

# 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.**



## Give Thanks

*"O, give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 107:1*

Debby sent an email out to those who usually contribute to the newsletter on Sunday, hoping those contributors would jot some words of thanksgiving down to share with you this week. I think we all assumed it would be an "off" week on the newsletter; at least, I know I did. Little did she know that I had just preached a thanksgiving sermon — I had just, thoroughly, offered what I think Trinity should be most thankful for — God's presence with us and faith in us to do good, do no harm, and attend to the ordinances of God — God's placing before us every opportunity, even during a pandemic, to love God's people and love one another.

But, Debby didn't really ask for that. Debby asked for what **we** are thankful for.

I am thankful for everything I was blessed to preach yesterday morning. God's tug on the heartstrings of Trinity is still strong. I think it's Rosemary Potter who's said since I've been the pastor here, "God's not finished with Trinity yet," and that's so true. And I think that might be summed up best in the scripture I chose for this brief message.

Psalm 107:1 is a text we use quite often. I don't know if you've ever looked at it in different translations and compared it. When I did just that a bit ago, I noticed something I think is really important. Several translations omit the word 'steadfast.' You've heard me say before that I have a preferred translation (I think we all do) and that's the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). When I was in undergrad at Lambuth and sweating my way through four semesters of Biblical Hebrew, I found that the closest translation that we have today to the original language is the RSV/NRSV. I use the NRSV because it's the most faithful interpretation there is. The NRSV doesn't omit the word steadfast and I think that's important.

Lest we use this text in liturgies or, if you're like me, simply say or pray it throughout the day without thinking of each word, I want to profess that I think the most important word in this short verse is the one often omitted — steadfast. In the last four years that word has been especially meaningful to me in ways that I'll forever hold close to my heart.

I am thankful for the steadfast love and presence of God in my life — even and especially in the valleys. I am thankful for God's steadfastness with the people of Trinity, with its faithful leadership, with those who'd be at the church right now, even in a global pandemic, were the doors open on Sunday, and Trinity's work of ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Even more.....

I am thankful for my husband Josh, who gives me a glimpse every single day at what it means to be steadfast in marriage, in love (agape and other), in service to our family and the churches he serves, and in doing this crazy life with me. He has taught me more and more what it means to be steadfast — ever-present — perfectly patient — determined and unwavering, and his lessons in steadfastness have helped me to understand more God's steadfastness with God's people — with us — with us, always.

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I hope and pray that this week as we recall together, but apart — with our families and yet apart — seemingly apart from those we usually spend these days with — that God's steadfastness in our lives feels close and not apart — that God's love feels close — that's the hope of God for your peace, health, and joy feels persistent, enduring — steadfast — as you, too, give thanks for all that you have and all that you are.

With Great Thanksgiving for You,  
*Rev. Sara*

## Memphis Immigration Relief Fund

During this pandemic, immigrant families here in Memphis have been hit especially hard. Struggling in the best of times, these families have now been further devastated by job losses and difficulty accessing medical care, along with the ongoing fear of deportation.

The Memphis Immigrant Relief Fund is a coalition of local concerned citizens and churches that minister directly to immigrant communities, in this case mostly indigenous Guatemalans fleeing rampant gang violence, murders and kidnappings in their home country. Since March of this year, with your generous help we have raised more than \$25,000, which we used to assist immigrant families with food and living expenses. We have also negotiated with landlords so that families would not have to add homelessness to their long list of difficulties.

This holiday season, we want to partner with these families, amidst their day-to-day focus on simply surviving and avoiding deportation, to provide some of the simplest joys of Christmas to their children. This is where you come in.

Our goal is to give every family a **\$50 gift card for each child**. Just \$50 will be enough to buy the child a warm coat, perhaps a new school uniform, a few sweet treats and a book or toy. Imagine the joy in a parent's heart to be able to provide this small escape from the fear and deprivation their children face daily.

**So won't you sponsor a child or two as part of your end of year giving?** You can even do it in honor of friends and loved ones. If you choose that option, we'll mail an acknowledgement to your honoree. You can mail a check to Trinity UMC, including a note about your memorial or honorarium if you wish. If you prefer donating online, go to [www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org) and click on the "Donate via PayPal" button on the home page. There is a dropdown menu that allows you to choose "Immigration Relief."



The Memphis Immigration Relief Fund is seeking volunteers to help receive, sort and send out acknowledgments of donations. If you can offer a couple of hours each week toward this effort, please contact Amy Moritz at [amycmoritz@gmail.com](mailto:amycmoritz@gmail.com).

## Thanks from Our Scouts

by Rob Landrigan



Our Scouts are thankful for the Internet - as much as online classes are Not Fun At All, without Minecraft, Roblox, Flight Rising, Among Us and so many other games, there wouldn't be any way to play with their friends. They are also very grateful for their teachers, who are trying to make school matter, and be fun. Several were very grateful for music lessons - 'it feels like real school!'

As parents, we're grateful to the teachers as well - it's an impossible job being done amazingly well. We're thankful for the children's ministry, bringing a time for learning and reflection to Sunday mornings. We're thankful that we can still communicate and work together, even apart.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of Scouting at the corner of Galloway and Evergreen. A century at Trinity, and as difficult as this year has been, we've never been so thankful to be part of this amazing community. As easy as it would be to have stopped and said 'next year', Trinity answered the calls for help simply:

Here We Are.

As we navigate our lives by the compass points of the Scout Law, it is the Lighthouse of Trinity that guides us when the weather closes in. As we endeavor to meet the most important part of our Oath, 'To Help Other People At All Times', it is the unflinching example of our Trinity family that sets that standard. Here we are, in service, in gratitude, and in fellowship, for the last 100 years and the next 10,000 more.

**"I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go."**

—Genesis 28:15

As Thanksgiving approaches and I consider my blessings, I am so very thankful for the call to teach and the privilege of teaching. As a young parent, I found myself experiencing significant brokenness, overwhelmed by feelings of failure and despair. The first Sunday that our family attended Trinity Church, I felt God's loving and forgiving Presence. The healing that subsequently occurred led to the call to teach. Answering the call to teach led in turn to many of the greatest blessings – and, yes, the greatest challenges - of my life. There was never a day in the twenty-five years that I walked through the door at Trinity Preschool, even on the days that I was facing a difficult situation, when I did not know deep in my heart that that little school was exactly where I was supposed to be.

I feel the same way about teaching Sunday school. In spite of my significant loss of hearing and other handicaps that I now face, I still know that this is where God calls me to be. There is never a doubt in my heart and mind about that. Now, instead of walking through the door into our Sunday school classroom, we are meeting via the Zoom portal. But the fellowship and the joy and the sure knowledge that our Lord is with us are still very much a part of our time together as teachers and students. Our FAITH WORD for this month has been "BLESSING" (What perfect timing!) Our memory verse has been from Genesis 28:15: "I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go." I continue to claim that promise for me, for my wonderful teaching partner, Alyson Foreman, and for all of our precious children. I claim it for you as well.

—Irene Dycus



|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 25 | Carson Witt    |
| November 26 | Vanoma Newhart |
| November 27 | Shirley Flint  |
| November 27 | Donna Windham  |
| November 29 | John Allmon    |
| November 29 | Jonathan Goff  |



|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| December 1  | Lori Brown      |
| December 3  | Libby Street    |
| December 5  | Jean Moss       |
| December 9  | Rosemary Potter |
| December 16 | Sue Taylor      |
| December 18 | Phil Isbell     |
| December 21 | Melba Abraham   |
| December 25 | Carey Miller    |

#GIVING  
TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is December 1st and would be the PERFECT day to fill out your Trinity pledge card! (Pledge cards were mailed out this week.)



FEED THE  
HUNGRY

## 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, persons 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:** please contact Debby Marston at (901) 274-6895 or [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) to ask about the next opportunity to bring

staple items for Binghampton UMM's food pantry. We can wear masks and practice social distancing while still partnering in this vital ministry to the poor. A 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.



# Memorials

## **Memorials have been received**

*In memory of Allane Demetrio from Mark Matheny*

*In memory of Donald Norton, Sr. from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of Allane Demetrio from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of Allane Demetrio from Ed & Camille LeMaster*

*Thank  
You!*

We are so happy that we are a part of the Trinity family. Your love and support during our recent illness touched our hearts. Thank you so much for your texts, emails, and calls, and for meals that were provided. We are blessed by you.

—Carey and Carol Miller

## **A few words of thanksgiving . . .**

One Sunday morning years ago, my pastor, Rev. Lisa Anderson, preached a sermon in which she referred to our congregation as a bunch of misfits. Instead of being offended, we embraced the label as our reality. Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church has long been a congregation that welcomes the “misfits” into our midst. Joining us in worship, we’ve had folks from the Sudan, Liberia, Kenya, South Korea, Cameroon, Spain, and various Latin American countries. We’ve had folks struggling with mental health issues, including (but not limited to) depression, autism, OCD, bipolar disorder, PTSD, and ADHD (lots of the last), but it isn’t any of those issues or the variety of skin tones, languages, accents, or cultures that define us. Rather, we are defined by our joyful acceptance of people of every description and our common response to God’s call on each of us individually and as a congregation.

When we were still able to host Room in the Inn guests at Colonial, I heard many times, both at Colonial and at the Carpenter’s House downtown, that Colonial was a preferred host site. It wasn’t the “luxurious accommodations,” the eight-minute showers, the clothes closet, or the homemade meal and all the sweet tea you can drink. Rather, it was the sense of coming home, of being welcomed, of being more a member of the family than a guest.

I will never forget the time a couple of our “residentially challenged” guests attended a service in our then-beautiful sanctuary. A few people sitting downwind of them moved, but other than that, we enjoyed their company and their quirky comments on some of the things going on in front of us. (I seem to recall that children from our summer day camp were involved, but that’s another story.)

That sense of welcome, of being accepted as a member of the family, is not something unique to Colonial CPC. Trinity UMC also has the reputation of being a place where you feel safe, where hospitality is practiced 24/7. I have been the grateful recipient of Trinity’s hospitality. I can think of no other group of which I’ve been a part – whether professionally or personally – that has accepted and welcomed me without reservation. So thank you, Trinity, for embracing this particular misfit as we seek to do Kingdom work together.

Wishing you enough,  
Debby Marston

## 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:

The family of **Allane Demetrio**, who passed away on November 4th—she reached the great age of 105.

**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

**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, lung cancer.

**Sally Ramsey**, out of her back brace and having physical therapy, still using a walker

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

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

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia, has a broken hip, is in rehab, and is struggling with depression.

**Charles Abraham** hospitalized and on ventilator following abdominal surgery; endoscopy or further surgery may be necessary.

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.)*