN! Goodness, what did I get myself into? This was going to be a deep dive into grief coupled with a whole bunch of unanswered theological questions. No, God. I cannot imagine this is where you want us to go.

Except...

Except, isn't that exactly where we are? We are 18 months into unexplainable grief that feels like it'll never end. Sometimes we feel like we've lost everything. There have been long periods of loneliness — the absence of family and friends. Surely there have been moments where we, like Job, have wanted to question the Divine or cry out in frustration. Maybe you have. It has been hard to stay the course. Attending worship virtually...well, our membership vows didn't really cover that, did they? It has felt like a death — a long, drawn-out, recurring death.

And there are questions. Why has this happened? How has this happened? Is this what humanity deserves? Did we bring this on ourselves? Where is God in all of this? We pray, "God, if you are omnipotent, and if you love us, why haven't you intervened?"

Yes, this feels very much like Job. And, as I said in worship Sunday, there really aren't answers. The hope at the end of the book of Job is that God understands human suffering and, at times, chooses to reveal more and more of God's self to us through it. It doesn't stop the pain, though there is consolation in it. It doesn't 'fix' things. It isn't Divine intervention that solves all of our problems in miraculous ways. It simply is the presence of God with us as we hurt, as we lean, as we are carried, and as we carry one-another. It is the continued hope we find in knowing that God is, and always will be, Emmanuel — with us.

Maybe our grief is coming to an end. There seem to be more and more flashes of light at the end of this proverbial tunnel. Maybe we are, again, getting there. Maybe we are closer to joy. Perhaps we are closer than we can imagine. I pray that you will hope with me. Even for Job, in the end, joy came with the morning (mourning).

Be Well,

Rev. Sara

Scouting, Trinity Style

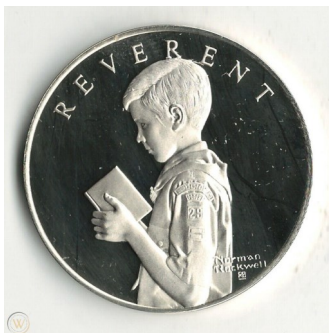
By Rob Landrigan

My last update was about what we did that weekend - this time, I'm going to look back a bit. The 12th point of the Scout law is Reverent, and it's sometimes hard to understand that, in that so many Churches have Scouts units, but so few Troops have many church members in them. So if we're not packing the pews, how is ministering to Scouts, well, Ministry?

I'm biased - because the first time I heard God - really, honestly felt His presence - was because of Scouting. There's a valley on the Appalachian Trail that will forever be to me the front range of Heaven. It was a moment of clarity that is second only to the first time I held my children in my arms, that there was a reason for me to be here. That's because I had Scout leaders to guide, teach, kick, and push me, when my own father wasn't there, when my own will was weak. When I was scared, and lost.

I've had moments in rainstorms, or cold nights, or bright shining afternoons with kids who were Done. D O N E. And it would have been easy to call it, pack their gear and get them home. But that moment - that moment that I had that they might miss - gave me a chance to talk to them. And they found out that they weren't DONE, they...just needed a chance to not be perfect.

God is infinite but the world is so loud, now, that even She needs help being heard when no one is listening. Campfires and trails, and the delightful exhaustion of a day well spent, give kids a moment to be able to hear. Imagine a Century of God being heard because Trinity helped children to listen.



MEMORIALS & HONORARIAMS

AN HONORARIUM HAS BEEN RECEIVED
IN HONOR OF **MARC & SUE TAYLOR** FROM
NELDA GRAY & NANCY RANKIN

Trinity Lay Leadership, 2022

SPRC

Charlotte Comes (chair)
Charles Abraham
Chris Glover
Sara Goff
Carol Miller
Katy Spake

Finance Committee

Rosemary Potter (chair)
Craig Jordan

Treasurer

Sally Ramsey

Lay Leader

Sam Goff

Trustees

Sam Goff (chair)
Shirley Flint
Rob Landrigan
Marc Taylor
Kelly Dougherty
Joe Spake
Doris Porter

Lay Leadership Committee

Sara Corum (chair)
Charlotte Comes (SPRC chair)
Sam Goff (Trustees Chair and Lay Leader)
Kay Jordan (Church Council chair)
Rosemary Potter (Finance Chair)

Church Council

Kay Jordan (chair)
Amy Moritz (representing community connections)
Craig Jordan (representing congregational care)
Krissi Moore (representing outreach)
Irene Dycus (representing children's ministries)
Sam Goff (representing trustees and as lay leader)
Sally Ramsey (as treasurer)
Rob Landrigan (representing Scouts)
Mike Potter (at large)
Myra Finch (at large)
Katy Spake (at large)
Clara Farabee (at large)

2022 Delegate to Annual Conference

Sam Goff
Rosemary Potter (alternate 1)
Rob Landrigan (alternate 2)



AWE - Wonder Inspired by God

I am an early riser, and I have recently viewed the most awesome sunrises from my 12th floor apartment window that faces toward the west. Wait a minute, you might be thinking, how do you view the sunrise from a window on the west side of your building? The first morning I saw it, it manifested itself in an amazing reflection of the light of the rising sun in a single vertical line of east-facing glass windows in one of the large buildings on the St. Jude Hospital campus. The light appeared initially at the very top window and then descended as the sun rose higher until a full

vertical column of brilliant light blazed from heaven to earth. On two mornings recently, in addition to the windows at St. Jude, the sunrise spectacular included all the windows on the west side of the Crosstown Concourse. Please understand, these windows don't just reflect the sunlight. They truly look as if they are on fire! The blazing light is so intense it hurts my eyes to look at it, and at the same time, I can't take my eyes off it. It has been the most amazing experience! This phenomenon lasts just for a minute or so and then the exteriors of the buildings fade to normalcy as the sun rises higher from the eastern horizon. Each time I have viewed this wonderful light show, I can't help but see it as a symbol of the vibrant new life that has been breathed into the once-derelict Sears Crosstown building, as well as the life-saving services that continue to be offered to seriously ill children at St. Jude Hospital. These are both prime examples of light shining into darkness within our Memphis community.

During the month of October, the faith word for our Children's Sunday School Class has been **AWE**, which means "**an amazing feeling of wonder inspired by God.**" We have been learning about how God acted in many wonderful ways to deliver His chosen people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. These awe-inspiring events included God's calling to Moses from a burning bush and the series of powerful acts by God that finally convinced the pharaoh to let the Israelites go. This past week we learned how God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptian army by the parting of the waters of the Reed Sea, lighting the way and protecting the people from behind with a column of fire.

Now it's time for our class to put what we have learned into action. **AWE** leads to **GRATITUDE**, as we focus on what's good in our lives and are thankful to God for our many blessings. We want to remind our Trinity Church family that you are invited to help our Children's Sunday School Class once again in a canned and boxed food drive to benefit the **Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** that is run by our partners in ministry, Binghampton United Methodist Mission. This food pantry serves hungry people throughout the Memphis community. Poverty and hunger go hand in hand, and Memphis has one of the highest rates of poverty in our country. Recent times have greatly increased the need for food for the hungry. God calls us to action, to shine light into the darkness of others' lives through compassionate care for their physical needs. Once you have collected a sack full of canned/boxed 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. Thank you so much for joining our children in support of this vital ministry.

In gratitude,
Irene and Alyson

(Look at page 4 in this issue of the **Trinotes** for pictures drawn by some of our young artists that illustrate our recent lessons.)

REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS STORE



The time for the Reelfoot Rural Ministries 2021 Toy Store has arrived. This ministry is a wonderful blessing for our neighbors in need, their children, donors, and staff. The very presence of God is experienced by all involved in this ministry. The Toy Store will follow the model used last year. The pandemic caused us to alter the way the Toy Store operated last year. Some of those changes proved very successful.

This year the application, donation, volunteer, and shopping processes will remain somewhat different from pre-pandemic years.

For nearly 40 years, the RRM Toy Store has been available to families in Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Thanks to God, generous donors, and wonderful volunteers, Reelfoot Rural Ministries is equipped to be a conduit of God's grace. Grace is evident through the material gifts for children and the even more important gifts of dignity, self-worth, restored hope, and joy for families experiencing financial stress in the Christmas season. In 2020, the RRM Toy Store served over 350 families and 1000 children.

The simplest and safest donations are monetary. Please consider this as you prayerfully discern how you will support the RRM Toy Store this year. We will accept donations of toys; however, due to high demand on the staff, we ask that you call ahead to schedule a day for drop-off. When you deliver your toy donations you will be required to have your temperature taken and wear a face covering while in the building.

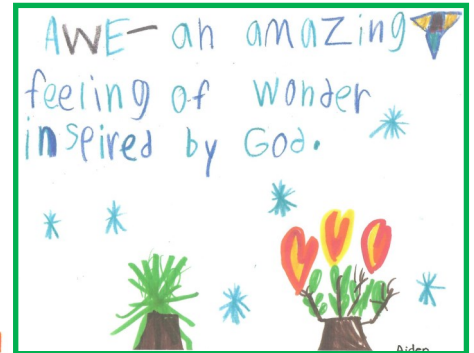
Financial donations can be mailed to Reelfoot Rural Ministries, 6923 Minnick Elbridge Road, Obion, Tennessee, 38240.

AWE—an amazing feeling
of wonder inspired by God



Cooper Tate

**AWE—An amazing feeling of
wonder inspired by God**



Aiden Tate



Carson Witt

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!



November 7	Joan Smith
November 12	Katy Spake
November 14	Cooper Tate
November 17	Mary McConnell
November 20	Julian Cullen
November 25	Carson Witt
November 26	Vanoma Newhart
November 27	Shirley Flint
November 27	Donna Windham
November 29	John Allmon
November 29	Jonathan Goff

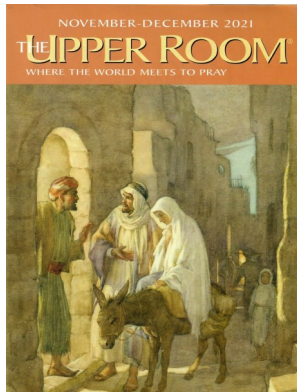
If any birthdays have been omitted, please send the name and date of birth to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message so we can make that correction.

ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

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

office@trinityumcmemphis.org

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 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:

Pray for **Nelda Gray** and the extended family of **Nancy Rankin**, who passed away peacefully this morning, October 27, in her home.

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Kanyon Glover, now 3 years old, is beginning to walk. He still can't talk or use his left arm, so he's in therapy for those issues.

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, who had moved to assisted living, is now back home in his tiny house!

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 celebrated her 91st birthday on October 7th.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, recovered from broken hip; dialysis going well

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

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 constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure; COPD; improved mobility

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, which has regulated his heartbeat.

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

Rosemary Potter broke her femur in a fall last Tuesday; surgery was successful & she's recovering at home.

Nora and Lila Dycus, who tested positive for COVID-19, and for the **Dycus family**, as they quarantine. Both girls have had symptoms. Pray for their full recovery!

Pray for the family of **Lee Hutchinson**, who passed away October 26th [friend of Carol & Carey Miller]

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