

Trinotes

March 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.

You Are Cordially Invited...

“Then Jesus turned to his host and said, ‘When you throw a banquet, don’t just invite your friends, relatives, or rich neighbors—for it is likely they will return the favor. It is better to invite those who never get an invitation.’” Luke 14:12-13

Spring is in the air — very truly. Achoo!* It is. It hasn’t snuck up on us, though. Spring starts creeping in on Memphis in January. Our side parking lot makes that evident. Every January the first buttercups start sprouting right where I park. I usually sigh and roll my eyes. Those poor, over-zealous newbies. They’ll bloom and then immediately die because winter always comes back a few more times.

Spring IS in the air, though. We’re already several weeks into Lent and the promise of resurrection hope is on the horizon. We’re already joyfully anticipating the empty tomb Easter celebrations. Summer plans are unfolding and the church calendar is filling up fast!

And thus, with all the hope of an empty tomb on Easter morning, I want to make you aware of some things that are coming up at Trinity and I do so joyfully anticipating your seeing this list, marking YOUR calendar, and praying about how you and your household might participate.

The youth are planning a spaghetti fundraiser event! While the youth have leftover fundraiser funds from the past, those funds are not bottomless and they need our support. A church that pours into its young people is a church that is alive. The date for this is not yet set, but I hope you’ll make plans to come and bring a friend — **be invitational**.

The TUMC annual Easter egg hunt is back! It’s been 3 years since we’ve had an egg hunt and we are excited to have the support of the Evergreen Historic District for this one. Our egg hunt will be on Sunday afternoon, April 2nd at 2:00. Can you donate eggs? Peanut-free candy? Funds? Time? I hope you’ll ALL come out, not to hunt eggs, but to offer hospitality to the families from our neighborhood who will come and **be invitational**.

Scout Sunday is always the Sunday after Easter and this year that’s April 16th. There are always as many folks present for worship Scout Sunday as there are Easter Sunday! Scout Sunday is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our Scout families. It is a chance to **be invitational**.

Our closest neighborhood school is Snowden. Some of you attended Snowden or your children attended Snowden. Snowden is the feeder school to our Scout program and several of your church kiddos go to Snowden (because you get to call my kiddos, yours). Snowden is having its first CommUnity Day event since the pandemic. CommUnity is a time where folks from all over the community come and set up a fun day for neighborhood children. Trinity is a sponsor for this event, as are our Scouts. We will have a booth space right next to Pack 13 and it’s an opportunity for us to spread some joy and maybe talk to other folks about the church. There will be 500+ people at this event. It’s an excellent opportunity for us to go and **be invitational**!

Children’s Sabbath is tentatively set for Mother’s Day, May 14th. Our children will be leading the entire worship service. HOW EXCITING IS THAT!? Your Children’s Ministry leadership is WAY excited and you should be too. A church that pours into its young people is a church that is alive! Will you make plans to attend? Will you write cards for our youngest disciples offering prayers, love, and encouragement? They’ll be nervous but you are their family. There is no better week to invite friends and neighbors to worship than the week where they get to hear from the children. Will you **be invitational**?

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Memphis Pride Fest 2023 is June 1st - 4th. Trinity will have a table this year and have a great opportunity to work toward reconciliation with our LGBT+ neighbors. We are a reconciling church and this is a great way for us to live into that identity — to bridge the gaps the Church has made either outright, by being complicit, or by being negligent of God's fabulous children. What a HUGE opportunity to do no harm, do good, and love God. What an amazing opportunity to **be invitational** (to folks who may never have been invited).

VBS is back too! VBS is back in a new and wonderful way. This year we are partnering with St. Johns UMC for a joint vacation Bible school experience. Our children's ministry team is already on it, alongside St. Johns. VBS will be the week of July 17th in the evenings (5:30 - 8:00). I know that Ms. Irene and Ms. Alyson are going to have a list of things we can do to be supportive of this week. Do you have children? Do you have neighbors with children? The most important thing we can bring to VBS is our kids! What a fantastic opportunity to **be invitational**, to pour into our smallest disciples, and to serve.

Did you see it? There was a bit of a theme there, right? Be invitational. I wrote that again and again and I did so on purpose. One of the things we lost during our pandemic period was a spirit of invitation and it's very much time to adopt that spirit again. These ministries can happen without you being invitational, sure, but that is at the neglect of bits and pieces of our calling. One really cannot make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world without inviting others to the table. It is time, perhaps past time, for Trinitarians to resurrect an invitational spirit. That can happen every Sunday and/or for any of the upcoming events listed here. How can you serve? Will you **be invitational**?

In the Wilderness,
Rev. Sara





Get Ready for the Easter Egg Hunt!

Mark your calendars now! After a three-year hiatus, 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 2nd at 2:00 p.m. All children, toddlers through 5th graders, are invited to join in the fun. Everyone 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 around, mixing and mingling and offering photo ops for the children and their families. Many thanks to the Evergreen Historic District Association for partnering with us once again on this fun event.

The hunt will begin promptly at 2:00, so parents 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 the Easter Egg Hunt. This fun 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 is posted on the Trinity UMC Facebook page; share the good news with others through your own Facebook page. Scouts from Troop 13G and Troop 13B, under the capable supervision of Rob Landrigan, will hide the eggs for the hunt. 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 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. (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 Alyson or Irene 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 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. For many years, Trinity’s Children’s Department provided Easter baskets for the children of the center, which offers emergency family shelter and services for women and children who are homeless. For the past several years, Circle Two of the United Women in Faith (formerly the United Methodist Women) prepared those baskets. We now 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. Circle Two will be filling 650 eggs at their luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 30th 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!

Summary of Church Council Meeting Jan. 15, 2023

Note: The next Church Council will be March 26, 2023, right after morning worship. As always, this is an open meeting; all are welcome.

Finance: Although we ended 2022 with a net loss, it was less than expected, and we are entering 2023 with some unrestricted cash in the account. We adopted a preliminary budget for 2023, understanding that it will be revised as (hopefully) additional pledges come in.

Pastor Sara's report included an offer to send an email to all Council members attaching some articles with correct information about the future of the United Methodist Church.

Trustees Report was given by Tom Wilson, new head trustee. Tom stated that he will be drawing up a list of property maintenance needs and his group will tackle them by looking at necessity vs. nicety.

Nurture Report included Irene Dycus reporting on working with another church to hold VBS, and engaging community partners such as our Scouts to resume our Easter Egg Hunt. We also heard about Amelia Strickland's work with our Youth group, Mike Potter's leading of the Centering Prayer group each Sunday morning at 8:30, and our Congregational Care team continuing to reach out to those who cannot come to in-person events.

Community Connections: Sara Goff reported on our Community Coffee and connecting with Evergreen Historic District.

SPPRC – Charlotte Comes is not able to be with us, but Pastor Sara reported that the search for a new Director of Music is underway.

UMW, Carol Miller –(Note: This organization is now officially named Women in Faith.) The two groups continue meeting for education, service, and fellowship.

New Matters: An Inclusivity Team (Sam Goff, Sue Taylor, Sara Corum, and Kay Jordan) has been formed to carry out our vision of being a place where all are accepted. Plans are underway to offer a Churchwide Study regarding racism in the church.

There's a lot going on at Trinity. Everyone can find a place to be involved, to serve and be served.

Kay Jordan, Chairperson of the Council

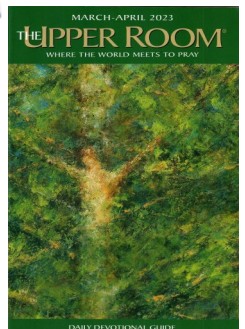


Spring Forward

Set your clock forward one hour THIS WEEKEND

THE UPPER ROOM

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, call the church office at 901-274-6895 or send an email to Debby Marston at office@trinityumcmemphis.org with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



“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.)



March 1	Nelda Gray
March 3	Heather Jacobi Keller
March 3	Kaylee Bauer
March 6	Joe Spake
March 13	Lee Ann Wilson
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 19	Charles Abraham
March 19	Alyson Foreman
March 23	Amy Webster
March 31	Hadley Keller

Giving up something for Lent?

This last weekend was a bit of blur; between starting an Eagle Project on Saturday, Pinewood Derby and the Girl's Troop meeting on Sunday, and an Eagle Ceremony on Monday, there wasn't much time for the 'relaxing' thing people talk about using weekends for. It can be a lot to keep up with.

In between I ran into Tom Wilson, who was returning the lawnmower to the garage so we can get back to cutting our own grass, and later, into Irene Dycus as she brought in supplies for the Easter Egg hunt. Something is always happening at Trinity, every day. And it can be exhausting to keep everything running!

We hear a lot from folks about what they are giving up for Lent: coffee, social media, ice cream - so much so that we seem to forget what we're gaining. We do the same all year - we give up sleep, time to watch a show or read a book, a meal at a table instead of in the car, and we good-naturedly gripe about it and keep going on.

Because we're not really giving anything up. We're getting something better - this weekend I got to read a letter written by an Eagle Scout Alumni of Troop 13B to its newest Eagle, and hear the pride in their words as another Scout followed that trail. I watched kids race their creations at Pinewood Derby and my daughter's Troop master fire building, helped by another Eagle alum. And I saw my son start work on a project to feed the hungry, leading others in service.

I have lost nothing. I've given up nothing. I love this brick and cinderblock building more than all the stained glass and pipe organs in the world, because we teach children here. We feed the hungry here. We're a safe haven for addicts and warm hearth for children to learn service to others.

We haven't given up a thing. Look at what we're getting.

Peace,
Rob Landrigan

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:

Doris Porter, surgery for broken hip with hip replacement

Charles Abraham, now back home from rehab

Charlotte Comes, recovering at home

Myra Finch's brother, **Tim Beasley**, experiencing cognitive issues

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

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, multiple health problems

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; financial difficulties related to treatment

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

Debby Marston's sister, **Katie Edge**, through with radiation, various scans pending in next few weeks

Leah Johnson, friend of Raquel Norton, in need of secure employment & housing

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

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 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.)