

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.



With Thanksgiving

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Hebrews 13:15

One of the recently-adopted American practices during the month of November is giving thanks for something everyday. I'm not disciplined enough to add that to my schedule and stick to it with consistency, so every time I remember to give thanks, I try to list multiple things. I'm sure working on discipline is probably the

'better way,' but God might have to settle for what I can give.

Last night was Trinity's annual Charge Conference. It's the first individual church Charge Conference I've been a part of since 2011 when I faithfully sat through Charge Conference in active labor with Cooper. Yes, I thought I had something to prove. No, I don't remember a single thing about that meeting.

Last night we received a gift. Our District Superintendent who currently serves TWO districts in our conference, came into his position under terrible circumstances (the death of Dr. Autura Eason-Williams), and has spent the last year and a half meeting with churches seeking to leave the denomination. He is inundated with calling and with church disaffiliations. He has carried much of our pain since assuming his position and I would think that he'd much rather hold cluster meetings than run the marathon he's running to offer time, devotion, peace, and assurance to our churches individually. Still, he runs the race with perseverance and, in reflection of his devotion, I am filled with gratitude and give thanks.

Ahead of last night's meeting — one that could truly have been a quick vote over salaries, leadership positions, and Annual Conference delegates — I asked Sam Goff, as our Lay Leader, to offer words that celebrate the year in ministry we've had. I could've done that. David could simply have read my pastor's report. I tend, however, to lean into 'the more voices the better'. And so, Sam reported.

He reported that the tenor of our worship hour has shifted to positivity, laughter, and celebration in the last couple of months — something that has been difficult to reimagine since the beginning of covid. With that we've had several new friends join the church. Sam also celebrated the discernment team and its work throughout the year to point us in the direction of long-term sustainability. He celebrated our connection with the community — the success of our Thursday coffee gatherings, our joy-filled building on election day, our partnering with different community organizations for the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk-or-Treat this year, and our involvement with Memphis Pride and Rhodes College's new student orientation. Sam celebrated our identity as a Reconciling Congregation and what that's beginning to mean for our corner of Midtown. He raised and praised the works our Trustees have labored over in working on our buildings. Sam celebrated our budget and how we've faithfully given this year, nearly closing our deficit gap and paying, in

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full, our conference apportionments. Everything was a joy!

And there's much more Sam didn't share. Sam didn't share the upcoming growth for the Lab School and what that means both for them, as they develop as a school, and for us and what that means for our budget. He didn't mention the faithfulness of our desk volunteers, youth leader volunteer, and children's ministry volunteers. He didn't have a chance to mention the growth our Scouts have experienced this year, or how much money we've been blessed to spend in food assistance for our community since January. Sam only placed a finger on the pulse that is the living, breathing, world-changing church body that is on the corner of Evergreen and Galloway. We have done so much this year and, from my seat — guiding, cheering, encouraging, empowering — I am simply in awe and I give thanks.

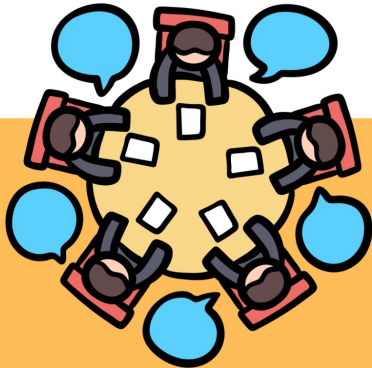
Has it been perfect? Of course not. We've lost folks to the Church Triumphant this year. We've lost folks to the 'post-pandemic church slump' this year. We've lost folks to congregations that are more like-minded for them, this year. We've fought with things that need to be fixed in the building. We've had moments of low-morale, discouragement, and frustration. We've stressed over the budget, and had pretty 'light' Sundays here and there. No, it hasn't been perfect. But...

Perfect was never the aim. Moving toward perfection is the hope, and many times of late, we've experienced moments of perfection in love at Trinity — glimpses of the Divine — springs of life — sustaining peace. We've been given every opportunity to remember that God IS with us. Let us give thanks.

Thanks be to YOU.
Thanks be to God.
Rev. Sara

Hug a Trustee

@TUMCMemphis



We appreciate our trustees!

Our Trustees have worked tirelessly this year to solve tricky mysteries in our buildings, come running when things go awry, and do general maintenance. They are faithful to serving the church with their gifts, and the work they do often goes unseen. If you see a trustee in the coming days, offer signs of gratitude and thanksgiving. They are:

Kelly Dougherty, Sam Goff, Rob Landrigan, Doris Porter, Marc Taylor, and Tom Wilson (chairman).

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

A GIFT HAS BEEN OFFERED BY ANITA BUNN

IN MEMORY OF IRENE AND GENE OPEL



Sibling Rivalry

In our Children's Sunday School Class, we have been learning about "Father Abraham" and his descendants. In November, our lessons have focused on Abraham's son Isaac, his wife Rebekah, and their twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Talk about sibling rivalry! Now that is a subject to which all our kids who have a brother or sister can relate (and demonstrate occasionally in class). Added to the mix in this story of Jacob and Esau is

big-time parental favoritism (and yes, that happens in our own families sometimes, too). None of these family dynamics sound very pleasant, do they? And yet it is all part of God's plan for how he intends for things to play out. After all, before she gives birth, while Rebekah's experiencing the discomfort of the twins' pushing and shoving against one another inside her womb, God reveals to Rebekah that two nations will grow from these two very different brothers and that the older will serve the younger. The scripture doesn't reveal whether she ever shared that news with her husband Isaac, but perhaps that is at the back of her mind as she, too, manipulates and encourages her beloved Jacob in his deceitfulness. He has already tricked Esau out of his birthright, and then he tricks his father into bestowing the blessing that rightfully belongs to Esau as the eldest son. This paternal blessing allows Jacob to receive the full inheritance at his father's death. Wealth, land, and power are all parts of this blessing.

What implications does this story have for you and me in our day-to-day faith lives? We know how easy it is to feel overwhelmed when life is difficult and seemingly unfair. We can lose our ability to see clearly, and we don't always respond in helpful and faithful ways. But while this story shows us what not to do, it also gives us the opportunity to act differently. Perhaps above all else, it points out to us - with all our own great imperfections and wrong-thinking at times - that God can use us, despite who we are and how we are. The most important thing, and Jacob does eventually realize this, is to remember **WHOSE** we are. It is this with which we all, both children and adults, need to come to terms.

It is essential that those of us who are older members of our faith family share our faith with our children. As we do so, we can help our children feel, notice, and name their emotions when they are going through hard times. Then we can help them learn how to ask God to be with them. Our children need to know they can go to God, deepen their faith, and strengthen their abilities to be healthy and whole. We ask for your prayers as we encourage our Trinity children to do so.

Peace in Christ,
Irene and Kathy





Sara "Goth" at Trunk or Treat



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



Trustee & Scout leader Rob Landrigan supervises fun in the Bounce House at Trunk or Treat



Sam Goff



Quinn, Rowan, & Sean



Lab School head Coi Morrison & husband Charles at Trunk or Treat



Joan Smith & a bunch of kids



Cooper, Rev. Sara, & Josh



Evergreen Historic District was represented at Trunk or Treat, too.

Going hungry...

By Debby Marston

Have you ever gone to bed hungry? Have you ever worried about where your children's next meal would come from? I haven't. I'm a person of privilege, although I never knew it until I worked in adoptions for many years. In that job I learned about people who lack the basic essentials to sustain life, people raised in developing countries who struggle every day to find enough to eat for themselves and their families.

Food is something I've always taken for granted. My father was raised on a farm, and, even though he had a good job at DuPont, it was just a job to him. It paid the mortgage. The stuff of life was in our back yard in the form of a 1/4 acre garden plot. He spent a few years digging out rocks and getting the soil rich enough to grow vegetables. And, wow, the vegetables he grew! The tomatoes alone set the bar so high that I can still rarely find a tomato that tastes anywhere nearly as good as those Daddy grew. When he retired from DuPont, he took his savings out of the Old Hickory Credit Union and bought a farm in his home town of Kenton, Tennessee. Forty-seven acres. He thought he'd died and gone to heaven.

I was raised by Depression-era parents who paid cash for everything: cars, three kids' college tuition, my brother's dental school, and my sister's law school. And a farm. Growing up, if there were fewer than four different vegetables on the dinner table, something was wrong. So, I was a child of privilege.

These days, the folks we see who come to Trinity for help are urban dwellers. They don't have garden plots. Many of them grew up in poverty and are stuck there for an abundance of reasons. One gentleman, who has a lot of health problems, is always a few dollars away from getting a title loan on his truck. (So far, I've talked him out of it.) He needs surgery right now and is trying to come up with the co-pay, but he also needs groceries. They all need groceries.

Proverbs 14:21 says this: *It's criminal to ignore a neighbor in need, but compassion for the poor—what a blessing!* (The Message) Who, exactly, are our neighbors? Read Luke 10:25-28, where a religion scholar asked Jesus: "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?" He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live." (The Message)

Are we loving our neighbors? Are we helping to feed them when they're hungry? We're working on setting up an on-site food pantry. We have a Tiny Pantry out on the lawn (empty right now except for a lonely can of garbanzo beans). We give out \$25 Kroger cards...when we have them. That fund is running on fumes right now. Help us help them. Write a check with "food voucher" on the memo line or put your extra cash in the offering plate on Sunday. We are responsible for our neighbors. Jesus says so. Amen.



Poinsettia Order Form

Advent starts Sunday, December 3rd, and we want our worship space to be well decorated with poinsettias and lots of greenery. You can order a poinsettia to honor or remember a loved one: call the church office (901-274-6895) or send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Order forms will be inserted in worship bulletins in the coming weeks. The cost is \$15.00/plant, and the deadline is November 26th. You can also use this form to order:

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Print your name and your honoree's name as you want them to appear in the worship bulletin. You can cut this form out and mail it to the church with your check, or put it in the offering plate with your payment.

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:

Irene Dycus, on heart monitor following a fall and short hospital stay; not allowed to drive per doctor's orders

Rosemary Potter, successful hip replacement surgery October 23rd; at home recovering slowly

Chris Glover's sister **Carol** suffered a massive stroke recently; **Bill Glover**, double pneumonia

Sandy Guntharp's sister, **Diana DuBois**, has pancreatic cancer.

Mike Baloga and wife **Juli**, neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake; Mike has a serious infection in spine & brain and is currently hospitalized.

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

V.J. Carter, Living Word Christian Church member Dru Phillips' aunt, broken hip and hip replacement surgery

Pray for the **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, out-patient treatment using Y90 radiation therapy

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

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.)