

# Trinotes

December 21, 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.**



## Blue Christmas

From  
the desk  
of...  
The Rev.

*"The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace." Psalm 29:11*

It's that week. You know the one I'm talking about. It's the week thousands of shoppers will run to whichever retail establishment to buy last minute gifts. It's the week folks will dash in whichever grocery store they use to grab a ham or dinner rolls. Don't forget the cranberry sauce — in a can — the jelly kind (just what God intended). Some folks will put up their trees. Others (like me) will finally settle down and wrap a few things. We'll squeeze in some time to watch *It's a Wonderful Life*, or *a Miracle on 34th Street*. Maybe you prefer a *Christmas Story* or *Christmas Vacation*. It's the week, though — the week we've been waiting for.

Or maybe you haven't.

In my time at Trinity, we've not had a Blue Christmas or Longest Night service. I'm honestly not sure why we haven't. We need it, especially on this side of covid, because Christmas can be hard. The pastor will stand in the pulpit for weeks encouraging listeners to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Prince of Peace, realizing that some (perhaps you) don't feel peace at all. First, second, or tenth Christmases without loved ones can be hard. Our happy memories of sharing the Christmas week happenings with them, seem to melt into puddles of sorrow at their loss and perhaps regret. It can be a *ghost of Christmas past* sort of feeling — one where we look back in joy and hope until we remember that we are not in the past, but in the present instead; and the present reality isn't at all like that of the past.

It is my 8th Christmas without my mother and I look back and feel all of those things. I wish she were here. I regret many of the things I said or thought in the end. I miss the way she doted on Cooper and I regret that she never knew Aiden, who seems to be her twin in so many ways. I feel all of these things at Christmas so much more than I do any other time of year, and I imagine that you do, too. Whether it was this year or ten years ago, for some reason, at Christmas, it feels like yesterday and the holiday that brings us both home and to the manger, often brings sorrow instead of joy.

And I want you to know this: It's ok. I'm not writing today to put some bandaid on pain that feels inevitable and unstoppable. There is no trite saying that will change the reality that pain is as it is. There is no way of turning back, of fixing what was broken, healing what was ill or hurt — there is no changing the circumstance. I will not tell you to choose joy, because sometimes you simply can't. I will only tell you that how you feel is okay. It doesn't make you any less faithful. It doesn't mean that you don't accept God's peace. It simply means that you are human — that we are human — and that no one understands that better than the one who made us in their image.

If you are feeling down this week, please know that you are not alone. As we proclaimed together Sunday, we live in God's world. In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Sara*

# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

A MEMORIAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **ELAINE AMIS** FROM BERTHA CHING

HONORARIUMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN HONOR OF **IRENE DYCUS** FROM CALEY & ALYSON FOREMAN

IN HONOR OF **IRENE DYCUS** FROM THE METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NORTH ALABAMA

IN HONOR OF **MIKE & ROSEMARY POTTER** FROM MARGARET SPAIN

## Feed His Sheep

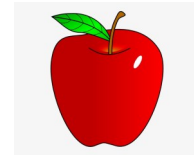
Peace Lutheran Church has put Christ's words into action in their lunch program for disadvantaged persons in the community. We have been offered the opportunity to contribute to this work by providing lunches. The current need is for 24 lunches, to be delivered to Peace Lutheran on specific dates. This will be a team effort and the first "assembly line" to put lunches together will be after the Fifth Sunday Breakfast on January 29th. Call Sue Taylor at 901-491-2113 for further details. Gather your forces, jump in & volunteer!

Each lunch will need to include the following:

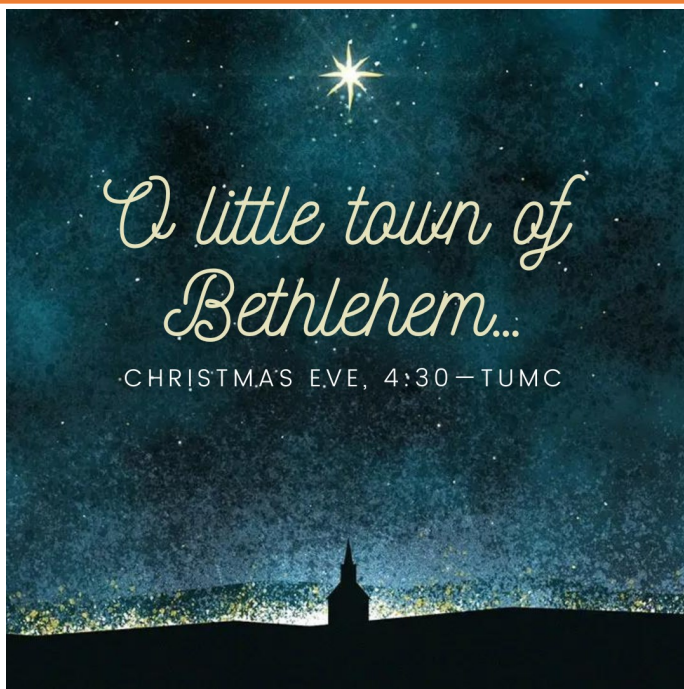
- Peanut butter & jelly sandwich
- Meat & cheese sandwich
- Bottled water
- Juice



- Fruit (1 apple/orange/pear & 1 applesauce or fruit cup)
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin



(Peace Lutheran will provide condiments.)



Candlelight Service in The Center at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve



Christmas Day Worship at Trinity UMC in The Center at 11:00



## *"Lord, prepare me..."*

*"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you." ("Sanctuary," THE FAITH WE SING #2164)*

Our Children's Sunday School Class sings these words each week, as Ms. Alyson leads them so beautifully. My grandchildren have been attending Sunday School lately. They are invited by me personally every week, and I am thrilled when they accept the invitation. Lila comes fairly often, and Nora has been coming on occasion. Both were there yesterday, and they came home with me afterwards. Before we ate lunch, Lila started singing "Sanctuary" as a blessing, and then Nora joined in. In fact, they sang this song throughout the meal. Forgive us, Emily Post, and thank you, Lord. That may not be good manners, but I consider it to be good faith-building, especially when it's just the three of us together. I rejoice in the many things my grandchildren are learning under the tutelage of Ms. Alyson as their Sunday School teacher, even if they are not always theologically accurate in how they express this learning afterwards. If they get God and Jesus in it, it's an opening into their hearts, a teachable moment when He can prepare them to be a sanctuary for Him, and that's good enough for me. It presents an opportunity for me to follow up with them and to discuss matters of faith in a friendly, casual manner.

Here are a few more vignettes from this past Sunday's class with our children. Our Sunday School class is a delightful mix of kids, ages 5 through 11. Oh, my, what a huge difference there is between our two kindergarten kids, Nora and Eli, and our single fifth grader, Cooper! (Our youngest ones are the same age Cooper was when he started out with us, when Pastor Sara and her family first joined us.) By the way, our curriculum is written for a one-room class which could possibly range from ages three to twelve. Carson, who started out with us as an unbelievably calm and attentive three-year-old, is now in the third grade (and is still unbelievably calm and attentive). All our grade schoolers, from second to fifth graders, are good readers, and they are also learning to read these significant Bible stories with feeling. Aiden was reading a passage this past Sunday when he came to the end of a sentence; when he got to the last word, which was followed by an exclamation point, he said the word with such emotional force that we all almost jumped out of our seats. Of course, that was great fun for our kindergarteners, who were already jumping out of their seats without any provocation. These two young ones were eventually sitting with me, one in my lap (Nora) and one beside me (Eli), and we were carrying on what could best be described as side conversations in the midst of the lesson. (Yes, Ms. Alyson, I did hear the reference to "friends who are talking out loud during the lesson." They tried to whisper, but because I'm so deaf, they had to project their voices and aim them very directly at/in my ear.) At one point, Eli looked up at me quite seriously and said about Nora, "When I'm six, she'll be six and a half." That had nothing to do with the lesson, but it was important to him. Both these kindergarteners were able to identify sight words that they knew in the items in large print that Ms. Alyson held up, our scripture and Faith Word for this unit. We take each of these children and celebrate them where they are, and then we do our best to move them to where they need to be. Our older kids are extremely patient with our younger ones and with us as teachers as we try to challenge all of them. As we were leaving the classroom this Sunday, Nora noticed the Shema on a poster on the door to the hallway. She knew several of the words and sounded the others out quite well, with a little help from Ms. Alyson and me. That included the word "Deuteronomy." Ms. Alyson also helped my two girls read John 3:16 on the poster in the hallway and then talked to them about its significance, another teachable, reachable moment in the hands (and heart) of an excellent teacher and faith-model for our children.

Peace, love, and Christmas joy to all from Trinity's Children's Sunday School Class,

*Irene*







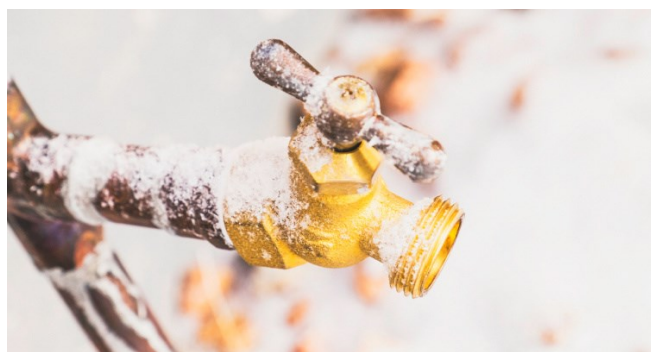
◀—Youth Group outing at Crosstown Concourse



Amelia Strickland, Kaylee Bauer, Alex & Helena Landrigan, Rowan & Sean Booth gathered around the table at Abner's



## Winter Weather

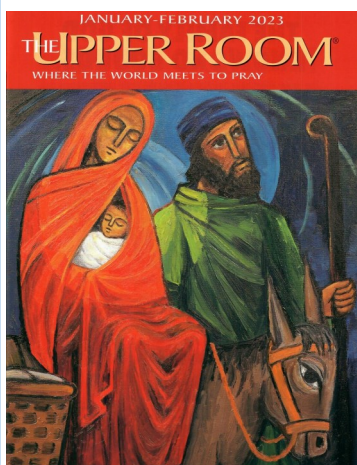


We don't often publish something brought to our attention by our insurance agents, Martin & Zerfoss, but a recent e-mail had some good tips about protecting our homes and our church property from frozen pipes, so we're including those tidbits for your information and hope you'll find them helpful.

With extremely cold temperatures in the forecast, it is important to know how to protect your home from frozen pipes, which could lead to very costly repairs.

- **Repair** and seal cracks around windows and doors that can allow cold air to reach indoors.
- **Know** the location of the shut-off valve for your water supply.
- **Seal** around pipe openings to prevent cold airflow.
- **Keep** the thermostat above 55 degrees even when traveling.
- **Remove, drain and store** outdoor hoses and close inside valves that supply outdoor lines.
- **Open** kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to give indoor plumbing access to warmer air.
- **Allow** faucets to drip.
- **Open** outside valves during winter months, so that remaining water can expand without breaking pipes.
- **Monitor** water-based fire protection systems.
- It's important to take care of these preventative measures now, in order to stave off any water damage due to freezing temperatures.

### THE UPPER ROOM



The January/February *Upper Room* is 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, call the church office at 901-274-6895 or send an email to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



January 2	John Curry
January 4	Kay Jordan
January 5	Eleanor Brooks
January 10	Roscoe Dodson
January 10	Tom Wilson
January 10	Harrison Witt
January 16	Jay Keller
January 18	Joan Foley
January 19	Lisa Wong
January 23	Doris Porter
January 25	Irene Dycus
January 25	Lila Dycus
January 27	Jeff Corbett
January 29	Caley Foreman
January 30	Carol Miller

## 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, having physical therapy

**Lori Brown** has aggressive HER2 breast cancer and is receiving gene therapy and radiation.

**Eddie Ramsey**, hoping to be out of rehab and home in time for Christmas!

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

**Edward Thigpen**, good report from cancer doctor; will continue chemo through March of 2023

For **Charlotte Comes**, medical issue discovered that may require surgery

For **Karen Willard**, who is in rehab to regain her strength

Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilyn Hawkins**

All the residents of **The Glenmary**

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

For **The Lab School**, as their students learn, grow, and develop, and for their adult Guides

For **Pathway to Dignity** as they work towards starting classes in the near future

For all our Scouts in **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**, and for all their leaders

For those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity and for their continued determination to succeed

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