

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.



Annual Conference 2023



When I walked into the Renascent Convention Center, next to the Canon Center downtown, last Sunday afternoon for Annual Conference, I wasn't sure what to expect. That has been the story for the last 4 years. During covid we had two fully-virtual Annual Conferences. Last year we trekked to Nashville and had Annual Conference at Brentwood UMC. This wasn't new to the legacy Tennessee Conference folks, but it was new to everyone west of the Tennessee River. This year, I admit, I was surprised for conference to come to Memphis. I didn't realize there was anywhere big enough for us to gather, and I knew that some folks from the east side of the

Tennessee River may attend with a bit of fear and trepidation. Memphis can be intimidating, and it can also be dangerous, as 9 of our colleagues found out when their car windows were broken in the parking lot where we all parked downtown. Still, I wanted to offer radical hospitality.

I didn't know what to expect. I think I've come to expect the possibility of a break in. Crime is a rampant, poverty-driven issue in Memphis that only seems to be getting worse. I knew that I wanted my colleagues and cohorts in calling to experience wonderful things, and I wanted to better know folks from across the river. Any marriage comes with growing pains that only time seems to take care of, and we do not always get the time and freedom to work on our blended family of faith.

Here is my synopsis of Annual Conference. Please remember that my understanding of all that took place may be very different than that of our very faithful lay delegate, Sam Goff, or our Metro District at large delegate, Kay Jordan.

Roughly 80% of registered delegates met in person — the largest percentage since 2019. Roughly 20% joined us virtually. The conference mourned the disaffiliated churches we lost during a called annual conference session, May 22nd. One hundred sixty-two churches, which is about 18% of our conference, chose to relinquish commitments and covenant community vows with the United Methodist Church. It is estimated that another 50-or-so churches in our conference will leave the denomination in December of this year. After that, the denomination as a whole will begin to restructure and there will be no other opportunities for churches to relinquish denominational, conference, and district relationships and commitments.

The conference continued to mourn the loss of Metro District Superintendent Dr. Autura Eason-Williams who was murdered in Memphis last July. We celebrated her life and other conference clergy who have entered the Church Triumphant since our last gathering at this year's memorial service.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration offered its report. This is always the lengthiest of reports for the Annual Conference. We, like our surrounding conference brothers and sisters, are preparing for big financial changes that come with conference disaffiliations, and where the budget will be smaller the conference is making appropriate shifts to compensate. One of the hottest-topic changes in the budget is the minimization of allotted conference funds for various campus ministries and a shift in their covenantal relationships with partnering United Methodist congregations. This shift actually creates budgets for legacy TN Conference Wesley Foundations that are more like the budgets for Wesley Foundations on the west side of the river. Where there will be growing pains with this shift in resources, over time the hope is that there will be a benefit to partnering these campus ministries with local congregations. There were speeches for and against this move, but ultimately, CFA's budget proposal passed.

(continued from page 1)

The ordination service was filled with hope as new local pastors were licensed, several candidates for ordination were commissioned as provisional elders and deacons, and several ordinands received their orders. Two of our conference's new elders were residents in ministry in the resident class I was blessed to see through to ordination. I am very proud to have been a part of their journey. Bishop Palmer preached this Service, and a joint choir from across the conference led us in song. Trinity's choir members participated, and it was glorious.

Several proposed resolutions offered by Reconciling UM's were considered for the floor of conference. The hard thing about new resolutions proposed for the General Conference is that those are not being received by the **General Conference** right now, as the United Methodist Church's Judicial Council has ruled that the upcoming 2024 General Conference is not a new gathering but is the postponed 2020 General Conference. As such, we did not elect a whole new delegation to General Conference. We did replace some of the 2020 conference delegation team due to losing members to both death and disaffiliation. In summation, the effects of covid are still making it difficult for us to function as a denomination, but the dust will eventually settle and, when it does, we will hear new resolutions and proposals and move forward with electing new bishops to office and allowing those who've served to retire. Until then, your pastor is STILL serving as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and an alternate delegate to the upcoming General Conference.

One thing that WAS voted on from the floor, that is a conference-level proposal as opposed to a general conference-level proposal, was the resolution entitled "Leading with Integrity" which, in summation, asks that those serving in leadership positions in the church, but planning to leave the denomination, step down from their leadership positions to allow those who intend to remain United Methodist to lead the church that will remain. Lead with integrity. You might imagine what that proposal grew out of.

We shared communion together. We remembered our baptism. We ate (and ate, and ate). We lightly debated.

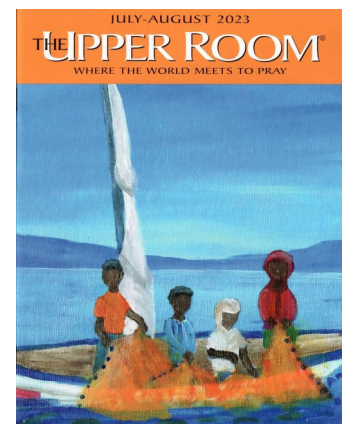
My lament of conference was the lack of young people represented — both youth and young adults — and I wonder how we (the local church — Trinity) might help see a more diverse-in-age delegation in the years to come. Many current delegates are voting for things that will most affect those who aren't represented. This might be said, also, of the local church.

At the end of Annual Conference appointments were set, and I hope to serve with you, well, this 7th year. I ask that you pray for the United Methodist Church. It has been a very hard season for a church many of us love with great passion. Pray for the clergy who have stuck it out when it, very really, may have been easier to leave. Pray for the churches who remain alongside you, because at times, though wonderful (also), it is a challenge to be the people called 'Methodist.'

Doing all the good I can,
in all the ways I can,
as long as I ever can,
(alongside you),
Rev. Sara

THE UPPER ROOM

The July/August *Upper Rooms* are now on display at the reception desk just outside The Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you (or a friend or neighbor) and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, send an email to Debby Marston at office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



Coming Soon: Vacation Bible School 2023!

We are so excited to be able to offer Vacation Bible School once again to the children of Trinity Church, as well as to the children of our community. This year's VBS will be a very new and different one for Trinity UMC in several ways: new friends in ministry, new time of day, and new site! We're delighted to be partnering with our sister United Methodist Church, St. John's UMC, in an evening time VBS, which will be held at their facilities, 1207 Peabody Avenue (at the corner of Peabody and Bellevue, not far from Central High School). Our VBS week of July 17-21 is fast approaching, so parents are encouraged to register their children online soon at <https://tinyurl.com/86htadv4> ! All children who are age 3 (and potty-trained) through rising 5th graders are invited to join us for this week of fun and faith-learning. Rising 6th graders and older youth are invited to be VBS helpers. Each evening's activities will begin with a kid-friendly meal for all the children from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. The VBS program will follow, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. daily.

The theme for this year's VBS is **Operation Restoration: Mending God's World**. Our children will make connections between Bible stories and mending actions as they discover simple ways to live out their faith in daily life. Each day at Operation Restoration will feature a theme word, a Bible story, and several activities that will help each child explore what it means to be a mender in God's world. For instance, on Day 1, the THEME will be FEED. As we explore the BIBLE STORY of Genesis 16:1-36, we will be learning about God's provision of food for the people of Israel during the forty years of their time in the wilderness until they came to the Promised Land. The MENDING ACTION is that God gives enough food for all. The KID CONNECTION is that we're mending God's world when we help feed hungry people. During our Bible School week, we will be exploring other themes, such as HEAL, FORGIVE, PRAY, and REST, through activities such as the Bible Story, Missions, Music, Crafts and Games. There's lots of faith-learning, fun, and fellowship awaiting our kids at VBS 2023!



BACKPACKS FOR MEMPHIS-AREA INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



We Want to Fill (at least) 50 Backpacks!

We encourage you to do your own shopping, but if you are unable to shop for a backpack and contents, you can make a \$40 cash donation to TUMC, and Rev. Sara will be happy to shop for you. Please mail or bring your monetary donations to the church office by July 15.

backpacks

for Memphis-area indigenous students

Due to the church by July 19th.

K-1

#2 Pencils, 2-3 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons, blunt-tipped Fiskar scissors, Elmer's glue sticks, 4 black dry erase markers, 1" ring binder, plastic folders with holes, 4 kindergarten writing tablets, 2 primary composition books,

2-5

#2 Pencils, 3 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons, colored pencils, water-based (washable) markers, glue, 2 pkgs of wide-ruled notebook paper, 12" ruler, dry-erase markers, 2 wide-ruled composition books, plastic folders with holes, 1" binder, blunt-tipped safety scissors, sharpies, subject dividers, red checking pencil,

Middle School

College-ruled notebook paper, 3-pronged folders, #2 pencils, extra erasers, ruler, pencil bag/box, highlighters, colored pencils, markers, scissors, protractor, calculator, binder.

Trinity UMC

BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY



Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

Once a month, folks can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need.....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Trinity members: You can bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for BUMM's food pantry. A box for donated foodstuffs has been placed in the lobby in front of the reception desk. A donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is a very real problem in our community. Help our neighbors in need!

...from the group of singers formerly known as the Choir:

*just a
..... note....*

- We are no longer a choir. We are a small singing group (6 when everyone is present, with Myra Finch doubling as singer and pianist). We have not chosen a name for ourselves. If you have suggestions, speak with one of us.
- We are on summer break during July. We will resume singing at the August 6 worship service.
- We welcome new voices! Let any one of us know if you are willing to sing with us. More voices would allow us to sing a greater variety of music.



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

A GIFT HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF JANE WALDRIP FROM SALLY RAMSEY



Julie McMahan	July 7	Joey Hopper	July 10
Laura Finch	July 11	Elizabeth Hopper	July 12
Maggi Comes	July 13	Aiden Tate	July 15
Ron Raybuck	July 16	Connie Johns	July 20
Krissi Moore	July 22	Ron Maddox	July 23
Steve Humbert	July 26	Mike Potter	July 27



"Abba" by Eli



"Alpha & Omega" by Carson



"Father" by Reid

Household Goods Needed

A disabled veteran has contacted Trinity asking for help obtaining some basic household goods. If you are able to help, we will work on delivering the requested items to him.

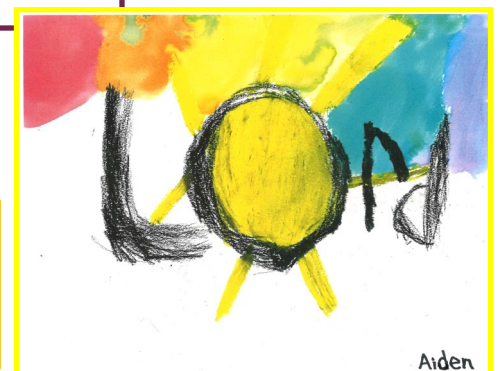
- Pots & pans
- Dishes
- Coffee table
- 2 end tables, 3 lamps
- Men's pants size 44 waist, extra long
- Shirts XXXL, extra long
- Food - we will help with grocery gift cards or grocery vouchers—cash donations appreciated



"Jehovah" by Lila

"Lord" by Aiden

Artwork by Children's Class on the many names of God



PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for earthquake & tornado victims; 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.

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 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; wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Brian Gansman, Melba Abraham's son, is in the hospital and in need of our prayers.

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; cancer IV treatment ongoing every 3 weeks

George Gray, Rita Allmon's brother, passed away recently. Please pray for the family.

Kathryn Gilbert Craig, stepmother to Debby Marston's children, died unexpectedly June 10th.

Doris Porter, recovering at home

Charlotte Comes, at home recovering from surgery; chemotherapy planned

Sydney Elliott, friend of Irene Dycus, in hospice care; pray for his wife **Mary**, as well.

Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

Kanyon Glover, pray for his speech therapy and the use of his left arm (due to a stroke)

Jacob Foreman, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, in ICU, on dialysis, paralyzed on one side after stroke, asthma, COPD

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

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, receiving in-home hospice care

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 97 year old cousin, now residing permanently in a rehab center

Val Coates, multiple health problems

Lori Brown has aggressive HER2 breast cancer and is receiving gene therapy.

Eddie Ramsey, multiple health concerns, and for **Sally**, as she cares for him; both receiving physical therapy

Edward Thigpen, ongoing cancer treatment; financial difficulties due to medical expenses

Pray for Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilyn Hawkins**.

Raquel Norton, our custodian, improving after her auto accident, but still has some pain in leg & shoulder

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

Sandra Poole, medical concerns, needs employment; her daughter **Amanda** missing for seven years

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Rev. Kyle Dearen**, as they worship and do ministry here on the campus of Trinity UMC

For **The Lab School**, as their students learn, grow, and develop, and for their adult Guides

For all our Scouts in **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**, and for all their leaders as they camp this summer

For those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity and for their continued determination to succeed

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