Trinotes

May 28, 2025

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.

PRIDE

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. Genesis 9:12-14a

I am a passionate person. I've figured out that, that is the most right way to put it. When there is something on my heart, normally it is some injustice that simply will not let go of me, I have to do something about it. I have to address it, or fix it, or change it. For someone who is deathly afraid of being confrontational, in general, that puts me in an anxiety-inducing position on a regular basis.

When I was in seminary, I discovered what was weighing on my heart the most. It was such a heavy weight that I couldn't imagine finishing school and going into the local church. The Church I loved, at the time, was not yet a place for all God's children. How could I become a part of an institution that by NOT including was, in fact, EXcluding children made in the image of an almighty, all-knowing, all-loving God? The reality was that I knew I was called to it and that meant I couldn't ignore it.

What would I do, then?

I'd change it.

Back then I didn't know that I'd serve a church that supported the heavy parts of my heart and wouldn't only ALLOW me the freedom to be prophetic about inclusion, but would join me in creating a church for all God's children. Back then I didn't know that I'd attend General Conference 2020/24 and become one of the voices that would shift the entire denomination. Back THEN, I was simply a disgruntled, outspoken, PASSIONATE seminary student with hopes that seemed to get further and further out of reach with each passing day. I was told that it wouldn't happen in my lifetime, and it happened before I turned 40.

It's been a year since that powerful General Conference. The United Methodist Church made national news that day. Since, I have seen churches struggle with identities that haven't really changed at all. I have seen churches fight to hold onto control over their power to be exclusionary. And I have seen Trinity at peace in a way that I never thought I would. We have not fought to put on paper rules about who can get married in our building on the premise of their sexuality being what was once deemed "incompatible with Christian teaching," (something the UM Judicial Council has said that the trustees of a church cannot do anyway.) We have not tried to get out of the decades-old trust clause of the UMC, so that we might become congregational rather than connectional. We have not tried to leave the denomination and have not been shy about who we are. We have been at peace with OUR identity because now, those whom we've carried in our hearts for so long, can be completely at peace with THEIR identity.

If that's not the Church being the Church — doing good things — doing no harm — then I don't know what is. If that's not the peace of Christ with us, the work of the Holy Spirit within us, and the everlasting promise of a Triune God, again, I don't really know what is.

After the flood, God painted the sky with a 'bow' as a promise that God would never chose destruction as a means by which to cleanse creation ever again. That makes a rainbow, for us, a reminder of God's promises to us, to never forsake us, to be "for us," and to continue to dwell among us.

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In June we'll see lots of rainbows. They're painted across our culture as a celebration of the identity of a diverse world of persons created in the image of God. They are, again, signs and symbols of a promise made to ALL creation, that we are, each and every one, loved by God.

I hope you will be proud of the person God has helped you to become and, in June especially, join others as they, too, celebrate the people God has helped THEM to become.

With joy; with PRIDE,
Rev. Sara

Memphis Pride

Memphis Pridefest is Saturday, June 7th, at Robert Church Park from 11:00 until 4:00. Trinity will have a booth. For more details about transportation, parking, and entrance fees, or if you'd like to participate, please reach out to Kay Jordan or Rev. Sara.

On June 8th, we will celebrate unity and diversity after worship with a Pride Party Potluck. Chicken will be provided, but we need side dishes and desserts. We hope you'll choose a dish to bring and come participate as we fellowship under the umbrella of God's love.

Immigrant Relief & Sojourners' Loan Fund

Binghampton United Methodist Mission (aka BUMM) has been in the forefront of ministry to the immigrant community in Memphis. Since 2020, Trinity has helped BUMM administer their funds as they seek to assist families and individuals needing financial help. Now they have established a fund to be used for loans to those needing legal representation when a loved one faces deportation. In a matter of just a few weeks, they have raised just over $8,000, but that won't go far, given the number of people needing assistance and the high cost of attorney fees. Your donations can make the difference between the disruption of a family and their ability to stay together. Give to the Sojourners' Revolving Loan Fund.

EMPOWERED: The Holy Spirit empowers us. This is the theme and faith focus for our new quarter of study in the Children's Sunday School Class. In this unit, our children will be learning about faith in action through Bible stories that teach them about the Holy Spirit and that help them learn about how the Holy Spirit empowers them personally to act on their faith. Through creative faith activities, our children will learn how we as the church received - and continue to receive - the Holy Spirit. They will be engaging with Bible stories that demonstrate the ways the Holy Spirit works within each of us.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." This scripture (Acts 1:8) is part of the larger Bible lesson from Acts 1:1-11. This coming Sunday, we will study this Bible story, along with the one from John 20:19-23, as we learn about Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit in his visit to his disciples after his resurrection. These two stories are combined to demonstrate the power of Jesus' ministry and his Spirit that lives on in us to keep sharing the Good News. It is the Holy Spirit that enables all disciples, both children and adults, to feel and to know Jesus' call on our lives and that equips and empowers us to keep doing the work of Christ in our world today.

As we approach Vacation Bible School at Trinity, we remember this especially because there is nothing more important than to share the Good News with children, both with our own Trinity children, as well as with others whom we may not yet know. Today, we as the church face a lot of competition - from birthday parties and sleepovers that spill over into Sunday mornings to "participation fatigue" from over-scheduled activities for our children. Many families have no church affiliation whatsoever. Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are no longer givens in children's lives. The importance of a gracious invitation is more important than ever. Our biblical calling to invite, the first step in calling others, is essential. It is life-giving and lifesaving. You may be one of those people who say you "don't do children." Here's what I say to that: You may not be a person who works hands-on in some way with children, but we are all called to be Christians who invite. If you don't think you can do activities with kids, you can help prepare the meal for VBS. If you can't be physically present to prepare the meal, you can make a financial donation toward that meal. Hey, folks, we're having pizza for each of our four VBS meals this year; how easy can it get? Of course, our on-site dinner helpers know that there's more to a meal than that, and they are going to be on hand to take care of all those other essential details. Praise God, we have 22 individuals who will be helping in some way with this year's VBS! If you are also interested in helping, please let Rev. Rebekah Gienapp or Irene Dycus know. Above all else, please be in prayer for all who will be participating!

CALLED BY GOD (Vacation Bible School 2025) will take place on four Tuesday nights in a row, June 10th-July 1st, 6:00 to 7:45 p.m.! Children ages 4 through 8th grade are invited to join us for dinner, Biblical storytelling, and fun with art and science, as we learn about the many ways God has called people of the past and calls us today. Faith, food, fun and fellowship all rolled into one! Invite all the kids you know!

VBS Registration

Peace and love to all,
Irene

FEED THE NEED

Have you ever been hungry, really hungry? Not just "peckish" or experiencing a craving for ice cream or a candy bar, but famished, even starving? Jesus had compassion on the four thousand who had been following him for days and didn't want to send them away hungry, fearing they would faint along the way. (*Matthew 15:32*) He instructed his disciples to find food for them and, despite their skepticism, provided thousands of people with more food than they could finish. We can't work miracles of that magnitude, but we can feed hungry people out of our Food Pantry and Tiny Food Pantry. We can utilize our food voucher fund to purchase Kroger cards to hand out to our neighbors who need a little help buying groceries. In order to do any of that, we need your help.

You can write a check to Trinity UMC in any amount, large or small, designating that donation to one of our food pantries or to the food voucher fund. Five dollars pays for a 20 pound box of food purchased from Catholic Charities. Twenty-five dollars purchases a Kroger card. You can donate pop-top cans of food to the Tiny Pantry: Vienna sausages, ravioli, fruit, etc. There's a box under the bulletin board outside the kitchen to receive your donated unperishable food. Before you shop, think about the person in need and pick those food items that can be eaten out of the container without heating, that will fit easily into a backpack and not weigh too much. Check with Sue Taylor, the Tiny Pantry manager, for ideas. The big Food Pantry can always use canned fruits and vegetables to supplement the 20 pound food boxes. Jesus said, "...for I was hungry and you gave me food…" Feed the need.

It's important to keep up with our worship attendance, so please be sure and fill out one of the attendance forms you'll find in the slim black folder on your chair row Sunday morning and pass it along to your neighbor.

May Birthdays

Christy LaFlamme	*May 5*
Bill "Mac" McConnell	*May 10*
Lily Hamric	*May 21*
Mike Dodson	*May 26*
Jenna McClurkin	*May 26*
Josh McClurkin	*May 26*
Chris Glover	*May 28*

June Birthdays

Jack Gabriel	*June 8*
Rob Landrigan	*June 15*
Sandy Guntharp	*June 21*
Neil Ostrander	*June 28*

GOLDEN CROSS
Senior Ministries

Golden Cross Senior Ministries has an ongoing need for help in gathering daily use items for seniors living in Wesley Living Communities, and our UWF has responded with a big "YES!" A big yellow box has been placed under the bulletin board to accept your donations. All items should be new, not leftovers. Here's a list of what's needed:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Facial tissues
- Laundry soap
- Puzzles
- Card Games
- Cleaning supplies
- Denture care items
- Pillows (new, in plastic)
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Disposable adult undergarments
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon sizes)
- New bath towel sets (wash cloth, hand town, bath towel)
- New full sized bed sheet sets
- Small kitchen items (potholders, utensils, dish towels)
- Crossword puzzles/word search books
- New arts & crafts supplies
- Coloring books and coloring pencils

A Move In Kit List is clipped to the yellow box. This would be a great project for a Sunday School class or other group. The approximate cost is $325.00 for a Move In Kit. (Monetary donations preferred.)

UMVIM
UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION
Christian love in action!

Project 20/20

The mission of Project 20/20 is to prevent blindness and improve vision among the indigent and working poor in underdeveloped areas of the world. This is accomplished by providing sunglasses, eyeglasses, and other support to volunteer medical teams that contribute professional service in those areas.

- Recycled sunglasses prevent blindness by eye diseases caused by intense sunlight, wind, or dust in tropical and high altitude countries.
- Recycled eyeglasses improve vision when dispensed by licensed professionals free to children and adults in developing countries.
- Financial and technical assistance enable
- optometry students and medical teams to provide humanitarian service in areas desperate for medical assistance.

You can help with this important ministry by donating used prescription or reading glasses. Inexpensive reading glasses are available at Dollar Tree or similar stores for purchase, as well. There is a box in the Galloway lobby for glasses. If you wish to make a monetary donation, write a check to United Methodist Church for Project 20/20 and mail it to:

Emmanuel UMC
2404 Kirby Rd.
Memphis, TN 38119.

United Women in Faith

UWF Update

Nineteen women of faith met 23 May for our last potluck in the Center until September. Treasurer Sandy brought us up to date with an encouraging financial report. Members discussed the books we read from the UWF reading program. Books are available in the cart in the office. Sue delivered a thought and conversation provoking lesson on Judas to complete our study of 12 Ordinary Men. We will begin our discussions from The Upper Room on 26 September when we resume potlucks in the Center.

June 27 will find us meeting at 11:30 in Cooper's (formerly Café Ole) at 959 South Cooper. The theme for the auction will be 3 P's: pillows, plants, or pots, or plants in pots. July's location has yet to be chosen (bring suggestions), but the auction theme will be books. Neither the location nor theme for August's meeting has been chosen. (Again, bring suggestions.)

Remember, you need not be a Methodist; you need not be a Trinitarian. You need only be a woman of faith. Come join us for the fellowship, the service, and the fun. You will be welcome.

Joan Smith, President

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 struggle due to lost jobs, threatened deportation, 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 Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. David Graves; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

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:

Sharman Murley & Frank Cantrell's son, **Frank, Jr.**, heart issues

Pam Stafford battling liver disease, surgery planned for June 13th; husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia

Joan Smith's friend **Donna Brewer**, hospitalized with fluid on her lungs

Elizabeth Hopper, for healing following surgery for thyroid cancer

Family of Marshall Selvidge (Martha Ostenrude's husband): his mother, **Marjorie Selvidge**, died April 29th.

Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey**, daughter **Sandi**, and the Ramsey family

Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's

Irene Dycus' friend **Susan Todd** and family on the death of her husband **Allen**

Pray for **David Chenault**: serious injuries due to motorcycle accident may require amputation of leg. (from Joan S.)

Kate and **Neil Ostenrude**, as she continues to recover; strength to persevere in life's trials

Joan Foley's daughter, **Olivia Flasdick**, after eye surgery

For Sharman Murley's grandsons **Asa** (improved behavior!) and **Eli** (high performing autism diagnosis)

Chris Glover's sister, **Sherry Carruthers**

The family of **Mac Gardner** and his spouse, **Marty Acree** (friends of Elizabeth Hopper)

Katy Spake's cousin, **Deb Roark**: cancer in right ear, jawbone, gums; Deb's husband **Keith**: stage 4 pancreatic cancer, spots on liver & bile ducts

Seth Norton, Raquel's son, ongoing medical concerns

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment

Suzanne Thompson of Election Commission, recovering from spinal fusion surgery

Kanyon Glover, heart received as baby checks out okay; receives PT for arm damaged by stroke

Jacob Foreman, for new part time job to go well; nerve damage & back pain continues

Gene Archer, stomach cancer, scan last week doesn't look good: awaiting final report. His wife **Julia** has MS.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, in and out of the hospital over the last few weeks

Val Coates, medical concerns

Jonathan Goff, back injury; **James Goff**, Sam's brother, abdominal issues; **Karen Barker**, Sara's sister, lung issues; **Laura Carruthers**, Sam's friend, has cancer.

Upcoming **Vacation Bible School**

(Please contact the church office to make changes to prayer concerns, to add new ones or to remove any.)