Trinotes

June 26, 2024

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.

Longing for Belonging

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of being a 'chaperone' (and chaperone only) on a youth group trip to New York City with the youth choir from Bartlett United Methodist Church where Cooper is now a confirmed member. Together with 10 other chaperones, our bus driver Pappy, and 18 youth, we drove 20 hours on a charter bus to take on NYC, sleep on air mattresses in a church with no air conditioning (which, apparently, is very normal in NYC), navigate the subway, make an appearance on the Today Show, stay up all night, and get up very early in the mornings. Needless to say, I had completely forgotten what it means to go on a youth trip. I am not entirely sure that I have recovered yet, and poor Cooper brought home Covid as a souvenir.

On the way north, we stopped at a church in Virginia for the night and planned to sing for their worship service the following morning. The church was not a United Methodist Church and that became very apparent pretty quickly to the faithful UM's on the trip. Worship wasn't entirely unlike what we do, though there was no order of worship handed out before service, so if you weren't a regular, it was a little hard to keep up. If you didn't grab your communion cup-with-wafer on the way in, you didn't have communion when it came time. There were no greeters (assigned or self-designated). I can't actually remember talking to **anyone** else that morning. It was also very obvious that we, taking up three rows of chairs, were sitting in everyone else's seats.

For someone very used to liturgy, a 'map' (for lack of a better term) of the worship hour, and very, VERY welcoming people, it was a little hard to swallow. They youth sang and they did a great job, though their high-church choral pieces did not really fit the genre of the contemporary worship music, and I knew we were welcome (at least that's what the pastor said), and I am sure that they are a wonderful community of faith that makes an impact in their mission field, but, as a visitor, it was sure uncomfortable.

That afternoon, from the road, I tuned in for our worship and listened to Rev. Allen Stanton lead and preach, Ms. Irene give the children's sermon, and our Trinity Singers offer a clear message of universal love. For those minutes, even far away, I felt at home. The whole morning made me think, though. After I worshiped with Trinity, I began to wonder what the difference is in being welcome and belonging.

And I think that's very important. We've talked about it a little lately and I hope we continue to. Our church sign is permanently etched with, "All are welcome," and I don't know if that's what we mean to mean. For the month of June, in the moveable letters, the sign has reflected, with great intention, "You belong here." Isn't **that** what we want to convey?

In a time in our world where folks are yearning for a safe place where they can be loved and know the love of God, I wonder if they are not longing for more than welcome. I wonder if they aren't searching, instead, for somewhere they belong.

Belonging means a place at the table. It means a circle drawn wide enough that there is room for everyone who'd ever want to be at it — every differing belief, political position, sexuality, gender identity, race, age, ability, socio-economic situation — everyone. We've sung it. We've sung this month of a love that stretches to every person present and well-beyond. We've sung of a table long enough for everyone born.

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We've sung of drawing our circle as wide as God's love is. We've sung of overcoming the adversity that would keep anyone from feeling anything but a sense of belonging.

In a couple of weeks, I will begin my EIGHTH year of ministry with you. With each new year, I wonder where God will lead us next. I think it might be this: that in the coming months, we explore what it means to be where we are as a church in this time and how we can continue to create a place where folks are more than welcome, where, instead, they belong.

Are you ready? I am. I am ready and excited.

With Much Love for You Each,
Rev. Sara

Church Council Meeting

Upcoming Council Meeting

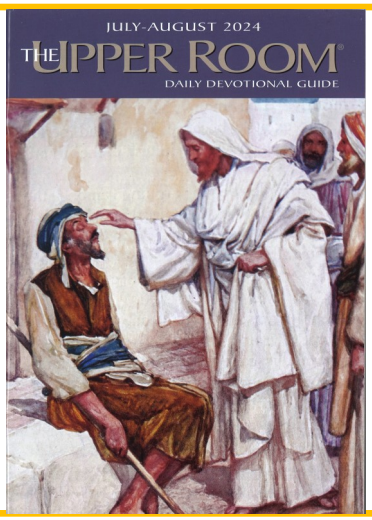
The Church Council will meet on Sunday, July 14, immediately following worship. Lunch will be served, so please contact Craig Jordan if you plan to attend. As always, members of the congregation are welcome.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

ROSEMARY POTTER FROM ALICIA BUTLER

CHARLOTTE COMES FROM ALICIA BUTLER



The Upper Room - Our Devotional Life

The importance of growing one's spiritual connection with God cannot be overemphasized. As Christians, we must continually seek God's will for our lives and work.. One way of doing that is setting aside a specific time and place for the study of scripture and for prayer.

The *Upper Room* devotional guide is published in 34 languages and read by people around the world. Besides picking up an *Upper Room* for your daily reading, you can join their email list to receive resources for creating daily life with God: UpperRoom.org/newsletters. If you want to share your faith story with a larger audience, submit a meditation online at UpperRoom.org/write. Share joys and concerns at UpperRoom.org/prayer. Stay connected!

Seeking Your Financial Support Through the Summer Months

As we enter a typically financially slow season for Trinity and many other congregations, your ongoing support is especially important. When the budget year began in January we anticipated a deficit of $30,000 for 2024. While we have closed that gap by a few thousand dollars, our expenses continue to be greater than our income. Trinitarians do a great job of supporting outreach ministries like Food Vouchers, the Food Pantry, Tiny Pantry, Immigrant Relief, and the community Easter Egg Hunt. It is harder to get excited about support of buildings and grounds, staff salaries, and utility expenses. Yet these "bread and butter" needs undergird everything we do in and with the larger community. Would you consider an extra "bread and butter" contribution in the weeks ahead?

Thankfully,
Craig Jordan, Financial Chairperson

Trinity Food Ministry News

- Trinity's Food Pantry will again be distributing bags of food on the morning of July 22nd, the fourth Monday of the month, and on Wednesday evening, July 24th. If someone asks you for help, you can tell them to call the church (274-6895) any Thursday between 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon to get on the list to reserve a pick-up time. Keep up your support! (We do accept monetary contributions, as well as canned goods.)
- We have $140.04 in the food voucher fund, after purchasing 18 $25 Kroger cards last week (June 19th).
- Don't forget the Tiny Pantry. Bring packets of tuna & crackers, fruit cups, spaghetti, ravioli, or other pasta with pop-tops. Always remember: not everyone has a can opener! We have a Tiny Pantry Fund, so donations of money are accepted if you don't have time to shop.
- Pray for the poor, the unsheltered, the disenfranchised. Feed his sheep!

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

Granola bars
Oatmeal packets
Cereal
Canned fruit
Pasta
Soup
Pasta sauce
Peanut butter
Canned vegetables
Mac & cheese boxes
Canned chicken
Jelly
Spam
Minute rice
Canned tuna
Snacks

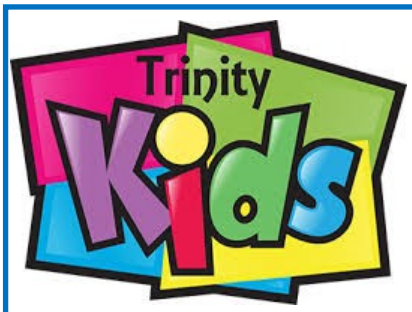
Gift certificates for grocery stores
Monetary donations

June Birthdays

Marc Taylor	June 12
Rob Landrigan	June 15
Sandy Guntharp	June 21
Eddie Ramsey	June 30

July Birthdays

Sara Goff	July 6
Julie McMahan	July 7
Helena Landrigan	July 8
Joey Hopper	July 9
Laura Finch	July 11
Elizabeth Hopper	July 12
Maggie Comes	July 13
Aiden Tate	July 15
Kyle Dearen	July 18
Krissi Moore	July 22
Rod Maddox	July 23
Mike Potter	July 27
Sam Goff	July 28



Peace and Harmony

During the month of June, the FAITH WORD in our Children's Sunday School Class has been PEACE. In our study, this has meant "living together in harmony without fighting" and "to be calm and know God's presence." We have several sibling combos in our Children's Department right now, and I'm sure the opportunities for putting the first definition into practice are plentiful.

On Monday of this week, I came across this blessing. It was perfect timing – God's timing - for the approaching end of our children's study and a gentle reminder to me of the importance of my spending time with God:

> May the guiding hand of God lead you from the busyness and stress of your daily life to a quiet place, still waters where you can rest awhile, and in that space find peace.
>
> (**Faith & Worship: Blessings on the Journey**)

In the last few weeks, I have personally gotten so caught up in the busyness of preparing for Children's Ministries activities, making sure all bases are covered for a revitalized Nursery, for Sunday School, and for Vacation Bible School, etc. that there seems to be little time for me to "be calm and know God's presence." Sunday is a workday for me, although it's the Sabbath Day, and it's hard to find another day during the week that I can take as a sabbath, especially now that I have added physical therapy to the mix. It is quite frankly a recipe for burnout, and I know that God's Holy Spirit is the only One capable of keeping that essential flame alive in my heart; I am incapable of manufacturing that passion on my own. To allow Him to do that, I need special time in His Presence daily. Making time for Him and taking time with Him are part of the discipline (root word: disciple) that He asks of me; it's a vital part of my calling. I ask for your prayers as the Lord helps me work through this current struggle.

I also ask for your prayers as we work on staffing the Nursery, from 9:15 to 12:15 each Sunday morning. While Raquel is our weekly Nursery worker, Trinity UMC's Safe Sanctuary Policy requires a second adult's presence whenever children are involved. Nursery helpers are needed on an ongoing basis for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays each month and for the occasional 5th Sunday. Even if you cannot do the "heavy lifting," you can offer a lap and loving arms. We'll let Raquel do the heavy work, and you can do the friendly, welcoming work of loving each child and encouraging his/her parents. Contact me to offer your services. If you are not available to volunteer your time and physical presence, you can help with financial contributions toward Raquel's salary, since that is not in our 2024 budget. There are ways that <u>everyone</u> can help.

This coming Sunday is our 5th Sunday Community Breakfast. After breakfast with our families, the children and teachers will go to our room for a short lesson. This is the final Sunday of our study on PEACE, and the title of our lesson is "Peacemakers." The lesson will focus on the Beatitudes, especially on Matthew 5:9: "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children." This is the Common English Bible version of this scripture, which has been our Bible verse for the entire unit. In other versions of the Bible, we usually see the word "blessed" instead of "happy." The term "happy" may be confusing for our children because many of those whom Jesus lists as happy are not people whom we would consider to be happy, especially based on today's standards. However, most of our children can understand about being a peacemaker and can give examples from their own lives when they have been or could possibly serve as peacemakers. They can understand being called "<u>God's children</u>" when <u>at any age</u> we work for peace, and they can know that seeking peace can bring joy and happiness to our lives.

Peace and love to all,
Irene

Get Ready for VBS!

Vacation Bible School is getting closer and closer! The fun starts on Sunday, July 14th and goes on through Thursday, July 18th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. each evening. This action-packed week of faith-learning will include lots of fun, food, and fellowship, so our Trinity kids and friends don't want to miss it! We will be partnering with St. John's UMC once again, and all activities will take place at their facility at 1207 Peabody Avenue. This year's theme is **"Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God."** Kids who are kindergarten age through rising 5th graders, we hope you'll join us for the fun! (And youth helpers, we would love to have you with us, too!)

TO REGISTER A CHILD OR TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE:

Kindergarten - 1st Grade
1 age-appropriate backpack
12 #2 pencils, 1" 3-ring binder
2-3 boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons
Blunt tip Fiskar scissors
Package of Elmer's glue sticks
4 black dry erase markers
Several plastic pocket folders with holes
4 Kindergarten tablets
2 primary composition books with blank space at top for drawing

Middle/High School
1 age-appropriate backpack
College ruled notebook paper
3 pronged folders
#2 pencils, Pencil bag/box
Extra erasers, Ruler
Highlighters
May include colored pencils, markers, scissors, protractor, calculator, & binder

2nd - 5th Grade
1 age-appropriate backpack
12 #2 pencils & red pencil
3 boxes 24 crayons AND 1 box of colored pencils
Water-based markers
Glue, 12" ruler
2 pkgs. Wide-ruled notebook paper
Dry-erase markers
Wide-ruled writing paper
2 composition books (wide-ruled)
4 plastic posket folders with holes
1" binder, subject dividers
Blunt tip safety scissors
Sharpies

Cut this list out of Trinotes & take it with you when you go shopping for school supplies for The Backpack Project. You CAN make a difference in a child's life by providing the tools needed for that child's education.

The 2024 campaign to collect school backpacks for Indigenous and Hispanic children has begun! TUMC has been asked to collect 25 loaded backpacks. This effort exists in order to encourage youngsters not to drop out of school. There are flyers available in the church lobby with details of what each backpack should contain. (See list on left.) We need to deliver the backpacks to Aldersgate/La Puerta UMC by Wednesday, July 24th, so bring your donations to Trinity's lobby no later than Sunday, July 21st.

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 still struggle 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 race related violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

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

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:

From Heather Jacoby-Keller: friend's husband **Eddie** just diagnosed with cancer. Heather's sister **Faith** also fighting cancer (for the past year) and facing surgery soon. Please pray for healing!
Melba Abraham's cousin **Lydia Melton**, cancer in new site
Melba's 23 month old great-nephew, **Zephyr Rast**, healing well from burns
Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilynn Hawkins**
Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**
Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith).
Amelia Strickland's mom, **Rosemary Batorski**, weak, but some improvement
Chris Glover's sister **Carol** is in hospice care at home and heavily medicated.
Mike Baloga, encephalitis, at home with nursing care, and wife **Juli** (neighbors of Joe & Katy Spake)
Olivia Dunn, 29 year old with uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)
Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS - all are the Millers' friends
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS
Kanyon Glover has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.
Jacob Foreman, chronic back pain and nerve damage in left leg
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD; has moved to a nursing home; having a good spell right now
Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, liver cancer returned, receiving radiation and chemotherapy
Val Coates, lots of physical pain; bad reaction to some injections
Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration
Seth Genes, done with chemo! Spots on lungs benign! Continue to pray for weight gain & healing.
Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.
Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease
For **Living Word Christian Church;** for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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