

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.



From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

New Beginnings

Do not remember the former things, 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

As we slowly but surely approach the summer season, I do so with a bit of fear and trembling. Just as it has for every season over the last year, everything is about to change again. Many are tip-toeing carefully outside without masks on. Others are eating

out again with friends. Children 12 and up are being escorted to pharmacies to get what they hope will protect them from covid so that they can safely go to summer camp. The younger ones are still anxiously waiting for scientists to develop theirs. Parents are counting down the days for school to end. A lot of children still have weeks of school left. But, what will summer look like?

I remember last summer was the longest in history. When you have school-aged children (and perhaps some of you remember this), summer isn't marked by the solstice. It's when school lets out until school resumes. School let out in March last year (instead of late May), and didn't resume again, around here, until the beginning of September. It was the longest summer in history for school-aged children and their poor parents. Adding to that was that there was nothing we could safely do. We learned how to ride bikes without training wheels. We blew up a 10-foot pool in the yard and desperately patched holes in it for weeks. We played corn hole, read books, ate popsicles. There were too many hours in the day, days in the week, weeks in the month. Summer was never-ending.

This year it looks like it'll be different. But what will it be? What should it be?

Every time I move to a new church, I kindly ask that on my first Sunday in worship, we sing, "This is a Day of New Beginnings." I love the hymn, in and of itself. It's got a lovely melody. The words are perfect. What once was is no longer. What is ahead will be what it is. In both circumstances, God is there. I'm also very drawn to the above scripture, quite often. The hope that's found in the simple reminder that God is doing a new thing. It's not, "WE" are doing a new thing. God is. It's our job to witness and live into what that is.

We're carefully walking back into corporate worship together. We're hesitantly planning vacation travel. We parents are over here praying hard that nothing changes negatively this summer so that our kids can safely return to classrooms in August. Where last year we were lamenting, this year we are hoping. Where last year we were desperately looking for small, good things to hang onto for dear life, this year we see, very clearly, signs of hope all around us. Of course, the beautiful reality is that those signs were always there and are always there, pointing us toward God's next "new thing."

I want to invite you to pray with me about all that's ahead. I want to ask you to make a priority your faith life this summer — to, as you feel safe, join us for worship — to, tune in until your "new thing" is the confidence and assurance of your safety — and to notice signs of hope, of newness, of God's grace all around. It's there. It always has been and always will be.

This is a day of new beginnings.

With Great Hope,
Rev. Sara



Happy Birthday, Church!

On Pentecost Sunday, the lesson in our Children's Sunday School Class focused on that important day in our church history – the day that God sent his Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers. We all wore red in celebration of Pentecost. We also celebrated the event by each child's providing his/her own special snack for a little party, during which we sang "Happy Birthday" to the church.

Our Sunday School class has launched a **CANNED FOOD DRIVE** for the benefit of the **FISHES AND LOAVES FOOD PANTRY**, which is run by our partners in ministry, Binghampton United Methodist Mission. We want to encourage all members of Trinity Church to **bring sacks filled with canned and boxed food to our first on-site worship service in June**. Proteins needed for the food pantry include canned chicken, tuna, Vienna sausages, and peanut butter. Other suggested items are boxed macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, and dried or canned beans. No glass containers, please! Of course, donations to the food pantry are welcome at any time, but we hope members will respond generously on the first Sunday that we gather as a church family once again in our Worship Center. It will be a wonderful opportunity to engage in worship and service at the same time!

Our Children's Sunday School Class will continue to meet virtually on Zoom during the summer months. However, we will take a two-week hiatus on June 6 and June 13. Our kids who are in public schools will be finishing up their school year during those first two weeks of June. Ms. Alyson will also be out of town on vacation, and we decided this would be a good time for us all to take a little break. When we resume Zooming, we will do our best to keep our lessons to 45 minutes in length, so families will have enough time to get to the worship services.

As always, we appreciate your prayers for our class, for our children and their families, and for students and teachers in our school systems, both public and private.

Peace in Christ,
Alyson and Irene

We CAN Love!



The CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS invites you to participate in a CANNED FOOD DRIVE. Bring canned and boxed food for the **FISHES AND LOAVES FOOD PANTRY** to our first on-site worship in June!

Come to our Can Drive



Sean

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME

During the week before Pentecost Sunday, one of our lectionary readings was from Romans 8:22-27. These words from that passage always touch my heart: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” For me, these are some of the most beautiful and powerful words in all of scripture.

I am a praying person; I believe in the power of prayer. But I must confess that there are times that I willfully refuse to pray, because my pride and self-idolatry insist that I can handle situations by myself. There are other times that I have felt unable to pray, times that I was so discouraged and so dispirited that I had convinced myself that I was walking alone “through the valley of the shadow of death.” It is during some of those infrequent “dark nights of the soul” that I have truly felt the Presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.

In the early days of our marriage, when Joe and I were looking to buy a home, the area in which we were most interested was the Vollentine-Evergreen neighborhood. We loved the charm and unique features of the homes and the beautiful, large trees that graced the neighborhood. But the greatest attraction for us was that it was a stable integrated neighborhood. I was working at that time for the YWCA, an institution whose imperative was “The Elimination of Racism, Wherever It Exists and by Any Means Necessary.” I felt that I had moved on from my segregationist upbringing into a new and open-minded view of society.

Both of our sons were born during our early years at 877 University Street. Both began their public school experience at Vollentine School under Plan Z of the federal busing program. Vollentine School and Snowden School were paired under this plan, with students scheduled to attend Vollentine in Grades K through 3, after which they went to Snowden for grades 4 and up. But there were very few white families who chose to send their children to Vollentine School. There were four white children in in my older son Patton’s first-grade classroom, maybe a dozen in the whole grade. (Two years later, my son Andrew would be the only white child in his first-grade classroom.) I had been directing the Adopt-a-School program at Vollentine on behalf of Trinity Church for a year and a half, and so I knew what fine teachers and parents there were at that school, having worked closely with many of them. In addition to that, Trinity’s minister at that time was Rev. Dave Hilliard, who was a passionate supporter of public education and whose own son Hank was a student at Vollentine.

But one afternoon, as I was standing at the west exit of the school, where Patton’s first-grade class always came out of the building, I found myself in deep despair. My years of growing up in a segregated society and the fears and prejudices that were instilled in me during that time suddenly threatened to overwhelm me. Forget those liberal beliefs that I thought I held! Ignore the Christian love and ethics that I had been taught from childhood and that I professed to believe! My increasing anxiety about going against the social norm had reached the panic point, and I wanted to run for the hills and to take my little white kid with me.

There were two other adults standing outside that entrance that day, both of them African-American, a young woman and an elderly man, and I remember thinking, “They surely love their children as much as I love mine.” As the doors opened, the children poured out of school, and among the mostly black children there was a little blonde first-grader named Patton Dycus. It was then that the strangest thing happened to me. Inexplicably, a deep and profound sense of calm settled over me. It seemed for just a few seconds as if everything moved in slow motion, and then these words came to me: “These are my people.” And I knew - I knew - that God was speaking directly to my heart. There were no sudden winds, no flames dancing above heads, no doves descending from heaven, but I have never once doubted that the Holy Spirit was directly speaking to me at that moment, praying with me and for me in that time of my great need. I have carried those words - “These are my people” - with me in my heart and mind throughout the forty years since that

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occurrence. Believe me, I have had to pull them to the forefront time and again, whenever I have found myself having difficulty loving someone, most especially someone who is very different from me in appearance or beliefs.

Our sons (and we as parents) had good years in our association with the public schools. Both sons graduated from Central High School, their father's alma mater, as scholar-athletes. Both earned excellent college scholarships. Andrew now teaches Art at Central High School. Over the years they have expressed appreciation to me for their public-school experiences, most especially for the social experience of going to school with kids whose backgrounds were often quite different from theirs.

On my morning walks now, I sing and pray silently. One of the songs that I always sing in my head is this: "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me." I know that He is always there with me. I hope you know that He is with you as well.

Peace and love,
Irene

Remember those in our community who need help

Please donate canned goods, including proteins such as tuna & chicken, beans, beef ravioli, etc., as well as boxed staple items and granola or protein bars. When shopping, think about foods that don't need refrigeration & won't spoil if carried around in a backpack. Canned foods with pop-tops are ideal. Keep our Tiny Pantry well-stocked!



May 10	Bill "Mac" McConnell
May 14	Jeri Ashley
May 27	Mike Dodson
May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 28	Chris Glover

[If anyone's birthday has been overlooked, please contact us at 901-274-6895 (leave a message) or send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org.]



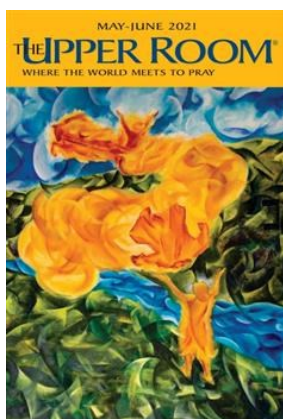
June 8	Nancy Maddox
June 9	Gene Opel
June 12	Marc Taylor
June 18	Audrey Webster
June 19	Sam Comes
June 21	Sandy Guntharp
June 30	Eddie Ramsey



Trinity Sunday—May 30, 2021

ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org so your e-mail address can be added to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to the *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]



MAY/JUNE

The large and regular print versions of the May/June issue of Upper Room can be picked up from the front porch of the church building. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out.

E-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call and leave a message on the church office voicemail: 901-274-6895 or . Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.

Endings & Beginnings

A Community Gathering of Reflection, Healing and Hope

As we emerge from a long disruption, you are invited to a time of remembering what we've been through and a time to find our collective hope for the future. The gathering will include self-guided activity stations and time to reconnect as a community of neighbors, businesses, schools and churches. Come on your own or bring your family.

All are welcome!

Friday, June 4 @ 6pm
Trinity UMC (in the lawn)
 rain date Sunday, June 6 @ 6pm



SUMMER CAMP 2021

3rd - 8th Grade



July 12th - 16th

July 19th - 23rd

Monday - Friday / 9 am - 5 pm

www.newspark901.org

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; 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 in their early months in office—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. Dr. Deborah Smith

Trinity UMC - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they attend school, whether virtually or in person; 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

Gary Owens, Alyson Foreman's father, completed course of IV antibiotics; experiencing much pain in knees, making it difficult to walk, so will receive injection of steroid to reduce inflammation.

Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, injured when her car was hit head-on; broken wrist & breaks in her back with major bruising caused by her seatbelt

Kanyon Glover, now 2 years old and doing well: a happy, valiant fighter, according to Chris

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, bone marrow test showed his cancer has returned

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

Irene Opel improving following surgery for skin cancer removals; **Gene Opel**, still medically fragile

Jeri Ashley, multiple health concerns, moved to Nashville to be near family

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, on home health care, then on hospice care.

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia with broken hip, in rehab

Charles Abraham, back in rehab and showing gradual improvement

Val Coates, recovering at home from shoulder surgery

George Marston, undergoing dialysis for Stage V kidney disease

The friends and family of **Pat Lovington**, who passed away peacefully in her sleep

Nancy Rankin, pancreatic cancer, starting chemotherapy at home; for **Nelda Gray** as she cares for her

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.)*