

# Trinotes

November 2, 2022

**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.

## Shared Humanity

*As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." Matt. 14: 15-16*

I love the Fall. Fall is my favorite season of the year. I love the colors on the trees. I love the smell in the air. I love pulling out the sweaters and the little bit of anticipation one feels at the first thoughts of holidays that are right around the corner.

When I was growing up, we had a huge tree in the front yard and every autumn, the tree would drop thousands of acorns. I remember thinking that I'd help the squirrels get ready for winter, and I spent hours gathering all the acorns I could find to put them all in one place for the squirrels to come and get and store in their little hideaways in the trees. And, like most children, I always looked forward to dad raking all the leaves into what felt like the world's biggest leaf pile so that I could jump into it and swim in the ocean of colors.

Fall has always been a favorite. Likewise, my family was always big on Halloween. Every October 1st, mom would take us, just to the grocery store, and both my brother and I got to pick out one pumpkin. Just before Halloween, mom would sketch out some fantastic picture on the pumpkins and I got to color them in as though the pumpkin was some page in a coloring book. Dad would come behind me and cut out every bit of what I'd just colored. We had the coolest jack-o-lanterns on the block! Mom would make the porch look eerie with tastefully draped fake spiders' webs, and she'd set lanterns out with our pumpkins, alight with candles.

Halloween was always fun on our block. We lived on a dead-end street and so the traffic was low. All the neighbors were good about participating — always friendly — even some of the scarier neighbors who at any other night of the year wouldn't dare answer the door for the neighborhood kids. Even they would answer, braced for a loud "trick-or-treat!", candy ready. It was enough to get me by, that once-a-year vision of the neighborhood curmudgeons being friendly and hospitable. It made for less intimidating interactions throughout the rest of the year.

There's something about Halloween. I said this near the end of worship Sunday. At Halloween, we get it right. People come to us — complete strangers, from all walks of life. They come to us with outstretched arms and an open hand, expecting something in return. We are kind to them. We ask no questions. We make no qualifiers. We are kind. We give to them, and they thank us. There is little, if any, hesitation.

There is a sort of "best of us," there. Yes, perhaps it hides behind a mask, but it's there. We let it emerge without any thought. We interact with the stranger. We give without thinking about (or overthinking) it. For one night, at least, we aren't strangers as much as we are neighbors. We aren't curmudgeons. We don't ask questions. We are only limited by the bottom of our candy bowl.

Halloween makes me think about the feeding of the 5,000. Of course, Jesus' candy bowl was bottomless. But think about it. Really, think about it. Jesus was gathered with 5,000 men, their wives, and their

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children. It was getting close to supper time so Jesus fed those who were gathered. Scripture draws it out a bit more with details, but this is the gist of the story. It's a really simple one — simple enough that, ultimately, it could be told in two sentences. And it can be told in two sentences, not because of what happened, but because of what was and wasn't said and what was and wasn't done. Jesus showed up. People gathered to listen. It was getting near dinner time, and Jesus fed them. Jesus didn't stop to ask if they qualified for food stamps. Jesus didn't ask what they'd done to be in such a situation that they didn't have their own baskets with bread and fish. Jesus didn't weed out the undeserving. It was trick-or-treat on the hillside — a quick interaction that offered a chance to be connected and meet a need.

Why do we make it so hard one day and turn around and bear witness to how easy it can be on days like Halloween? That's too loaded a question for a newsletter article. But it isn't too loaded a question for us to talk about in the days to come. Instead, here, we'll celebrate.

Today I want to celebrate you. I want to celebrate you because I just came home from Trunk-or-Treat at Trinity where 30+ cars with open trunks sat for two hours. Some of those trunks were yours. Some were from Pack 13 parents. Some were from Lab School staff. Some were from New Spark kids. Some were from Evergreen Historic District neighbors. There were 5 organizations represented. There was a fire pit where we made countless s'mores. There was a 15 ft. blowup screen where we showed a Halloween movie to the community. There were buckets on buckets on buckets of candy. At least 200 of our neighbors came through and it was easy. It was fun. There were no qualifiers — no requirements. There were names shared. There were stories shared. It was community. It was the family of God.

Today we celebrate our shared humanity, nearing the other side of the pandemic days. We celebrate our shared opportunity — one that was embraced. I celebrate you and for the way you showed up — smiles, candy, costumes, laughs, and stories. You did it right and well! Thank YOU and thanks be to God!

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







## Learning about Creation through Creativity

This Sunday will be the conclusion of our Children's Sunday School Class study of God's creation of the world. As we have progressed in our study over several weeks, we have used our creative abilities to add features to a diorama that has depicted the daily stages of God's handiwork. Adam and Eve are now part of the picture. This coming Sunday our class will learn of the first sin and its punishment.

Two Sundays ago, when most of our group was present, the children made their own "critters." They used pinecones, magnolia cones, and craft materials to design some wonderful imaginary animals. The children and their creations are pictured here.



Carson Witt



Eli Witt



Lila Dycus



Cooper Tate



Eli and Nora add to the night sky.



Aiden Tate



Reid McClurkan



Ms. Alyson, Lila, Nora, Carson, and Eli pose by our diorama of the Creation Story.



## BAKE SALE

## Election Day Bake Sale

The **Election Day Bake Sale** is fast approaching! We need lots of baked goodies for our sale on **Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**! Proceeds from the sale will go toward support of the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry operated by our friends at Binghampton United Methodist Mission and Trinity's own Tiny Pantry.

We are asking every family in the church to bake one or more items to sell at our bake sale. An item is a cake, a batch of cookies, a pie, a loaf of bread, a batch of muffins or cupcakes, etc. Please identify what each baked item is, such as "Banana Nut Bread," etc. If you want to leave a special note, such as "made from scratch," feel free to do so. However, do **NOT** put prices on your baked goods ahead of time; we will price everything at the food table.

All sale items need to be delivered to Trinity Church no later than 3 p.m. on Monday afternoon, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Smaller baked items such as cookies and brownies should be packed in zip-lock bags, 4 to a package if large ones or 6 to a package if smaller ones.

We need everyone to help with this project by baking items for sale. We also need helpers at the sales table, which will be located in the hallway outside the voting area in Trinity's Worship Center; we will need two volunteers on duty at all times, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. To offer your services as a baker or salesperson, please email Irene Dycus at [irenebdycus@hotmail.com](mailto:irenebdycus@hotmail.com) or call her at 652-1105.

## November Meeting of Trinity UMC Council



## Church Council Meeting us

The Church Council will meet immediately after worship on Sunday, November 13. As we continue to open ourselves to ways the Spirit leads to engage with our community, we will be evaluating what we have done and looking ahead to what's next. If you are leading one of our work areas, please send your written report to Kay Jordan at [jordanck2@gmail.com](mailto:jordanck2@gmail.com) by Wednesday, Nov. 9. These reports will go out to Council members before our meeting, so that we can preserve our meeting time for considering how what we have done, and will do in the future, can carry out our Mission and Vision.

To all Trinity members and friends: Church Council meetings are open to all! Please come if you wish. We will be having a lunch of homemade soup, so notify Kay at the email address given above if you will be coming; we will prepare as much soup as is required!

Kay Jordan, Chairperson of the Church Council



## Daylight Savings Time Ends

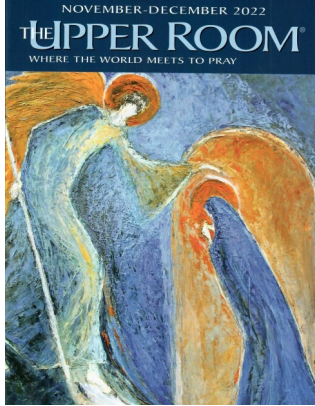
Don't forget to "fall back" this Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night so you won't be late getting to Sunday School and Worship.





This Sunday Nov. 6th is All Saints Sunday. Together we will celebrate the saints who were welcomed into the church triumphant this year. Please plan to join us.

## 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.



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

*(Let us know if we left anyone off!)*

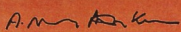
"WELL DONE! YOU ARE A GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU'VE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A LITTLE. I'LL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MUCH. COME, CELEBRATE WITH ME."  
 —MATTHEW 25:23, CEB

# THANK YOU

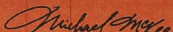
for giving faithfully 100%  
of the connectional commitments in 2021

Trinity  
United Methodist Church  
Memphis

Memphis Annual Conference  
Bishop William McAlilly



A. Moses Rathan Kumar  
General Secretary and Treasurer  
General Council on Finance  
and Administration



Bishop Michael McQueen  
President, General Council on  
Finance and Administration

400502 Metro

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church\*

## 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)

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

**Gene & Irene Opel**, for Gene on hospice and Irene as she cares for him, with home nurse help

**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' 97 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center

**Val Coates**, 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

**Rosemary Potter**, recovering at home from her falls

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

**Eddie Ramsey**, multiple health concerns

**Bishop Bill McAlilly** as he begins intense physical therapy to regain his ability to walk; more surgery to come; Bishop McAlilly will be on medical leave during November and December.

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

**Charles Sanders**, who passed away recently (friend of Nelda Gray)

**Dawn Ward**, her son **Aaron Hargrove**, as they grieve Mr. Ward's death (Aaron is Raquel Norton's daughter's friend)

**Leah Johnson**, friend of Raquel Norton, as she goes through a divorce

**Sean & Rowan Booth**, both had eye surgery on October 10th: pray for their recovery

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