Trinotes

April 9, 2025

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.

It's Time

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves and said to them on the way, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and on the third day he will be raised." Matthew 20:17-19

As both a pastor and a parent, I'm already glancing ahead at the summer months. You have to for both hats. Summer camps will fill up fast. The summer months are generally a lull at the church. I always hope that it isn't, because there's lots we can do together in the summer and I don't want anyone to miss any of it.

My kids are both very interested in musical theater right now, and I imagine that much of our summer will be about theater. Cooper (13) has a junior play he wants to participate in that will stretch from May until August. Aiden (10.5) has two week-long plays he wants to be a part of. The ONLY week of the summer that will not involve any play rehearsal time for either of them, is the week of the 4th of July, so that is when we will take our brief (think 4-day) family summer vacation. We let Aiden, who will turn 11 the week after, choose the trip, so we are off to Universal Studios' waterpark in Orlando— Volcano Bay. It'll be a short trip, but it's a season in which we are spending a bit more conservatively. Don't let that cause you to think that we **won't** be squeezing it all in.

It is a requirement that on the way down we stop at a Buc-ee's gas station for a brisket sandwich. It is a requirement that on the way back we eat at a Lamberts and catch at least 8 "throw'd rolls." It is a requirement that while there we ride that one water coaster no less than eleventy-seven times, that we eat at Disney Springs, and that maybe (just maybe) we can go have dinner theater one night at Medieval Times. That's a lot. We will pack a lot into 4 days.

And it's important to them, Aiden, Cooper, and Reid, that we do all of these things. We don't make it to Orlando very often, we don't always get a family trip, and every step along the way (and back) is part of the journey that completes the *perfect trip*.

It may be hard to consider that Holy Week is a bit like my family vacation, but, in this sense, it is. We begin Holy Week at Palm Sunday with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem — a parade, celebrating his coming. He rides the street on a colt and the children wave branches. Cloaks are laid in his pathway. Somehow between Sunday and Friday the tone begins to shift. Jesus knows the time he's always said wasn't yet, has become. On Thursday he eats a meal with his disciples in an Upper Room. He washes their feet, like a servant, and commands them to love one-another. On Friday he'll stand trial. He'll be beaten, stripped, crowned with thorns, and forced to carry his own cross — the one his body will die on — to Golgotha. With his last words he'll pardon those around him, convey his human nature, cry out to God, and die. He'll be placed in a new, unused, tomb in a garden and we'll wait in silent anticipation.

Every step along the journey is the perfect trip to Sunday, and with Sunday the beginning of a new journey for us each. We cannot skip any part of the journey. Every piece is important. Every broken, fractured, moment is what will come to make us whole. Every nail, every footstep, every thorn…all of it is part of the experience that leads us to resurrection hope.

Holy Week is almost here. Don't miss part of the journey. Worship is always at 11:00 on Sundays. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are at 6:30 in the evenings. I'm inviting you on this journey with me.

Seeking Resurrection Hope,
Rev. Sara

PRACTICING GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

This week I read a reflection in *The Upper Room* by Andrew Garland Breeden, an editor of this well-known publication. The subject was "Christian Community," and it was the story of how Breeden found the church community where he knew he belonged. During a shared meal at a church luncheon, his tablemates - through a very ordinary gesture - made him aware that he was finally "at home." In his concluding paragraph, he said:

> Whether they intended it or not, my table companions helped me see that I had found what I was looking for – a group of people attentive to the needs of others. And it was also a simple lesson about why we need one another. God reaches us *through others.* My physical need that day was minor in the scheme of things, but there was something much deeper at work that had nothing to do with food or biological hunger. I tend to think that if we are looking for a sign, we will eventually find it. And that says more about God than it does about us. This was the first of many signs letting me know that I had found my community.

In the "Questions for Reflection," Andrew Breeden asked this: "When has a small act of hospitality made you feel welcome? How did this experience change the way you show hospitality to others?"

In earlier articles I mentioned my family's first Sunday at Trinity UMC. The man who first greeted us that day was Earl Major, and after the service, he invited us to attend the Nowlin Sunday School Class the next week. We agreed to visit, and his parting words were these: "I'll meet you at the back door." Those words, which may sound very ordinary to you, are forever engraved in my heart and mind. I consider them to be some of the most gracious words ever spoken to me, and they have colored my approach to practicing hospitality in this faith community ever since. This simple invitation involved commitment on his part. He called during the next week and issued the invitation once again. And, of course, we came. Earl and his wonderful wife Mabel, who were a generation older than Joe and me, became very dear to us. Mabel was my sponsor when I joined the church here; she was a kind and loving person who "lived" gracious hospitality and who served as a beautiful role model for me as I grew in discipleship.

Gracious hospitality is an essential part of Christian community. The invitation, whatever form it takes, is so very important. That's how folks get here in the first place. They come because they have been personally invited, or they come because they are drawn here for some other reason. They enter through the front door, the back door, the side door, and the playground gate. Their lives are touched and enriched by this church through our worship service, a Sunday School class, the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, our food ministries, the United Women in Faith, our Community Coffee Café, Centering Prayer, the list goes on. They may be part of one of the groups that I view as our "partners in ministry": Cub Pack 13, Scout Troops 13B and 13G, the Lab School, and NA. Each contact is a chance for this church family, either directly or indirectly, to offer love and acceptance, a time to reflect God's grace that has so greatly blessed our own lives. Grace, after all, is the root word of "gracious." Community and discipleship are built on relationships – our relationship with our Lord, the most gracious Host of all, and our relationships with others within our faith family and beyond. This coming weekend's Easter Egg Hunt will be another excellent opportunity for our church community to extend gracious hospitality and to offer a sense of belonging to young families in our neighborhood. I hope you are praying for this outreach ministry, that you are inviting others to participate, and that you will be personally joining us.

Peace in Christ,
Irene

Notes from the Stewardship/Finance Committee

The Stewardship/Finance Committee met on 30 March. Some highlights from that meeting include the following information.

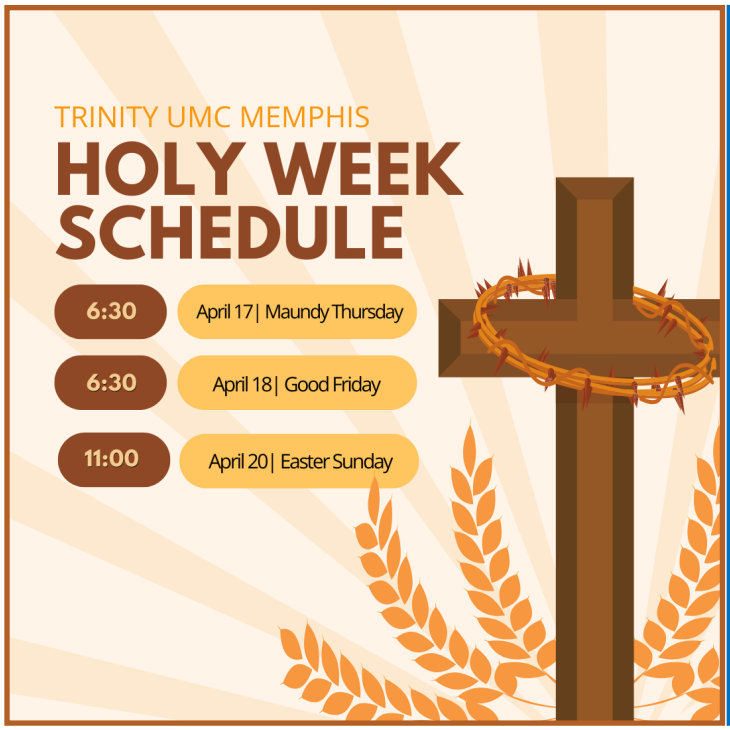
Trinity finished the first quarter with an excellent financial beginning to this year. Regarding income, our pledged and non-pledged donations and our facility use fees are all above what we had budgeted in January. We also received an additional, unexpected Employee Retention Tax Credit payment of $3,814. We did pay a 30% fee of $1,167 for that credit as we had in the prior payments in 2024. Our total revenue to date is $73,366 to a budgeted amount of $60,639.

On the expense side we will need to make adjustments for Fire and Burglar Alarm expense, Custodial supplies, Computer Software Licenses, and Fees as we exceeded budget expectations on those items. Noteworthy is that our utilities and sanitation expense is $1,559 less than budgeted. Our total expenses to date are $63,427 to a budgeted amount of $67,168. These income and expense totals result in net revenue of $9,940 to a budgeted amount of -$6,529. Thus we are $16,469 better than we projected for the first quarter of this year.

At our next Church Council meeting in early May, the Committee will be bringing an updated budget for consideration that will have adjustments both on the expense and income sides.

In the months ahead the Committee will also begin sharing with the congregation our desire to encourage a lifestyle of stewardship that greatly expands stewardship to include our total life and faith experiences and values while including finance.

Craig Jordan, Treasurer



A big "Thanks!" to Evergreen Historic District Association for their monetary contribution to this year's egg hunt.

April Birthdays

Marissa Montgomery	*April 1*
Andy Gienapp	*April 10*
Daniel Gienapp	*April 16*
Rachel Adkins	*April 25*
Judi Hoffman	*April 28*

Memorials

A donation was given in Memory of

Venoma Newhart

by Marc & Sue Taylor

Easter Egg Hunt April 13th

Things are really going to be hopping at Trinity Church this weekend! The big **EASTER EGG HUNT** will take place on the Trinity grounds on **Palm Sunday** afternoon, **April 13th, at 2:00 p.m.!** All kids, **toddlers through 5th graders**, are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets and join in the fun! The hunt will take place, **rain or shine**. In the event of rain, eggs will be hidden at various sites in the building. **The hunt will begin at 2:00 sharp, so kids need to be on time!** The Easter Bunny, along with his lovely assistant, Ms. Sandy, will also be hopping around to join us once again, providing photo ops for kids and their families. There will be lots of other games and activities going on before and after the hunt. It will be an afternoon filled with fun and fellowship!

A **pizza lunch for helpers** will take place immediately after this Sunday's worship service. If you will be joining us for lunch, please contact Irene Dycus. We do ask that you **donate toward the cost of this meal**. Scouts and leaders from both Troops 13-G and 13-B will arrive home from a camping trip just in time to help set up the hunting areas and to hide **two thousand Easter eggs** on the grounds. Other adult and youth helpers will be setting up multiple games and special activities, and a Bounce House will be arriving for this afternoon of fun. Although we already have a good number of volunteers who have offered to supervise the hunt areas and to man the games, more will be appreciated. One of the most important jobs for all the Trinity church family is to share friendly smiles and offer gracious hospitality!

Many thanks go once again to our friends at the Evergreen Historic District Association for their very generous financial support of this event. Neighborhood children, the Lab School, Cub Scout Pack 13, and NA children are all invited to participate. We hope you will help us get the word out to friends and neighbors and kids everywhere. Spread the news on social media, invite face-to-face, text, and call! And then… bring your lawn chairs and come and spend some time with us on the afternoon of April 13th!

Medical Equipment Available to Lend

Here's a reminder about the availability of used, but still functional, medical equipment at hand, thanks to those who want to share.

Shower stool, two bedside commodes, shower chair, three standard walkers, two Rollator walkers, portable oxygen machine, portable nebulizer, bathtub grab bar that affixes securely to the side of the tub, two hand grab bars that affix to a wall by suction (must be very careful with these), and an unopened box of nasal cannula tubing.

Two transport chairs, a wheelchair, a grabber, knee-to-hip immobilizer, three orthopedic boots, (one ankle-high and one knee-high); three pairs of crutches, one tall and two medium; an adjustable cane; two flexible knee braces.

If you are in need of any medical equipment from that listed above, or if you have your own accumulation of medical "stuff" to share, you can contact the church office: 901-274-6895 and office@trinityumcmemphis.org.

United Women in Faith

UWF April 2025 Meeting

At our March 28th meeting, we stuffed around 1,600 eggs for Trinity's Easter Egg Hunt and the Salvation Army's Purdue Center's egg hunt. Thanks to all who pitched in to make that task productive and fun.

The starting time for the April 25th meeting has been changed to 11:30 a.m. Don't be late!

Katy will bring us the program on James (the Less), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). Relevant scriptures are Luke 18:28; John 6:14-16, 32-68; 14:21-24; Hebrews 11:33-38. The apostles were real, ordinary men. Sometimes they think more "highly of themselves than they ought to think. Sometimes they speak when they ought to remain silent and seem clueless about things they ought to have understood. Sometimes they exhibit more confidence in their own abilities and their own strength than they should. So their shortcomings and weaknesses show up more often than their strengths." (MacArthur, 158) Yet, they were Jesus' chosen apostles.

—Joan Smith, President

LENTEN GIVING CONTEST

(A Contest Where Everyone Wins!)

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

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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:

Sally Ramsey's son-in-law, **Keith Green**, husband of Sandi, died in his sleep March 17th. Pray for the Ramsey family as they deal with their grief.

Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's

Joan Smith, battling chronic pain, especially in her back; pulmonary issues

Kate Ostenrude, in rehab at Kings Daughters and Sons; now using a walker to get around!

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. He is off dialysis and is down to one trip a week to Nashville for checkups. Continue to pray for his donor's family as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

Katy Spake's cousin, **Deb Roark**, had to stop radiation/chemo after becoming very sick; restarted therapies, but reactions recurred, putting her back in the hospital. Pray that she is able to tolerate her treatments.

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)

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; 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.)