

Trinotes

April 12, 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.



Spring, Resurrection Promise, and Trinity



It's spring! It's so clearly and completely spring! Hallelujah! The sun is shining. In fact, I've already gotten my first sunburn of 2023. 'Tis the life of a soccer mom. I put sunscreen on the KIDS and forgot my own.

It's spring and the flowers are blooming, the noses are stuffy, and thunderstorms out of nowhere are the norm. It's spring and the chirping cheer of the birds are our alarm clocks in the morning. It's spring and young, red, furry squirrels are everywhere, getting their legs underneath them as they learn how to scale the treetops.

It's spring. Thanks be to God.

We have weathered the icy cold of winter, the doom and gloom of short, shady days, and the death of the earth from the grass to the leaves. Everything is bright green and brimming with new life and hope springs eternal on the other side of the empty cross and in the shadow of the rock that was rolled away. Amen? Amen.

Christian people are people of resurrection hope. At our core, what we believe in, above all else, is the resurrection of Jesus. If you talk to someone from Calvary Episcopal, they believe the same. If you talk to someone from Bellevue Baptist, they do as well. Mosaic Church — they do too! This is that thing that binds us together in faith as other things like worship style and pulpit representation pull us to the comfort of the churches where we worship. Regardless, we are, in fact, bound together in faith. That we cannot escape, nor should we try. We are people of the resurrection and spring reminds us that God is near to resurrect the earth, and us, too.

Where winter reminds us that to everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven — even death — spring brings us the hope of new life and there are glimpses of that all over Trinity. Where the disappointment of empty seats on Sunday morning tends to drag us in concerning directions, I propose we look in other directions.

Two weeks ago, our campus was FILLED with neighbors from all over. Tim Guntharp and his wonderful sense of humor, hopped to his Easter Bunny throne to bring joy to children we don't necessarily know. Our Scouts raced all over, bouncing joyfully in the bounce house on the back parking lot, and our playground overflowed with joy matched only by the joy on the faces of the smallest kiddos as they raced about, finding eggs. Life. Possibility. Hope.

And who can forget what happened, just that morning? The pictures of Nora and Lila Dycus waving their palm branches with sweet grins on their faces....I hope that makes you smile. Oh, and when Eli Witt asked if he could "keep his palm branch forever," our hearts melted. Nothing can compare to their innocent, sweet joy in the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The calendar is filling up as spring ushers itself in. We are preparing to be present alongside Snowden School for their Community Day Festival. We are partnering with St. Johns UMC for Vacation Bible School and all of those plans are unfolding. Soon our planter boxes out back of the church will overflow with flowers planted and cared for by one of our Eagle Scout parents who is hopeful to make sure we have altar flowers for Sunday. Memphis PRIDE is happening soon. Annual Conference is in Memphis this year and right around the corner. There is so much hope. There is so much opportunity and Jesus is calling us to come.

Come and be in community with other people on the same journey. **We were never called to go it alone.** Come and spread joy — the hope of new life — the resurrection joy you have in the Gospel story. Look to joy and come and share it with others.

With Resurrection Hope,
Rev. Sara

Maundy Thursday
Altarscape



Palm Sunday
Parade!



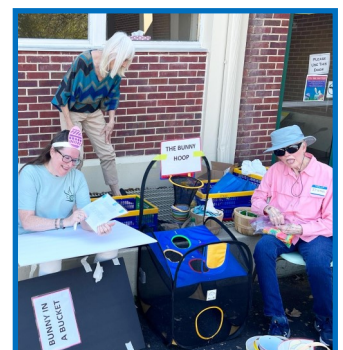
Easter Sunday



More Egg Hunt Pix



TUMC is a **sponsor** for Snowden School's Community Day Festival Saturday, April 22nd, 11:00 - 3:00. We have booth space to come and be with families from all over, many of whom are from EHDA, as well as many of our community partners. The festival is 4 hours long. We need at least two Trinitarians to cover the booth the entire time (in 1 or 2 hour shifts). We are passing out candy and hope to distribute VBS information and information regarding Trinity being a **reconciling** congregation. We need booth volunteers and candy donations. Please send an email to Rev. Sara to request a spot or pledge to donate candy. What a great way to be with our community and support our local school!





Scout Sunday April 23rd

I sent an Easter greeting by text to my long-time friend Wilma Bickers this past Sunday. In reply, she said she had been thinking of saints that morning, particularly Cal Wilson (our Tom's dad), Bob Schultz, and my Joe. "How very much they contributed to the lives of my three boys and other scouts, especially those with no father." As we approach another Scout Sunday, I, too, am thankful for these men and the many other fine men and women who served as leaders of Troop 13 and Pack 13 over its

over-100-year history. The ones who are gone would be so proud of the ones who still serve and of the beautiful job they are doing of encouraging our children and youth to do their best as they, too, grow into fine people.

In my heart I have been celebrating the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt that took place on the Trinity grounds on Palm Sunday afternoon. This was a collaborative effort of Trinity Church, the Evergreen Historic District Association, Troop 13B, Troop 13G, and Pack 13. Each partner was important in making this event happen, but I will have to admit quite honestly that if the key ingredient of the scout participation had been missing, it would not have been the spectacular success that it was. The scout helpers sectioned off the hunt areas, hid over two thousand eggs, and supervised the hunt and the following activities with enthusiasm and gracious hospitality. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day and surprised us with a huge turn-out of kids and parents. The eggs, which took hours and hours to stuff, were picked up in about five minutes, but most of the kids and parents stayed around and visited and participated in post-hunt activities for quite some time. One of our Cub Scout families provided a Bounce House, and another scouting family brought along a friendly rabbit for kids to pet. We had toss games provided by the scouts and toss games and other activities from our Children's Department. There were non-sweet snacks and bottled water for all, and Sam Goff provided his delicious home-baked treats for adults and kids in the Trinity Center. The Easter Bunny, ably assisted by his lovely assistant Ms. Sandy, posed with children so parents could take pictures and gave out Easter eggs throughout the event. This wonderful bunny even brought his own chair and table (a vintage one from the home of our beloved Elaine Amis). Oh, what a day, what a day!

I'm sure there's a certain strategy in scheduling Scout Sunday on the Sunday after Easter. After all, this is "Low Sunday." That really is one of its official names in the Christian calendar, but it is a Sunday which tends to live up to its name by a correspondingly low turnout of participants at the worship service. But not on Scout Sunday, with the strength of the current scouting program. Last year, scouting families kept coming and coming and coming, and chairs had to be brought out of storage to accommodate the crowd. Of course, we ran out of bulletins. (Do we really have so little faith? We almost always run out of bulletins on Scout Sunday...) The scouts will continue their graciousness toward us after this Sunday's service as they are offering a cook-out following the church service. Trinity members will be providing the dessert in the way of cookies and brownies. One good turn most certainly deserves another.

Acts 2:17 quotes the Old Testament prophet Joel: "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." A Troop 13B scout by the name of Alex Landrigan has a vision for this church in which we can help those less fortunate than us through an on-site food pantry. His Eagle project is to prepare what was the former chapel for this purpose. Carrying out this ministry will require commitment, not only from this church, but from the surrounding community in ways similar to the Room in the Inn program that we operated in the past. May God give the Trinity Church Family the passion, the wisdom, and the strength to make this vision a reality.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow...they all blend into a whole. Seeds were planted over 100 years ago when Troop 13 was first chartered. They have grown into something alive and wonderful that continues to bear fruit. Praise God!

(by Irene Dycus)



Church Council Meeting

March Church Council Actions

At our most recent Church Council meeting (March 26), we took action on several ongoing and special activities and events: the whole-church study of The Color of Compromise, reaching our community through the Easter Egg Hunt, Holy Week worship services, the Trustees' continuing efforts to keep the church building and parsonage in good repair, and others. We were pleased to

have members of the church who are not currently serving on the Council in attendance. Remember, the Church Council meetings are always open.

The new business focused on the long-range future of our church. Craig Jordan presented the following resolution:

I move the Council establish a Discernment Task Force for the purpose of exploring Trinity's longer term ministries, mission, and viability. Membership of the Task Force will be chosen by our Pastor and Lay Leader.

In its work the Task Force will explore mission and ministry efforts in relation to our identity and present human and fiscal resources. New initiatives and approaches will be examined and proposed. The Task Force will consider issues such as whether to retain the parsonage, whether to retain our current worship center building, whether to explore possible merger with another United Methodist congregation, whether to have a full time or less than full time pastor, as well as other structural and organizational concerns.

The Task Force in its deliberations will consult with our District Superintendent.

The Task Force will continue its work over the next year and will report its recommendations to the Council. Any major changes the Council approves should be made in consultation with our District Superintendent.

After much discussion, the resolution passed unanimously. As you read it and discuss it with other members, please notice that it calls for a task force to enter a year-long discernment process; it does not recommend any particular action. In the coming weeks, you will hear news of who is serving on the Task Force and how they will gather input from all Trinity members and constituents. Please pray that we will listen for God's voice during this process.

Kay Jordan, Chairperson of the TUMC Church Council



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.



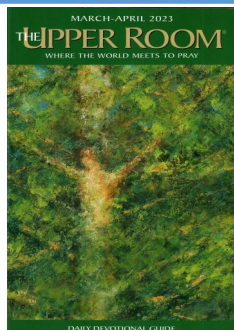
A Week of Celebration:

Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, followed by Easter Sunday worship when we commemorated Christ's Resurrection!

HALELLUJAH!!

THE UPPER ROOM

The May/June *Upper Room* devotional guides are already 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 (or a friend or neighbor) 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 cup and/or applesauce
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin

(Peace Lutheran will provide condiments.)



PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for earthquake & tornado victims; 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.

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; for our study of *The Color of Compromise*. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Doris Porter, now recovering at home

Charlotte Comes, recovering from January surgery; awaiting clearance from cardiologist before further surgery

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

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, now receiving in-home hospice 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, ongoing cancer treatment; financial difficulties due to medical expenses

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

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

Sandra Poole, medical concerns, needs employment; her daughter **Amanda** missing for seven years

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

For **Pathway to Dignity** as they work toward starting back up with classes for formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering the workplace

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