

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.



Sarcasm, Contemplation, and Lent



You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. - Psalm 32:7

I'm feeling a bit sarcastic today. Well, I'm feeling a bit sarcastic on top of feeling pretty crumbly. It started Thursday afternoon and whatever it is has come and gone and come **again** with some level of irrational vengeance, and all I can think (because *sarcasm*) is, this virus, whatever it is, is some not-so-hilarious reminder of the frailty of human life.

If you came to our Ash Wednesday service last week, you heard me preach it. I pointed to the Catholic Pontiff and his recent string of respiratory illness as an example, and used his words of wonder concerning the beauty that is the frailty of human life, only to turn around the next day and come down with a very angry something, it seems, I cannot shake. I am living that frailty.

It's always amazed me how one moment we can be perfectly well (Sunday, for me), and the next, entirely ill. I remember reflecting on that when I was pregnant with Aiden. We lived in a house in Ridgely, TN that had an upstairs and a downstairs, and I could be at the top of the stairs, completely fine, and by the time I was at the bottom, running to the bathroom with morning sickness. I was completely fine just yesterday, and by the morning (or probably the middle of the night), stricken.

We can do this similarly with our emotional state. One moment we are perfectly content, and the next, encumbered with bad news and shaken.

In Lent we are called to go to vulnerable places where we are drawn to the truth that is human frailty, but it's clear to me, as I think (and I've had a good bit of time today, lying in bed, to do just that), that simple moments of life, in general, bring us to the wilderness as well. Those moments aren't only for the liturgical season we're currently a part of. That is (not-so-poetically) life — times where we are drawn to finality or need (or illness), and we are tested, or we test ourselves, with struggling to manage on our own, or seeking the deliverance of a Savior.

Though I like Lent BECAUSE it challenges us to pay these moments homage, to give them attention, to wrestle with ourselves and the work of God in us, or to study that work amid the reality that is our human makeup, I think that maybe it's more important for us to not embrace this practice in Lent alone. If we are on a spiritual journey toward perfection in love, and a Kingdom ethic and life for all creation, I think we're to reflect on the frailty of our lives every day and, more importantly, where God is in the midst. Just as now, nearly three months post-Christmas, we should still pause to reflect that Jesus entered this world fully divine AND fully human SO THAT he might fully-experience, alongside us, the frailty of human life.

All of that feels less sarcastic than it began and more contemplative than I intended, and whether that's okay or perhaps not, sick and in bed, drained and lethargic, I'll let it attest to my own human frailty.

Begging your mercy and praying for deliverance,
In the wilderness,
Rev. Sara



United
Women
in Faith

UWF February 2025

Trinity UWF met 28 February for our regular potluck meeting in the Worship Center. After a delicious lunch we got down to old business.

The group agreed by acclamation to monthly alternate support of the food pantry and tiny pantry. Mary brought us up to date on the reading list and shared two others: All That is Secret by Patricia Raeburn and Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder. Some of the titles are available through Libby; some through Audible; and some are in the UWF cart in the office. If you would like to have a copy of the reading list see Mary or Joan S. Sandy sent a treasurer's report. The Finance Committee will meet before the next meeting to confirm this year's projects.

Once again our ladies have performed above and beyond. Jamey Ramsey left Sunday with a crate of home-baked cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry so full that he carried it on his shoulder. This is a semi-annual ministry for which Jamey will be requesting cookies in the fall. Let's outdo ourselves again!

Metro District is sponsoring "Love in Action, Helping children in the Memphis Metro Area" Saturday, 29 March, at 10:00 a.m. at Colonial Park United Methodist Church. Women attending are invited to bring a food donation to be used in Mid-South Food Bank's children's programs. Suggested items include tuna pouches, mac and cheese cups, granola bars, rice krispy treats, cups of peanut butter, instant oatmeal packets, and instant grits packets. Pre-Registration is requested to uwfmetro@gmail.com.

Coincidentally, the above listed items are also perfect for the Children's Department Lenten Giving Contest. Irene asks if you feel led to participate to place your cans in one of the Food Pantry boxes or designate "food pantry" on the memo line of your check. *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."* Matthew 25:35a (NIV)

Our next meeting, 28 March, will be a potluck in the Worship Center at noon. If you are willing to present the lesson on Matthew and Thomas, the Publican and the Pessimist, from 12 Ordinary Men, please let Joan S. know and pick up the book from Chris. Joan S. also has a workbook available. Our fun activity will be to **stuff the eggs** for Trinity and the Salvation Army!

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.

Joan Smith, UWF President



Golden Cross Senior Ministries has called for help in gathering daily use items for seniors living in Wesley Living Communities, and our UWF has responded with a big "YES!" A big yellow box has been placed under the bulletin board next to the kitchen door to accept your donations. All items should be new, not leftovers. Here's a list of what's needed:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Facial tissues
- Laundry soap
- Puzzles
- Card Games
- Cleaning Supplies
- Denture care items
- Pillows (new, in plastic)
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Disposable adult undergarments
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon sizes)
- New bath towel sets (wash cloth, hand towel, bath towel)
- New full sized bed sheet sets
- Small kitchen items (potholders, utensils, dish towels)
- Crossword puzzles/word search books
- New arts & crafts supplies
- Coloring books and coloring pencils

A Move-In Kit List is also available at the front desk. This would be a great project for a Sunday School class or other group. The approximate cost is \$325.00 for a Move-In Kit. (Monetary donations preferred.)



Easter Egg Hunt April 13th

Mark your calendars now! The Easter Egg Hunt, one of the biggest events for the children of our church and neighborhood, is coming up on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 13th at 2:00 p.m. All children, toddlers through 5th graders, are invited to join in the fun. Every child needs to bring his/her own basket, but we will provide plastic grocery bags for those who forget to bring their baskets. The Easter Bunny will be hopping by to join us once again, offering stuffed eggs and photo ops for the children and their families.

The hunt will begin promptly at 2:00, so parents and grandparents need to get their children to the hunt early, not late! We always have extra eggs on hand to give to late arrivals, but the expression "the fun is in the hunt" most definitely applies to this affair. The event will take place rain or shine. It will happen inside the building, should we have a rainy day.

As always, there's much to be done in preparation for the big day, and we need your help! Please begin inviting family, friends, and neighbors right now. If you do Facebook, the event will be posted on the Trinity UMC Facebook page; share the good news with others through your own Facebook page. Scouts and leaders from Troop 13G and Troop 13B will hide the eggs for the hunt. Cub Scouts from Pack 13 will be egg hunters, but parents from the pack will also be helping. The teachers and children of the Lab School will also be invited to join in the fun. As usual, there will be three different sites on the grounds for specific age groups to hunt eggs. Adults are needed to help supervise those areas. To help with the supervision of the Easter Egg Hunt or to offer to help hide eggs, please contact Irene Dycus (irenebdycus@hotmail.com or 901-652-1105).

We will be stuffing over two thousand plastic eggs in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt. We are asking for **cash donations** (no candy, please) to go toward purchasing candy for the eggs. Because we are trying to avoid larger, hard candies and candies with nuts of any kind in them, our Children's Department leaders are making these purchases. Monetary donations of any size will be greatly appreciated; you can give Irene Dycus, Rebekah Gienapp, or Kathy Isbell your cash donation or make a check to Trinity UMC (designate for "Easter candy"). You may help stuff eggs at home if you like. Just let us know that you want to help; we will get the plastic eggs and candy to you, or you can pick some up at worship, beginning this Sunday, and return the filled eggs the following Sunday.

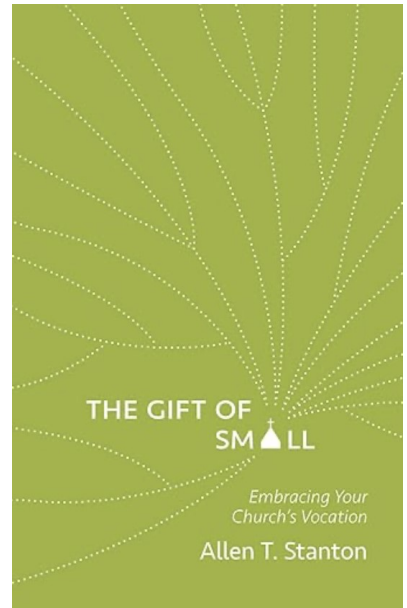
Last, but not least, we will be continuing our association with the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope, which offers emergency family shelter and services for women and children who are homeless. The United Women in Faith provide Easter baskets or buckets and several hundred filled eggs for those children to have their very own on-site Easter Egg Hunt at the center. Your financial contributions will also help fund this very worthy project. The UWF Circle will be filling plastic eggs at their luncheon meeting on Friday, March 28th at 12:00 noon. If anyone wants to join in the fun at this particular "hen party," feel free to bring your willing hands and a dish to share for the potluck meal.

Lots of fun ahead for lots of kids! Lots to do and lots of people needed to do it. Hop to it, folks! We need your help to make sure that these wonderful things happen!

Easter Egg Hunt with Trinity UMC



Sunday, April 13th - 2:00, Rain or Shine - K-5th grade
1738 Galloway Ave.



Our own Allen Stanton has recently published a book about small membership churches that embrace their vocation. That's TRINITY. This is a worthwhile read for our congregation and we encourage you to grab a copy, get the author to sign it, and read and think about who we are as a church that is flourishing in midtown Memphis. The book can be purchased at fortresspress.com or on Amazon. If you need help ordering a copy, let the church office know and, we'll place an order for you.

MEMORIALS

A DONATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

EDDIE RAMSEY FROM
CAREY & CAROL MILLER



Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence . . . a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

Mike Potter hosts a time for silent, non-verbal prayer from 8:30 to 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings in the first-floor Conference Room of Trinity United Methodist Church. Mike will give brief instructions for those who need it. All are welcome. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike at r.mike.potter@gmail.com to let him know that you will be coming.

March Birthdays

Heather Jacoby-Keller	March 3
Quinn Bauer	March 3
Joe Spake	March 6
Charles Abraham	March 19
Alyson Foreman	March 19
Hadley Keller	March 31



Following Worship March 16th is an opportunity to fellowship as we engage in our creativity. Bring whatever project you are working on or a willingness to learn a new one from others. As this is taking place, the Children's Ministry team will engage in a planning session for the year. Please let us know if you anticipate participating in this dual fellowship and ministry opportunity.



Trinity Plans for Pridefest 2025
We are registered for our booth at Pridefest 2025! The date is Saturday, June 7. We will convene a planning team soon to decide on details such as what to display, how to engage visitors, giveaways, whether to also march in the parade, who will staff our booth, and whatever other dreams we come up with. YOU can be a part of the planning. Please contact Kay Jordan by email (jordanck2@gmail.com) or text (901-299-2624) to become a part of the planning team. Date for planning will be set by the team members. Later we will be recruiting other helpers. But if you are bursting with ideas, or are good at details, the planning team is the place for you.
Kay Jordan

LENTEN GIVING CONTEST
(A Contest Where Everyone Wins!)

Trinity's Children invite you to join them in giving to our **FOOD PANTRIES** today.

SOMEONE IN MEMPHIS IS HUNGRY TODAY!

In fact, one in six Memphians is food insecure. Through our Food Pantries at Trinity UMC, we seek to help meet the needs of our hungry neighbors. We encourage you to practice the Lenten discipline of giving by donating either canned goods or financial support to our Food Pantries. Checks need to be designated for "Food Pantry." As you bring canned goods in the coming weeks, please keep in mind that our big Food Pantry especially needs canned fruits and vegetables right now. Thank you for your help!

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.

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:

Faye McLendon passed away on March 6th. Please pray for her friends and family as they grieve.

Joan Smith, battling chronic pain, especially in her back

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

Kate Ostenrude, 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, received his kidney transplant March 5th & is doing well.

Katy Spake's cousin, **Deb Roark**, had to stop radiation/chemo after becoming very sick; was in ICU but out now; treatments to restart soon

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!

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, last test report was good! 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**

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