

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.



God's Presence

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Genesis 28:15

The other day I was in the waiting room for a doctor's appointment. Josh was present, too. I'm still not sure if the establishment is, in fact, a place affiliated with the faith community, but the radio is always playing Christian music. Now, years ago, Christian music really rang true for me. Listening to it was an important element of my faith life. Seminary changed that for me a bit. Seminary will do that to a person. All of a sudden, one's theology of everything changes radically, and the seemingly surface-level theology of contemporary Christian tunes isn't enough. I've always wondered if that's the growing pain of moving from being "babes of faith," who drink milk, to mature faith-goers who need meat for sustenance.

Anyway, the music was playing and I listened. The first song seemed to be about praising God in all things. The second song really seemed to edify the first. Then there was a third song — pretty much the same thing. To me they even sounded alike. Maybe it was just one really long song...

After the fourth song, I looked at Josh and said, "Just once I wish a Christian song allowed us to be confused and maybe even upset at the Divine and didn't insist on fixing it all by the end of 2.5 minutes of tunes." That seems more accurate. It feels more "right."

Sometimes things are, very really, hard and confusing — beyond our understanding — outside the realm of an immediate fix. Sometimes life feels less about cards falling into the right place and more like dominos — when one falls down, they all fall down. Sometimes hearing and knowing that God is with us isn't the comfort we need. Rationally, if God is with us and is omnipotent, the question might become, "Then why doesn't the God who loves me, and can, just fix it all?" and knowing that God is with us feels more frustrating than anything.

The world can feel very backward at times. Life can feel overwhelming. It may take much longer than 2.5 minutes, and we simply may not be able to praise God in the storm. I do not think that is a weakness of faith. I simply believe that's our humanity rearing its head. Sometimes it isn't enough to know that God is with us, and I think that's okay, because the God who made us fully human, also made us in the Creator's image. I think that God understands our questions, doubt, and frustrations. As much as God wishes to be "enough," I think that God understands that's not always the case and instead, time, space, patience, and understanding is what might see us through. Sometimes knowing that we are loved isn't all that we need, because love doesn't solve everything. Grief, fear, and anxiety are a liminal place — an in-between where, as much as we might need it, it's hard to receive peace.

And so perhaps rather than God's presence being a fix-all, maybe it's God's understanding that will see us through. At least, I know that my prayers are such that, in the liminal spaces, God understands that we are human, hurt is real, anxiety is hard, faith is even harder, and with any luck, we'll come back around. In fact, maybe that's entirely what grace is — God's presence with us in times where our humanness can't allow us to feel like it's enough...

... even though it is.

Peace be with you.
Rev. Sara



Worship in Overton Park

Please mark your calendars to attend a Trinity UMC worship service in Overton Park on Sunday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m.

We plan to worship in the area known as the "formal gardens." It is marked by the letter "K" on this <https://overtonpark.org/map/>. Street parking is nearby. You might consider carpooling from the church parking lot. When you get a call from the Park Worship planning team, just let us know what questions you have and if you need help with transportation.

Feel free to bring camp chairs or a blanket. The Park Worship planning team will be providing extra chairs for any who need them.

We'd also love for you to bring something from nature that reminds you of God, our Creator. It can be a flower from your garden or a pine cone from the park. Choose something small to use as part of the table decorations.

In the event of rain, we will move the service into Trinity's Worship Center.



May 10	Bill (Mac) McConnell
May 27	Mike Dodson
May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 28	Chris Glover

ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to:

office@trinityumcmemphis.org

We'll add your e-mail address to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to the most current *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]

Binghampton Food Pantry

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

Once a month, folks can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need.....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Trinity members: You can bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for BUMM's food pantry. A box for donated foodstuffs has been placed in the lobby in front of the reception desk. A donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let's commit to feeding our neighbors in need!



SCOUTING MEMORIES



Sunday, April 24th, was Scout Sunday at Trinity United Methodist Church. Troop 13 is celebrating its 100th birthday this year! As often happens on Scout Sunday, our church was not prepared for the huge number of scouts and family members who showed up for the service. We almost always run out of bulletins on Scout Sunday, and now that we are in the Worship Center, we don't have enough chairs out and must scurry to pull more out. What a wonderful blessing it is to be surprised, right?

My heart always fills with joy on Scout Sunday as it is flooded with wonderful memories of my being a leader in Cub Scouting here and of being a proud mother and wife of my two sons and my husband Joe during the time of their scouting experiences here. Mike Potter, Joe, and I kick-started the Cub Scout program back into action here about forty years ago, after its several years of dormancy. Thanks to the fine leaders who joined us then and others who have continued this tradition, both the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of Troop 13 have continued to faithfully continue this ministry all these years.

On April 24th, I looked across the room and saw a little towheaded boy, one of the youngest of the Cubs standing with his daddy, and I thought, "That's a Wofford over there." Sure enough, after the service, Andy Wofford, who was a towhead himself while a scout, came over to speak to me. His mom had been my Andrew's tee-ball coach, a time when the kids rolled around and played in the dirt as much as they threw and caught and hit the ball during that first baseball experience. What a joy it is to know that the scouting tradition continues in the families of fine men who were once "my" Cub Scouts.

Cub Scouts did not camp back then, other than at the yearly "Mom and Me" weekend at Camp Currier. Andrew and I did that together one time - and once was enough for both of us. Den meetings were wild and wooly, probably because they were scheduled so soon after school on weekdays. We started out meeting at our house, and that was quite a challenge. We soon got a room of our own in the basement of the Education Building, and I learned to do an activity that engaged their muscles and their loud voices at the very beginning of each meeting. Even after doing that, getting young boys to focus on our craft project for the day was often quite a challenge. Mike Potter started a Webelos den soon after we moved to the church, and Joe Dycus was our Cubmaster, in addition to being an assistant Scoutmaster.

We took several ten-mile hikes in the first two years; this is before we found out that the Boy Scouts didn't recommend hikes longer than five miles for Cubs. Oops! The longest ten-mile hike in terms of mental and physical stress was the time we decided to hike the Memphis Historical Trail. We had pencils and little cards with all the historic sites listed on them, so the Cubs could check each site off once we had read the historical marker there. This hike began in downtown Memphis, close to the Harahan Bridge, looped around the University of Tennessee Health Sciences area, through the nearby historic preservation area, and then back to the downtown area, finally finishing close to the bridge. After the first two miles of this endeavor, most of the boys had discarded their pencils and cards. By five miles, they all fell or sat down at every subsequent marker. It took forever to finish that hike. I started out as the leader; by the end, I was the stern task master behind the pack, driving them forward to the bitter end. When we finished, it was almost sunset.

There are so many memories that I can laugh at now, but that were mighty challenging back then. But we had quite a few of our boys who went on to earn their Eagle badge in Troop 13, my Patton among them. Praise God for fine leaders, for great kids, and for an outstanding scouting tradition that is entering its second century at Trinity Church!

Peace,
Irene Dycus

Trinity UMC gets MOVING



You can order a Trinity UMC T-shirt by completing the form below. Bring it to the church and drop it on the front desk.

TUMC T-Shirt Order Form

Shirts will be a mint green color with forest green imprints, 100% cotton. Imprint on left chest will incorporate a new logo of a dove with current logo on Trinity coffee mugs. Full back imprint will be text only: Midtown for Good. For shirt size over 3XL, if the mint green option is not available, a white shirt with same color imprint will be substituted.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check size desired and indicate quantity of each in box below each size:

<input type="checkbox"/> Small	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Large	<input type="checkbox"/> XL

<input type="checkbox"/> 2X	<input type="checkbox"/> 3X	<input type="checkbox"/> 4X

Total # shirts: X \$9.00/shirt = \$

Payment method: ☐ Cash ☐ Check (Check # _____)



All is well with my soul!

Thank you! Thank you very much!!

Each of you, members and attenders, of Trinity United Methodist Church have played a part in the "wellness of my soul."

When we first came to Trinity UMC, I had not realized how out of kilter my heart and soul had become. Not that I think I wasn't a good person. Helping others has always been something I enjoy. I've been engaged as a community activist in Memphis since I moved here in 1985. The Golden Rule is how I have always tried to approach life.

But all my kindness, all my works for the community and others couldn't make up for what I wasn't getting...a meaningful relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And you helped me get that. You helped by not only welcoming us into your church family, but by sharing faith, knowledge, and love for Jesus with us. As many groups of which I have been a part, no one has ever loved me the way you have. I mean the kind of love that cares not only for the physical person, but especially the spiritual.

Thank you! Thank you for filling a hole that I didn't even realize was there. Thank you for being my church family.

Please know that my role as Lay Leader is to care for your souls and spiritual well-being, but that I would do anyway.

So if there is something that TUMC could do or help with, to insure that "all is well with your soul," I am, and always will be, here for you.

May God bless us each and every one.

Peace,
Sam Goff

Change of Address

Elaine Amis
c/o Diane Lawson
912 Damascus Church Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-8318



Trinity Kids Rock!

Pictured below are some of the children who have been painting "prayer rocks" that will be used in the Sunday, May 15th, worship service in Overton Park. Pictured are Lila, Kaylee, Ms. Sue, Eli, Nora, and Carson. Other artists included Sean, Rowan, Cooper, Aiden and Ms. Joan. Altogether, they produced 48 prayer rocks!



God's Love can



change me

-Sean

Sean's art is from the Sunday school lesson, "Paul is Changed," based on Acts 9:1-20, the story of Paul's Damascus Road conversion experience.

God can change our lives, too, helping us to become better people and to show our love for God and our neighbors.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - 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 families, churches, and communities impacted by the bad weather, including tornados in West Tennessee and Kentucky, especially for those who lost loved ones in those violent storms; for Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake and hurricane; 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—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. Autura Eason-Williams

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:

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Kanyon Glover, pray for his speech therapy and the use of his left arm (due to a stroke)

Chris Glover's sister, **Carol**, in physical therapy following a fall in her yard

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

Gene & Irene Opel, for their continued enjoyment of their life together and for their general health

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, recovered from broken hip; dialysis going well

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' 95 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center

Val Coates, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure, but heart function improved

For **Rev. Kyle Dearen**, the pastor of **Living Word Christian Church**, as he and his family grieve the unexpected passing of his mother last Monday, May 2nd.

For **Elaine Amis**, who has relocated to Chapel Hill, NC to be near her daughter Diane; pray for her adjustment to her move.

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