

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.



Heightened Senses

*Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
Psalm 150:1-6*

Is everyone taking more walks around their neighborhoods these days? We are. We walk almost everyday. Or, we walk in shifts. This morning my husband, Josh, took the boys for a “workout” (jog), two laps around the neighborhood so that I could use the time and mental/emotional space to do all of 20 minutes of yoga. I started yoga at the beginning of the year and, like most resolution-makers, slacked off. I wish I’d returned to yoga a whole lot sooner than last week. Yoga is centering. It’s painful, because I can’t begin to touch my toes, but it brings me into a healthy headspace to begin the day.

Our walks usually happen in the afternoon. We’ve all done some semblance of work in the morning — the kindergartener has complained through 2-3 hours of trying to read and common core math, the 2nd-grader has been an overall delight and done his work diligently (the little people-pleaser he is), the seminary student-pastor-dad has done any number of things, and, while trying to keep the kindergartener in line, I’ve answered emails, attended a Zoom meeting, and (like today) written a newsletter article. After lunch, we leash the pup, put bike helmets and tennis shoes on, strap masks to our face, and walk. By then we all deserve the break.

Last Thursday we were walking back from Snowden. Sometimes we go that direction and let the boys ride around the parking lot. There’s never anyone else there, unlike the open spaces at Overton Park. Down the street from where we live, we unknowingly passed a bush filled with honeysuckle. Through my mask, the scent hit me like a box of rocks (or something much more delightful, but I’m lacking good metaphors these days). I remember saying to Josh, “I know it blooms every year, but now every day I notice it. I don’t remember doing that before.”

We talk a lot about “before.” Before when things were “normal.” Before when we had a routine. We lament the before that we no longer have — it’s death like that of a comforting, familiar friend. But.....But in the “before” there’s so much we didn’t notice. And, just maybe, there are so many little glimpses of the Divine we missed.

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In the before, Cooper (8) didn't yet know how to ride his bike. We hadn't had the time when it wasn't 90+ degrees outside (so, also the willingness) to teach him and help him practice it. Aiden (5) didn't know how to either. In the now, they both can ride bikes and it's brought them (and me) so much joy.

In the before I never saw how much work Josh does as a student AND a pastor AND a dad. Now I'm overwhelmed by all he does, but also that much more grateful for his devotion to all of his callings.

Remember how, in the season of Lent, we talked about how fasting brings us into a greater sense of awareness of where God is, what God does, and how much we need God? The "before" and "after" that we're experiencing right now is very similar. In being devoid of all that the before presented, we're able to come into a headspace — a sense of awareness — of where God is, what God does, and how much we need God.

I don't know about you (but would love to hear), but I have been ever-more-mindful of God's presence in creation — the flowers, the singing Spring birds, the honeysuckle. I have seen and experienced God's goodness in the people I have — in Josh, in the boys, in the girls, in you. And in my fear, frustration, and exhaustion (because this is pretty hard), I've been more and more mindful that I, just as much as anyone else, need God — God's grace, provision, comfort, forgiveness, and love.

How has this time welcomed you into the presence of God? Maybe you haven't thought about it yet — how God might be saying, "Hey, I'm here. I'm with you. I'm giving you glimpses of glory."

Will you pray with me?

God of glory — of all of creation — how majestic is your name in all the earth! The birds sing of your glory. The flowers dance in the wind, giving you praise for the beauty of the day and the glory of the skies. God, may we, your people, too, sing of your glory. May we dance in the delight of all you've done, all you are doing, and all that will come. Thank you, holy God, for being with us in the "before." Thank you for being with us now. Thank you for being with us always. Amen.

Be well. Be blessed.

Rev. Sara

Pastoral Appointment Announcement

Bishop Bill McAlilly and the Nashville Area Cabinet of the Tennessee/Memphis Conferences worked prayerfully together to make missional appointments to every church in our Annual Conference. As Chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, I give thanks for the ministry of our pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, who continues to be a servant leader among us and am happy to share that she will be returning as our pastor for the 2020/2021 conference year.

Please join me in praying this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, our Living Savior, we give you thanks for our church. It is a gift of grace to us. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of Rev. Sara Corum, who will continue to serve us as pastor, teacher, leader and friend in Christ. May your grace be upon her and her family, giving peace and joy and confidence as we begin the new conference year together. Open our hearts and minds to receive the gifts you have for us in these days as we give thanks for what has been and anticipate what will be. Our life is in you, O God, and through the Holy Spirit we pray this day. Amen.

— Charlotte Comes

Full Flower Moon



Early last Thursday morning I had the most amazing experience. I had accidentally set my alarm for 4:00 a.m., but got up anyway. As I went into my living/dining area and looked out the windows on the west side of the room, I saw the most beautiful moon. It appeared to be a gigantic full moon, and it was a dazzling white. As I went back and forth to do my laundry downstairs at the Parkway House that morning, I kept an eye on the moon, which seemed to grow larger and larger. (It turned out that it actually

was visually doing just that, until 5:45 a.m., when it truly was a full moon. From that point on it decreased in size and brightness.) During this time I could also see out the north-facing windows of my apartment that the early signs of sunrise were making themselves known. As the colors and brightness of the sunrise grew in intensity and spread across the eastern horizon, the moon gradually faded as it sank toward the western horizon. Finally, the sun rose, a startling, fiery red ball in the east, while the moon was barely a shadow in the west. It was an awe-inspiring God-moment as I watched both happening simultaneously from my vantage point in the northwest portion of my living room.

Later in the morning I read the daily devotional for *The Upper Room*. The day's featured verse was Psalm 19:1: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." As I read those words, I realized that I had quite literally seen God's word in action earlier that day.

Even later in the day, I spoke to my sister, and she told me that what I had seen was a Full Flower Moon, a Native American term for the full moon in May; it is also known as the Full Corn Planting Moon or the Milk Moon. That moon also just happened to be the fourth Super Moon of 2020, another distinction.

It is so easy to see everything today as loss. And yet - God is in the midst of it all - as we witness beautiful full moons and spectacular sunrises, in social distancing and in the actions of those who put themselves in harm's way to care for us - health care workers, grocery store and drugstore employees, delivery personnel, sanitation workers, and so many others. I have been sick for about six weeks, possibly with the COVID-19. But even when I was the sickest, I never have felt that I was alone. God has been in the midst of my illness and my recuperation. He has been present in the calls and texts and emails and deliveries of food and paper products from my own family, my wonderful Trinity family, friends, and neighbors.

He is with me now as I emerge from illness and brain fog and begin to focus once again on ministry with children and how we can overcome social distancing so that our children know that we love and care for them. God is with us all as we seek new ways to become His church - His heart, His hands and feet. It's quite a challenge, but no challenge is too great for Him. And His Holy Spirit will equip us to face the challenge as well. Thank you, God!

—Irene Dycus

Back to Church

Friends, there are a lot of things pending still. This virus throws us for a new loop every few days. Do know that it is our hope to return to some form of in-person worship soon — possibly as early as June. If there are any doubts that this should occur, we will not pursue it. We will not be moving ahead without a very detailed plan. Will we worship outside? Maybe. Will the Worship Center be set up differently? Most likely. Will there be a limit to how many folks can come at once? Probably. Will we be required to wear masks? I can at least say, “Yes,” to that right now.

In the following weeks, I’ll be working in consultation with others in our congregation, as well as what is coming from the district office and the Centers for Disease Control to work out the best plan for us to reconvene and for us to have some presence at the church during the week. Maybe you’re asking what you can do now. If so....

1. You can pray. Pray for one-another as you have. Pray for patience as nothing will be as it was. Pray for how you might can still hear God speaking and see God moving. Pray, knowing that God will meet you there.
2. Speaking of patience....Please be patient. None of us have done this before. Nothing that we will do will be pleasing to everyone. It’s not likely that any of it will come naturally.
3. Give. We expect giving to be down right now. Do know that it is. The church still needs your support. In fact, it needs it now more than it ever has. Your financial support (tithes and offerings) are very important today.
4. Love. Love God. Love neighbor. Love self.
5. Worship. Please come to worship. You may see me encouraging you to share worship. When you share our worship service digitally, it reaches, on average, another 100 people. So if two people share worship (and this is our average), it reaches 200 people. When worshipping, in person, we have about 70 folks a week. Share our worship. Come to worship. Anticipate meeting God in worship. Participate in worship.



As you wait in great anticipation for what we might do next, know that you are prayed for daily. You are missed immensely. You are loved fiercely.

Sara



May 7	Allane Demetrio	May 27	Mike Dodson
May 10	Mac McConnell	May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 14	Jeri Ashley	May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 15	Bertha Ching	May 28	Chris Glover

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received

In memory of Jane Collins from Elaine Amis

In memory of Jane Collins from Tom Wilson

In memory of Jane Collins from Shirley Flint

In memory of Jane Collins from Barbara Kelly

In memory of Jane Collins from Robert Collins

In memory of Jane Collins from Mac & Mary McConnell

In memory of Jane Collins from Dorothy Kelly

In memory of Jane Collins from Dr. & Mrs. Spencer Lee

In memory of Jane Collins from from Margaret A. Brenner

In memory of Jane Collins from from James & Mary Ann Hall

In memory of Jane Collins from Eddie & Sally Ramsey

In memory of Jane Collins from from Alice Gunnison

In memory of Mary Ellen Koehler from Fred Martin

In memory of Kathleen Corum from Carol & Carey Miller

In memory of Kathleen Corum from Shirley Flint

In memory of Kathleen Corum from Eddie & Sally Ramsey

In memory of Kathleen Corum from the Nowlin Class

In memory of Kathleen Corum from Connie Johns & Jinx Winn

In memory of Betty Lou Brooks from Eddie & Sally Ramsey

An Honorarium has been received

In honor of Sam Goff from Elaine Amis

In honor of Jonathan Goff from Elaine Amis

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGHSCHOOL SENIORS

Rachel Adkins and **Joey Hopper** are graduating from high school this month. We are so proud of them and wish them all of God's richest blessings as they complete one milestone and enter the next phase of life.



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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; 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.

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 in the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they adjust to being home schooled and for their peace of mind during the current crisis; 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

Paige Warmath, Alyson Foreman's cousin, continuing treatment for braintumor

Kanyon Glover, heart transplant survivor; in and out of hospital

Katie, young mother of an infant & toddler, in abusive relationship and suffering from major depression
(concern shared by **Chris Glover**)

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosed with ENS & undergoing treatment; prayers still appreciated

Gene Opel, weak, but in good spirits; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

Nancy Rankin and her sister, **Betty Bell**, as they grieve the loss of their sister **Mary Ellen Koehler**.

Diane, daughter of **Elaine Amis**, recovering from a extended illness

Albert Seals, on dialysis and being treated for colon cancer (our custodian **Lisa Seal's** father)

Jim McMahan, son of **Julie McMahan**, as he is being treated for a non-COVID-19 related illness at the VA Hospital

George Marston, Debby's husband, as he receives physical therapy at home following breaking his femur and hip, and Debby as she cares for him

Chris Glover, receiving home health care as she recovers from a broken hip, and **Val Coates**, as she tries to help with Chris's needs

For the **Burrito Ministry volunteers** as they resume handing out burritos to our unsheltered neighbors, starting back up on May 19th

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.)