

# Trinotes

July 13, 2022

**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.

Growing up, I spent a lot of time in nature. My dad ran a nature park and we were there about five afternoons a week. I'd roam the boardwalk and "catch" caterpillars. Dad would tend to the eagles and hawks in the raptor center. It was a pretty great way to grow up.



When I was a little older, and "found" church and faith, nature took a turn. It was even more meaningful to be around all the things we believe God created. There's certainly one place where that sort of interaction with the Divine in nature was most prevalent and that was camp.

I've been going to Lakeshore since I was little. It was a place that nurtured my faith in its infancy. I was leading things like music for Junior High camps when I was just a Senior High kid. There's even a fun story in there of ALMOST getting my first kiss at the 'Shore, but that's not a story for here. Camp was an escape, at times, from hard things going on at home, and a place where, no matter what, you were accepted fully and completely as a part of God's creation.

One of the agencies of the TWK Conference of the UMC that we support in our apportioned dollars is Lakeshore Camp and Retreat Center because it nurtures faith in its infancy for thousands of students every summer and through retreats throughout the year. I am someone who can testify to its value for me, and now, with so much joy, can say the same for my own children.



Trinity helped send my kids to camp this summer, two of them for the first time, and I'm more grateful than you can know. They came home singing, "There's no place I'd rather be than here in your love, here in your love!" They could tell me the stories of Jacob wrestling with God by the river and of Ruth and Naomi (even the 7 year old, in great detail). There were stories of creek-stomping, crawdads, and how Aiden's shoe ended up on the roof of cabin 5. There were "favorite" counselors and new best friends — friends I know they'll have for the rest of their lives because those friend's parents were MY camp friends and there is something deeply meaningful about being with those who walked with you through the early days of your faith.

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Camp struggled through two Covid summers and, as God has shown us with Trinity time and again, the Creator made it clear that they are not finished with Lakeshore yet.

I want you to give to Trinity — always. Please support your church because we support Lakeshore and, if you're simply looking to do even more 'good,' consider all the good that happens at the 'Shore.

Grace and peace,  
*Rev. Sara*

## Two Valuable Three-letter Words

In the opening session of this year's Annual Conference of the newly united Tennessee West Kentucky Conference of the UMC, we heard from our consultant, Sharon Cox, RN, MSN. She's a healthcare speaker and author who has conducted seminars for over 600 healthcare organizations in the US and Canada in the areas of leadership training, change management and organizational development. She is also a member of Brentwood UMC, where the Conference was held. She really helped me think about many kinds of transition and change, both personal and at our church.

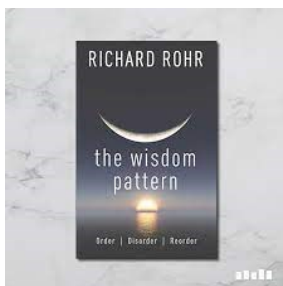
What I want to tell you about now is her emphasis on two three-letter words. Sharon recommended using them as we talk with each other, in times of change and transition and really, in all meaningful conversations.

The first word is AND. When we listen to someone lay out their thoughts, we often respond, "Yes, but..." Sharon points out that when we say that, we immediately give the impression that we will be negating what the other person said. She suggests that we substitute the word "and." Right away the person hears us affirming that we understand what they have said and that we have something to add. Even if what we have to add seems to be contrary to what the other has said, we are showing willingness to continue to work together to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

The second word is YET. This word leaves individuals and institutions room (and encouragement) for growth. Rather than think, "I can't ever seem to reach a healthy weight," I can say to myself, "I haven't reached a healthy weight YET." Rather than bemoaning, "Trinity doesn't have a youth program," we see that "Trinity doesn't have a youth program YET." Rather than worrying, "We can't seem to agree about ...," we realize that "We aren't in agreement on that YET."

What do you think about the importance of these two small words? Try them out. If you don't find they make a difference in your conversations, just think, "I must not have learned to use them correctly YET, AND I want to keep learning."

Kay Jordan

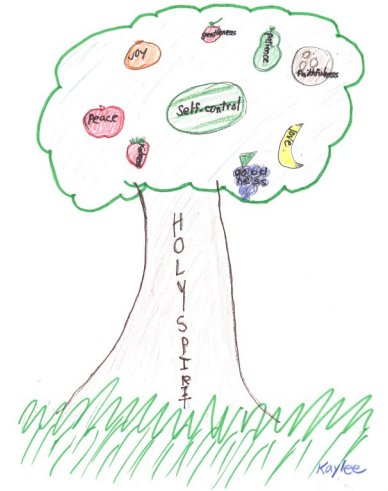


**The Nowlin Class** is resuming in-person meetings for the Sunday School hour, beginning July 17th at 9:30 a.m. They will meet in the old Covenant Classroom. The mask policy is the same as for worship. The class will begin their discussion of The Wisdom Pattern - Order/Disorder/Reorder by Fr. Richard Rohr. Kay Jordan will lead the discussion of Chapter 1 - The Postmodern Opportunity. Sam Goff and Mike Potter will rotate with Kay in leading subsequent discussions.

(The **Next Generation** class will continue to meet via Zoom, starting at 9:15 a.m.)

## “The Fruit God Desires”

In our Children’s Sunday School Class, we have been studying the fruit of the Spirit and what bearing that fruit in our lives might mean in terms of our feelings, values, and actions. Our featured Bible verse has been Galatians 5:22: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” In this article you will find three of the illustrations that our children produced last Sunday when we were studying this important aspect of our faith.



As Ms. Alyson and I were preparing for this past week’s lesson, I was also reading devotions from *The Upper Room Disciplines*. The theme for the week’s devotions, which were written by Lynne M. Babb, was “The Fruit God Desires,” which was certainly compatible with our children’s study. One of the scripture readings for the week was Colossians 1:1-14, in which the apostle

Paul speaks of the gospel bearing fruit among the Colossians and throughout the whole world. This fruit, says Paul, is grounded in faith in Christ, love for others, and hope for God’s future. He prays that the Colossians will be “filled with the knowledge of God’s will” so they will “bear fruit in every good work.”

I thought of our children in Sunday School when the author of the week’s devotions said, “This is knowledge that doesn’t stay in our heads. It flows into our hearts and hands and feet, enabling us to live in a way that pleases God...Leading lives worthy of the Lord and bearing fruit result in increasing knowledge of God,

which in turn leads to fruitful lives. We can pray for this pattern of knowledge/fruit/knowledge for ourselves and for those we love.” This is certainly something for which we teachers need to pray regularly. Our hope is that knowledge which leads to faithful action will be a pattern that will emerge and grow in our children’s lives through the years as they mature in their faith. We are so thankful to be a part of that process and ask for your prayers that we as teachers may also grow in knowledge and faith as we engage in this journey with our children.



Peace and love,  
*Irene and Alyson*





## THE BACKPACK PROJECT WITH TUMC

Help us prepare backpacks for Indigenous and Hispanic Children in Memphis. It is our goal to buy and stuff (at least) 25 backpacks by July 28th. Can you help?

### YOUR BACKPACK SHOULD INCLUDE:

For Middle or High School: college-ruled notebook paper, 3-pronged folders, no. 2 pencils, Extra Erasers, ruler, pencil bag/box, highlighters. May also include colored pencils, markers, scissors, protractor, calculator, binder.

For Elementary: wide-ruled notebook and/or composition books, scissors, crayons, markers, or colored pencils, no. 2 pencils, glue sticks, 3-pronged folders, extra erasers, pencil box/bag. May also include, 3-ringed binder, highlighters, ruler.

## Scouting Update

Our scouts have been busy this summer! Many of our Cub families started the summer at Kia Kima for four days of parents and kids together camping and exploring. Troops 13 B and 13 G set off to camp the following week, braving 114° heat indexes while they brought home Honor Troop ribbons and more merit badges than we can count at the moment.

We are excited to have three Eagle projects in the planning stages or underway at the moment; stay tuned for more details- including one that's going to be close to home. In the coming weeks our Cubs will start meeting again on Sundays, and we are excited to welcome our families back and introduce new families to Scouting and to our Trinity Family.

Our older Scouts have begun training for the ultimate in High Adventure, a trek cross country to Philmont Scout Reservation. Located in Cimarron, New Mexico, Philmont provides our Scouts an opportunity to soar high- with elevations over 11,000 feet!

We are blessed to have such an amazing group of kids, and such dedicated leaders willing to spend their vacations guiding and teaching these brilliant, terribly fragrant, Scouts. And we are blessed to have our home at Trinity to house and shelter them all.

Stay tuned for our Next Century!

Rob Landrigan

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM MAC & MARY  
McCONNELL

**JERI ASHLEY** FROM MAC & MARY  
McCONNELL

**LORI MCFALLS** FROM MAC & MARY  
McCONNELL

**JEAN MOSS** FROM MAC & MARY  
McCONNELL

**NANCY RANKIN** FROM MAC & MARY  
McCONNELL

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM JOHN & RITA ALLMON

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM IRENE DYCUS

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM CHARLES & MELBA  
ABRAHAM

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM SHIRLEY FLINT

**ELAINE AMIS** FROM ANONYMOUS

## Happy July Birthdays!

July 1	Jamie Skjoldager
July 6	Sara Goff
July 7	Julie McMahan
July 8	Helena Landrigan
July 10	Joey Hopper
July 11	Laura Finch
July 12	Elizabeth Hopper
July 13	Maggi Comes
July 15	Aiden Tate
July 16	Ron Raybuck
July 18	Elaine Amis
July 20	Connie Johns
July 22	Krissi Moore
July 23	Ron Maddox
July 26	Madeleine Edwards
July 26	Steve Humbert
July 27	Mike Potter
July 28	Sam Goff

## God of the Plumb Line

In the article about the Children's Sunday School Class, I focused on a scripture and devotion from the previous week's **Upper Room Disciplines**. That whole week's devotions focused on the subject of "The Fruit God Desires." The scripture for one devotion was Amos 7:7-17, the passage in which God appears in a vision to Amos with a plumb line, symbolizing the standard by which God's people need to live and a measure by which divine judgment will be gauged. I don't know about you, but I have always had a great dislike for reading the prophets, perhaps because they make me – justifiably – uncomfortable, to say the least. Frequently, they make me miserable because I am very much aware that I just don't measure up.

Years ago, I began a project to hang new wallpaper in the hallway of our home on University Street. Before I started, I used a plumb line my daddy had given me to make sure I hung the paper correctly. I hung the first strip of paper, which had a vertical striped pattern, according to the plumb line, and the wallpaper was totally out of whack with the corners of the walls and the doorframes. The whole house obviously "leaned" just a little bit. Sometimes life gives us unexpected illustrations of biblical truths. The ground upon which we stand might be literally askew and we are totally unaware of it. But the prospect of our lives being askew in God's eyes is a far more serious situation. The question for reflection in **The Disciplines** after reading the passage from Amos was this: "Look for God's plumb line in the world. In what ways is the ground you stand on askew?"

Pastor Sara preached last Sunday on another of the week's scriptures, Luke 10:25-37, the well-known Parable of the Good Samaritan. In devotions or studies, we are sometimes asked which of the characters in this story we most identify with. I can't even make it to the parable itself without seeing myself in the "expert in the law," who could verbally give the right answer, but who balked at Jesus' suggestion of how to live into that answer. Like the lawyer, I am constantly wanting to justify myself. I'm an expert at "yes, but" answers when it comes to living my faith. I persist in asking, "And who is my neighbor?" There are too many people whom I consider to be "those people." I know God wants me to see every person I meet, or see on the media, or almost bump into while driving my car as one of His children. It's so much easier to see them as highly flawed than to look at myself honestly. I had cataract surgery on both eyes in May and have had lots of problems with getting used to my "new eyes," as well as getting properly fitted with new corrective lenses. Wink, blink, do you think I can claim literal blindness as an excuse for spiritual blindness?

It is so easy for me to think that I am walking in the way the Lord would have me walk. But so long as I insist on doing it my way and don't ask him to lead me in His way, my life will be off kilter. The author of the devotions in **The Disciplines** wrote, "Even those trying to be faithful walk askew." This is her prayer from the devotion on Amos 7:7-17; it is a good one for me to keep in mind and perhaps for all of us to consider: "God of the plumb line, straighten the walls of our lives. Help us embrace your call to justice and righteousness. Guide us into your truth and your values. Amen."

May God's peace be with you,  
Irene Dycus



### A Note from Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry

We received a card from Michael Anderson, the Pantry Director for Binghamton United Methodist Mission, which stated:  
"For the month of June, on behalf of Trinity's kindness, Fishes & Loaves provided emergency food bags for 58 households."  
Keep those donations of staple items & designated money coming!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - 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 violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—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. Autura Eason-Williams.

**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:

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

**Bryce Sellers**, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; just graduated from high school and making plans for college.

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

Chris Glover's sister, **Carol**, now living with **Melanie**, her daughter

**Bobby Glover**, experiencing difficulties with housing

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

**Gene & Irene Opel** for their continued enjoyment of their life together and for their general health.

The **Opels** love the children's pictures, especially those received on Gene's birthday recently.

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, recovered from broken hip; dialysis going well

**Don Culpepper**, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer, but doing better.

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

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center

**Val Coates**, serious back problem, receiving therapy in preparation for extended treatment; grieving loss of family

**George Marston**, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure, but heart function improved

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

**Brittany Meeks**, housemate of Krissi Moore, back home after brief hospitalization for complications after surgery; on IV antibiotics; for **Krissi** as she provides care & support

The family and many friends of **Elaine Amis**, who passed away July 4th.

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