

# Trinotes

February 8, 2023

**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.

**Step on the ride. .... Sit down. ....  
Buckle your safety belt. .... Hang on.**

I don't like roller coasters. I really don't. I only marginally liked them as a small person and liked them less as a teenager and now I'll bite the bullet and ride SOME of them with the kids. There are rules, though. I won't ride anything that goes upside down, and I won't ride anything where you hang instead of sit. Those are a hard pass for me.

I don't like being jerked around. I don't believe we were meant to soar through the air (sans airplane rides, and I'm not incredibly fond of those either). I cannot imagine anyone actually enjoying their equilibrium being shaken, stirred, and poured out.

I enjoy the calm predictability of NOT being on a roller coaster. I enjoy my feet planted on the ground. I enjoy not feeling compelled to scream for all the reasons one screams while on a roller coaster (fear, anxiety, adrenaline).

I recognize, though, that sometimes life can feel like a roller coaster ride. It really can. We think we can predict what's next and, all the sudden, everything drops from under our feet or our world turns upside down. We may feel like screaming, running away, being sick...There is a violent shaking, or everything feels like it's going too fast, or (and this happens a lot) we're going backward! I've had a lot of moments like that in my life. After five+ years with you, I can say that I know you have too.

No one likes that, even the avid roller coaster riders. We want stability. We crave predictability or, at the very least, comfort, and life doesn't always offer that.

Many United Methodists, and maybe you're some of them, are feeling the onset of the effects of being a United Methodist in this strange season we're in — a season marked by splintering and fragmenting. It sure feels like a roller coaster ride. It's full of unpredictability. What we've always known, and the Methodist Church has a long history, is dissipating and there's no good way for us to know for sure what it'll look like in the years to come.

As someone who's (only) served a church for 12 years, I can tell you that it certainly feels like a backward run. As someone committed to an itinerant life and bound by the rules of a book that most certainly is NOT the Holy Bible, I'll tell you that it feels like a jumbled up, shaken, and stirred mess — and one WE created.

But it's not only that — a shaken and stirred mess that's our own fault — because Sunday morning comes... and we gather to read scripture and pray. We come, faithful Methodists, to sing 4-part harmonies we've known by heart for decades. We break the bread and lift the chalice. The only real chaos is the children's time, and still our hearts are strangely warmed because, if nothing else, they are there, and that is a sign of stability and life.

Amid the chaos that is the greater church, in our space and the space that is our togetherness, there is peace like a river. There is a happy mixture of tradition that is comforting, alongside creative newness that breathes life. There is a faithful struggle, but it is only this inasmuch as we are TRYING to stretch, and grow, and better discern God's hopes for us, in an upcycled education building turned worship Center, on the corner of Evergreen and Galloway.

I've said it for nearly six years and I'll continue to do so. Despite everything else moving a million miles an hour around us, in spite of the sudden drops and sharp turns, even if it takes us (gulp\*) hanging upside down or backward, God is not finished with us yet. God is already there, in whatever is to come. At the same time, God is with us — always.

Taking heart,  
Rev. Sara



# Ash Wednesday

{TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN}

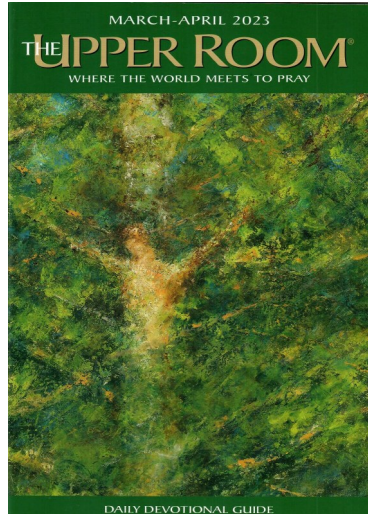
Feb 22nd, 6:00 p.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1738 GALLOWAY AVE.



## Upcoming Youth Activities

- ♦ The youth will meet at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Youth Room. Watch this space for more upcoming activities!



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

## Tiny Pantry

Don't forget to help stock the Tiny Pantry with non-perishable food items.



**LAKESHORE**  
united methodist camp & retreat center

## Support the Lakeshore Scholarship Fund

Lakeshore is a camp and retreat center located on the shores of the Tennessee River, providing Christian hospitality, rest, and reflection for guests of all ages and backgrounds since 1948. Programming at Lakeshore includes summer camps, parent/child weekends, special needs camps, retreats, work weekends, banquets, and a variety of other events.

Historically, Trinity has maintained a scholarship fund for our children and youth, allowing kids to attend camps who otherwise would not be able to afford the experience. That fund has been seriously diminished over the past few years. We invite you to contribute to the Lakeshore Scholarship Fund in order to allow our children to enjoy the camping experience offered by Lakeshore. Simply write a check to Trinity UMC and note "Lakeshore" on the memo line.



## Our Kids Are Growing...!

Recently, as we were coming up the stairs to the Worship Center after Sunday School, I looked back at the children behind me and thought, "My goodness! They're filling the stairs!" It was not the number of kids, although six is a pretty good turnout for our class now, but it was their SIZE! They are all getting to be such big kids! Then, Sunday before last, as our children and youth helped fill the lunch bags for Peace Lutheran Church's ministry for marginalized neighbors, I looked at our three youth who were there. Last year they were still with us in our class, and this year they have moved up to the new Youth Group. I couldn't believe how much they had grown, too. For all our children and youth, it's not just their growth in size that's impressive. It's their growth in so many other wonderful ways.

Our three youth are near the age that Jesus was in the story in Luke 2:41-52 about Jesus as a boy in the temple. This is the only story in the Bible about the childhood life of Jesus. Mary and Joseph thought they had lost their son, but Jesus was right where he knew God wanted him to be. Jesus already knew He was God's son, but he was growing as a human at the same time. The last two sentences of this scripture are some of my favorite words in the Bible: "His mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." There are so many memories that I treasure of "my children," both as a teacher and as a grandmother. My prayer for my own grandchildren, as well as the children and youth of Trinity Church, is that they will all continue to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and their fellow man.

God's peace to all,

*Irene*



Children, youth, and leaders work together to prepare sack lunches for Peace Lutheran's outreach to their hungry neighbors.

(For more photos, see page 5.)



## Financial Report as of December 31, 2022

As of December 31, 2022, our 2022 total expenses exceeded our revenues by **(\$22,245)**. Pledged giving YTD was \$118,615 and slightly over budget by \$6,595. This is a great improvement from earlier months. Non-pledged giving was well over budget by \$10,720, thanks to some unexpected yearend giving by some of our members. Of note, Loose Offering is \$1,572 over budget and Memorials & Bequests were over budget by \$5,110.

On the expense side, we were under budget in Administrative & General by \$7,238, primarily due to limited use of the minister's reimbursable accounts - Continuing Education and Professional Reimbursables as well as minimal use of the Medical Reimbursement line item. We were over budget in Maintenance & Operations by \$7,022, once again due to Parsonage Expense bathroom overhaul (over \$4,465) and HVAC Maintenance (\$6,924). Program expenses were slightly over budget by \$143.

As of December 31, 2022, we have net unrestricted cash available of \$11,461, a real improvement since 10/31/22. Thanks to several large unbudgeted donations, we are in a much better cash position. This means we have gone into 2023 with \$11,461 in excess cash. We also did not have to draw any funds from the Endowment Fund.

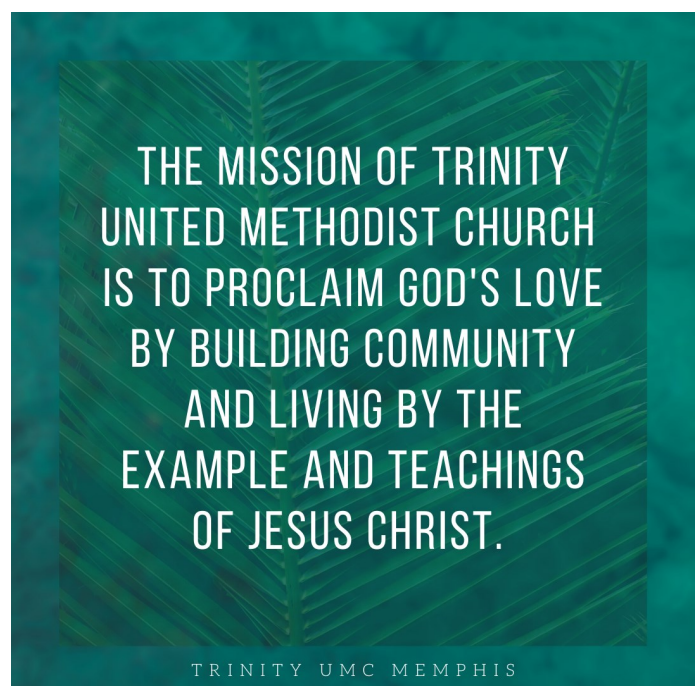
Although we still had a net loss for 2022 of **(\$11,245)**, it should be noted that we were well under the original projected loss for 2022 of **(\$40,000)**. Hallelujah!!

All in all, 2022 ended on a high note financially.

In preparing the budget for 2023, Craig Jordan and I used a total of \$117,020 for pledged giving and \$46,800 for non-pledged giving. As of 1/11/2023, we only have \$61,300 in pledges, woefully short of what the church needs. In some cases, previously pledged givers will continue their giving but as non-pledged giving. So, although the non-pledged giving should be higher than budgeted, the pledged giving will be much less. We have not gotten responses from several people and will follow up with them soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Potter and Craig Jordan, Finance Co-Chairs



## “Feed my 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 next “assembly line” to put lunches together will be after the Fifth Sunday Breakfast on April 30th. 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 & applesauce or fruit cup)
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin

(Peace Lutheran will provide condiments.)



February 6	Alex Landrigan
February 7	Sally Ramsey
February 12	Myra Finch
February 22	Eli Witt
February 23	Jacobi Hemingway
February 27	Sara Corum
February 27	Amy Moritz

*(Please let us know if we left off a birthday or if a date is incorrect. We will make that correction in our next issue of Trinotes and in our records.)*



Just look how our children have grown!



## 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

**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:

Myra Finch's brother, **Tim Beasley**, as he struggles with cognitive problems

**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

For the family and friends of **Irene and Gene Opel** as we mourn their passing

**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 a rehab center

**Val Coates**, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father last year

**George Marston**, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure

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

**Eddie Ramsey**, multiple health concerns, and for **Sally**, as she cares for him

**Edward Thigpen**, radiation re-started due to spot found on kidney; will continue chemo through March

For **Charlotte Comes**, as she recovers from her successful January 24th surgery

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

Debby Marston's sister, **Katie Edge**, completed radiation therapy and will receive infusions for a few more weeks.

**Lyle Klein**, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

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.)*