

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.

A Light in the Darkness

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.*
— Isaiah 9:2

It's time. Some years it sneaks up on me. This year, it didn't. I've been waiting, hopefully, with joy, lovingly and excitedly impatient for the peace that comes with this season — this holy and beautiful season marked by the contrast of light and dark, of shortened days, the smell of neighborhood fire pits in the air, and the holly-jolly goodness of humanity just itching to come on the scene. It's Advent. It's here.

And yet...

It's not yet — the Light in the darkness, that is. That's what Advent really is. It's this whole process of, again, entering into the realization that the miracles that happened so long ago and their effects still bring the Light into our darkness today. That, I find, is a miracle itself. We don't rush to the manger, though. It's a journey — a process.

As I look around the parsonage I am overwhelmed by distractions of my own making. I refuse to admit how many Christmas trees go up in this place. Ceramic. Flocked. Tiny (in the kid's rooms). Aluminum (as an homage to my love for all things midcentury-modern). The 'main tree' in the living room, tells stories of our journey throughout the years. There are ornaments on it made in the children's Sunday school class of TUMC. But, for a week (at least), it's chaos. There are plastic bins all over and a shift in everyday ordinary things to reds and greens. Somehow, the Light gets lost in all of that.

And I think that's our challenge — to not lose the Light in this season. Losing the Light puts us in danger of losing the hope, and the love, and the joy, and the peace that is sure to come if we do all we can to not get lost in holiday parties and presents, homemade goodies, and "It's a Wonderful Life," school holiday programs, and ugly Christmas sweaters (or not-so-ugly sweaters). It is our challenge to not lose sight of the Light — the one piercing through the darkness to bring us the hope of the nations.

I wonder if you might join me in this challenge during Advent. I wonder if you might share your experience with me if you do.

I am often up before the sun comes up (to get children ready for school), and still up long after it goes down (and they as well, to bed). I wonder if you might join me in a few moments of prayer every day during Advent — and not during your regular prayer time, if you are so disciplined, but in the darkness. I wonder if our prayers together might be to see clearly the Light that dispels the darkness — to be drawn into an awareness of the hope that is the coming of our Savior — to, again, know the love of the Father who sent him — to testify to the joy that he brings us, and to feel the peace of his dwelling — Emmanuel, God with us.

Whether it be for hope, love, joy, or peace, I hope you will join me in praying this season, to keep the Light in front of us, to be the Light, that others might see his coming, and all it means, in us.

With Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace,
Rev. Sara

EHDA Christmas Caroling - CAROLERS NEEDED



Join the fun and help keep Evergreen's caroling tradition alive. EHDA needs carolers of all ages. The carolers will sing to Evergreen neighbors to share the holiday spirit or to celebrate a birthday.

WHEN: Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2:00—4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Gather at Trinity United Methodist Church
1738 Galloway Avenue

The 2023 Caroling Event will start and end at Trinity United Methodist Church. EHDA will provide limited transportation for the 2023 Caroling Event. Cars are welcome to follow the mini bus. Please help us spread the word by talking to your neighbors and partnering with family and friends to attend.

SANTA STOP

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus will make a return visit to the Evergreen Neighborhood on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Santa will be greeting families and friends on the Galloway side of Trinity UMC. Santa Claus is looking forward to visiting with our young Evergreeners and all those who are young at heart. Please bring your Christmas list and be prepared to talk with Santa. Photographs with Santa are welcomed and encouraged. Please help us spread the word by talking to your neighbors and partnering with family and friends to attend.



Cookie Bakers Needed for Sunday, December 10th

We realize this is a busy time for all as we approach the Christmas holidays, but the Children's Department needs some cookie-bakers (or cookie-buyers) for Sunday, December 10th. On that afternoon, prior to and during the Neighborhood Christmas Caroling in the Evergreen Historic District, Santa will be welcoming children on Trinity's front porch. After their visit with Santa, the children and their parents will be invited to come inside to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and cookies. Mr. and Mrs. Santa, busy as they are, will be preparing the hot chocolate for this hospitality event, but Trinity folks are needed to provide the cookies. These sweet treats will also be shared with the members of Pack 13 and Troop 13 who will be meeting that Sunday afternoon, so lots and lots of cookies are needed!



Your cookies may be either homemade or bakery prepared. Please bring your cookies to the church kitchen on the morning of Sunday, December 10th before worship begins. It will help considerably if you will bag your cookies (2 per bag) in clear plastic treat or sandwich bags. You don't need to provide a serving dish.

If you can provide a batch of cookies, please call Irene Dycus (901-652-1105) or email her (irenebducus@hotmail.com). If you don't have time to bake or buy cookies, feel free to make a cash donation toward the cause. Thanks so much for your help!

Storytelling

I'm writing this article on Thanksgiving Day. It's a rare Thanksgiving in that I have time this morning to be "Mary," to sit quietly in the Lord's presence. I have already baked two chocolate chess pies for today's family meal, and the dressing is cooking in the crockpot in my kitchen. The other members of my family are playing the role of "Martha" at Andrew's and Jessica's home today as they prepare the big feast. Because I have had a recent minor surgical procedure, I am taking it easy. This has blessed me with some time for retrospection and introspection.

Here's what has been a part of this day for my whole life long. Thanksgiving is a day on which our family shares the family stories as we're gathered around the table for the big meal. Those stories have grown in volume over the years, as we have added other loved ones through marriage and birth. I will be the oldest family member there today, so I'm the repository of many of the tales of my birth family (the Barfields), as well as the family into which I married (the Dycuses). My daughter-in-law Jessica's family (the Johnstons) will be here from Little Rock today. We will share some of our collective family stories, and our younger members will be adding their life stories and dreams to the mix. We have told some of these stories many times over the years, yet each time we rejoice in telling and hearing them told once again. Our family stories help define who we are, from the oldest to the youngest member gathered around the table. They also help our younger ones know that they are valued and loved for themselves and for their contributions to the family stories. Many of the stories we share are funny, and some bring tears to our eyes. They are all part of our legacy.

We do the same as a faith family here at Trinity Church. A couple of weeks ago, two of the devotions written by Keller Hawkins in ***The Upper Room Disciplines*** focused on the importance of storytelling at our faith family gatherings. In the devotion based on Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15, Hawkins said:

Storytelling helps us remember who we are, where we've come from, who came before us. From this sacred act of remembering our stories, we are also invited to envision together who we want to become. This expands as we recall and retell our story with God and God's abiding relationship with us and our people. We are anchored in our divine relationship and moored by God's continued grace and love.

In another devotion based on Psalm 78:1-4, Hawkins shared these profound thoughts:

We must learn from the past so we can imagine our future with hope. I am prompted here to remember the importance of the children in the next generation. They carry on the stories of who we were. And they have the precious option of living into the legacies of the past or changing the direction of the story. Are we teaching them well about where they have come from so they can step into the future with courage and faith? How are we doing this truthfully and completely? What is left out, and why? How might that affect those to come?

These are challenging words for those of us who are teachers of the children of our church to consider, indeed for our entire church family, for we all serve as role models for our children. The following combines the prayers from those two days' devotions:

"Dear God, may we always remember that you are the author of our story. Embolden us to serve you well. May we face our past with courage, remember your wondrous works, and live into our future with our eyes set on you. Amen."

Peace and love,
Irene



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



Lori Brown	December 1
Rosemary Potter	December 9
Sara Jane Goodman	December 13
Sue Taylor	December 16
Debby Marston	December 19
Melba Abraham	December 21
Carey Miller	December 25

Christmas Cards: An Extra-Special Opportunity

Every year, we are given the opportunity to reach out to special people we love but don't get to see very often. Those friends and members of Trinity who, for reasons of age, health, or distance are unable to attend services or participate in the life of the church on a regular basis, are still part of us and who we are as a congregation and people of God.

In celebration of the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will be sending Christmas cards out by special delivery - in person when possible or by mail for those out of town or state - and everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in the following ways:

- ✘ Address a Christmas card to each individual or couple on the list below, signing your name with your love and best wishes for this holy season.
- ✘ Bundle your signed, addressed cards together and bring them to worship by December 10th or to the church office by December 14th.
- ✘ Each bundle of cards will be sorted and placed in large envelopes addressed to each of our out-of-town or homebound loved ones, then distributed to volunteers who will hand-deliver the packets to local folks. The remaining packets will be mailed out in time to arrive before Christmas.

Those who wish to volunteer for in-person visits should contact the church office by December 14th for their assignment. This will be first-come, first-served, so get your name in fast. In the event we have more volunteers than needed, we can pair people up.

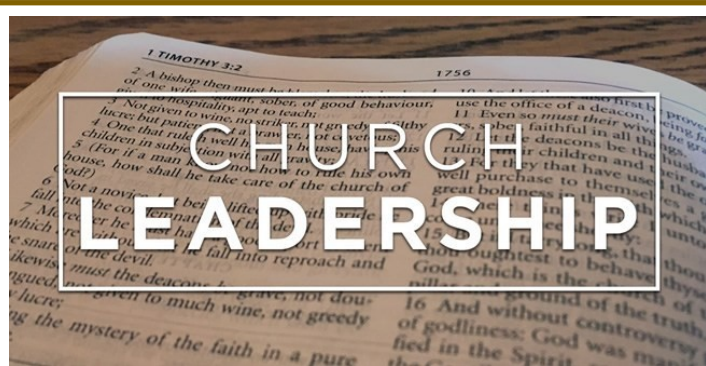


Wilma Bickers*
Doris Carney*
Charlotte Comes
John Curry
Roscoe Dodson
Phyllis Hoffman*
Faye McClendon

Julie McMahan*
Venoma Newhart
George & Nancy Pence
Rosemary Potter
Sally & Eddie Ramsey
Virginia Walters*

* out of town/state





2024 Trinity Church Leadership

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

Kay Jordan

Administrative Council Chair

Craig Jordan

Finance Committee Chair

Rosemary Potter

Treasurer – Craig Jordan

Trustees Chair – Tom Wilson

Lay Leader – Sam Goff

Youth – Amelia Strickland

Children – Irene Dycus

Please support our church leaders with your prayers and encouragement.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **RON RAYBUCK** BY
CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

IN MEMORY OF **RON RAYBUCK** BY
MIKE & ROSEMARY POTTER

IN MEMORY OF **RON RAYBUCK** BY
PAUL M. HANSON

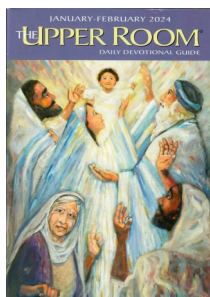
IN MEMORY OF **RON RAYBUCK** BY
WENDEL & LINDA STOLTZ

IN MEMORY OF
REV. JERRY MEEKS
BY WENDEL & LINDA STOLTZ



Tiny Pantry Still Needs Donations

Our Tiny Pantry is still perched in place on Trinity's front lawn, and we occasionally see neighbors come by to replenish it. It's easy to forget how important the gift of a little food can be. Most of us don't miss many meals. There are, however, hungry folks who come by looking for a can of tuna or soup, or for just enough to get them by until their food stamps arrive. Those neighbors who are chronically unsheltered may not even have public aid in the form of food subsidies. Imagine going to bed hungry, not just one night, but almost every night. Remember to keep our Tiny Pantry stocked. Next time you go to the grocery store, pick up some extra food that can be eaten "as is," without cooking, like Vienna sausages, fruit cups, or tuna packets with crackers. Let's remember to take care of "the least of these."



THE UPPER ROOM

The January/February *Upper Rooms* will go on display December 3rd at the reception desk just outside The Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you (or a friend or neighbor) and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 or with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.

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:

The family and friends of **Ron Raybuck**, who passed away November 11

Irene Dycus, on heart monitor following a fall and short hospital stay; not allowed to drive per doctor's orders
Sandy Guntharp's sister, **Diana DuBois**, is in remission! No cancer in pancreas & liver nodules shrinking

Rosemary Potter, recovering at home following hip surgery

Chris Glover's sister **Carol** suffered a massive stroke recently

Mike Baloga, encephalitis, at home with nursing care, and wife **Juli** (neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake)

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

Pray for **schoolchildren and youth**: 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, portacath installed November 14th; chemo to start soon

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, 13 year old friend of Debby Marston; malignancy found in leg; started chemo at St. Jude Oct. 27; surgery planned in January

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

For **Living Word Christian Church**; for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13, Troop 13G, and Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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