

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.



Stretching, Growing, Moulding, Making

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. — Jeremiah 18:1-4

Back in the summer of 2019, I was elected as a reserve delegate to represent our conference at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church — a conference that was to take place LAST July. It means that I am on the delegation team for those who'll represent our conference at General Conference as well — a conference that was set to happen LAST May.

Of course, with covid-19 everything has changed. Those conferences, one of which is jurisdictional and covers the southeast part of the United States — the other of which is global — were canceled last year, along with just about every Annual Conference. Per our polity, these conferences have to happen and without them happening, a lot of other **doesn't** happen. Bishops cannot retire, terms of serving have had to be extended, conference realignments cannot happen (and we're set to merge with the Tennessee Annual Conference — another busy committee I've been on). All of this messes up finances which messes with our ability, as a global church, as a conference, and even as local churches, to fulfill the mission of the Church. It makes paying our apportionments even more important — apportionments that fund things like United Methodist Committee on Relief — a global relief initiative that's second in the world in response to natural disaster (behind the Red Cross, for those who're curious). It makes our continued presence in worship vitally important. It makes loving our neighbor, everything.

But everything is a mess.

Annual Conference didn't happen until the fall. New pastors serving new appointments began serving those appointments before the appointments were even set at Annual Conference. Retirees had to retire alone — without their community of faith. Ordinands were ordained in an empty church in Germantown.

It was different. Much of it was contrary to our polity which, in history, has been a big United Methodist "no-no."

But (because you knew there was a "but") we've adapted. We've relaxed and become more pliable. We've not settled so much as we've learned that we can allow God to do a new thing with us.

Any of you who helped me figure things out for Trinity last Spring might recall how overwhelmed I was. There's nothing like a global pandemic to teach you that you don't actually know yourself as well as you think you do. I was shell-shocked by it all. We were having to change 100% of everything every single day (because every single day, things were changing again and again). The days were long, and when we found a way to do things that worked, we didn't want to change that (and the 'we' I'm referencing is really only me). I've actually learned through all of this that you (as a whole) are the pliable ones — the ones willing to try and to adapt — the ones, many of whom, have learned new technology and worked hard to find meaning in taking communion from your cars.

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You are beautifully flexible. You have taught me oh, so much.

In meeting with the conference delegation team a few weeks ago, I heard things like, “We’ll probably not change meeting virtually going forward. It really saves us a lot of money that can be used for better things.” These were words from someone in their 60’s and I admit that it made my 35-year-old heart jump for joy. Maybe some of the new ways really are better ways

We’ve talked a lot for the last year about how we’re not aiming to return to business as it was. We’ve learned a lot about ourselves (the good, the bad, and the indifferent), and that sense of introspection is a BLESSING. Yes, I said it. We have been BLESSED for the last year to have the space (our homes), and the quiet (maybe YOUR home — not mine), to take long walks through our neighborhoods and notice things we hadn’t before. We’ve come to realize, again, how important it is to wave and smile (even if it’s behind a mask). We were forced to slow down and I’m not saying that God caused that, but I know that God’s used that for our benefit. We were so consumed by doing more, buying more, going further, and keeping up a relentless pace that how could we have seen that it was doing damage to us individually, corporately, and spiritually? We’ve been called to use the last year to take a step back and see where we might stretch in different directions to make it work. We’ve been led to discover new ways to love our neighbors. The planet has been given a chance to breathe and heal a little from the footprints we’ve left. We’ve had more time with our families or perhaps more time apart which has reminded us how important our families are.

And maybe...

And maybe, because it is the season of Lent (and this thing isn’t over yet), we can continue to remember that the Potter is using our current condition to remind us that we are clay — from the dust of the earth — to be shaped, and formed, and created, and RE-CREATED, over and over according to the Potter’s purposes.

Wow. Thanks be to God.

From the Desert,

Rev. Sara

United Methodist Church Bible Quiz

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who were Adam’s children?
A. Cain and Abel
B. Cain, Abel, and Seth
C. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
D. Cain, Abel, Seth, and other sons and daughters | 6. Joseph was Jesus’ earthly father. In Matthew’s gospel, what was Joseph’s father’s name?
A. Zechariah C. Jacob
B. Joe, Sr. D. Ezekiel |
| 2. Which son of Abraham’s name means “laughter”?
A. Ishmael C. Esau
B. Isaac D. Elmo | 7. Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible?
A. Cherubim C. Angel
B. Seraphim D. All of the above |
| 3. Does the United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible?
A. Yes B. No | 8. Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?
A. Clarence C. Malachi
B. Michael D. Gabriel |
| 4. In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testaments?
A. 66 books: 39 OT, 27 NT
B. 66 books: 27 OT, 39 NT
C. 73 books: 46 OT, 27 NT
D. 73 books, 39 OT, 34 NT | 9. Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?
A. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.
B. Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish.
C. Jesus walks on water.
D. Jesus turns water into wine. |
| 5. Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?
A. Exodus C. 2 Chronicles
B. 1 Chronicles D. Lamentations | 10. Which disciple said to Jesus “No, you shall never wash my feet”?
A. Thomas C. Peter
B. Judas D. Ralph |

[Answers are at the bottom of page 3.]

Counting Blessings in the Midst of Adversity

The key verse in the devotion for *The Upper Room* on Tuesday, February 23, is as good a place to start as any: "God comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble." Our most recent weather experiences have offered all of us an opportunity to comfort one another even in the most trying circumstances.

If there was ever a time to be mindful of blessings and lessons, this past week (and continuing into this week) was certainly one of those times for me. The snow, ice, and severely cold temperatures of that horrific winter storm led to scary living situations for many in our Memphis community and throughout other parts of the South. In Memphis it resulted in loss of power for some neighbors, and most of Memphis experienced broken water mains and water that had to be boiled before consumption. While those of us who live in the Parkway House continued to have power, we have had no water for a week now. The neighbors in our large vertical community are not alone in this waterless boat, with Rhodes College, the Glenmary, and many in private homes in nearby neighborhoods, as well as downtown and elsewhere, sharing the same conditions. For a long period of time our prayer concerns for Trinity Church have included praying for safe drinking water for those who live in other countries, and we have now experienced firsthand what this is like for millions of people around the world.

I am fortunate that I have family living two blocks to the north of my apartment. They have continued to have working utilities, including water service. I was already here in their home, taking care of my younger granddaughter while her daycare was closed, when our water went out at my apartment building, and my family has very kindly hosted me during this whole time. What a blessing that has been in so many ways for me, even sleeping on the trundle bed that pulls out from underneath the little girls' bunk bed. That is just one of many blessings that I can name. I am thankful for family, friends, and neighbors who have checked on me during this time. And, my goodness, just think how blessed we all are to have MLGW employees who have worked diligently in bitterly cold and wet situations to restore power and flowing water to all our community.

Ms. Alyson and I are thankful that we were able to have a Zoom Sunday School meeting with our children in the middle of this icy weather, due to our already having that internet connection set up with them. If these were normal times, church and Sunday School would probably have been cancelled. Instead, due to the battle with the COVID-19, we did not have to miss Sunday School and worship. Who would have thought we could thank this horrible disease for anything?

The first lesson for me in all this is not to take any blessings for granted, including clean water that flows freely when one opens the tap. The second is to rejoice once again in the sure knowledge that our Lord is present with us always. Unlike the Apostle Paul, I find it difficult to be content in all circumstances, whether I experience want or plenty, but I know that is a lesson that I need to continue to work on because He calls me to do that as His faithful disciple. There are lots of other lessons that continue to reveal themselves to me and, more than anything else, so very many blessings!

Peace and love to all,
Irene Dycus

Answers to the United Methodist Bible Quiz
1. D 2. B 3. No 4. A 5. D
6. C 7. D 8. D 9. B 10. C

Learn more about this holy book:
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/complete-answers-to-the-united-methodist-bible-quiz>



Church Council Meeting

January Church Council Report

Although we have had to meet via Zoom, your Church Council has been meeting regularly to take care of the business of being Church in a strange time. Here are highlights of our most recent meeting on January 24:

After welcoming members and focusing our attention on our Vision and Mission statements, chairperson Mike Potter invited responses to the question, "How is it with your soul?" Responses included happiness, thankfulness for the children's cards, and feelings of being stressed, blessed, and excited.

Pastor's Report, Sara Corum: Responding to the ever-present question, "When will we resume in-person worship," Pastor Sara stated that while this remains to be seen, we take some hope from the beginnings of vaccinations. We will continue to livestream our worship services even after we do find it safe to resume in person, as we are reaching many people this way. We now have a second camera, so we may soon be able to have another person in the service, as liturgist or soloist. She requested prayer for the family of Deloris Clayborne, director of Pathway to Dignity, as she died unexpectedly recently. In larger church concerns, General and Jurisdictional Conferences are on the calendar for Fall 2021 but probably will be postponed again. These bodies may retire some bishops and not appoint new ones.

Finance, Rosemary Potter: Rosemary highlighted the fact that we ended 2020 in the black, \$23,000+. Even if we had not had the grant from the Payroll Protection Plan and a transfer of funds from the Trustees funds, we would have had a net of \$5,000. She presented a provisional budget for 2021, with attached assumptions, and moved that we accept it provisionally. The Council did so by voice vote. She also highlighted the fact that our apportionments are now returning to a set amount, rather than a percentage. Rosemary moved that we approve pursuit of a second PPP grant should it become available. The Council voted in favor of this motion.

Trustees, Sam Goff: We need more trustees who can take an active part in this work. Contact Sam if you can help. Work has been done on the garage, funded by Scouts. Obtaining the drapes for the stage is still pending. The dryer at the parsonage must be replaced, and the old one, if repairable, will be saved as a backup. We will transition to doing our groundskeeping with volunteers, with help from the Scouts.

Nurture, Craig Jordan: We continue to contact our members who cannot connect electronically. For the Children's Dept., Irene and Alyson reported that the children are making valentines as well as their other cards. Rob Landrigan reported that the Scouts now included 40 members, and that the goal for 2021 will be to find new ways to be visibly involved with the church.

Witness, Krissi Moore: Krissi saluted Irene and Alyson for their witness, shown by stepping up, learning how to minister to children online, and involving the children in the work of the church. She also expressed thankfulness for the way virtual worship and Sunday School, as well as Coffee in Community, can reach so many.

SPPRC, Charlotte Comes: The committee recently completed the required consultation form, indicating that our current pastoral leadership fits the mission and ministry needs of TUMC.

UMW, Carol Miller: Carol highlighted two ways the UMW has supported ministries financially: Saving quarters for laundry for the women served by Lisieux, and a Christmas donation to Meritan.

We concluded the meeting with reflections on signs of hope and encouragement from today. Responses included rejoicing over having the Landrigan/Wong family as new members, our positive financial report, the work of the children, the Scouts being willing to partner with the church in so many ways, and the participation in today's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded with prayer. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 28, with reports being due by Wednesday, March 24. All church members and friends are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Jordan, Secretary to the Council

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.



As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

[This hymn can be found in "The Faith We Sing," page 2237. The words are by Ruth Duck, and the tune is Beach Spring, from "The Sacred Harp," 1844. Thank you, Mike Potter, for bringing this to our attention.]

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org so your e-mail address can be added to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to *TRINOTES* is included in ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]



March BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Nelda Gray
March 3	Kaylee Bauer
March 3	Heather Jacoby-Keller
March 6	Becky Waldon
March 6	Joe Spake
March 13	Leanne Wilson
March 14	Anne Steinaway
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 19	Alyson Foreman
March 19	Charles Abraham
March 31	Hadley Keller

[If anyone's birthday has been overlooked, please contact us at 901-274-6895 (leave a message) or send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org.]



THE UPPER ROOM

The large and regular print versions of the March/April issue of *Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out. Call and leave a message on the church office voicemail: 901-274-6895, or e-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.

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; 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; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in their first days in office—pray for their wisdom; and for those impacted by the violence in Washington, D.C. on January 6th

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 of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they attend 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:

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

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Paige Warmath, Alyson Foreman's cousin, died January 11th after a long illness. Pray for her husband and two sons and her mother and two brothers.

Kanyon Glover, now 2 years old and doing well: a happy, valiant fighter, according to Chris

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, bone marrow test showed his cancer has returned

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

A Praise!! **Gene and Irene Opel**, while still medically fragile, are now able to visit with Irene's daughter, **Anita Bunn**.

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, has lung cancer.

Sally Ramsey, out of her back brace and having physical therapy

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, at Allenbrooke Rehab

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 with broken hip, in rehab, struggling with depression

Charles Abraham, in the long term acute care facility until the end of the month; will move to a skilled nursing facility

The family of the **Rev. Richard Hackleman**, who died recently

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.)*