

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.



To Be Loved

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. — 1 John 3:1a

I got a text this morning from someone I hold very dear to my heart and it touched me. It was simple. “Good morning! Just thinking of you this morning — praying that all is well and happy!” It came out of the blue and I couldn’t help but gush a little. Someone was thinking of me and was kind enough to let me know. It was a small thing, but very significant — significant to me, at least. I’d just gotten through morning rush hour — the hour we rush kids through the bathroom (brush your teeth, brush your hair, take your vitamins, go potty — check!), and rush them through breakfast, and rush them to their desks to get their things ready for school. All of this happens while we, too, rush to do all the things to get us ready for the day. How that goes — what kind of mood everyone is in — whether or not it’s all a fight or easy-peasy — can really frame the day. Things had been a little rough (as they can be on Mondays), and so the text helped get the train back on the track for me — a simple text — just remembering that I am loved.

Sometimes it is valuable to simply pause and remember that we are loved.

The mission is great! Go ye therefore and make disciples! It’s big and overwhelming at times. Fight for justice for those in the margins. Love your enemies. Heal. Feed. House. Give. Do. It can be a lot. It can be exhausting — the cross to bear, heavy. And though I truly believe that God both wants and needs us to do this work for the sake of the Kingdom, I cannot imagine that God wants us running on fumes and forgetting an all-too-important reality about who we are.

We are children of God, and we are loved.

YOU are a child of God, and you are loved.

Read it again.

....and again.

.....and again.

You are a child of God, and you are loved.

And that’s everything, isn’t it? One of the things about Lent — about being in the wilderness — is that we spend that time in self-reflection, getting our hearts ready for what Easter will bring. And, that work can be dirty, and messy, and difficult. It can make self-reflection feel like a painful exercise we regret. But I think if all we see when we look in the mirror are our blemishes — that all we see is what we need to change about our brokenness, assuming that, that’s what it’ll take to prepare ourselves for Easter, we miss the point. If we cannot also see that—in that mirror—there is a broken

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person who is a child of God and who is loved, we cannot understand the enormity of the gift of Good Friday. Because we are broken and still loved, Christ died for us — while we were sinners, Christ died for us — children of God, Christ died for us...

...because we are loved.

If you are in that desert place (and it's Lent so I hope you are), and struggling with sin — if you are there unable to forgive, unable to love, unable to change and are struggling — if you are there thirsty, guilty, messy, and hopeless, remember two things: 1. You are not alone. The Spirit of God meets you there. The same Spirit that went with Jesus into that wilderness place, is with you in yours. And 2. Easter means that there is a place for your struggle, for your thirstiness, for your guilt, for your messiness, and for your hopelessness because **you are a child of God and you are loved.**

From the Wilderness Place,

Rev. Sara

Honorariums have been received
in honor of Carol & Carey Miller from Irene Dycus
In honor of Alyson Foreman from Irene Dycus

United Methodist Women's Quiz

- When was the first Women's History Month observed in the U.S.?
A. 1775
B. 1812
C. 1987
D. 2018
- How many United Methodist Women members were there as of 2019?
A. 8
B. 800
C. 8,000
D. 800,000
- What Methodist woman wrote more hymns than John Wesley?
A. Frances Willard
B. Fanny Crosby
C. Frances Alexander
D. Fanny Brice
- True or False: Helenor Davisson is the 1st woman ordained in the Methodist tradition?
A. True B. False
- Who was the 1st woman to run for president in the U.S.?
A. Betsy Ross
B. Carrie Nation
C. Victoria Woodhull
D. Hillary Clinton
- Who was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?
A. Sandra Day O'Connor C. Sonia Sotomayor
B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg D. Eleanor Roosevelt
- How many active women bishops were in the UMC as of 2019?
A. 0
B. 4
C. 17
D. 48
- When was the Commission on the Status & Role of Women created?
A. 1872
B. 1972
C. 2002
D. 2012
- Who was the 1st woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops?
A. Dolly Madison
B. Marjorie Matthews
C. Minerva Carcaño
D. Sharon Brown Christopher
- True or False: You can purchase a women's edition of the Bible?
A. True
B. False

[Answers are at the bottom of page 5.]



Remembering and Giving Thanks

REMEMBER is the FAITH WORD for our new unit of study for the month of March in our Children’s Sunday School Class. This special word - **REMEMBER** – reminds us “to think about and not forget our faith.” Our MEMORY VERSE is Luke 22:19c, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Ms. Alyson and I have encouraged our Children’s Department families to say **The Lord’s Prayer** with their children once a day - early in the morning, at a mealtime, at bedtime, or at whatever time works

best for them. We hope and pray that concentrating on this daily practice will help our children begin to learn a spiritual discipline that can guide them throughout their lives.

This past week I drove to Jackson, Tennessee to see my sister Margaret, our first time to be face-to-face together in over a year. We had both had our second COVID shots, and we felt relatively safe being together. We were even brave enough to hug. During these months of separation due to the pandemic, we have communicated by phone almost every day. One of the things that we have often done during our phone conversations is to remember things about our childhood and youth. Together we have come up with so many family memories that we treasure.

Throughout our growing-up years, our mother said over and over to us, “Always remember who you are.” This was a very intentional reminder of the values that we had been taught through a loving and supportive family life at home and at church. An essential part of remembering who we are is remembering Whose we are. I have carried that identity with me throughout my life, and it has grown deeper in meaning through the years.

Not only did my mother remind me and my sister of who and Whose we were, but she frequently added these words: “Remember that you can always come home.” Those were both strengthening and comforting words to which I still cling. During the past nine years, I have cleaned out and moved from two family homes, first after my husband Joe’s death and later after my sister-in-law Jeanne’s death. As painful as those experiences were and as off-balance as my life seemed to be following those losses, I realize that leaving those physical homes did not leave me “home-less” in an emotional and spiritual sense. Over time, I have come to understand that the essential part of home goes with me wherever life may take me. The Lord has promised to be with me always, and that promise comforts and sustains me through both wilderness and mountaintop experiences.

I pray that our children will always know who and Whose they are. And should they wander, as I have done from time to time, may they always know that they can come home.

Remembering and giving thanks,
Irene

This weekend Daylight Savings begins. Don't forget to set your clocks **FORWARD** an hour this Saturday evening so that you are on time for virtual worship this **Sunday, March 14.**

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO...

**SPRING
FORWARD!!**

Don't forget to change your clocks this Saturday night, March 13th.



[Editor's Note: Lenten Confession]

I've always struggled with Lent, especially Good Friday. A Baptist friend of mine tried to convince me that I shouldn't grieve on Good Friday because we live on the Resurrection side of Holy Week. And that's true. I fully recognize that Christ rose from the dead on that first Easter Sunday morning, but that doesn't make the knowledge of his suffering any more palatable.

You know, it's all my fault. It's also your fault and the fault of every sinful human animal who has ever lived. God has been working on making us perfect for a long, long time, and we keep digging in our heels in resistance to God's plan. This doesn't make God weak or ineffective. It just means God gave us free will. God will not force us to be compliant to that plan. We are given the free gifts of free will and grace. And look where it's gotten us.

We are a contrary, stubborn, willful race. Substitute the pronoun "I" for "we," and you have a clear picture of me, for I am as contrary, stubborn, and willful as the worst of God's creatures.

Years ago, another friend of mine gave me a copy of a research paper on crucifixion. I made the mistake of reading it (there were graphics) and have never been able to thrust away the image of our LORD hanging helplessly on a tree—in agony. It's a horrible way to die. The awful indignity and horror of a Jew dying strung up on a tree is bad enough, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. The guilty nailed pure innocence to a cross and stood and watched him die.

Philippians 2:5-11 contains these words: *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."* -NRSV

I read the second chapter of Philippians pretty often, thinking familiarity will breed—not contempt—but some sort of easing of the tension I feel in my gut when I think of Christ's suffering. It's akin to the feeling I imagine I would have if one of my children was being tortured, and I was helpless to make it stop.

Most of the church year I'm fine. I don't get upset while reading Old Testament passages that describe the suffering of God's chosen people, and I like to think I'm pretty compassionate, even empathetic. Maybe it's because I never met them and have no personal relationship with them. With Christ Jesus it's different. He is alive in ways that are indescribable. I do not have the words to paint the picture of him that lives inside my head and heart.

I am careful to check the lectionary whenever I'm asked to serve as liturgist for my church's worship. If that passage from Philippians is included in the Scripture readings, I pass. I have never been able to read it without my voice breaking and the tears flowing. The rest of the passage is bearable, even liberating, to read: *"...at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father."*

So be it. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Debby Marston



If you are interested in purchasing an Easter lily or other flowering plant in honor or memory of someone, please call or email the [church office](#). If we have enough interest, we will order or purchase plants locally. Closer to Easter, we will post a time-window for you to pick up your plant on the Galloway side of the church so we can keep everyone safe. A Memorial/Honorarium list will be published in both Trinotes and ENews.

Answers to United Methodist Women's Quiz

1C, 2D, 3B, 4A, 5C, 6A, 7C, 8B, 9D, 10A

Copy and paste this link into your browser to find detailed answers to the quiz:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/who-we-are/Womens_Quiz/Women_Quiz_Complete_Answers.pdf



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.]

[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 the *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]

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 early 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

Chris Glover's nephew, **Graham Kemper**, died recently. He was the father of two young children.

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.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, returning home March 12th on home health care for four weeks, then on Hospice care.

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia with broken hip, in rehab, struggling with depression

Charles Abraham moved to a skilled nursing facility on March 2nd, where he will receive rehab.

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.)