

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.



From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

The Love of God the Parent

This morning, as I write, rain is falling gently outside. Even with children yelling at each other on the other side of the house (please, dear Lord, let school be over soon), there is a peace about listening to the rain. Our vegetable plants outside look as though they are dancing in it, celebrating the nourishment the earth offers. Last night it stormed, and the peacefulness of the atmosphere wasn't at all apparent.

Lately Cooper (9) has developed a sense of anxiety about the weather. I cannot completely blame him, having grown up in Jackson, Tennessee and experiencing several very bad tornadoes. Cooper, though, has never experienced a storm like that. In fact, only once in his nine years of life has he ever needed to shelter from a storm, hunkered down under the stairs with a flashlight. Even when the storms were really bad when I was a child, I thought hunkering down under the stairs in the middle of the night with a flashlight was great fun. Cooper, though, does not. In fact, last night, at the first crack of thunder, way in the distance, I could see the whites of his tear-filled eyes. I pulled him close next to me in the recliner in the living room and offered him the assurance I gave both boys when they were much smaller. "It's okay. God is just bowling."

Add that last sentence to the long line of lies I've offered my children over the years. "Clean your room or I'll call Santa! I have his number!" or, "I can see what you're doing! I have eyes in the back of my head!" But, in moments of desperation (and his fear made me desperate) I'll say anything to make him feel safe.

I don't think that God ever offers the lies of a desperate parent to God's children in their fear or despair. However, I imagine the God feels that sense of desperation a parent has when dealing with the anxiety their children may express. At least, I like to think God does. If the love God has for creation is anything at all like the love of a parent for their child, I'd imagine that God, overlooking all of creation, is torn quite often about what to do. I'm sure even God in God's omnipotence has the moral and ethical dilemmas that we have when we watch people we care about struggle to make good choices or dwell in fear and anxiety. Remember, the beauty of God's love for us is that it is not controlling, overbearing, or interceding. It is still there in the good choices free will affords and in the beautiful mistakes we make — every one laced with the love of a forgiving Creator.

I am often overwhelmed with gratitude for that gift, and am reminded of it again and again, as I study the evidence of that relationship. Oh, how blessed we are to be able to claim that we are children of God and for the assurance of God's love for us, God's protection over us, and God's presence with us! Like a parent to a child — one who loves us desperately — we are greeted time and again with words of compassion and care. In those words we find our peace and assurance of God's faithfulness and mercy. Those words are always there for us to claim when we are afraid, when we are worried and concerned, and when we are plagued by the sum of our last mistakes. There is peace in the assurance of God's holy words.

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See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! — 1 John 3:1

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. — Psalm 36:5

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. — Romans 5:5

Cooper is too old now to really believe that God is bowling. As I tucked him in, though, I told him that I was there to protect him and always would, that Josh was right there too, and (most importantly) that God was always right by his side and in his heart — that come what may, all would be ok. He slept soundly — assured of the love of God and his family — the peace of Christ with him.

May you, you too, dwell in peace under the umbrella of God's assurances. The peace of Christ be with you.

With the Assurance of God's Love,
Rev. Sara



Rev. Patrick Harley of Evergreen Presbyterian and Rev. Sara Corum at a community gathering of reflection, healing, and hope: Endings & Beginnings.

Friday night, Trinity folks gathered with our Evergreen neighbors and friends from Evergreen Presbyterian Church to spend time as a community reflecting on the events of the last year and celebrating the promises of what's ahead.



The Importance of Prayer

On Memorial Day, the devotion from *The Upper Room* highlighted these words written to the church family in Philippi by the Apostle Paul: “I thank God every time I mention you in my prayers.” (Philippians 1:3) The writer of that day’s devotion recalled his grandfather’s leading the family prayers before every meal and naming every family member in those prayers. He told how blessed he felt, knowing that his grandfather was praying for him by name at any time, whether he was present at that farm table or somewhere far away.

As I remembered the many times our family have gathered to celebrate that holiday and so many other special occasions, I thought about the prayers that were said through the years before every meal by my father, my father-in-law, my husband, and other family members who are no longer with us. Others in our family now carry on that tradition, including my two grandchildren, who are often quite boisterous in their singing of “The Lord Is Good to Me” and “God, We Thank You.” I have lived 75 good years filled with prayers of thanksgiving.

I remember the prayer that my daddy prayed before every meal, a prayer he probably learned as a youth; I remember his taking a breath in exactly the same place each time he said it. I also remember the sound of my grandfather praying in his bed every night. My Pa was my mother’s father and the only grandparent I ever knew; the others were all gone before Mama and Daddy married. Mama used to joke that she told Daddy that Pa was part of the deal when she accepted his marriage proposal. Although Pa died when I was just six years old, I still vividly remember so very much about him. That slow, steady rumble of his nighttime praying, although I could not hear the words he spoke, is one of my most treasured memories. I remember the silence of the first night after he died.

My Pa, my father, my father-in-law, and my husband Joe are all gone now, those good men who made such a difference to me in my life and that of all our family, men who witnessed to their faith in their praying and, more than anything else, in the living of their lives. As we approach another Father’s Day, a day that our family always has celebrated with joy, I give thanks for the love that they shared so generously with all our family.

What an honor it is for me – as a mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin – to pray for my family, to name each family member, to express thankfulness for the gift of each one’s presence in my life, and to request God’s loving presence to be felt by each one. What an honor it is for me as a member of this church family at Trinity UMC to pray for our family here.

When I ask for your prayers for the children of our church, I hope you take this responsibility seriously. Whether you realize it or not, your prayers make a difference in their faith lives.

Peace and love,
Irene



"Angel Soup"



Carson

Love Share Remember, Believe

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IN A **CANNED FOOD DRIVE** FOR THE **FISHES AND LOAVES FOOD PANTRY**. BRING YOUR FOOD ITEMS TO WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE. **PROTEINS NEEDED:** CANNED CHICKEN, TUNA, VIENNA SAUSAGES, PEANUT BUTTER. **OTHER ITEMS:** BOXED MACARONI & CHEESE, CANNED FRUIT, DRIED OR CANNED BEANS. NO GLASS CONTAINERS, PLEASE!

CAN
Drive!

bring : Canned chicken, Tuna, Vienna sausages, and peanut Butter, boxes of Crackers!

where? : Trinity Church's Can Drive box

when : anytime!



Kaylee

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, persons 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: Once the children's Can Drive is over at the end of June, please contact Debby at office@trinityumcmemphis.org or leave a message at (901) 274-6895 to ask about the next opportunity to bring staple items for Binghampton UMM's food pantry. A donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will also help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let's commit to feeding our neighbors in need!

Remember those in our community who need help

Please donate canned goods, including proteins such as tuna & chicken, beans, beef ravioli, etc., as well as boxed staple items and granola or protein bars. When shopping, think about foods that don't need refrigeration & won't spoil if carried around in a back pack. Canned foods with pop-tops are ideal. Keep our **Tiny Pantry** well-stocked!



[Editor's note...] Twice a month, on the first and third Fridays, your editor sends out an e-mail request for articles, information, announcements, graphics, blurbs, etc. The e-mail is sent to those individuals who have contributed in the past or who might feel an obligation—or a call—to share something that has recently spoken to their hearts. While those contributions are always welcome and say something Trinity's faith community needs or wants to hear, there are some voices that we just don't hear from that often. Sometimes it is their innate humility, a sense that their offerings are somehow "less" than a letter from the pastor or a reflection from a prayer warrior like Irene. Some folks may just be waiting for permission.

That said (or, actually, written), your editor is reaching out to you, members and friends of Trinity, young and old and in between, to share your gifts with the rest of us. If you can express yourself best with poetry, write a poem. If humor moves you, tell us a funny story. If your faith has grown during the pandemic, tell us how. Don't wait for an e-mail from *Trinotes'* editor. Send it to Debby at office@trinityumcmemphis.org or put it in the mail to Trinity UMC. Share with us!

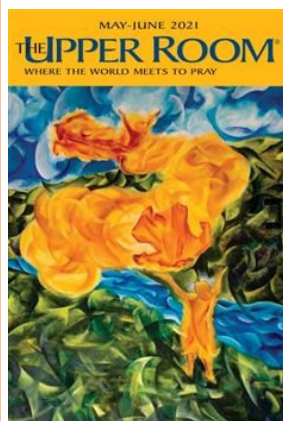
If enough copy (also known as graphics, poetry, stories, etc.) is received to expand *Trinotes* by an extra page or two, great! Come on, Trinitarians, find your voices! Celebrate your faith journeys.

ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org so your e-mail address can be added to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to the *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]

Celebrate June Birthdays!

June 8	Nancy Maddox
June 9	Gene Opel
June 12	Marc Taylor
June 18	Audrey Webster
June 19	Sam Comes
June 21	Sandy Guntharp
June 30	Eddie Ramsey



MAY/JUNE

The large and regular print versions of the May/June issue of *Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out.

E-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call and leave a message on the church office voicemail: 901-274-6895 or . Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.



SUMMER CAMP 2021

3rd - 8th Grade




July 12th - 16th

July 19th - 23rd

Monday - Friday / 9 am - 5 pm

www.newspark901.org

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; 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; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice, and for families who have lost loved ones due to violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in their early months in office—pray for their wisdom.

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 of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they attend school, whether virtually or in person; 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

Gary Owens, Alyson Foreman's father, completed course of IV antibiotics; experiencing much pain in knees, making it difficult to walk, so will receive injection of steroid to reduce inflammation.

Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, injured when her car was hit head-on; broken wrist & breaks in her back with major bruising caused by her seatbelt

Kanyon Glover, now 2 years old and doing well: a happy, valiant fighter, according to Chris

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, bone marrow test showed his cancer has returned

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

Irene Opel improving following surgery for skin cancer removals; **Gene Opel**, still medically fragile

Jeri Ashley, multiple health concerns, moved to Nashville to be near family

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

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

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, on home health care, then on hospice care.

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia with broken hip, in rehab

A PRAISE!! **Charles Abraham** is returning home on June 14th.

Val Coates, recovering at home from shoulder surgery

George Marston, undergoing dialysis for Stage V kidney disease; congestive heart failure; COPD

The friends and family of **Pat Lovington**, who passed away peacefully in her sleep

Nancy Rankin, pancreatic cancer, starting chemotherapy at home; for **Nelda Gray** as she cares for her

Fred Martin, lung cancer

John Stuart, hospitalized

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