

**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.

## If We Are the Body

*"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his  
body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."*

—Teresa of Ávila

Back in the Spring, TUMC leadership planned and executed an outdoor worship service. Originally we'd wanted this service to take place in Overton Park. Some unforeseen circumstances kept that from happening and that was ok. We really do have a beautiful spot under the big tree "out back."

During that service Marc Taylor and I led those present in a contemporary Christian song called, "If We Are the Body." Marc, incredibly gifted, played beautifully, and I butchered it on my guitar. But (and I might recall this only for my own pride), the song wasn't really about skill and presentation. It was about the words. I'll offer them to you here:

*It's crowded in worship today, as she slips in, trying to fade into the faces  
The girl's teasing laughter is carrying farther than they know; farther than they know.*

*(Chorus) But if we are the body, why aren't his arms reaching?  
Why aren't his hands healing? Why aren't his words teaching?  
And if we are the body, why aren't his feet going?  
Why is his love not showing them there is a way, there is a way?*

*A traveler is far away from home. He sheds his coat, and quietly sinks into the back row.  
The weight of their judgmental glances, tells him that his chances are better out on the road.*

*(Chorus) But if we are the body, why aren't his arms reaching?  
Why aren't his hands healing? Why aren't his words teaching?  
And if we are the body, why aren't his feet going?  
Why is his love not showing them there is a way?*

*(Bridge) Jesus paid much too high a price for us to pick and choose who should come.  
And we are the body of Christ.*

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

*(Chorus) If we are the body, why aren't his arms reaching?  
Why aren't his hands healing? Why aren't his words teaching?  
And if we are the body, why aren't his feet going?  
Why is his love not showing them there is a way?  
Jesus is the way.*

I think the line that resonates with me the most is in the bridge. *Jesus paid much too high a price for us to pick and choose who should come.* Whew! That is convicting, or at least, it should be. The enormity of the sacrifice God, in Christ Jesus, made for the whole of Creation is astounding. We love it! When Easter comes, we sing in jubilation, “Christ the Lord is risen today!” and what that means for us is incredible. We are forgiven. Our sin can no more separate us from forgiveness, mercy, love, acceptance (all in this time) and eternal life (when the day comes). BUT...we tend to forget that offering was made for **everyone** and we, consequently, forget just how far “everyone” stretches.

We are not the gate-keepers to God. We are the Sunday morning greeters who are to pass out the love, acceptance, joy, forgiveness, and mercy that Jesus showed to the woman at the well, the lepers, the blind man, and the thief on the cross, like Oprah passes out cars on her Christmas special. We are not the gate-keepers to God who have the authority to judge, and that ought to be a relief to read because, boy, does the weight of being judgmental make life frustrating.

Here's the good news (again): we are NOT the gate-keepers to God. We are the body. We are the hands and feet of Christ who help an 84-year old woman suffering the blows of gentrification to find a home. We are the body. We welcome a predominantly LGBT+ congregation to worship in the Center on Sunday mornings. We are the body. We celebrate those who come to Narcotics Anonymous for mutual accountability and support. We are the body. We love our Scouts and their families (even if they don't fill seats in worship Sunday mornings). We are the body. Our community engages with us in doing ministry — our community becomes the Church — even if they don't know it. We are the body. We pack backpacks for immigrant children. We are the body, and this could go on, and on, and on, because we've understood that your skin color doesn't matter in God's economy. Your sexual orientation has nothing to do with whether or not God can and will use you and love you. Your age doesn't mean that God cannot speak through you. Your doubt doesn't mean God isn't moving you. Your failures do not mean that forgiveness isn't yours too.

We are the body. Let's keep reaching, healing, teaching, going, and showing a way — a way to know the LOVE of God and a way to let OUR love of God build the Kingdom.

In the Grip of God's Grace,  
*Rev. Sara*

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

PAT LOVINGTON FROM SUE & MARC TAYLOR

MARY O. ISBELL FROM MIKE & ROSEMARY POTTER



## Feeding His Sheep

We are reminded in 1 John 3:17: *"If someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help – how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?"*

This was the featured verse in the September 19th devotion from ***The Upper Room***. The author of that devotion reminded us that "God answers prayers through us and calls us to share what we have with others in need (see Deut. 15:11). When we answer God's call to give to others, we demonstrate that our faith is not dead and that God answers the prayers of those in need (see James 2:15-17)."

According to the **2022 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet**, which is produced annually by Dr. Elena Delavega of the School of Social Work at the University of Memphis and Dr. Gregory M. Blumenthal, the City of Memphis has a poverty rate of 22.6%, and child poverty is 32.7%. That adds up to a lot of Memphis neighbors who live in poverty, and almost 1/3 of them are children.

According to this fact sheet, in 2020 the Memphis area was in 2nd place in both overall poverty and child poverty among large Metropolitan Statistical Areas with populations greater than one million. Children under the age of 18 continue to suffer the worst poverty levels. The truth of the matter is that children are poor because their parents are poor. Poor families lack supports such as low-cost mortgages, subsidized childcare, adequate public transportation, and city-wide access to the internet. The fact sheet says quite bluntly that "the reality is that only when all Memphians have full access to the goods of the community will Memphis thrive."

A couple of weeks ago, our Children's Sunday School Class concluded a food drive we called "The Great Tuna Challenge." We invited you to join us in collecting canned goods, primarily tuna and other sources of protein, for the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry operated by our partners in ministry at Binghampton United Methodist Mission, as well as for Trinity's own Tiny Pantry. Together we brought 175 containers of tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, beef stew, spaghetti and meatballs, and peanut butter. When Ms. Alyson delivered the bulk of this food to our friends at the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, she was told that they had pretty much cleared their shelves that morning, and they were thrilled to have more donations coming in.

"The Great Tuna Challenge" may be over, but the greater challenge, that of helping feed thousands of Memphis area neighbors who live in poverty, continues and is not going to go away any time soon. The children of Trinity Church are still collecting cans and boxes of food for the two food pantries we support, and we need your ongoing support! We hope you will remember to bring your donations of non-perishable food items each week as you come to Sunday School or worship. If you forget your cans, please consider making a cash donation. Checks may be designated for "food pantry."

May we all keep in mind this prayer from that September 19<sup>th</sup> devotion: "Dear God, help us to see the needs of those around us. Empower us to give with humility and generosity. May we grow to be more like you in the process. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Peace and love to you from Ms. Alyson, Ms. Irene, and all the Trinity children.

## FAITH MUSINGS

“That’s our church.  
It’s kind of like home.  
But it’s a church.”



This touching statement is the first page of a little history booklet published by my home church 40 years ago. The two-and-a-half year old child who said this was explaining things to a family friend who was taking a tour of the neighborhood. And that’s the church that raised me: small, full of faithful members, busy being a part of the community that surrounded it. Isn’t it amazing that I came to be a member of a church that so resembles that one? I seem to recall our own pastor speaking of church as “home” just a few weeks ago. I feel “at home” here. Hope you do, too!

—Kay Jordan

## GIVING THANKS

I recently helped a friend with moving some heavy furniture. Afterwards, he thanked me, and I casually replied back that I was happy to do it. Then he did something unexpected: he stopped me, took my hand, looked me in the eye, and said, “Seriously. I really mean it. I couldn’t have done this without you. Thank you very much.”

I was struck by both how casually I had at first accepted his thanks, and also at the effort he put into making me understand his sincerity.

How casual are we when we give “thanks” to God? Our “thanks” at meals is pretty much rote. When we are thankful to God for the many blessings we receive, are we putting forth the effort to really prove our sincerity? I confess that I could do much better. While I try to live in a “state of thanks,” I have grown complacent in how I express it, and how much I invest in the expression of it.

I encourage you to consider being more actively engaged, more invested in your expressions of thanks to God. I just tried it out myself, and, I must admit, I definitely felt better, more attuned to God.

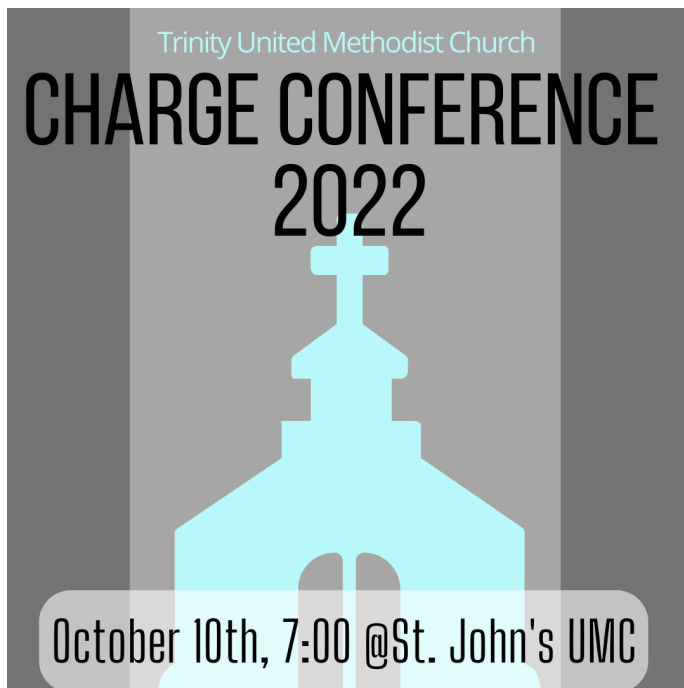
With a spirit of thankfulness,  
Sam Goff



Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence . . . a prayer in which we can experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

Mike Potter hosts a time for silent, non-verbal prayer from 8:30 to 9:15 AM on Saturday mornings in the first-floor Conference Room of Trinity United Methodist Church. Mike will give brief instructions for those who need it. All are welcome. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike at [r.mike.potter@gmail.com](mailto:r.mike.potter@gmail.com) to let him know that you will be coming.



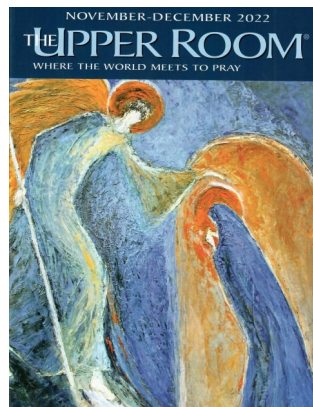


It's Charge Conference season. Please make plans to join Rev. Sara for Charge Conference at St. John's UMC, Monday, Oct. 10th at 7:00 p.m.



Trunk-or-Treat 2022 will be held Oct. 30th, 4-6 pm in the Trinity parking lot pending contributions from YOU. **We need cars for Trunk-or-Treat.** If you are willing and available, please plan to bring your car (decorated or not) and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters that evening. Please let the church office or Rev. Sara know if you plan to be available. We need 20 cars to make this a success! This is a wonderful way to engage the community.

## THE UPPER ROOM



The November/December *Upper Room* is now on display at the reception desk just outside the Worship Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, send an e-mail to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or call the church office at 901-274-6895 with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



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
October 29	Val Coats

## Tiny Pantry

Don't forget to help stock the Tiny Pantry with non-perishable food items.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - 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 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; the family and many friends of the Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams as we grieve

**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. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**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)

**Bobby Glover**, now in permanent housing

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

**Gene & Irene Opel**, for Gene's expected return home from rehab this week and Irene's 92nd birthday celebration on October 7th!

**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 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

**Val Coats**, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

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

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Rev. Kyle Dearen**, as they worship and do ministry here on the campus of Trinity UMC.

**Rosemary Potter**, recovering at home from her falls and starting physical therapy

**Lori Brown**, in treatment for breast cancer

**Eddie Ramsey**, multiple health concerns

Keep **Jonathan Goff** in your prayers.

**Bishop Bill McAlilly** as he recovers from injuries sustained in an auto accident and subsequent surgery

**Edward Thigpen**, friend of Trinity UMC, started back on chemotherapy after finishing up radiation treatments for cancer.

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