

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.



With Praise and Thanksgiving

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. — Psalm 100*

Sunday afternoon New Spark, the budding theater group of teenagers and their fearless leader whom we host, had a plant sale to raise funds for their ventures. I'd held off on buying Spring plants so that I could support them. By now you know that I'm not much of a gardener. That doesn't mean that I don't wish I was. So, while at the sale we bought four different kinds of tomato starters, zucchini and yellow squash, some sort of bean, a mini-pumpkin Cooper is determined to grow, and a pothos plant that the hand-written tag says I "can't kill." We'll see about that.

At the end of last summer, Josh deconstructed a birthday prop he'd built a few years ago for Aiden's birthday party. It was a race-car ramp. He used the boards and turned the ramp into (roughly) a 2x4 planter box that sits beside the brick wall in the side yard of the parsonage — a spot that gets a lot of sun. Some of our little plants will be planted there. We have large pots for the others. The pothos will stay inside where I will not kill it (supposedly).

After the sale yesterday, tired from the morning, and realizing there was still a few hours of Cub Scouts ahead of me, I went outside, away from the four kids who'd hunkered down in the living room, and took a spade and some gloves, and started prepping the planter box.

It had rained Saturday, so Sunday afternoon the ground was soft and pulling up the growth, that I know had been there many years, came easily. Beneath the grass layer of the earth, there was an entire ecosystem of tiny snails, roly-polies, and very healthy worms. It was all of 72 degrees outside, I'd turned the music on, on my phone, and there was a catharsis digging into the earth — discovering all the living things that were there — breathing in the wondrous realization that the world is so much bigger than just me. There is this beautiful balance that makes it all happen and its cycles seem miraculous.

When I recognized this incredible witness of the earth, in my quiet, alone moments, wrist-deep in dirt, I paused, overwhelmed with gratitude and gave thanks to God for the beauty of the earth.

I can remember a few years ago, struggling with the kids. I recall, in frustration, declaring them spoiled and ungrateful (the tired, single mom that I was). I remember begging others to help me understand how I could teach my own children gratitude, to no real avail. But, over time, with the joys and sorrows they have

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experienced, they've learned this lesson without my help. I give thanks that I've been privy to see God intervening in their lives as well — shaping and molding them in ways where they've learned just how to give thanks.

So often we come to God when we are in need — when our prayer list is long — when we are tired, overwhelmed, and burdened by the world. Too often we neglect running to God with our thanksgiving list in lieu of the list of concerns. And yet, like any one of us, God longs for our witness of praise. And so God helps us find moments of holy witness to God's goodness. So often, like children who need to grow and experience the goodness and struggle that is life to formulate positive concepts of gratitude, we too have to learn how to see, with gratitude, the goodness of God in the world around us — to see all that we have to be thankful for. Then we must be disciplined enough to pause and give thanks to God.

It's always been amazing to me that, when I've neglected to do just that, God sneaks in and breathes wondrous realizations of praise into my moments — praise that I cannot help but share — a song of joy on my lips. I imagine God has done the same for you. I look forward to the day that we can gather again to share those moments and until then, I hope that we still will — if not with each other, with the God who is eagerly waiting to receive our thanksgiving and praise.

With Great Thanksgiving,
Rev. Sara



Offer God's Blessings to Others

One of this week's lectionary readings was from Acts 8:26-40, the story of the encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Over the years, as I have read this scripture again and again, it has come to have profound meaning for me as a teacher.

On his way to Gaza, Philip meets the eunuch, who is sitting in his chariot reading the passage of scripture from the book of Isaiah about the Suffering Servant. Philip inquires, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replies, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" Then he invites Philip to come up and sit with him, giving Philip the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with him.

Each Sunday in our Children's Sunday School Class, our children read our Bible lesson for the day from our **Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook** and also from the **Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book**. The stories in these books are a shorter version and are written in simpler language than the **Common English Bible** passage on which they are based. It is important for the children to read, rather than to be read to, even if they struggle at times with the words. Our curriculum also has a video segment in which a child host talks about ways the children can apply the lesson in real life. So, there are three slightly different versions of the Bible lesson that are shared each time. There are also spiritual practices which are suggested for families to put what has been learned into practice. Through these means and through our discussions, art project, and prayers, we as teachers endeavor to help our children understand what they have read and, hopefully, to help them identify ways they can live into the scripture.

These are two vital questions: "Do you understand what you are reading?" and "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" It is essential that we address these two questions each week in multiple ways in our lessons with our children.

Our **FAITH WORD** for the month of April has been **SHARE: to offer God's blessings to others**. In this issue of the **Trinotes**, we are sharing some of our children's artwork and creative writing from the last two weeks' lessons. We hope you will be blessed as you see this physical evidence of their growth in faith.

[See samples of the children's artwork on pages 3 & 4.]

Peace and love,
Irene and Alyson

When I share I grow in love



[See page 2 for related article]

By, Hadley Keller

A Poem

By Hadley Keller

Church is great.
Church is good.
It teaches us how we should honor God.
And as we applaud for the pastor's words,
We sing like songbirds chirping at dawn.
We also have drawn crosses and cards
for people,
And when we are done, we look at the steeple
And wait for our next time at church.

MAY-JUNE 2021
THE UPPER ROOM
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY



MAY/JUNE

The large and regular print versions of the May/June 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.

E-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call and leave a message on the church office voicemail: 901-274-6895. Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.



May 10	Bill "Mac" McConnell
May 14	Jeri Ashley
May 27	Mike Dodson
May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 28	Chris Glover

[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.]

When I share I grow in
love



by Harper Keller

SHARE

to

offer

God's

blessings

to

others

Rowan



The community of believers was
one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)



Sean

We are grateful for the young folks who share their gifts and for their teachers, who guide them as they learn and grow in faith. Thank you, Hadley, Harper, Rowan, & Sean for your contributions to this issue of *Trinotes*.



Parting is such sweet sorrow...

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, Jeri Ashley is moving to Nashville to be closer to family, as her health requires. Her last day in Memphis is Sunday, May 2. We will have opportunity to say goodbye from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., on the front porch of the church. Weather permitting, we will be worshiping in person, outdoors, that day. After church, there will be box lunches from Panera available for those who reserve one. Then we'll move Jeri to a "throne" on the front porch to receive well-wishers. If you want to leave her a written message, a card, or perhaps a photo, we will have a memory box for that. Please plan to join us!

Grace and peace,
Kay Jordon

Memorials & Honorariums

An Honorarium has been received

In honor of Jeri Ashley from Wilma Bickers

Remember those in our community who need help

Please donate canned goods, including proteins such as tuna & chicken, beans, beef ravioli, etc., as well as boxed staple items and granola or protein bars. When shopping, think about foods that don't need refrigeration & won't spoil if carried around in a back pack. Canned foods with pop-tops are ideal. Keep our **Tiny Pantry** well-stocked!



INTO THE WOODS JR.
New Spark Performing Arts
DRIVE-IN SHOWING
May 20th @ Malco Summer Drive In
Gate Opens: 7pm Tickets:
Show Starts: Sundown \$20 per car

NEW SPARK PERFORMING ARTS
SUMMER CAMP 2021
3rd - 8th Grade

Disney HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2 JR.
July 12th - 16th
Monday - Friday / 9 am - 5 pm

NSPA PRESENTS... MUSIC VIDEO CAMP
July 19th - 23rd
Monday - Friday / 9 am - 5 pm

www.newspark901.org

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 months in office—pray for their wisdom.

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

Gary Owens, Alyson Foreman's father, receiving strong antibiotics daily for sepsis

Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, injured when her car was hit head-on; broken wrist & breaks in her back with major bruising caused by her seatbelt

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

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

Irene Opel had some skin cancers removed from her face and is in great pain following that procedure.

Gene Opel, still medically fragile and in need of our prayers

Jeri Ashley, multiple health concerns, moving to Nashville to be near family

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**, on home health care, then on hospice care.

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

Charles Abraham, in Methodist Germantown Hospital after experiencing seizures last weekend; on antibiotics for infection and low dose anti-seizure medication

The family of the **Rev. Richard Hackleman**, who died recently

Val Coates, recovering at home from shoulder surgery

George Marston, Debby's husband, facing out-patient surgery, then dialysis for Stage V kidney disease

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.)*