

# Trinotes

March 27, 2024

**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.

## Church and Society

*"I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. Because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16*

Imagine the headliner reading, "Social Principle on Artificial Intelligence." Maybe, "Rights of Transgender and Nonbinary Persons." You turn the page and the first thing you see is "Abortion," followed by "United Methodist Responses to the Sand Creek Massacre." A few pages back it was "Water and Food Safety," "Education Advocacy," and "Environmental Health." It's not a newspaper. It's the Advanced Daily Christian Advocate — one of four very large notebooks I've been reading through in preparation for General Conference. As I've spent time reading, making notes, and highlighting, I know that nothing has surprised me so much as it has impressed me, and reminded me why I am United Methodist.

United Methodism has always been at the forefront of social change and social movement. You've heard me say that before. We are a global church and what we profess doesn't belong to us (as American Christians), so much as it is ours because we are a small facet of the human race and, with that, exemplars of the human condition. As a Church that does more than profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior — one that is intent on participating in the life of the created order in its glorious sense of brokenness — we have always made sure to have our hands in, well, everything. We take a stand on social matters. We advocate for better conditions for human life. We do **actual** work to move the entire world closer to exemplifying the Kingdom of God in our time, and we always have.

Part of the work of the General Conference is amending that. It is recalling and reclaiming, in some ways, where we stand as we stand. It is changing what we have once understood as truth, remembering that the world changes and perhaps God's revelation of God's self has as well. We discuss. We petition. We claim. We debate. We vote. We do all of this so that our church remains anything but lukewarm, and so that the work of our denomination represents the entirety of the created order. We are never only a local church.

As such, it is important for us to be looking at our world. I wait in hope, most Sundays, as Craig Jordan faithfully lifts Russia and the Ukraine in prayer. He is looking at a world outside of our country where the image of God suffers. This is what we do. We reach far outside what we can see to what we know — to what God knows — and we respond. That is our Church. That is the United Methodist Church.

Maybe you didn't know, or perhaps you forgot, or maybe you DID know and want to become familiar with it again, that we take a stand on all of these things (and thousands of pages more). The Book of Resolutions (a partner book to our Book of Discipline) is filled with aspirational stances on social and ethical concerns around the globe that our Church has been careful to conceptualize and prioritize as ministry opportunities for, and on behalf of, the human race. In the Book of Discipline, there is a section called the Social Principles. The Social Principles are more than aspirational. They are what we believe and profess about matters like gun control, divorce, and abortion. The Church — your Church — takes a stand, and I encourage you to know what that is. What we believe is never only about our words, but always, instead, about our actions.

Pray for the work of the General Conference as the Church that is yours comes together, once more, and discerns where God is leading us as a denomination. The list of matters is long, but the UMC is faithful.

Faithfully Yours,  
Rev. Sara

# MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

March 28th: 6:30  
Trinity UMC.



# GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

MARCH 29TH: 6:30  
TRINITY UMC



# CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

APRIL 7TH, AFTER WORSHIP

## **Purpose:**

To vote on a  
replacement  
Finance  
Committee  
chairperson



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **UWF Happenings**

By Joan Smith

United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet for potluck and fellowship in the Worship Center Friday, April 26, at noon. We will continue our study in chapter 2 of 12 Ordinary Men by John MacArthur. Sue Taylor will once again lead our discussion. Remember that it is not necessary to purchase the book or workbook. The movie is available on tubi, and YouTube also hosts study groups. Key Bible passages for this month are: Mark 3:13-19; Luke 5:17-6:12; John 1:47; I Corinthians 1:26-29; and Timothy 3:2-7.

Questions for reflection are: Jesus sent the apostles out two by two. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 lists four practical benefits of companionship. How does Trinity's UWF exemplify those benefits? Why is it significant that these twelve are "real and living characters we can identify with"? What parallel "lack of qualification" similar to the apostles do you see in your life? Should that stop you from sharing the good news of the gospel?

At our last meeting we heard a program from Sista2Sista. At this meeting we will decide whether to adopt them as our Christmas project, possibly assembling "shoe boxes" of toiletries and personal care items for the ladies on the street. Currently, 24 are being regularly served.

We received a thank you for the memorial from the family of Nelda Gray. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was a huge, if cold, success!

If you have not made your annual pledge, Sandy will have a pledge card for you. Remember to bring your can, box, or dollar to support our Tiny Pantry. As always there will be lots of food, fellowship, and fun. I hope to see you there.

## Grace-Filled Moments with Children



On Tuesday morning of last week , I was at Andrew's and Jessica's house to help get the girls to school. I was waking Nora, my youngest granddaughter. Sitting on the side of her bed, I prayed aloud for Mike Potter and his family because Rosemary had just passed away the night before. My young family are across-the-street neighbors on Autumn Avenue from the Potters. A few minutes later Nora said to me,

"The other Nora is welcoming Miss Rosemary to heaven." By "the other Nora," my Nora meant her namesake, the first Nora Dycus, my mother-in-law. I could visualize that really happening. My mother-in-law was a loving - and very lovable - person. When she and my sister-in-law moved to Germantown, Rosemary was working in the First Tennessee branch where Nora banked. Whenever she walked into that bank, Rosemary would call her loudly by name all the way across the lobby. Nora Dycus was always tickled pink when Rosemary did that. So, yes, I could see her doing the very same thing for Rosemary when Rosemary arrived in heaven.

Two days later I was back on "Grandma duty" with the girls. It was time once again to wake Nora up. When the sleepy clouds had moved out of her head, Nora sat up in bed and said, "I'm happy for her, but I'm sad for them." It was as if we were continuing the conversation we started two days before. We talked once again about Rosemary being in heaven with Jesus and all the loved ones who had gone before her and about her family and friends here being sad because they missed her so much. It is natural for children to have questions about death. Sometimes they voice those questions, and other times they don't. And sometimes their understanding of death is far more perceptive than our own.

\*\*\*

After the Easter Egg Hunt, I was visiting the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders' hunt area. Elizabeth Hopper, who supervised that area, told me that Lila, Aiden, and Harper (our own Trinity kids) and their friends had formed a "team" for the hunt. That group had hunted for the eggs individually, but then they had put all their eggs together after the hunt and divided them evenly. It made me think of the early church when all the believers were together and held all things in common (Acts 2: 44-45). It's an example of unity and community in action. I'm praying that, for these children, it will move beyond candy-filled Easter eggs to a broader application in their lives. Our church could play a big part in that.

Right before their Spring Break began, Harper and Lila had planned on inviting their friend Olivia to join them at Sunday School. Lila mentioned that to me, but our family ended up heading to New Orleans on that Sunday morning. Lila was very disappointed that they had to leave so early. The following Sunday, however, who should walk into Trinity Church at worship time but Olivia's whole family – Mom, Dad, Olivia, and her twin brother Oscar. Harper was there, too, so she and Lila did accomplish what they set out to do; it was just a week later than originally planned.

\*\*\*

Several weeks ago, when Mommy was out of town on work and Daddy at his own school for a parents' night, I took both girls to Idlewild School for Lila's school program. We had not arrived early enough to get seats close to the stage, so Nora and I were sitting in the back of the gym on our own low camp seats. For that reason, we could barely see the kids who were performing on the stage, much less see the kids at floor level, where Lila stood. During the program, one of the girls was singing a solo on stage. She was doing a fine job, when right in the middle of her song, she stopped singing, handed the mic to the girl next to her, and hurried off the stage. The other kids and the audience watched in stunned silence. Mr. Moody, the

*(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

music teacher who was directing, moved off to the side, too. Everyone waited in a subdued manner for quite some time. Then Mr. Moody returned to his place in front of the kids, and the girl returned to the stage. The number started once again from the beginning, and the child sang her whole piece through. When she finished, the girl next to her gave her a huge hug, and the entire audience rose as one and gave her a standing ovation. It was one of the most beautiful moments I have ever witnessed in any school program anywhere. At the end of the program, the audience gave this child another standing ovation. I have seen two "side-by-side" productions with Idlewild students and Memphis Symphony Orchestra members where the music was wonderful. But never have I seen love exemplified like it was that night by fellow students who cared deeply for that child, by a teacher who gave her the courage to face her fears and return to that stage, and by a school community who enthusiastically supported her. Before the evening was over, the audience in front of me even parted enough for me to see our Lila singing her heart out in one of the songs. What a night that was!

\*\*\*

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:16)

May you, too, have grace-filled moments this week,

*Irene*



Matt Dennis	April 5
Rita Allmon	April 10
Rachel Adkins	April 25
Judi Hoffman	April 28



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

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

CHARLOTTE COMES FROM ANIE M. KENT  
CHARLOTTE COMES FROM SHIRLEY FLINT  
CHARLOTTE COMES FROM MARK MATHENY  
ROSEMARY POTTER FROM CAREY & CAROL MILLER  
ROSEMARY POTTER FROM DORIS PORTER  
ROSEMARY POTTER FROM  
CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM  
ROSEMARY POTTER FROM SHIRLEY FLINT



Kids of ALL ages!



## Trinity Food Pantry Opens



Trinity's new Food Pantry opened on Monday, March 25. This will supplement our current food ministries (Tiny Pantry and Kroger gift cards). On Monday, distribution volunteers Kay Jordan and Betsy Black handed out bags to 8 households. This was possible due to the work of Alex Landrigan, Eagle Scout, and the Food Pantry Team led by Amelia Strickland, Mike Potter, and Melba Abraham. Other team members are soliciting donations, collecting the food, and inventorying and bagging the items. We can all help with our donations, especially of protein items such as peanut butter, tuna, canned meats, etc. There is a table in the Food Pantry where you can place your items.

We will continue to distribute bags on the fourth Monday of the month. And, as always, please continue to fill our Tiny Pantry with easy-to-use foods (pop-top cans of Vienna sausage, peanut butter and crackers, and so on), and keep up the donations for the Kroger gift cards. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." We can take him literally in these ways.

### ITEMS TO DONATE

Granola bars  
Oatmeal packets  
Cereal  
Canned fruit  
Pasta  
Soup  
Pasta sauce

Peanut butter  
Canned vegetables  
Mac & cheese boxes  
Canned chicken  
Jelly  
Spam  
Minute rice

Canned tuna  
Snacks  
Gift certificates for grocery stores  
Monetary donations  
Plastic grocery bags

**SCOUT SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH**  
**11:00, ONLINE AND**  
**IN PERSON AT**  
**1738 GALLOWAY AVE.**

@TUMCMemphis



After breakfast with the Easter Bunny, a lot of kids had a lot of fun hunting Easter eggs last Saturday a.m. Check out the lobby for more photos.

## 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; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

**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:

The family and friends of **Rosemary Potter** as we grieve her loss

**Charlotte Comes'** family and friends as we mourn her passing

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

**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

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

**A PRAISE!** Melba Abraham's cousin, **Lydia Melton**, is cancer free!

**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 recovered from pneumonia, but has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.

**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 despite recent hospitalization.

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

**Val Coates**, ongoing serious health concerns; struggling with depression

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

**Seth Genes**, 14 year old friend of Debby Marston; PT is ongoing; being treated for pain as his leg heals; down to 90 pounds, as pain meds cause appetite loss; feeding tube has been implanted.

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.)*