

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.

The Presence of God

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. - John 16:13

Were I to write a modern-day affirmation of faith, it would begin with, "I believe in a God who is with us."

The day my house burned down was one of the hardest days of my life, but when I look back at that day, and I remember just about every moment in detail, I can recount times where it was evident that

God was present, and it was clear to me that God was preparing me for the hard moments that were coming.

We were on a mission trip in rural northwest TN, repairing homes in an impoverished community. We always began before the sun came up and often didn't finish until long after sundown, but not that morning. That morning we were lingering at our dorms. No one was in a rush to get anywhere and the adults were all huddled in a corner with serious looks on their faces. It was a free-for-all for the youth, though. More time to play cards or more time to get ready to head to the worksite (or more time to get into trouble). The youth were happy. I don't remember being happy, though. I remember a feeling inside — like a warning. Something was happening and it all had to do with me. So, while my friends were off laughing and playing, I sat and watched the adults closely and I prayed.

Hours later my father would show up at the worksite to take me home, because there had been an emergency, and I needed to be with my family.

I'll never forget knowing. I'll never forget those moments of realization and the feeling that drew me toward centering and praying — preparing for what was coming.

I have a few moments like that in my life, but only a few. The most recent was two days ago.

When I received the call that Charlotte Comes was in the hospital, it was late-in-the-day Friday. She wasn't yet in a room and things were a bit chaotic, so I worked out a visit for the next morning, with the provision that if the time was imminent, I'd come immediately. It wasn't, so I didn't.

At 10:00 Saturday I showed up to Baptist Memorial and made my way from the parking garage to the hospital entrance, and then to the 5th floor of the hospital where I tapped on Charlotte's door and went inside to be greeted by Mark, Charlotte's son, who'd just arrived, and Charlotte. When she saw me, she burst into tears — "I didn't want you to see me like this!" I couldn't help but laugh a little. That's just like Charlotte, to not want me to see her unwell, in her hospital gown, rather than beautifully put-together. She was herself; chatty, fiery, opinionated, poised to give any of the nurses a piece of her mind. She was ready to go home, but wouldn't until Monday. Her stats were good and getting better and she was settling in for an afternoon of watching Arkansas play basketball followed by Tennessee. She was less-than-happy she couldn't watch the Grizzlies at the hospital. She was our Charlotte.

Before I left, she held my hand and cried again. I assured her that she need not be embarrassed that I'd seen her. We'd been through a lot together. But, that wasn't it. She held my hand and said, "God sent you." I smiled and kissed her on the head. We had a prayer. I asked Mark to let me know if anything changed and promised to be back Monday if they decided not to send her home. I told her goodbye and that I loved her.

When I left, I walked down the hallway to the elevator and got inside, and it hit me. I wouldn't realize
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what it was until later that night, but something sat heavy with me on the way down, all the way back to my car, and all the way home, so I centered and I prayed.

When I got the call around 6:00 that night that everything had changed — Charlotte was unresponsive and her heart rate very slow — I knew what the feeling from the elevator meant. Her children had all been by her side. Her granddaughter, a friend and colleague of mine, had been there to love her hard. I was the last one. It was time.

There are amazing moments where the presence of God is so completely evident in our lives. Those holy moments aren't always mountaintop experiences where we rise up on wings like eagles. Sometimes they are just before the very darkest moments, to remind us of God's presence and God's power. They draw us back to a realization of God's closeness in our suffering and prepare us for the grief that lies ahead. We cannot always see it — not in the moment, but often, in retrospect, we become aware and are able to see and receive this gift of grace from the God who is with us.

For God's presence, power, and mercy, may we give thanks. For glimpses of peace and assurance, ahead of heartache and suffering, may we give thanks. For the saints we have lost of late, and all who go before us, may we give thanks.

Humbled, graced, and never without hope,
Rev. Sara

Safe Sanctuary Training for All

Safe Sanctuary means that in all our interactions with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, we protect them from any possible harm. Trinity UMC has a 48-page document, developed by the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee under the capable leadership of Jeri Ashley, that outlines how we do this. The church requires that all staff and all volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, be trained in these Safe Sanctuary procedures.

It's been a few years since we updated our training in Safe Sanctuary. So, on Sunday, March 3, we ask that everyone who volunteers to work with our children and youth in any way, or who may volunteer in the future, or anyone who volunteers to visit our adults who are vulnerable by reason of age or disability, to stay after church for a 15-minute condensed training. Those 48 pages can be covered quickly if we put our minds to it! Even if you have been trained previously, please stay. If you aren't currently doing such volunteer work, please stay, just in case.

Everybody stay! 15 minutes! I promise!

Kay Jordon, Chairperson
Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

Service of the Resurrection

In order to honor the memory of our beloved sister in Christ, **Charlotte Comes**, there will be a time of visitation on March 6th, beginning at 12:00 noon in the Worship Center. Our Trinity Shepherds will host a reception during that time prior the funeral service, which will begin at 1:30 p.m.

If you wish to provide finger foods, contact Irene Dycus. Details regarding the foodstuffs requested have been emailed to church members. Burial will take place at Memorial Park (Poplar at Yates) following the service.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
IN MEMORY OF

DIANA DUBOIS FROM THE UWF

NELDA GRAY FROM THE UWF

JANE WALDRIP FROM THE UWF

NELDA GRAY FROM

CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

DIANA DUBOIS FROM CHARLES &
MELBA ABRAHAM

AND IN HONOR OF

CAROL MILLER FROM THE UWF

Trinity's Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast

*Here comes Peter
Cottontail
hopping down the
bunny trail,
Hippety, hoppity,
Easter's on its way,
Bringing all the girls and
boys
Baskets full of...*



Wait! Stop!
Cease and desist!
The Easter Bunny has
made a terrible mistake!
He was supposed to be

here on the afternoon of March 24th, but he's way ahead of schedule!

NOW THE **EASTER BUNNY** IS GOING TO BE HERE AT **9:00 A.M.**
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd, AND HE'S EXPECTING US TO
SERVE **BREAKFAST** TO KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHILE HE'S
HERE! THE **EASTER EGG HUNT** WILL FOLLOW **AT 10:30 A.M.**

Don't panic! **Respond** swiftly and methodically. (We are, after all, Methodists and United ones at that.) Call Sam Goff and his wonderful breakfast crew. Warn Ms. Irene as gently as possible and hope she doesn't pass out again. Contact the SPRC, and they'll be glad to step up and help, as will others in the church family. Troop 13 and Pack 13 are prepared to do their best, and the Lab School, too. The EHDA, good neighbors always, will back us up. We can do this. We are, after all, Trinity United Methodist Church, and we can do all things through Him who strengthens us (and we're not joking about that).

Get the word out to friends and neighbors and kids everywhere. Spread the news through social media. Invite face-to-face, text and call! All kids, toddlers through 5th graders, are invited to bring their Easter baskets and join us for the fun!

SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd
9:00-10:15 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
10:30 - Easter Egg Hunt



GRAB A BASKET AND JOIN US FOR
TUMC'S ANNUAL

**Breakfast with
the Easter Bunny
& Egg Hunt!**

Saturday, March 23rd

Breakfast and Activities: 9:00 - 10:15.

Egg Hunt for toddlers - 5th grade: 10:30

Trinity United Methodist Church

1738 Galloway Ave.

Upcoming General Conference Proposals

By Kay Jordan

Trinity is a Reconciling Church. This means that we affirm and support those persons who identify as LGBTQ+, and that we seek to reverse the harm done in the past by the worldwide United Methodist Church through words and policies that demean members of the LGBTQ+ community.

When General Conference occurs (finally!) in April, there will be opportunity to take action on these important issues. The Reconciling Ministries Network, of which we are a member, recently held an online meeting to help us understand the three most important proposals that will come up for votes at General Conference in this area. I logged in, and this is what I learned:

✕ **Proposal One: Adopt Worldwide Regionalization.**

This proposal affects worldwide church structure, keeping us connected as a global church by creating regional conferences in Africa, Europe, Philippines, and U.S. It offers autonomy in regional decision-making. To pass, the vote requirement is 2/3rd at GC, *plus* 2/3rd ratification vote at Annual Conference.

✕ **Proposal Two: Adopt Revised Social Principles**

The proposed revisions are more succinct, more theologically grounded, and better reflect the nature of the global Church. They include removing "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" and changing the definition of marriage from "one man and one woman" to "two people." Vote requirement for this proposal is 50% plus one (1) at GC.

✕ **Proposal three: Remove anti-LGBTQ+ language and discrimination**

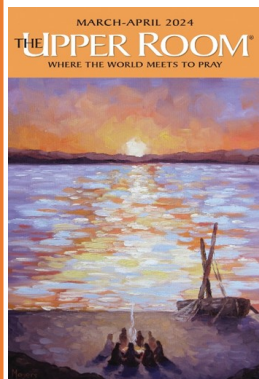
The goal here is to leave the 2024 BOD void of any language that targets LGBTQ+ persons. This honors regionalization and create a blank slate for a new structure and future regional conferences. Again the vote requirement for this proposal is 50% plus one (1) at GC.

There are only six clergy delegates from Tennessee/West Kentucky to this important meeting of General Conference, and our pastor, Sara Corum, is one of them! As she explained in her article in the previous Trinotes, she is first Alternate, meaning that she will be on the floor and eligible to vote whenever one of the clergy delegates has to be out of pocket. Trinity is proud to be represented so well at this historic meeting. If you have any questions about what I have written, if I have confused you, ask me, and I in turn may need to ask for Pastor Sara's help to untangle the confusion. The meeting will undoubtedly be covered in the national press, and we owe it to ourselves to be informed about what is happening.



Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet Sunday, March 10th, following worship. As always, members are invited to attend.



Upper Room Devotional Guides

The March/April *Upper Room* has finally arrived and is on display on the counter at the front desk outside the Worship Center. The devotional guides will be mailed out to our homebound members this week.



Heather Jacoby Keller	March 3
Quinn Bauer	March 3
Joe Spake	March 6
Lee Ann Wilson	March 13
Charles Abraham	March 19
Alyson Foreman	March 19
Hadley Keller	March 31



Trinity Food Pantry

According to the Memphis Food Bank, **one in six Memphians are food insecure** primarily due to high poverty rates, limited access to healthy food, and lack of transportation to grocery stores. To meet the need of feeding our hungry neighbors, Trinity United Methodist Church will soon be opening a Food Pantry at 1738 Galloway Avenue.

We invite you to join us in serving our community by donating canned and non-perishable food that you may have on hand. Please bring your donated items to the church on Monday through Thursday between 9:30am - 12:00pm. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 901-274-6895.

Items to Donate



- granola bars
- oatmeal packets
- cereal
- canned fruit
- pasta
- soup
- pasta sauce
- peanut butter
- canned vegetables
- box of mac & cheese

- canned chicken
- jelly
- spam
- minute rice
- canned tuna
- snacks
- gift certificates for grocery stores, Walmart, or Costco
- monetary donations

Trinity United Methodist Church – 1738 Galloway Ave., Memphis, TN 38112

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:

Charlotte Comes' family as they mourn her passing

Melba Abraham, pray for her recovery from surgery for small breast tumor on February 28th.

Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**

Adam Hill, successful eye surgery; off work 6 weeks (friend of Joan Smith)

Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith).

Amelia Strickland's mom, **Rosemary Batorski**, has been sick for over a month; weak, but some improvement

Rosemary Potter, recovering at home following hip surgery, receiving physical therapy

Chris Glover's sister **Carol** is in hospice care at home and heavily medicated.

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

Olivia Dunn, 29 year old with uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)

Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS - both the Millers' friends
Melba Abraham's cousin, **Lydia Melton**, has cervical cancer.

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks

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

Kanyon Glover has pneumonia.

Jacob Foreman, chronic back pain and nerve damage in left leg; doctors have no answer.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, has moved to a nursing home; torn ligaments in shoulder; upbeat!

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has cancer in five locations; receiving radiation therapy.

Val Coates, ongoing serious health concerns

Eddie Ramsey, now in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration

Seth Genes, 14 year old friend of Debby Marston; on last rounds of chemo; PT following surgery

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.)