

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.



The Help

*“But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” —Amos 5:24*

In 2011 a fantastic movie, The Help, was released. I remember going to see it — thinking it wouldn't be anything meaningful — another period piece. It had a good cast, so I was hopeful that, at the very least, it would be entertaining. I was wrong on just about every level.

The Help is an adaptation of a 2009 book that portrays what life was like for the black workers of Jackson, Mississippi in the 1960's. It's a little hard for me to get my head around the reality that this was only 60 years ago and at the same time IT WAS 60 YEARS AGO. Read on to catch my point. The movie follows the lives of several black nannies, who basically raised white babies, made little-to-nothing, were ostracized in their jobs, and made to use restrooms made just for them. There are some really hilarious moments, but most are very sad — unbelievable for this 35-year-old who grew up in the 90's.

When we left the movie, I called my mother. I had to tell her about it. More importantly, I had to ask her more about what life was like in the segregated '60's. And, let me just say, I was shocked when she said, “Sara, your uncle Hays and I had a nanny. She was wonderful.” After I picked my jaw up off the ground, all the questions spilled out. Was she treated well (very)? Did she use your bathroom (yes)? Did she eat with you (not usually)? Did she cook (all the time)? I couldn't believe it. But then I began to wonder why I was in such a state of shock. My mother grew up in a considerably wealthy home with very 'old south' parents whom I'd known my whole life to be exceptionally kind people, who would do anything for anyone, but didn't believe that “all men are created equal.”

I struggle a bit to speak about racism. Yes, in some ways, this was 60 years ago. We should be further from it now. At the same time, it was only 60 years ago. I'm aware that systemic change can take much longer than that. I warn myself (and encourage you as well) to not excuse its existence over that fact. Life from the segregated 60's spills over into our current culture. It does harm. It is no good. It cannot be a reflection of a culture of people attending to the ordinances of God.

I know that for some there is a fine line. What's happening in our world right this minute is construed as a “left” issue, or a “right” issue — something political. Racism is too divisive for pastors to talk about. There is no place for this discussion in the church. This has nothing to do with Jesus and the love of God. This is a matter that steps on too many toes, muddies the waters, will make people angry.

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.....good.

It ought to. It ought to make us angry. It is very divisive. It divides the haves and have-nots. It divides the white people and the black people. It divides us from one-another, from people who need

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us, and from others who are made in the image of God. Yes, it ought to make us angry. It ought to make us hurt for others who are experiencing something many of us will never experience. It ought to bring us to tears for mothers who are afraid their children will never grow up — children who God loves — children who Jesus welcomed to his knee because he loved them.

Still think this has nothing to do with Jesus? It has nothing to do with the love of God (that one might be true) — that there's no place for it in the church? That is true. There is no place for racism in the church, and the only way that we'll keep it out is to recognize that if we are privileged we have work to do for those who aren't, and if we haven't yet seen where that kind of work is evident in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, then I have failed you and have a whole lot of work to do.

Paul said it best in a familiar verse from Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." And, civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer said, "nobody's free until everybody's free." And, one more — Fred Rogers noted that in times of trouble his mother always told him to look for the helpers.

There is trouble in our world — trouble that's never left and isn't dying as it should. It's trouble that still binds people in such a way that they are not free in any sense of the word. This cannot be the world and life that God wants for us — one where people were created in diversity and live such a life — one that, therefore, is a blessing to God. We cannot forget that we are bound to a world that is beyond God's hope for us — where we are shackled by hate and injustice because of the experiences of our black siblings, until the day that we are all freed for joyful obedience. We — the Church — are the helpers now. We are the help. And the acts of help to which we are called is to do what is necessary in our time to bring about the Kingdom of God — one that is a reflection of Paul's words — where all people can be one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is a cross all who were baptized bear. Will you take up your cross and follow?

Stay well. Be a blessing.

Rev. Sara — the help



Children's "Sunday School" on Wednesday

Trinity's Children's Sunday School Class is Zooming right along every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Alyson and I are learning to navigate the frequently bewildering pathways of "Zoomdom" and beyond as we explore new ways, primarily digital, of sharing the Good News with our children. We are discovering that our children often know much more than we do about digital communication! Since beginning our Zoom meetings, it has been wonderful for us to see and hear our children once again, to find out what is happening in their lives during these times apart from one another. We appreciate the parents and grandparents who have been making the effort to help their children connect with our Zoom meetings, and we also are thankful for the children's patience with us, as we slowly learn to communicate effectively in this new and different way.

Our lessons for the next several weeks will be focusing on the Christian community. This week's lesson is on "Communities Living Together" and centers on one Bible verse: Matthew 7:12. This is the rule that most of us learned as children: The Golden Rule. Jesus said we should treat others the way we want to be treated. We adults learned this rule as children, but if we are honest with ourselves and with our God, we must acknowledge that this is a standard with which we personally and collectively struggle. Recent events within our country have demonstrated that it is most certainly a standard with which our society also continues to struggle greatly. This rule is the foundation for all good relationships, from personal ones to those within all the communities with which we are associated - church, school, work, nearby neighborhood, city, county, state, country, and the whole of God's world. We ask for your prayers as we seek to teach our children to follow the Golden Rule and to share God's love with all of His children who come our way, as well as those whom we may never meet.

God's Peace and Love to all,
Irene Dycus



. . . from Bishop McAlilly's blog

June 8, 2020

Council of Bishops statement on the Scourge of Racism

The past few weeks have left many hurt, angry and outraged as we have witnessed the deaths of unarmed Black persons at the hands of police and racism; Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the countless others whose names are known only to mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and friends.

Many bishops have worked to amplify and magnify one another's voices. The words of Bishop Bruce Ough, resident Bishop of Minneapolis area, were a clarion call to the crisis before us, "There is more than one pandemic ravaging Minnesota and our country at this time. In addition to fighting COVID-19, we are besieged by a pandemic of racism, white supremacy, and white on black or brown violence."

The voice of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, resident Bishop of the Baltimore- Washington area, gave power to the realities, "Being Black is not a pre-existing condition; being Black is not justification for probable cause; being Black is not to be inherently suspicious nor suspect. Being Black is a gift from Almighty God and a manifestation of an aspect of God." These prophetic voices and those of others have provided words when we had none.

As bishops of the United Methodist Church, we ask every United Methodist to reclaim their baptismal vows to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

We ask every United Methodist to name the egregious sin of racism and white supremacy and join together to take a stand against the oppression and injustice that is killing persons of color.

As bishops of the whole church we affirm the peaceful protests as a means of giving voice where it is needed most. We are clear that it is beyond time for all United Methodists to act. It is time to use our voices, our pens, our feet and our heart for change.

We join with other church leaders and boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church to add strength to the message that we will no longer remain silent nor complicit but must act now!

As a next faithful step we ask United Methodists to read all they can on the subject of anti-racism and engage in conversations with children, youth and adults. Have conversations with coworkers and friends. These will not be easy but they will help us gain a greater appreciation for one another. In a recent podcast, "Unlocking Us," lecturer, author and podcast host, Brene Brown, hosted author, historian and American University professor, Ibram X. Kendi who said, "By not running from the books that pain us, we can allow them to transform us. I ran from antiracist books most of my life. But now I can't stop running after them – scrutinizing myself and my society, and in the process changing both." May we listen not only with our ears but with our hearts and run after books, podcasts and conversations that transform entire communities.

For at least the next 30 days, we ask every United Methodist everywhere to join in prayer at 8:46 a.m. and p.m. for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the time the officer held his knee on George Floyd's neck. Do this for at least the next 30 days. Pray for all persons of color who suffer at the hands of injustice and oppression. Pray for our church as we take a stand against racism. Imagine the power of a concert of prayer heard around the world.

And finally, to borrow from Bishop Easterling once again, "The time is now. Dismantle the architecture of whiteness and white supremacy; stop creating, implementing and supporting policies that perpetuate economic injustice; stop the dog-whistle political maneuverings which incite violence against people of color; commit to being an anti-racist; stop over-policing Black and brown bodies; stop using deadly force in ordinary police interactions with Black and brown people. Stop killing us."

May the God of Grace and Peace be with you.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
President – Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received

In memory of Mary Ellen Koehler from an anonymous donor

In memory of Bill Brown from an anonymous donor

In Memorium

The Reverend Eddie Walton, former minister serving at Trinity UMC, died on Saturday, June 6, 2020. A private family memorial service will be held. Rev. Walton was ordained in 1960 and served Trinity in the capacity of Associate Pastor from 1968 to 1970. From 1992 to 1994, Rev. Walton served again at Trinity as Minister of Program. He retired in 2008 after 48 years in the service of God and the United Methodist Church.

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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; 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 adjust to being home schooled and for their peace of mind during the current crisis; 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**.

Albert Seals, on dialysis and being treated for colon cancer (our custodian **Lisa Seal'**s father)

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

Laura Hartman, underwent a trans-esophageal echocardiogram on June 9th for a suspected heart tumor thought to be benign. Outcome: everything normal!

Maggi Comes, diagnosed with pneumonia

Elwood Oliver, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, in Baptist ICU with encephalitis

For the family of **Rev. Eddie Walton**, who died on June 6th.

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.)