

# 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.**



## Give Mercy

*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."*

Luke 6:36-37

I said something in this week's sermon that I hope resonates with those of you who are able to tune in via Facebook Live on Sundays at 11:00. I recognize that isn't all of us and so, perhaps it's important to reiterate an important point of the sermon in our newsletter. I said, "Jesus got out of the way [in his ascension] so that we could pick up the mantle and embody God's mercy for the world." I want us to stick with that for a while. I wonder if that isn't a major piece of the next part of our journey.

Mercy is different than grace, or, well, mercy is a part of grace. Grace pardons us for our sin. Grace exemplifies God's patience. Grace is something we offer a child who accidentally does a, b, or c. Mercy is a sign of grace that frees us, or another, to move ahead — leaving the guilt behind. It's the gift of absolution.

It was incredibly meaningful for me, in my teens, to recognize that God's mercy was a central part of the plan in the resurrection of Jesus. I remember reflecting on what it would mean to be a parent who willingly offered the life of their child for the sake of the world. I can recall reflecting, in pain, how awful it felt to think that my shortcomings — my sin — was the reason Jesus had to die. I remember that hurting. I couldn't process it well. I felt guilty.

And I think in some churches you might hear the message of guilt for our sins — that we ought not choose sin because we will feel the guilt and burden of driving the nails into the cross. However, the guilt of sin should not be the reason that we are faithful.

I think that's where mercy comes in. The forgiveness of our sins is an act of grace. Christ's death and subsequent resurrection are an act (or gift) of grace from God. God's mercy, though, frees us from the guilt of sin — frees us for joyful obedience. Our life in Christ, therefore, is joyful and active for the sake of the kingdom. We don't walk around on eggshells, hoping we don't fail lest we carry the burden of guilt again. We have been given God's grace as an act of mercy to be joyfully obedient.

Consider, then, what kind of power we have been given. Christ got out of the way so that, not he, but **we** may give mercy to others in his name. Maybe you don't think that gift or responsibility is yours. I can hear you saying, "That's for the pastor to do," but it's not at all. That is a gift we've each received — the power and responsibility even, to give to others the mercy we received in Christ — to empower others to move ahead without the weight of guilt to do no more harm; to do good, and to stay in love with God.

I wonder what that might mean for us in the days ahead. Maybe it's time to look at the power of forgiveness in our world. I don't think anyone would disagree that there are relationships in our

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current climate that need healing. How would that free our culture, our society, our church, our families for joyful obedience? How would the world change if we could, free from the guilt of sin, move ahead with the assurance of God's mercy to make the world more like the Kingdom of God? Will you pray with me?

*God of grace and God of mercy, we love you for all you are and all we are in you. Every day, you remind us of our blessedness — of how you came to us in Jesus Christ that we might receive your grace and mercy. God, this is a gift that changed the world and will continue to change the world if we can give it to others. Make us brave, O God. Help us to find others who would heal if only they knew that you have freed them from the burden and guilt of their sin. Help us to claim that freedom ourselves as we offer mercy to the world in your name. Amen.*

Be blessed and be well,  
*Rev. Sara*



**LAKESHORE**  
united methodist camp & retreat center

The mission of Lakeshore is to offer ways for ALL to encounter life, love and the God of Grace.

As of now, Lakeshore is still working to offer camps for a part of the summer. All of that is dependent upon where the Coronavirus leads us, and camps will be modified to meet health and safety protocols issued by the CDC. Please check Lakeshore's website to be up-to-date on how they are moving ahead with camp. At this point, you CAN register your child for camps from late June to the first week in August. This may change. If camps remain open, we encourage you, using your best judgment concerning your child, to send your child. Trinity wants to support you.

If you would like your children to attend camp this summer, you can get registration, schedules, and other information at [Lakeshorecamp.org](http://Lakeshorecamp.org). The church has limited funds to assist with partial scholarships, so please contact Debby Marston in the church office before registering so that she can help you with the process. [Email [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or call 901-274-6895 to leave a message.]

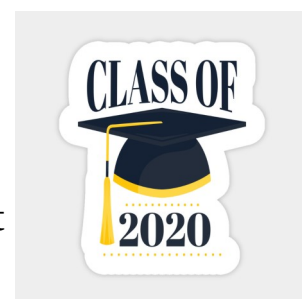
Thank you,  
Carol Miller



Trinity's Children's Ministry team and Trinity staff regret that we had to make the difficult decision to cancel Vacation Bible School this summer due to Covid-19. Know that we hope to connect with our children in the summer by other means.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

**Rachel Adkins** and **Joey Hopper** graduated 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 of Thomas Merton

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

# Tiny Pantry

Friends, our Tiny Pantry continues to need replenishing. With most of our church activities being held online, there are fewer opportunities for bringing food items for the Pantry than we had before COVID-19. At the same time the need for food for many persons has increased. Whenever you know you will be near 1738 Galloway, would you consider bringing items for the Pantry? Our larger community will appreciate your thoughtful sharing.



—Craig Jordan



May 27	Mike Dodson
May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 28	Chris Glover



June 8	Nancy Maddox
June 12	Marc Taylor
June 17	Pat Lovington
June 18	Aubrey Webster

June 18	James Webster
June 19	Sam Comes
June 21	Sandy Guntharp
June 30	Eddie Ramsey

# Alone Together: the 2020 Pentecost paradox

by Joe Iovino of United Methodist Communications



The Pentecost story begins with a sentence that in previous years was easily overlooked: “When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1 CEB). After weeks of separation due to stay-at-home orders, social distancing, and quarantine, those seven words, “they were all together in one place,” have renewed significance.

While the thought of being together for Pentecost worship on May 31, 2020, *sounds* good, for many of us it will be impossible. We’ll have to settle instead for celebrating online, using Zoom, Facebook, YouTube or some other remote option as we have since March.

We won’t see the red paraments in person, join the kids in singing “Happy Birthday” to the church during children’s time, or see our friends all dressed up in red for the day. Instead, we’ll worship from home, longing for the day when in-person worship will resume and we can again be together in one place.

Pentecost 2020 reminds us that the Holy Spirit, who draws us together, is present with us while we remain apart.

## Overcoming barriers

In Acts 2, we read the Pentecost story. With the rush of a mighty wind and individual flames of fire (the reason for all the red), the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples in a powerful way. They then “speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak” (vs. 4).

Language barriers between the disciples and those who gathered from all over the world to celebrate *Shavuot*, a harvest festival also known as *Pentecost*, are overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. Each person hears the disciples speak in his or her native language.

The disciples’ invitation to join them in following Jesus is well received. “God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day,” the Bible tells us. *They went from small group to megachurch in a moment!* At the end of the story, the Holy Spirit’s power to bring people together is evident. The “community of believers” worshiped, prayed, studied, and ate *together*. United Methodists are missing all of those things during these days of social distancing.

## Alone together

The paradox of Pentecost 2020 is that we’re giving up our together time because we recognize our connectedness. Yes, we’re apart. But because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are not alone. Pentecost reminds us of our connection to God and one another.

Acts 2:47 tells us that the first church “praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone.” Online worship and social distancing are a couple of ways we are following their example today.

Pentecost 2020 reminds us of how good it is when we are “all together in one place.” It also highlights that even when being together isn’t possible, the Holy Spirit overcomes barriers like language and social distance to connect us with one another.

While we’re apart, we continue to be the church for one another, because the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we are.

## 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, whether they have lost jobs, contracted the virus, lost a loved one, or suffer isolation; 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 look forward to a very different summer and for their peace of mind during the current crisis; for graduating seniors who leave behind childhood and move into adult lives; 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 an 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 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

**Natalie Christensen's father**—health concerns

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