

# 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.

## When Faith in Humanity is Lost

*"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"*

— John 16:33

Sometimes I lose faith in humanity and I can get stuck in a place where it feels like there's no hope to be had. Is that you, too? Am I alone in that?

Thanks to covid, it's been awhile since I had to drop off or pick up children from school. I can't say that's something I've missed. Pick up and drop off is the bane of my existence. It's a wonder that I've ever made it to and from the school without getting hit, run over, or yelled at. I'm not sure what it is about the process of getting the kids to school that is so difficult for everyone, but I find that it really brings out the worst in humanity.

The same sort of thing happens at the Kroger on Union. You all just thought, "We should tell her to go to the one at Poplar and Highland." I know. I promise I know, but the Union Kroger is so close (and so packed at every hour of the day, with no parking spots open, no one checking out, and no spaghetti squash). It's generally a pretty difficult experience.

And have you ever tried to pick up a prescription from the Walgreens at McLean and Union? If you haven't, don't. Please heed my advice. If you want to believe there is any goodness left in this world, do not have your prescriptions sent to the Walgreens at McLean and Union. (I paused my writing here to send my husband a text message asking HIM to pick up my prescription from the Walgreens at McLean and Union.) You will leave in tears, frustrated and under-medicated.

Also, there's a woman in my neighborhood who I want to believe has really good intentions, but steadily makes me lose my faith in humanity. If you do not hurriedly pull your garbage and recycling cans from the end of your driveway back to wherever they go, immediately after they are emptied by Waste Management, she will take it upon herself to move them to the very center of your driveway. Bless it.

Sometimes I wonder where the world is going. Humanity seems like it's a mess. It can be discouraging when every little thing that should be simple is difficult, and it's hard not to find ourselves exhausted over the amount of energy we have to exert to accomplish the basic day-to-day things. It's tough when the people around us seem to let us down, when we begin to notice that the systems under which we live are all so broken, and basic, everyday tasks, like buying groceries, or picking up prescriptions, or dropping kids off at school, are miserable experiences.

And then hope comes with the morning. There is someone who, without being asked or prompted, will do some nice thing. There will be some stranger who steps up to the plate to make a situation better. Someone will let you out to turn left onto Union leaving Kroger. Some other parent will offer you their parking spot at the school with a look of, "We're all in this together," on their face.

(continued on page 2)

You'll witness some random act of kindness, because they do still happen. Sometimes it's simply easier for us to see what's wrong, instead of what's right.

I think it's easier for people of faith to see the good in the world. I think it's pertinent for people of faith to recall that it's not really our faith in each other that's most important, so much as it is our faith in a risen Savior. Our hope isn't in the woman who moves our trash can to the middle of the driveway. It's in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and our faith in him is what compels us, as people who believe in grace abundant, to have patience with the woman who moved the cans, or Walgreens (over-run and under-staffed) when they forget to fill our prescription. Our faith in God calls us to moments where we offer grace in our inconvenience, compassion amid our frustration, and patience even if we shouldn't have to offer it.

And so in moments where all faith in humanity is lost, **rejoice** because that's not where we are called to place our faith to begin with. And, the God who loved us to death on a cross will see us through the somewhat unyielding burdensome minutia of life. Rejoice in him so that others may see HIS light in and through YOU, and so that you may be positively changed even in those moments when faith in humanity is lost.

In the Peace of Christ,  
*Rev. Sara*

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

If you plan to attend in-person worship on any Sunday, please be sure and call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message or e-mail your RSVP to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org). For the present, please also wear a mask and maintain social distancing from anyone other than your household members. Knowing how many will attend helps us know how to set up chairs in the Worship Center.



## Charles Abraham is putting his new ramp to good use: Physical Therapy 101

Your *Trinotes* editor is being entertained even as I work on getting the newsletter ready for publication. Just outside the church office door, New Spark kids are rehearsing for “High School Musical 2 Jr.”



## Peace: complete well-being...

*"Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children."* (Matthew 5:9)

This is the memory verse from our current study in the Children's Sunday School Class. It comes from the Beatitudes, which are part of the larger passage of scripture known as the Sermon on the Mount. In the **Common English Bible**, which is the version we use in our children's studies, the Beatitudes are presented in a series of statements that begin with the words "Happy are people..." (Other translations use the word "blessed" rather than "happy.") These statements can be confusing for children and adults alike because many of the people Jesus names as "happy" are not people we typically think of as experiencing happiness.

So, what does it mean that people whom we normally consider to be unfortunate are described as happy in Jesus' teachings? These teachings remind us that there is hope in all circumstances through God. Our faith word for June and the first part of July has been PEACE. In the **CEB Study Bible**, peace is defined as "complete well-being, the kind that results from right relations with God and with fellow human beings." Peacemakers nurture peace, even where there are broken relationships and hostile circumstances. For our purposes in the children's study, peace has two dimensions. The first shows itself externally in our lives: "living together in harmony without fighting." The second is internal: "to be calm and know God's presence."

Our children are beginning to understand peace. They know personally what it feels like to be hurt, to disagree with a friend, and to be angry. They are also beginning to know what it feels like to make up with friends and to get over their anger. They are learning that we are not always happy, but we can still spread God's peace. We are called "God's children" because we work for peace, just as God does and just as He calls us to do, and it is in doing this that we experience true joy and happiness.

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The Children's Sunday School Class would like to express our appreciation to the Trinity Church Family for your generous support of our **Can Drive**, benefiting the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of our partners in ministry at Binghampton United Methodist Mission. While our food drive is technically over, our children faithfully support this vital ministry throughout the year by donating food items weekly. As you come to worship services during the summer, we encourage you to continue to bring canned and boxed food items for both the B.U.M.M. Food Pantry and our own Tiny Pantry at Trinity Church. If you cannot come in to contribute food, cash donations are also welcome; please indicate that they are for the Food Pantry.

Peace and love to all from Irene and Alyson.



# FEED THE HUNGRY



# New Spark Performing Arts: Real Winners!

New Spark Performing Arts recently attended the Junior Theater Festival in Sugar Land, Texas and brought home several group and individual awards. The Festival was held June 25-27 and included 2,228 students from 50 youth theater groups performing for judges from the musical theater industry. Each group presented a 15-minute selection without the benefit of costumes or props.

NSPA students performed selections from Lynn Ahrens' "Seussical" before assembled judges and other student groups. The performance was directed by 22-year-old Artistic Director Raejah Bratcher, with choreography and musical arrangements provided by Kylah Spring and Vera Brown, both 17.

In addition to providing the musical arrangement, Vera Brown (pictured) was one of ten recipients of the All Festival Performance Trophy.

She and Camden Barber were named Festival All Stars and NSPA was awarded the Freddie G. Excellence in Music Award for group performance.

"I am inspired everyday by these kids and how dedicated they are to performing and to each other," said Amy Hill, President of NSPA. "When the group awards were given, the other winners had 5-6 adults involved in the production on stage to accept. We had Raejah who was clearly the youngest Director at the Festival."

On behalf of everyone involved with NSPA, we would like to thank Trinity United Methodist Church for their support and for providing us a home to meet and rehearse.



Back Row from Left: Ryan, Eli, Kylah, Genevieve, Henry, Katie, Sarah, Dylan, Adriyana  
Front Row from Left: Sadie, Nina, Vera, Raejah, Camden

## 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, please contact Debby at (901) 274-6895 or [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) 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! (Go to page 3 for details about the children's Can Drive!)

## Memorials & Honorariums

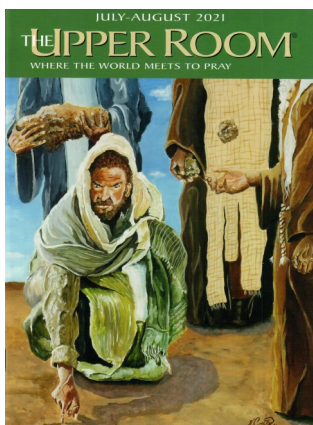
*Gifts have been given*

*In memory of  
Fred Martin by  
Shirley Flint*

*In memory of  
Fred Martin by an  
anonymous donor*

### ENews@TrinityUMCMemphis

**[Editor's Note:** If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto: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.]



### JULY/AUGUST

The large and regular print versions of the July/August issue of *The Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building or from the counter in front of the reception desk. We can also mail

you a copy if you cannot get out.

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



July 1	Lois Young
July 2	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 27	Mike Potter
July 28	Sam Goff

If your name was left off the list, let us know!  
Email [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org).

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those in our country and around the world still 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. 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 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, experiencing much pain in knees; having difficulty walking  
Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, multiple injuries following auto accident

**Kanyon Glover**, now 3 years old and doing well: a happy little boy, according to Chris

**Donnie Glover**, now on oral medication, as well as chemotherapy; needs blood & platelets weekly, but  
back to driving a truck. (You can't keep a good man down!)

**Bobby Glover**, Chris' brother, moving to assisted living; pray for his adjustment.

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues

**Gene & Irene Opel**, ongoing medical concerns; for **Irene**, as she grieves the passing of her youngest  
brother, **Kenny Swan**

**Jeri Ashley**, health continues to decline; able to spend time with her sons & daughters-in-law

**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**, receiving in-home care

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

A PRAISE!! **Charles Abraham** has returned home and is using his ramp for some physical therapy.

**Val Coates**, serious heart condition; still in pain after shoulder surgery

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

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

For friends and family of **Fred Martin**, as we grieve his passing

**John Stuart**, very weak and frail, now living with son William

**Jean Moss**, now at Alan Morgan Health Center in Trezevant View Place on Highland, Room 339

**Margaret Rucker**, Irene Dycus' sister, as she deals with serious health problems, and Irene as she helps  
care for her.

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