

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.



Planting Seeds



*For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
To spring up before all the nations. — Isaiah 61:11*

This Spring, my youngest (Aiden) joined the Garden Club at school. I'm nearly certain he only did it to have some fun, after school time with his best buddy. Still, he's taken it very seriously. When they met for the first time, Aiden had to bring an empty gallon milk jug with him. The students cut the center of the jug, almost all the way around, so that they could get into the jug to put soil in it and plant some seeds. The jug, then, became a little greenhouse.

Over the last couple of months, the seeds in his greenhouse have sprouted and just recently he transplanted them to a large planter we have on the side of the house. Slowly but surely, the sprouts are growing. Aiden is diligent to caring for them and is thrilled to see them blossoming, knowing that he is their caretaker — their gardener.

As black as my thumb is, I love watching things grow and bloom just like Aiden. From time to time we'll get some tomato plants and pot them. I will baby them and watch in hopeful anticipation as each plant gives me the tiniest amount of ho-hum tomatoes every year. Still, I did that! I helped nurture that life and in return, it gives me joy (and ho-hum tomatoes).

This coming Sunday, Mother's Day (May 14th), our children are leading us in worship. It's no small or insignificant thing that I write that. It's a service we've tried to do for a very long time and have finally needed to reconcile to ourselves that there isn't a perfect time to make that happen, and so we are doing that at the imperfect time of 'right-at-the-end-of-the-school-year,' and, 'just-before-the-beginning-of-the-summer.' All the mommas reading this know exactly what that means. We are having Children's Sabbath at singularly the very worst possible time. And yet.....isn't it always the most right time to praise God over sprouting seeds?

These children — your children — my children — they are seeds of spiritual life and goodness God gave to the church in their baptism. The church — you — became gardeners the day they were baptized. You promised to uphold them in their faith and help them to grow to know Jesus. They are ready to show you who they are becoming in faith and you better believe that they hope to goodness that, come Sunday, they look out and see each and every one of you there.

These precious little flowers look to you to set positive examples of what it means to be a community of faith. When you have to be gone, or choose to sleep in on Sunday, you better believe they notice. And they don't notice to be judgmental. They notice because they truly love you. Trinity has been their church home and, over time, they have come to know you as the prime example of what it means to be a follower of

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Christ. As babes of faith, they look your direction (not mine) to see how it's done. They listen to you recite creeds, so they can figure out how to do it. They watch for you to grab your hymnals so that they know when to grab theirs. Sometimes you show them how to follow along. They love that. They listen to you lift prayers and every now and then, they, too, lift their tiny voices in prayer. They **want** to serve you communion. They **want** to teach you their songs of praise. They **want** to tell you what they learned in Sunday school. They are watered seeds that have grown into fruitful gardens that still need gardeners to help them grow, and not just on Children's Sabbath, but every week.

This week your little garden will be searching in earnest for your face as they stand up front and lift their voices to God. They are hopeful you will come. I am too.

With hopeful anticipation,
Rev. Sara





MINISTRY: ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

This past Sunday was a very busy one in the Children's Sunday School Class. In the first part of our time together we began a new unit of study centering around the new FAITH WORD, which is **MINISTRY: to answer God's call and to serve the world**. We were introduced to our new MEMORY VERSE, which is the Great Commission, Jesus' final command to his disciples in Matthew 28:18b-20:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Our story for that day's lesson came from Matthew 16:13-20. In this passage Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. His response, based on his faith in God, prompts Jesus to say, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." The Book of Matthew is the only Gospel in which we find the term "church." After the Resurrection, Peter did indeed enter faithfully into ministry, declaring his faith in Jesus and leading many others to faith and thus beginning to build Christ's church.

After our Sunday School lesson, we then focused on preparing for this coming week's Children's Sabbath. Before we started practicing our scripture passages, songs, and prayers, we spent some time talking about why we are doing these things this coming Sunday. It's always important to know why we do things. We talked about witnessing to our Trinity Church family and to any others who may join us on Sunday, May 14th, witnessing to our faith in Jesus Christ. Our children, who range in age from 6 to 11, may be young, but they so often reveal an amazing depth of understanding of faith and what God calls us to do. After we had our brief but meaningful "theological discussion," we had a wonderful time singing, and we practiced with our karaoke microphone so we wouldn't be overwhelmed by speaking on the big microphone upstairs. We were serious for such a long time; then we then played "Hide and Seek" in our classroom, which is normally a taboo activity there, but it was a reward for being so attentive and serious-minded during our lesson and practice.

Before going home, we went upstairs and reviewed how things will probably go this coming Sunday. Mr. Sam's baskets of scones and muffins were an early distraction when we first entered the Worship Center, but we managed to delay that gratification until after we focused on what would need to happen next week. Once we knew when and where things would happen and after Pastor Sara gave us the green light, the sweet goods entered kids' mouths (and teachers' take-home bags), and we all went home for the day. But we're looking forward to being back this coming Sunday. We will be practicing our parts during the week, praying no one gets sick, and hoping to see you, too, for you are our church family, and we love you. Please come and worship the Lord with us on this special day, which will be Mother's Day and Children's Sabbath.



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 is now empty. 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.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE ENVISION A
RADICALLY LOVING COMMUNITY
WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS,
EVERYONE IS SUPPORTED,
AND NO ONE IS ALONE.

TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE
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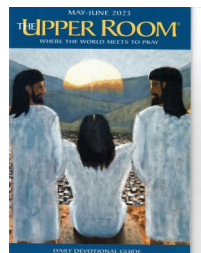
TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS



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

THE UPPER ROOM

The May/June *Upper Room* devotional guides are already on display at the reception desk just outside The 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.





Thank you, Trinity Choir!

During Sunday worship, our choir—small but mighty!—has been inspiring us with their music. Accompanied by the talented Myra Finch, the choir is using traditional music and arrangements of traditional hymns. We are grateful for their hard work that blesses us every Sunday.



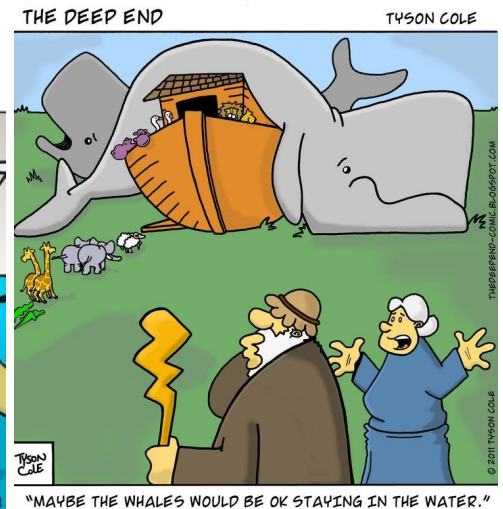
Current choir members include:

Charles Abraham
Chris Glover
Sara Goff
Sandy Guntharp
Kay Jordan
Marc Taylor

Pianist: Myra Finch



The famous question is asked for the first time.



FEED THE HUNGRY

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!

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:

Family & friends of **Brad Winchester**, a RITI guest, who died in a hit-and-run accident last week

Carey Miller, back surgery successful! Now home, working in yard and back to normal

Doris Porter, recovering at home

Charlotte Comes, at home recovering from surgery; chemotherapy planned

Charles Abraham, nerve block on his neck next Tuesday; ablation for long term pain relief in arthritic neck

Sydney Elliott, friend of Irene Dycus, in hospice care; pray for his wife **Mary**, as well.

Family of **Lafayne Reed**, Debby Marston's 94 year old aunt, who died last week

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, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, in ICU, 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**, 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

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; both receiving PT biweekly

Edward Thigpen, ongoing cancer treatment; financial difficulties due to medical expenses

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

Raquel Norton, our custodian, sustained injuries to back and neck when her vehicle was rear-ended.

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

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