

**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.**



## Peace, Love, and the Presence of God

*“Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, and first and will be with the last.” Isaiah 41:4*



Somedays I feel like I was born in the wrong era. I’ve always said that I missed my opportunity to be a part of the Civil Rights movement. There’s not been something as amazing as the lunar landing in my lifetime. Tie-dye and bellbottoms would definitely be my ‘thing’ if it were socially acceptable today. I love midcentury modern styles. Did you know that I collect midcentury modern glass? I have a huge vintage pyrex collection and I love genie-bottle decanters and swung glass vases from the 60’s and 70’s. And just about any day, I’d rather listen to the Beatles, the Beach Boys, Simon and Garfunkel, or James Taylor. Some of it is how I was raised. I wonder if some of it is because the time we’re in seems so broken. I find it strange, though, that rather than wishing for what’s ahead, I (like many of us) would rather look back to what was, even if, as it is for me, it was something we never experienced.



It’s conflicting to be disappointed with the now and wishing for what once was when what was wasn’t perfect either. I cannot imagine myself what it felt like to live in a segregated world. We haven’t gotten racism right just yet, but we aren’t segregated. I can’t imagine what it was like to be a woman in a world where there were so many things women couldn’t yet do — not that we’ve gotten it right just yet (particularly when it comes to equal wages). I cannot imagine what it was like to live without so much of the present-day technology — the world at our fingertips. And yet, there’s something about that era I lament not being a part of — never living in a world with people like Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, or John Lennon really draws me to a sense of lament for being an 80’s child who “missed out.”

Maybe I look back because I know what came of the Civil Rights movement and, in many ways, I celebrate those who were brave enough to march and protest. Maybe it’s because I know what discoveries of science came from us landing on the moon. Maybe it’s because I can see how we’ve progressed over time and know and realize that, with any luck, we are still moving on to the next best thing. At least that’s what we hope history is doing to write (or right) itself.

A few years ago, Rosemary Potter lent me a really interesting timeline of the church’s financial history. I can in truth say that I’ve never looked at a graph of church financials before and been able to see where it might be pinpointed that God came and worked for the benefit of the church — that even amid the lines and numbers we can spot glimpses of God’s doing, maybe not a NEW thing, but another thing.

The same goes with any period of history. We can look back at whatever era we prefer and, if we’re looking for it, spot the hand of God at work — like a potter — shaping creation into something beautiful. Just as we can see God’s hand at work in the church financials throughout history, we are able to see where the Spirit of the Lord has been and what it’s been doing.

We look back to see that. With perseverance we look around us to see it now, though it always seems

*(continued on page 2)*

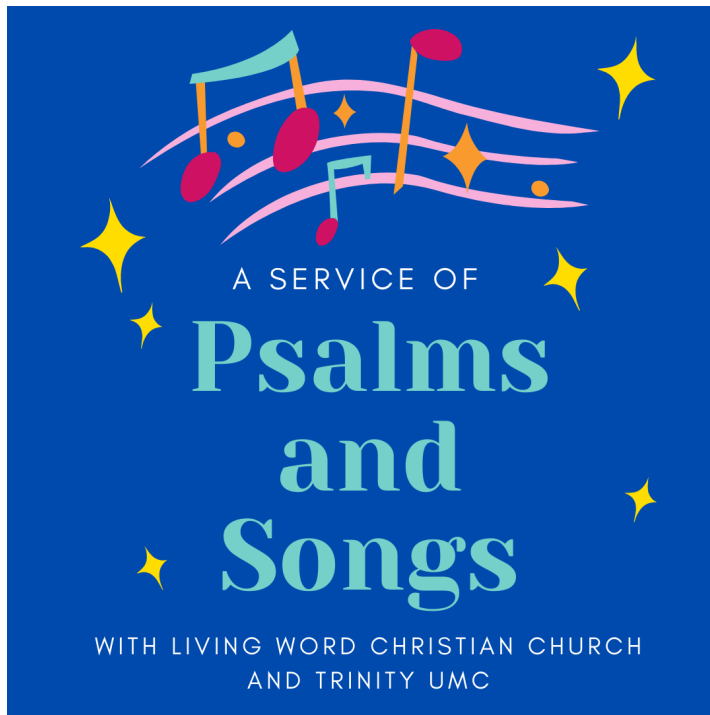


(continued from page 1)

clearer in hindsight. I wonder if God isn't challenging us to next look ahead to catch the movement of the Spirit. I wonder if God isn't hoping that, instead of looking at "what was" for how God DID move, or even now, for how God IS moving, we might look ahead expectantly to see, not where we want to go, but where God is calling us.

Either way God has been, God is, and God will be. Whatever the next big thing is in our world, God is there. Wherever history takes us next, God is already there. Wherever you are in this moment, God is there too. Thanks be to God.

Waiting on the Holy Spirit,  
Rev. Sara



This Sunday (May 29th) is a FIFTH Sunday. It is Ascension Sunday and we will celebrate by having a church-wide breakfast with Living Word Christian Church and a service of Psalms and Songs. It is our hope that our songs of praise will ascend to the heavens as we worship alongside our sister church. Worship is at 11:00.

## 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!



## Feed My Sheep

I invite you to read this conversation between Jesus and Peter which occurred during Jesus' third appearance to his disciples after his resurrection from the dead:

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)

After Jesus' arrest, Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times. But Jesus was not yet finished with Peter. In the above encounter with Peter, Jesus gives him three opportunities to profess his love for Jesus. When Peter assures Jesus of his love, Jesus gives him directions for the future: "Feed my sheep." During his ministry Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd who cared for his flock. Jesus is turning over the care of his flock to Peter. The way to show your love for me, Jesus tells Peter, is to take care of those I love. This will be Peter's opportunity to get it right, to answer his Lord and Master faithfully in both words and actions.

What about you and me? I invite you to read the words of John 21:15-17 once again. This time, I encourage you to say your name instead of Peter's name. Does it read differently to you this time? Does it tug at your heartstrings in some way? I hope it does. When we read scripture as if it is written to us personally, it gives us an entirely different perspective on life and on ministry. (See Aiden's illustration below for an example.)

Jesus' instructions to Peter are true for us today as well. The best way to show our love for Jesus as his faithful disciples is by taking care of those he loves. When we studied this Bible story several weeks ago in our Children's Sunday School Class, we talked about ways we can share Jesus' love with people. We decided at that time that our class would once again sponsor a food drive and invite our faith family at Trinity Church to participate. We will be collecting food for both the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry offered by our partners in ministry at Binghampton United Methodist Mission AND our own Tiny Pantry.

Please bring your food items to worship each Sunday. There will be special collection boxes for your contributions at the back of the Worship Center. The following proteins are needed: canned or packaged chicken, tuna, sardines, Vienna sausages, and peanut butter. Other suggested items are canned or packaged fruits and vegetables, dried or canned beans, rice, soups, and cereals. Please do NOT bring food in glass containers. Financial contributions are also welcome; indicate one food pantry or both.

The Lord says to us, "Do you love me, Trinity Church? Feed my sheep." What will our response be?

Peace and love,  
Irene and Alyson





# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS



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.

TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS

## *Change of Address*

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



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



June 8	Nancy Maddox
June 9	Gene Opel
June 12	Marc Taylor
June 18	Audrey Webster
June 18	James Webster
June 19	Sam Comes
June 21	Sandy Guntharp
June 30	Eddie Ramsey



A decorative header featuring a horizontal band of colorful paint splatters in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The text is centered over this band.

## BECOMING A RECONCILING CHURCH

# THIS NOT THAT

### **The Church Will:**

Work to advance justice and inclusion for LGBTQ+ people in our congregation and community. Make known to our community that we believe LGBTQ+ persons are of sacred worth to God and our church and that they have a safe place in our space.

### **The Church May:**

Partner with community organizations that work with the LGBTQ community. Attend Memphis PRIDE. Adopt signage that makes clear our care and inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons. Vote on the side of inclusion at Annual Conference.

### **The Church Won't:**

Work in opposition of the UM Book of Discipline. Marry or ordain those whom the Book of Discipline prohibits us from marrying or ordaining in our church body or building.



## 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)

**Bobby Glover** in very upsetting housing situation

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

Chris Glover's family members: **Jennifer & Ron** positive for COVID-19; **Bill** has had an emergency hospitalization

**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**, serious back problem, receiving therapy in preparation for extended treatment; grieving loss of family

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

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

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.)*