

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.

May 24, 2023



Year 7

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

"He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..." Ephesians 4:11-13a

Yesterday in worship it was announced that I would be returning for another conference year of ministry with you. I've known it for a while, but the way our system functions, the cabinet needs the leeway to make last-minute changes before announcements are made and with the recent influx of conference-wide UMC disaffiliations, it made the work of the cabinet extra-difficult this year. Regardless of the end result, we find comfort in knowing what is next, and I know that your patience was a bit worn when yesterday came. Thank you for waiting for that certainty with me.

I am in shock and awe to be coming back to Trinity for a 7th year. Honestly, every year I am surprised. We have done no 'small' thing together. As Sam mentioned yesterday in worship, in 6 years we have sold an historic sanctuary (and stayed afloat). We weathered the storm of the pandemic (and stayed afloat). We became reconciling (and stated afloat). We renovated the Center and made a few major changes to the parsonage (and stated afloat). We have remained faithful. I'll add, we have started two different youth ministry programs, successfully mastered Zoom, and buried people we love deeply. We have right-sized our budget by making adjustments to those who rent our space. We incubated Bluff City UMC as it began its ministry as a local and partnering United Methodist Congregation, and became 'home' to Living Word Christian Church. We helped Midtown Montessori move out and made a new relationship with the Lab School. We celebrated 100 years with Pack 13 and have made stronger our relationship with Evergreen Historic District Association, which began by doing something as small as planting a tiny pantry on our lawn. VBS, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Trunk-or-Treat, Memphis PRIDE — we've done it all together. Again, we have been faithful.

And maybe you didn't know it, but you, alone, did an amazing thing.

I was broken in spirit when I came to you. The prior years in both life and ministry had been my hardest. Aiden was born three months after my mother died. I had put my first marriage in hospice care and let it die a pretty painful death. I'd spent two years at a church that wasn't a great fit (for either of us). I'd felt the isolation of single-motherhood and living away from my only family. When I found out I was moving to Trinity, I was afraid my brokenness wouldn't be 'enough' for you.



And you reached out immediately. **YOU laid the groundwork for me to do what we needed to do together** without sacrificing Aiden and Cooper. We moved meetings around and stretched our flexibility muscles to make it all work. You scheduled who would watch the kids, both very little then, so that I could hold meetings. You came running — often — always. I didn't know how to take that at first.

When Josh proposed on the lawn at the parsonage, you rejoiced with me. You embraced him and Reid, Jenna, and Gracie like they were your own, and you offered them the love of family. All I can remember is not knowing this kind of love from a church ever before.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

I am your biggest, loudest cheerleader. Every Sunday I remind the people in my circle that I'm headed to church — to Trinity — because *there's no place I'd rather be*. When I invite people to worship, and I do every week, I tell them that I have to go because that's where I am appointed, but that if it were my choice, that's where I'd choose to be a thousand times over. I am your biggest fan and will continue to be so, always.

The work that is ahead of us this year is no less challenging than the work we've done in prior years. We will continue to explore ways and opportunities for growth while developing a contingency plan for 'different circumstances.' I am committed to creative, strategic plans that direct us toward discipleship as they unfold, as well as practical possibilities that are somewhat harder to stomach. And, where I wish we weren't always working toward something that feels somewhat insurmountable, because that is, at times, the mark of our shared history, I am still and always thankful to be journeying like this with you.

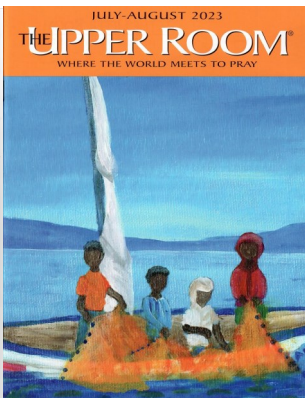
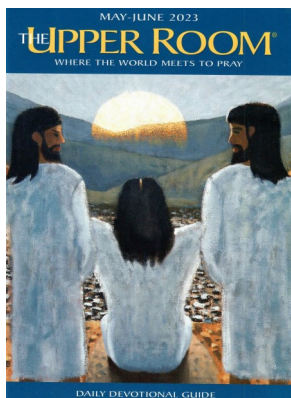
I pray that you will continue to lay the groundwork for us to do what we need to do together, recalling that no plan I make will bear fruit without your support and commitment. I pray that you will continue to show love to my family and celebrate their connections with the community we share. I pray that we, together, will continue to look ahead with hope for what is next and in thanksgiving for what has already been. And, as Paul began so many of his letters, I give thanks to God for you as I remember you, too, in my prayers.

With Praise and Thanksgiving,
Rev. Sara

THE UPPER ROOM

The May/June *Upper Room* devotional guides are 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.

NOTE: The July/August issue of *The Upper Room* arrived early and will be mailed to homebound members soon.



#TUMCMEMPHIS
CELEBRATES



@MEMPHIS PRIDEFEST,
JUNE 3RD



Memphis PRIDE is Saturday, June 3rd, and Trinity will be joining with St. John's UMC and the West TN Area Reconciling Methodists to participate. We have adjoining booth space with both groups and are preparing an interactive experience for those who will stop by our space and elect to participate. If you already know that you would like to help with PRIDE for any amount of time on June 3rd, please let Rev. Sara know.

Happy Birthday, Church!

One of my most vivid memories of my preschool teaching years is that children love birthday parties. In fact, one of the cruelest things a preschooler can say to another child is, "You're not invited to my birthday party." This Sunday we will be having a birthday party to which everyone is invited. It will be Pentecost Sunday, the wonderful day which we recognize as the birthday of the church. It's a celebration of the receipt of an amazing gift from God, one that was marked by fire and wind, the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who believed (and those who believe) in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Son of God.



This week's lesson in our Children's Sunday School Class is a major part of the Christian Church's family story. It's the story of Pentecost, found in Acts 2:1-41. Held 50 days after Passover, Pentecost in the Jewish faith was also called the Festival of Weeks, a thanksgiving celebration of the harvested crops. Jews of many nations had gathered in Jerusalem for this festival. Therefore, Peter's speech after the fire-and-wind-filled arrival of the Holy Spirit was given to an international audience, who had personally heard Jesus' followers speaking to them in their own native tongues. Their "amazed and perplexed" reaction to hearing the Good News proclaimed to each in his own language was, "What does this mean?" After Peter's impassioned sermon, their next response was, "Brothers, what shall we do?" This exciting beginning for the Christian church resulted in the baptism of about 3,000 new converts to Christianity who had not followed Jesus during his earthly life, but who were now brothers and sisters in Christ. It was the beginning of a major evangelistic effort that continues to this day. Isn't that astonishing?!

To think that this is OUR family story, one that is still being lived out to this day at Trinity Church! Sharing the Good News is our role as our children's teachers of the faith, not just Ms. Alyson and me, but each of you as well. Whenever children (or adults) are baptized in our church, our congregation promises to nurture one another as we live out our Christian faith and to care for those being baptized by making this promise:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

(*"The Baptismal Covenant I", The United Methodist Hymnal*)

I can never read these words without crying. These are tears of love and thankfulness, but I am also keenly aware of the huge responsibility that we hold for one another as we continue to learn to live faithfully. Praise God for the gift of His Holy Spirit, without Whom we could never even begin to succeed in this calling.

Peace and love to all,

Irene

Passing on the Good News of Jesus

P.S. I'm writing this the day after I wrote the "official" article for the *Trinotes*. I was prompted to write this second article because when I read today's (May 23rd) devotion from *The Upper Room Disciplines*, it really spoke to me, both as a children's Sunday school teacher and as a grandmother. In the devotion, the author, Emanuel Cleaver III, reminds us that "the blessing of the Holy Spirit that was promised through the prophet Joel and was received on the Day of Pentecost is still available today." In Acts 2:17, Peter references the words spoken by the prophet (Joel 2:28-32) in his words to the crowd in Jerusalem:

In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

In *The Upper Room Disciplines* devotion, Cleaver says, "You can't have an Acts 2 kind of church unless you have both young and old." Then he shares these important words:

It has been stated by many leaders throughout history that the church is always one generation away from extinction. Perhaps that's why when we read scripture, we see how important it was for one generation to share the stories of what God had done for them in years past. It was a way of keeping the message alive as well as connecting each generation with the movement of God. The same is true today: every generation must learn to pass on the good news of Jesus in a manner that resonates with those coming behind them.

You see, our children and youth are the ones who will - or won't - pass on the good news of Jesus to the generation that follows them. When I was a young mother, I did what my mother did with and for me: I took my children to Sunday School each Sunday. Attendance was not optional for me as a child or for my own two sons when they were children. Now, as a grandmother, I invite my grandchildren to come to Sunday School each Sunday. Most Sundays, they choose to come, although not always. When they are here, they may come in mismatched outfits and with uncombed hair, but they are here because they have chosen to be here. I have learned that their being here is the important thing. I want them to choose to come to Sunday School because I want them to come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. How will they know Him otherwise?

When our children come, we do our best to speak to them in the universal language of love and acceptance. It's what we all yearn for, and that's what has been spoken to me and mine at Trinity Church throughout the years. It's what was spoken to me at Hays Avenue Methodist Church in Jackson, Tennessee during my childhood and youth. It's what drew me back to the church after years of estrangement; when I did come back "home," it brought me here to Trinity Church. My friend and teaching partner Ms. Alyson speaks that language so very well, and my own grandchildren adore her for that reason. They are learning to adore the Lord, too, wanting to read the scriptures, eager to pray. My heart sings to see this happening in them and in our other children in Sunday School. It's what keeps me going as a teacher, although I'm always so very deaf and often so greatly fatigued. The first part of my daily prayer for my two granddaughters and for all the children of our Sunday School class is that they may grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man, just as Jesus did. The second thing I pray for them is that they will always be loved and know they are loved. May it be so.

Peace and love,
Irene

Trinity Choir Retreat

On a Wednesday night not so long ago, the choir decided they needed a time to enjoy looking over more music and spending time together. Well, Choir, you get your wish! Friday, May 26th, Trinity's Choir will have a retreat at the home of Kay and Craig Jordan at 1055 Marion Trail in Nesbit, Mississippi. Choir members are invited to bring any music they want to present to the group, a side dish to go with the grilled burgers, and any beverage they want besides iced tea. Sandy Guntharp has volunteered to provide transportation for those who need it. Spouses are welcome! If you have any questions, call Kay Jordan at 901299-2624.



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



Nancy Maddox	June 8
Marc Taylor	June 12
Audrey Webster	June 18
James Webster	June 18
Sam Comes	June 19
Sandy Guntharp	June 21
Eddie Ramsey	June 30



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.

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:

Doris Porter, recovering at home

Charlotte Comes, at home recovering from surgery; chemotherapy planned

Jane Waldrip, in assisted living at Trezevant Terrace

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

Bill Maule, friend of Debby Marston, vascular bypass surgery May 24th; if unsuccessful, amputation may be required; pray for Bill's wife **Carol**, as well.

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 physical therapy

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, injuries to back and neck sustained when her vehicle was rear-ended; recovering slowly but surely with physical therapy.

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.)