Trinotes

May 22, 2024

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.

The Great Escape

Do not remember the former thing or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

I've never done an escape room. My kids love them though. They love them enough that, on days they're feeling creative, they will sit down and stage escape rooms for each other. For those who may not know, escape rooms are a new fad. When you go to an escape room, you're locked in a space and given clues that reflect different things in the room that will, inevitably, lead to your way out of the room. You have a time limit. The doors are not really locked. It's a game. As someone who is painfully claustrophobic, the thought of an escape room is enough to give me nightmares.

Somehow over the last 20 years, Church has become like an escape room, except the goal is the opposite. Folks aren't trying to get out and failing. They're trying to get IN. If I had a dollar for every visitor I've met who was "church shopping" — looking for a church where all the clues line up and they can 'get in,' I'd be able to fund a few Sunday lunches at the very least.

Sometimes the clues are hard to find. Folks will look for a sign that they are welcome as they are. They will look for a sign that their children are welcome. They'll look for a place to park, the entrance (the escape exit), a place to hide — a clue that this place is where they need to be and, if they're lucky, a place where they WANT to be. If the clues do not add up or make sense, they will fail at getting in. If they cannot figure it out in time (while they are still feeling led or are interested), they will fail at getting in. It may seem like getting out is the goal, as folks have left the Church universal in droves over the last 2 decades, but that's not the case. The struggle is getting in — finding a place where the proverbial 'you' are welcome at the table.

In June it is a newer tradition in our culture (and many others) that PRIDE is celebrated. PRIDE is an opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies to give thanks for their diversity of thought and being. It is a chance to celebrate a created-ness that isn't always celebrated. It is a time to give thanks for the spectrum of uniqueness in which humanity was made. It is also a time for us, the Church, to recall where we have failed this particular community — making it hard and sometimes impossible for them to find a way in, and where we have failed to offer a place at our table and at Christ's Holy Table.

We have a chance, Trinity, to make a big impact, to plant and water seeds of hope and healing, and to create something new from the brokenness the Church has perpetuated in the past. We have a chance to break down barriers that perhaps we did not build, so that others might have an opportunity they haven't had before — to know that they are loved by God. We have a chance to make a difference for good and to heal a hurting world. What an amazing gift! What an amazing responsibility! What an amazing thing we get to do in Jesus' name!

As June inches nearer, and we pack up our colorful array of things to head downtown for Memphis PRIDEfest, I hope you will be in prayer for those we might encounter. I hope you will give thanks for your

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freedom in Christ to go and do good things. I hope you will join with one-another in making reparations for hurtful times, and in creating a new thing — a church where the clues never again need line up just right for folks to come be whole, come be loved, come be celebrated, and come be known.

Giving thanks for YOU
and your beautiful created-ness,
Rev. Sara

Tiny Pantry

Our **Tiny Pantry** is still perched in place on Trinity's front lawn, and we occasionally see neighbors come by to replenish it. It's easy to forget how important the gift of a little food can be.

Most of us don't miss many meals. There are, however, hungry folks who come by looking for a can of tuna or soup, or for just enough to get them by until their food stamps arrive. Those neighbors who are chronically unsheltered may not even have public aid in the form of food subsidies. Imagine going to bed hungry, not just one night, but almost every night.

Remember to keep our Tiny Pantry stocked. Next time you go to the grocery store, pick up some extra food that can be eaten "as is," without cooking, like Vienna sausages, fruit cups, or tuna packets with crackers. Pop-tops are best. Not everyone owns a can opener!

And, speaking of can openers, we've just purchased, as an experiment, 8 each of P-38 and P-51 can openers. We're trying to figure out the best way to share them with folks who "shop" the Tiny Pantry, and are hoping they'll be a help to those needing a can opened.

A Wonderful Problem

Over 45 years ago, a young family of four drove up to Trinity United Methodist Church for the first time. They stopped an older man who was outside the sanctuary building and asked him, "Can you tell us where your nursery is?" The man graciously told the Dycus family where to park and then waited to escort us to the nursery.

Yes, this is part of my story. It's a vital part because had there not been a nursery available that day, we might not have stayed, certainly would not have come back, never would have become a part of this wonderful church family. The main reason for that is that I came to this church as a broken person, as a young woman who felt that I was a failure as a mother. If the nursery workers had not been there that Sunday to care lovingly for our two young sons, I might not have gone to that worship service where God welcomed me home with open arms. I might not have heard him calling me to teach. I might not have been blessed with over forty years of working with children - in Trinity's Adopt-a-School program at Vollentine School, in Cub Scouts, in Sunday School, in Vacation Bible School, in so many other ministries that involved children. I might not have been "Ms. Irene" at Trinity Preschool! Who would I have been?

Do I doubt that God's redemptive work would have taken place in my life? No, there is no question in my mind and heart that He would have led me along some other pathway, probably to some other church where He would have blessed my life's journey, but it would not have happened here at this church.

Always, always, in the back of my mind and heart, there is the deep conviction that some person (of any age) who walks through the door at Trinity Church is going to hear the Lord directly speaking to his or her heart, who is going to realize that, in spite of the darkness and despair that might be a part of their lives, he or she is loved and forgiven and valued as a child of God. Always, always, in the forefront of my mind and heart, as I plan and lead and pray for our Children's Sunday School, is the great hope that these seeds that we are planting in their young lives will bear fruit both now and in the future, most especially at times that they may doubt their own self-worth. Those same seeds were planted in my heart at Hays Avenue Methodist Church in Jackson, Tennessee, nurtured at the Wesley Foundation at Memphis State University and in other brief church experiences, and finally bore fruit here at this very church, when I most desperately needed them.

We are dealing right now with what I described to Trinity's Church Council as "a wonderful problem." The wonderful thing is that we have young families attending our worship services who have nursery-age children. The problem is that we don't currently have nursery care to offer them. The nursery room is there and well-equipped, but we need the nursery staff. We particularly need one person who will be there every week to care for any young children who might be there. Young children need a familiar, friendly face, a person who will offer consistent, loving care every time they are with us at Trinity, whether they are here every week, every other week, or only occasionally. This is reassuring both for them and for their parents. The Church Council voted on Sunday to establish this position. The SPRC even has a wonderful person in mind for the job. The quandary right now is how to fund this for the remainder of the year since it is not in our 2024 budget. The Church Council decided to request **special contributions from the congregation to pay for the position from June 1 through December 31 of this year. The total cost would be $1,721. We need your help**. I believe in making and honoring a pledge to the church, and I do. I also believe in special giving whenever my help is needed to support a good cause. **I'm giving to this good cause! How about you?** (If you feel moved to give, please indicate your gift is for "Nursery Staff.")

Peace in Christ,
Irene Dycus

Pin Workshop

Would you like to help make pins to be distributed at our booth at Memphis Pride Festival on June 1? Materials provided, no special skills needed; if you can pin a safety pin you can do this! Plan to stay after worship for 30 minutes on May 26. We will gather around the table in the back of the Center. Our choir made 52 of these in 30 minutes; our goal is 100. See you there!

May Birthdays

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

June Birthdays

Marc Taylor	June 12
Rob Landrigan	June 15
Sandy Guntharp	June 21
Eddie Ramsey	June 30

TUMC CELEBRATES

PRIDE

JUNE 1ST, 2024 11 A.M. - 5 P.M

Robert Church Park, 4th and Beale

BRING A CHAIR, BE OF GOOD CHEER, COME CELEBRATE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.

Memphis Pride Fest is right around the corner, and Trinity is registered to participate, as in years past. If you are interested in serving during Pride Fest, we need people for all parts of the festival. Please reach out to Rev. Sara ASAP to volunteer.

Memorials & Honorariums

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

ROSEMARY POTTER FROM
EDNA HOFFMAN

ROSEMARY POTTER FROM
BILL & MARY MCCONNELL

ROSEMARY POTTER FROM
DEBBIE CROM

IN HONOR OF

CAROL & CAREY MILLER FROM
MARC & SUE TAYLOR

Trinity Food Ministry News

Trinity's Food Pantry will again be distributing bags of food on the morning of May 27th, the fourth Monday of the month, and on Wednesday evening, May 29th. If someone asks you for help, you can tell them to call the church (274-6895) any Thursday between 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon to get on the list to reserve a pick-up time. (And yes, we know the 27th is Memorial Day.)

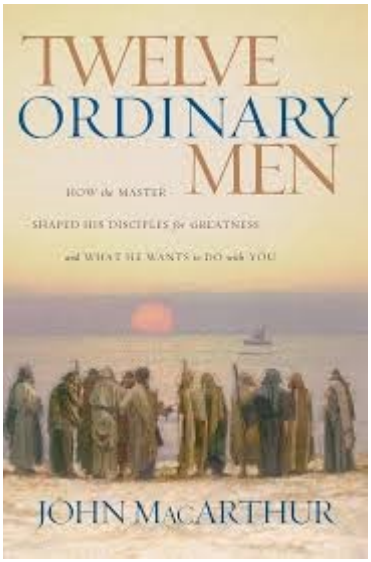
When hungry people call the church looking for a Kroger card, we'll be telling them about various opportunities around the city for free meals, as well as free groceries. We've been supporting Binghampton UMM's Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry for years, and we are not trying to compete with them or any other local source of food for the hungry. Rather, in cooperation with BUMM and other area churches and ministries, we can help to alleviate the problem of hunger in our community and make sure no one goes to bed at night with an empty stomach.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

Granola bars	Pasta sauce	Spam
Oatmeal packets	Peanut butter	Minute rice
Cereal	Canned vegetables	Canned tuna
Canned fruit	Mac & cheese boxes	Snacks
Pasta	Canned chicken	Gift certificates for grocery stores
Soup	Jelly	

United Women in Faith Update

Trinity's United Women in Faith will meet at noon on Friday, May 24th, for potluck in the Worship Center. Shirley Flint will bring the program on Chapter 3 of 12 Ordinary Men. Key Bible passages are: Matthew 16:16-33; Mark 14:37-38; Luke 22:31-32; John 1:43-55; John 13:4-7; John 21:15-17; Galatians 2; and 1 Peter 1:3-7.



Sara Goff will talk about Response. Sandy Guntharp will give us a financial report. We will finalize plans for our summer project, Golden Cross. If you have prayer requests or any other things you would like us to consider, text or email Joan Smith.

Please come armed with suggestions and logistics for our Summer Vacation. Meetings for June, July, and August will be at restaurants. Please bring your can, box, or dollar for the Tiny Pantry.

Remember, you do not have to be a member of Trinity; you do not even have to be a Methodist; you must only be a Woman of Faith. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

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*;* and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Melba Abraham's cousin **Lydia Melton**, cancer in new site
Arthur Lee Graffreid, Clara Farabee's brother, passed away recently
Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilynn Hawkins**
Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**
Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith).
Amelia Strickland's mom, **Rosemary Batorski**, weak, but some improvement
Chris Glover's sister **Carol** is in hospice care at home and heavily medicated.
Mike Baloga, encephalitis, at home with nursing care, and wife **Juli** (neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake)
Olivia Dunn, 29 year old with uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)
Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS - both the Millers' friends
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS
Kanyon Glover has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.
Jacob Foreman, chronic back pain and nerve damage in left leg
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD; has moved to a nursing home; torn ligaments in shoulder; upbeat despite recent hospitalization.
Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, receiving radiation and chemotherapy.
Val Coates, much better; pulmonary specialist prescribing new medications
Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration
Seth Genes, weight now up to 100 pounds due to receiving nourishment through feeding tube; spent two days in hospital after fever developed; received three rounds each of blood and platelets & white blood cells now reproducing
Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.
Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease
For **Living Word Christian Church;** for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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