

Trinotes

July 26, 2023

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.



The Case for Lakeshore

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. —1 Thessalonians 5:18

It takes 15 minutes from the exit at mile-marker 126 to get to the town square, and then it takes 15 minutes from the town square. The road is narrow, somewhat hilly, and twisting. You’re about halfway when you pass the little white United Methodist Church on the right. That church used to have a wheelchair ramp from its front door right out into the street. We’d get a good laugh about that.

It’s when the trees start getting taller. That’s when you begin to feel the wonder. I don’t know if the trees actually get taller or not, but I know it seems like they do, and when I see them, my heart starts to beat a little faster — still. I’m 38 now and it still happens every single time.

The trained eye will see it before the sign appears. If you look to the right, up the hill, and through the trees, it’s there — the Sun Room or “up top.” About the time it registers that you’re there, you round the bend and there’s the sign. Lakeshore. In my head I immediately start singing praise from my youth, “I stand to praise you, but I fall down on my knees.so light the fire in my heart again.” We’re here. My soul is home and there’s no place my spirit would rather be, even if I’m only going to be there for a few moments.

I didn’t think it could get any better, but it does. Bringing my own children — one, a pre-teen now — even as I write this I am teary to think about it. Yes, they’ll do archery, and they’ll swim in the pool and in the lake. Yes, they’ll do arts and crafts in the craft hut in 90 degree weather while being eaten alive by mutant camp mosquitos. Yes, they’ll skip every shower they can, go creek-stomping, and lose half the things I packed for them to bring. But they’ll also learn more and more about how to praise God, in their own way, with their whole being — unashamed. They’ll come home telling me about the parable of the lost sheep and how Jesus would come and find even them if they ever wandered off because he loves them that much. They’ll come home, happy to be home, and sad to have left (and here’s where they start naming every friend they’ve made, their counselors, and the camp director) their new people behind. They’ll tell me stories from the moment I see them, one covered in dirt and the other covered in paint, and the girl-child completely exhausted but happy, until I drop them off, “up top,” again next year. For years and years they will remember being outside, singing, “Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God! Oh, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the 99,” at the top of their lungs, over, and over, and OVER again, in worship — hands raised — voices raised in dogmatic, unquestioning, unashamed love of Jesus.

This is camp. It calls to me, at times, because in some ways it’s where I first felt God calling me to be who and where I am today. And now, my very own children are being welcomed into the spirit that can be found at Lakeshore and there is nothing on this planet I am more thankful for.

You helped send them to camp, Trinity. As a mother, I want to thank you. It is a part of your tradition to help send anyone who wants to go to Lakeshore. Thank you. Thank you for all that it means to them now and for all the things I know it will still mean to them when they are 38, rounding the bend, imagining the trees are getting taller, feeling the wonder, and singing, to themselves, “Amazing love, how can it be, that you, my King, would die for me!”

Thank you,
Rev. Sara

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As a note, our Lakeshore Fund is depleted. We have a year to build it up again so any child who wants to go to camp can find their way there. If you need encouragement to help rebuild that fund, talk to Aiden. Talk to Cooper. Talk to Reid. No matter what you decide to do, you'll be blessed.

Lakeshore Testimonials

“Camp was really fun. I had a great time. We did a bunch of fun things like going to the pool, and the lake, and the Tabernacle for learning times and for worship. Every time we went to canteen (to get snacks) we would always play Gaga Ball and Carpet Ball and that was fun because I like playing games with my friends. When we went to the rec room, we got to play a game called Survivor Tag which was really fun because it never ended. When we went to the outdoor classroom it was fun because we got to do things in nature like building habitats. We also got to play with Lakeshore’s snake. His name is Sal. Everything was my favorite thing because it was all awesome. We learned about God and the Fruits of the Spirit, like patience and happiness. I made a bunch of friends. I’m very happy I went. Thank you for helping with me going to camp. I had the best time.” Aiden — age 9 (on the last day of camp)



“My favorite thing about camp was going to the pool because I love to swim in the summer. I loved getting splashed in the face with paint during progressive games. I got to go in the blow up obstacle course on Kentucky Lake and I made it all the way through. I loved playing Gaga Ball with my cabin-mates. I learned about what the Fruits of the Spirit are. They’re important because they are how God says we need to act. We sang “Sanctuary” A LOT when we went to worship. We stayed up late, we ate junk food, and we made lots of friends. I’m excited about going back again. Thank you, Trinity, for helping me go to camp. I think you should ALWAYS help kids go to camp so other kids can have the experience I had.” — Cooper, age 11



One of the best things about going to church camp is making new friends, and Reid, Aiden, and Cooper were able to enjoy the experience of meeting campers and adult leaders they would never have met otherwise. Thank you, Trinity, for expanding their horizons!



Vacation Bible School 2023

Last week was Vacation Bible School for the children of Trinity Church. Instead of being held on our own campus, VBS took place this year at St. John’s UMC, our sister church located on the southwest edge of Midtown. This meant a new place and lots of new faces, and I wondered in the beginning what this would mean for our children and for our adult leaders who were participating. This was a big change for us. There were remnants in my own heart and mind of my childhood and youth and what it felt like, the insecurity and anxiety I experienced each time, when I changed schools in the 3rd grade, 7th grade, and 10th grade. I had sat down and helped plan this VBS, and yet in some ways I had talked myself into feeling like an outsider. Then I went to that first evening of VBS and felt so warmly welcomed by the folks at St. John’s, as were our children and adult helpers, that those lingering insecurities immediately began to melt away. By the time Friday rolled around, I was still getting lost in the building, but my heart felt like I was “home.” As far as my own two grandchildren were concerned, they had a blast, and I was more than thrilled about that. As always, Vacation Bible School was filled with the excitement and high energy levels of children. While we didn’t have the energy the kids had, we adults found ourselves enjoying ourselves and learning right along with them about our faith.



Kay Jordan with VBS kids making mud

There were some wonderful reunions that were part of this VBS experience for me. Mary Leslie Dawson-Ramsey, whose two children grew up in our children’s and youth programs at Trinity, was leader of the Science Center, along with Trinity’s capable Kay Jordan. On the first night one of the familiar faces was that of Mark Matheny, a former Trinity pastor, who had brought his grandson Robert to VBS. Later I was to run into David Bingham, another UMC minister, who now directs “The Way,” a recovery program operated by St. John’s; I taught his two children at Trinity Preschool many years ago. On the very last day, during the final activity in which the children “slimed” two of our brave and wonderfully good-natured VBS leaders, I encountered a mom who was herself (at ages 3 and 4) a Trinity Preschool student of mine in my early teaching career. And what a surprise and a beautiful joy it was to learn that our sweet VBS youth helper Mae, who had faithfully led us to each center, was her daughter! Other familiar faces from St. John’s included VBS kids and youth helpers who are involved in Troop 13 at Trinity. How about that! As we were leaving that evening, several of our new friends at St. John’s told us they looked forward to our partnering with them at VBS once again next year. The circle ever widens, and I continue to be blessed through my many different experiences at Vacation Bible School.

I hope you will enjoy the pictures in this *Trinotes* of some of the fun and learning that were a part of VBS 2023.



Lila Dycus & friends’ art project



VBS kids with Storyteller Tom

Peace and love,
Irene

Three of
Trinity’s finest
on the first
night of VBS,
ready for all
challenges:
Irene, Joan, &
Carol





Heather Witt	August 4
Rowan Booth	August 16
Sean Booth	August 16
Read McClurkin	August 28

Backpack Project: Objective Met!



El Redentor UMC challenged Trinity to join them in the 2023 **Backpack Project** with Trinity's goal being 50 backpacks - filled with school supplies - to be shared with indigenous and Hispanic students in the Memphis area.

Thanks to the generosity of the TUMC congregation, 51 backpacks were delivered to Rev. Goyo De La Cruz of El Redentor for distribution to children needing a little help from their friends in the Christian community.



Julie McMahan	July 7
Helena Landrigan	July 8
Joey Hopper	July 10
Elizabeth Hopper	July 12
Maggi Comes	July 13
Aiden Tate	July 15
Ron Rayback	July 16
Connie Johns	July 20
Krissi Moore	July 22
Ron Maddox	July 23
Steve Humbert	July 26
Mike Potter	July 27
Sam Goff	July 28



Here's a shopping cart full of school supplies purchased by Trinity folks on behalf of school children from our Hispanic and indigenous community.

“Feed my sheep”

Peace Lutheran Church has put Christ’s words into action in their lunch program for disadvantaged persons in the community. We have been offered the opportunity to contribute to this work by providing lunches. The current need is for 24 lunches, to be delivered to Peace Lutheran on specific dates. This will be a team effort and the next “assembly line” to put lunches together will be after the Fifth Sunday Breakfast on July 30th. Call Sue Taylor at 901-491-2113 for further details. Gather your forces, jump in & volunteer!

Each lunch will need to include the following:

- Peanut butter & jelly sandwich
- Meat & cheese sandwich
- Bottled water
- Juice
- Fruit cup and/or applesauce
- Chips
- Dessert
- Napkin

(Peace Lutheran will provide condiments.)



A 2023 VBS “Photo Album”



Trinity UMC & St. John's UMC joined together to have an awesome Vacation Bible School in July of 2023. Teamwork makes everything better: VBS, sack lunches with Peace Lutheran, & the Backpack Project

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

AN HONORARIUM HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN HONOR OF **CHARLOTTE COMES** FROM MARC & SUE TAYLOR

A MEMORIAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **JANE WALDRIP** FROM MARC & SUE TAYLOR

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:

Chris Glover has started cancer treatment.

Edna Hoffman fell and broke her hip.

Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer 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, receiving physical therapy at home

Charlotte Comes has started out-patient treatment using Y90 radiation therapy; next surgery on August 1st.

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 cancer in five locations; receiving radiation therapy.

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

Edward Thigpen, ongoing cancer treatment; financial difficulties due to medical expenses; having to use walker every day due to a stroke or mild heart attack, which has caused shortness of breath & chest pain

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

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**

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.)