

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.



Soul Check

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
Psalm 43:1-3

Friends, how is it with your soul? This is one of the most Wesleyan things Methodists should always ask one another. Not, “How are you,” in the general sense that we usually ask the question. This isn’t normally about physical health unless your physical health is the cause for some adjustment in feeling with your soul. How is it with the wholeness of your person? How is it with your innermost being? How is it with your soul?

I get tiny little glimpses of it every week, whether it’s in phone calls we share, stops at the front desk of the church in passing, peeking my head in your Sunday school class, or what your face is saying to me in worship, and right now, what I’m seeing is a mixed bag of emotions.

We are one full month (plus a little) into this year, and I don’t know too many that wouldn’t call the last few weeks a whirlwind. Where I used to claim January as the slow, recover-from-Advent month, it’s now a rush of committee meetings to kick off the year, worship planning for the Lenten season, and a few extenuating, happenstance, 2025-only things. Oftentimes it means such a quick jump into “New Year, New Me!” that taking the time and space to consider how it is with your soul isn’t a forefront kind of question. Maybe it isn’t even a question in your periphery. I can imagine, after the whirlwind that was January 2025 for many of us, that pausing to reflect on how it is with our souls may be the most wonderful gift we can give ourselves, even if it is only to discover that it is NOT well with our souls.

We could power through, ignore the nagging, tugging of our soul, begging for us to pay it attention, but it may only make whatever is happening more difficult to process later. Like ignoring the signs our body gives us when it needs rest (normally, that we get sick), our soul gives us signs when its health is waning — emotional responses that surprise us, sleeplessness at night, feelings of conviction or anger that come out of the blue — these can all be ways that our soul is begging us to reflect on it, care for it, or feed it.

Yesterday afternoon, after worship and our first (lovely) Church Council meeting of the year, I came home to find a coloring book in the recliner that is normally “my spot” in the living room. It was new and unwrapped — a Lisa Frank coloring book, reminiscent of my late-80’s/early-90’s childhood. I’d facetiously told Josh a few days before that I thought it might be fun to color one again, and there it was. Rather than ‘doom-scroll’ on my phone all afternoon, work ahead (as I sometimes do with the administrative things I do weekly for the church), or iron all the school uniform clothes for the week — rather than “adulting” — I sat and colored one full page of the coloring book. It took 3 hours.

When I was finished, I was a little surprised that the time had flown by, as it had. It had gotten dark outside. I was also a little surprised at how relaxed I was. I had fed the creative parts of my soul, uninterrupted, for 3 hours. I’d spent 3 hours not thinking about cooking dinner (It’s “fend for yourself” around my house on a Sunday), or any number of things I should’ve done. I didn’t dive into stress-inducing news stories. I simply sat and let myself ‘be’ the creative image of God that I am, and when I was finished, it was well with my soul.

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Some of us are going to need this reminder to check in for a while, I think. I pray that you will take the time to do so in the coming weeks and months. I think you will find that you need it — that your soul needs it — and maybe even that you will catch glimpses of the Divine if you give yourself permission to ask, “How is it with my soul?”

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Sara



United Women in Faith

Focus on UWF

The February potluck meeting of the UWF will be held on 28 February at noon in the Worship Center. We will approve the budget and our local contributions. Please be prepared to pay your annual dues of \$50.00 or semi-annual dues of \$25.00 and your pledge, if you have not

done so. These dues are the only funds we can use for our memorials, honorariums, and expenses. Moneys received from the public must be spent to benefit the public.

Chris will guide our study of Nathanael: Purely Prejudice. Key passages are: Matthew 23:13-33; Luke 4:22-29; John 1:43-51; 7:52; 2 Romans 2:28-9; 9:6-7; and Corinthians 4:3-4. Jesus said he was an authentic Jew because he was without deceit and guileless, not like most Israelites of His day, who were hypocrites.

We are honored that Metro Unit will spotlight our spring mission of Breakfast with the Easter bunny, the Easter egg hunt, and providing eggs and baskets for the children of Salvation Army Purdue Home as an outstanding local mission.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. You need not be a Trinitarian; you need not even be a Methodist; you need only be a woman of faith. Join us and be welcome.

Your Pledge Helps To

*Sustain Our
Church!*



Invitation to Pledge for 2025

Trinity members and friends, the Stewardship-Finance Committee's invitation to Pledge for 2025 is being distributed this week. Many of you will receive the packet in person at worship while others will receive it via the US mail. Either way, we ask that you return your pledge response by Sunday, March 2nd, either in person or by mail. Also, please note that persons making pledges can adjust them anytime throughout the year as life circumstances change. Pledges assist the Trinity Church Council in responsibly planning for ministries and budget needs.

Craig Jordan, Stewardship-Finance Chairperson



Living out our faith

The following words were from the scripture for the devotion from ***The Upper Room Disciplines*** on Monday, February 3rd:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

These words from the Book of Isaiah never fail to touch my heart. Similarly, whenever I attempt to sing the words of "Here I Am, Lord" (**United Methodist Hymnal #593**), the hymn that is based on

this scripture, I cannot help but cry. Each time I encounter them, I am reminded of the joys and challenges of my call to ministry with children, as well as other shorter-term calls from God which I have answered over the years.

On that same Monday, the scripture in ***The Upper Room*** devotion focused on God's call to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-12), another scripture that always speaks profoundly to me. Moses' response to God's call was, "Who am I that I should go?" to which God responded, "I will be with you." My response has at times been like Moses', except mine has been more like: "Why me, Lord? Give me a break! Send someone else!" This especially happens when I focus - I confess - on my lack of desire to do what God has called me to do. Like God's chosen people, the Israelites, I have often been stiff-necked, reluctant, argumentative, selfish, and unthankful. But the Lord's amazing grace has remained with me through it all, and He has seen me through some difficult times in ministry and in life in general.

In our Children's Class this quarter we are exploring ways that we live out our faith in community. Our FAITH FOCUS for February is the different ways we can worship God. Our biblical stories are centered around the membership vows we take as United Methodists when we join the church, the promises we make to give back to God and our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. This is good timing, considering that we are beginning our stewardship campaign right now at Trinity Church.

During the same week that I encountered the scriptural passages about God's calling Isaiah and Moses, I was working on the lesson for the Children's Sunday School Class. Our scripture was Luke 10:38-42, the story of Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary, another of my favorites and one in which I can easily see myself. The story of Mary and Martha helped our class focus on worshiping God with our presence. Of course, this is another area in which I have struggled throughout my life. Although I am a lifelong "Martha," frequently worried and distracted by so many things in ministry and elsewhere, I am learning to be a "Mary," to "choose the better part" as I sit at the Lord's feet each day, to listen to Him and to learn from Him.

This coming Sunday the Rev. Rebekah Gienapp will be teaching the Children's Sunday School Class. In fact, Ms. Rebekah, as she says she wants to be called, will be teaching two Sundays each month, and we're thrilled about that. Ms. Kathy and I will take turns as Ms. Rebekah's assistant teachers. We also have several volunteers who are helping on a regular basis with our Nursery now, and we are looking forward soon to setting a date for our first Children's Council meeting in over four years. Renewal and growth are happening all around in Children's Ministries. Praise God!

Peace and love to all,

Irene

This church and its grounds are

PRIVATE PROPERTY

No one from the Federal
Government is allowed on the
premises without a warrant.

Trinity considers its space a welcome, inclusive, safe haven for our immigrant siblings. We are studying our best path forward in maintaining and practicing our faith by welcoming the sojourner among us. Please be reminded that the building and grounds of the church is private property, and we have the right to deny access to our spaces, unless deemed necessary by a court of law.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

EDDIE RAMSEY FROM DORIS PORTER

EDDIE RAMSEY FROM
SUE & MARC TAYLOR

EDDIE RAMSEY FROM IRENE DYCUS

EDDIE RAMSEY FROM
CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

February Birthdays

Alex Landrigan

February 6

Sally Ramsey

February 7

Myra Finch

February 12

Eli Witt

February 22

Jacobi Hemingway

February 23

Sara Corum

February 27

Amy Moritz

February 27

David Hopper

February 27



Church Council Meeting

Financial Updates following our Church Council Meeting

At the 9 February meeting the Church Council approved our budget for 2025. The budget anticipates income of \$255,468 and expenses totaling \$269,955, resulting in a likely budget deficit of \$14,487. The 2025 budget includes a 4% increase of staff compensation and a small increase in conference apportionments (our fair share of annual conference administration and ministries) and employee-related expenses. The budget will be adjusted throughout the year as needed.

During the recent Church Council meeting financial results of 2024 were shared, indicating income exceeded expenditures by \$9,840. Twenty twenty-four was a very good year for the Church. In addition to the end of the year positive balance, Trinity established the Rosemary W. Potter Endowment. This fund will serve as a backstop to our current, historic Endowment. The principal of the Potter Endowment can only be accessed if or when our historic Endowment is fully depleted. The income generated by the Potter Endowment will contribute to our budgetary income each year. The Rosemary W. Potter Endowment was made possible by Rosemary's generous commitment to Trinity and Mike Potter's support of it.

The financial report for January, 2025 was also positive. Our total income exceeded our budget estimate by approximately \$4,800. Our January expenses were approximately \$600 less than budgeted.

Finally, we have invested funds from both of our endowments in bank certificates of deposit. This change will result in greatly increased returns on our savings for both endowments.

If you have questions or concerns about Trinity finances please contact Craig Jordan at 901-412-1893 or email jordanck2@gmail.com.

Craig Jordan, Treasurer



Immigrant Relief Fund

by Joni Laney

For over four years, thanks to you, Binghampton United Methodist Mission (BUMM) has used the **Immigrant Relief Fund** out of Trinity United Methodist Church to provide help to immigrant families who have needed rental assistance or utilities or medical care or food or funeral arrangements or Christmas gifts for children. **We have dispersed about \$60,000 over the past four years.** All of that money has gone to hard-working families who are trying to provide a safe home for their children here in Memphis. They have come from Guatemala, Venezuela, Honduras, Mexico, Cameroon, Congo, El Salvador, Colombia, Haiti, Afghanistan, fleeing violence, starvation and climate disasters. **Because of your help, we have been able to offer a small measure of hospitality, love and welcome.**

We need to re-activate this fund for families in Memphis now that the workplace raids and the ICE sweeps begin. We want to be able to help with rent if the working parent is sent to detention; we want to be supportive of those left behind in whatever way is needed.

Please help us meet the needs of those whose lives will be upended by new policies of deportation and detention. No family makes the difficult and often dangerous trip to this country unless remaining in their home country is more dangerous and life-threatening. No family should be faced with the terrifying prospect of being separated from each other and returned to a country they fled. No one should live in a detention camp or in a private prison simply because he or she does not have documentation.

We ask you to step up and give to these friends and neighbors who do so much of the work we depend on behind the scenes, uncomplainingly and with great care.

If you wish to make a contribution, you can mail a check to **Trinity UMC, 1738 Galloway Ave., Memphis, TN 38112-5013.** Write "Immigrant Relief" on the memo line. You can also find a PayPal link in Trinity's weekly *ENews* and a QR code that will link you to Trinity's Servant Keeper giving page. Be sure and select "Immigration Relief" from the drop-down menu! If you have questions, please contact Joni Laney at jonilaney@gmail.com or 901-361-6629.

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 Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during the transition to the new administration.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. David Graves; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

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:

Don Norton, our custodian Raquel's husband, is home from the hospital. Continue to pray for his recovery.

Sally Ramsey, as she is supported by her family and friends following **Eddie's** passing

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 14th.

Susan Todd's husband **Allen** passed away recently. Pray for Susan as she grieves.

Venoma Newhart, age 102, is now in hospice care.

Kate Ostenrude, hospitalized with pneumonia, but now back in rehab at Kings Daughters and Sons

Pam Stafford, battling liver disease, and husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia (request from Sandy Guntharp)

Bo Poppelreiter, step-grandson of Debby Marston, waiting on second kidney transplant; on dialysis for now
Katy Spake's friends **Janet Dennison** (breast cancer) and husband **Brent**

Seth Norton, Raquel's son, biopsy revealed gastroparesis; benign liver mass requires meds; nausea treatment

Nicole Salisbury Nelson, Joan Smith's cousin, in late 30s, stroke, no oxygen 15 minutes: blind, partial paralysis

Adam Hill, serious vein ruptures in legs, much pain (friend of Joan Smith)

From Heather Jacoby-Keller: friend's husband **Eddie** diagnosed with cancer. Heather's sister **Faith** also fighting cancer (for the past year). Please pray for healing!

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

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment

Joan Smith's cousin, **Doug Robbins**, aggressive kidney cancer, facing 5th surgery; high medical bills

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Kanyon Glover, heart received as baby checks out okay; plays ball; receives PT for arm damaged by stroke

Jacob Foreman, for new part time job to go well; nerve damage & back pain continues

Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS (friends of Millers)

Lauren Crews, diagnosed with ALS (friend of Millers)

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD

Val Coates, medical concerns

Jonathan Goff, back injury; **James Goff**, Sam's brother, abdominal issues; **Karen Barker**, Sara's sister, lung issues;

Laura Carruthers, Sam's friend, has cancer.

Pray for **JoAnn James** and **Lisa Martin**

Traveling mercies for the **Booth family** as they go to Chicago for **Rowan** to compete in an archery tournament

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