

Trinotes

July 27, 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.



Jesus Weeps

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:17-18

A week ago I stood in the sanctuary of Covenant United Methodist Church, behind the raised pulpit in the altar area up front. I had sweats on and flip flops. It was 9:30 at night. I'd had no real reason to be dressed other than the way I was, and that's never been something that 'meant' much to me (how I dress, that is). I was a mess — raw — human.

There were about 200 people in the sanctuary, though I didn't know it. It was dark, other than 3 lit candles up front. Symbolic. Meaningful. Again, raw. Father, Son, and Spirit.

I'd jumped up when the opportunity arose, not knowing what I'd say, but knowing that something was beckoning me to my feet, to the altar, to the pulpit — the same something that had drawn me there 23 years ago when I first knew what God hoped I'd choose to do with my life. I passed by Covenant's pastor. I passed by our Bishop. I stood behind the pulpit and I looked down. I knew if I looked out, I couldn't say what I needed to say without crying and there is an assumed strength that is supposed to take its place behind the altar (though that's a human-manufactured misnomer. We're just people.)

And we were...just people, that is. That night, the clergy that received the same terrible phone call I received, recalled and reclaimed our covenant in a way that we hadn't before — not in our ordination — not in gathering for Annual Conference — not in programs we have been required to do together (covenant cannot be forced), but, in, of all things, death.

Funerals are something I enjoy. I don't enjoy death itself, but what happens at funerals I enjoy immensely. People from all over come and gather and remember and in their remembering, the 'good' that often goes overlooked when we're living, comes to the surface and that's usually all we see. We hear stories that we wouldn't normally hear and share things we wouldn't normally share.

But, this was not that moment. This was a moment of deep pain and longing for a reality that does not exist — one in which the light of our world isn't extinguished at the hands of darkness. We are people of light — people who pursue the light, and yet, the only light that night came from the candles.

I spoke. It was hard. I may have rambled on and on, as you well know that I can do. I spoke of the child me who knew so early that I'd be a pastor one day and of the only two women I knew in ministry and how one of them was gone, now. I talked about how this sort of death cheats us out of the goodness of God in the making of a person of faith and how I wasn't yet, then, ready to take up a torch and fight for a different world — how I needed to mourn.

Our District Superintendent was killed last week in the driveway of her home in what seems to be a botched car-jacking, by a 15 year old child. Our District Superintendent, my friend and colleague and mentor of more than 20 years, died last week, at the hands of a child with a gun, and *Jesus weeps* (John 11:35).

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Jesus weeps because this is not the world we were created to order and care for. This is not the world that God hoped for us. This is pain and brokenness — desperation and confusion. This is failed systems and missing families. This is a culture that continues to perpetuate loss like this and for what? Constitutional rights? Jesus weeps.

Jesus weeps, and that ought to break our hearts to pieces, because we can do better. It ought to break our hearts because somewhere we have failed to be an obedient church. It ought to break our hearts because, as a culture, somewhere we have lost sight of the only thing that actually matters — our shared humanity — our right to exist that comes from no one else but the Creator. Jesus weeps because the love of all sorts of things (money, control, guns, “rights”) has superseded the mission he came and DIED for — that we would love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus weeps because, in the end, we in more ways than perhaps we can count, have put every misguided desire of our hearts before love — because we have lost sight of what it means to love. Jesus weeps.

And I weep too....because I am human and because I love with my whole self when I love. My heart is broken. My spirit is crushed. And still, I know, God is with me. God is with us and as we cry out in our troubles, whatever those may be — as we cry out for and because of the conflicts of the world around us — we know God hears us, walks alongside us in our grief, and rescues us when we reach our limit and are broken.

And, when we are ready, and sometimes when we are not, God prepares us, hoping that through us we might turn the world back around to a place where love wins again.

Thanks be to God.

Until that day comes,
In the Grip of God’s Grace,
Rev. Sara



Honoring the Life and Ministry of Autura Eason-Williams

- A viewing on Tuesday, August 2, from 4 – 8 p.m. at Anthony Funeral Home, 135 S 16th Street, West Memphis, AR 72301.
- The funeral on Wednesday, August 3, at 10 a.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 2949 Davies Plantation Road, Lakeland, TN 38002

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

ELAINE AMIS FROM DORIS PORTER

ELAINE AMIS FROM TOM & LEANNE WILSON

ELAINE AMIS FROM CHRIS GLOVER

ELAINE AMIS FROM SALLY & EDDIE RAMSEY

ELAINE AMIS FROM JOAN FOLEY

ELAINE AMIS FROM ANONYMOUS

ELAINE AMIS FROM CALEY & ALYSON FOREMAN

JERI ASHLEY FROM CHRIS GLOVER

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his holy temple!

Praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his powerful acts!

Praise him because he is greater than anything else!

Praise him by blowing trumpets!

Praise him with harps and lyres!

Praise him with tambourines and dancing!

Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Praise him with clashing cymbals!

Praise him with clanging cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

In our Children's Sunday School Class this month, we have been studying **PRAISE**, one of the many ways we thank God. Above is one of the psalms we recited as an "echo reading" with our youth helpers, Helena and Kaylee, serving as leaders. We made a joyful noise with our rhythm instruments at the same time! With this article are pictures our children drew of things for which they are thankful or ways they can praise God.

We continue to praise God for our wonderful children and youth helpers!

PrAise God!



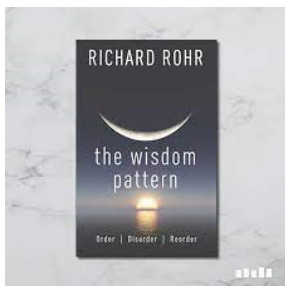
eli PrAise God!



Thank you for my family's house.

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The Wisdom Pattern

The Nowlin Class has resumed in-person meetings for the Sunday School hour and are meeting in the old Covenant Classroom. The mask policy is the same as for worship. The class discussion will center on The Wisdom Pattern - Order/Disorder/Reorder by Fr. Richard Rohr. Kay Jordan led the discussion of Chapter 1 - The Post-modern Opportunity. Sam Goff and Mike Potter will rotate with Kay in leading subsequent discussions.



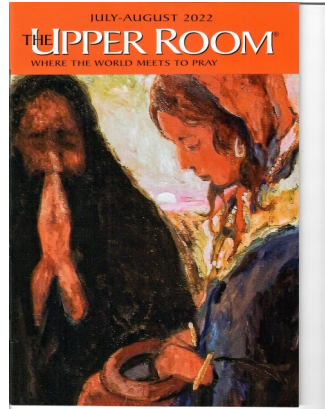
Blessing of the Backpacks will happen in worship August 14th. As we gather together to worship, we invite our students to bring their backpacks and have them blessed by the Trinity congregation for the 2022-2023 school year.

Tiny Pantry
 Don't forget to help stock the Tiny Pantry with non-perishable food items.



THE UPPER ROOM

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



Happy **JULY** Birthday!

July 27 Mike Potter
 July 28 Sam Goff



August 4 Lee Johns
 August 16 Rowan Booth
 August 16 Sean Booth
 August 28 Reid McClurkan

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE ENVISION A
 RADICALLY LOVING COMMUNITY
 WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS,
 EVERYONE IS SUPPORTED,
 AND NO ONE IS ALONE.

TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS



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.

TRINITY UMC MEMPHIS

A Community of Faith

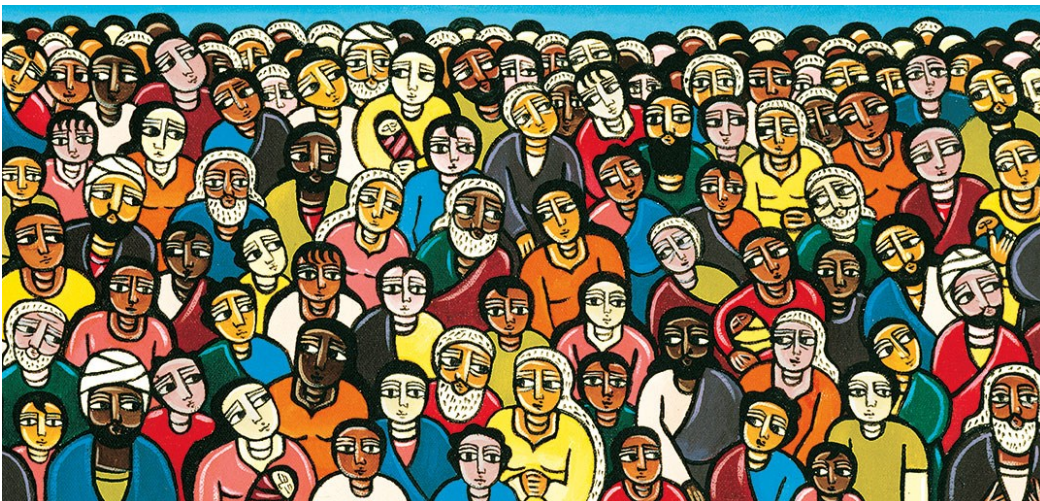
I never knew Aтура Eason-Williams, but my pastor, Lisa Anderson did. They connected at Memphis Theological Seminary, where Pastor Lisa had oversight of a practicum Dr. Eason-Williams participated in as part of her seminary training. Lisa's sermon Sunday, July 24th, spoke of the grief and loss she felt at the death of this dear friend and clergywoman.

I am still struggling with the loss of someone I never knew. She was my sister in the faith, one who was devoted to the cause of justice and peace. I know more about her in her death than I ever knew during her life. As we struggle with making sense of why one, who offered so much to her community of faith, should be the victim of a senseless act of violence, we have to recognize our fallen estate. We, the people of God, are a fallen race. We see each other as "other," as different, whether because of the color of our skin, or the accents of our language, or the peculiarities of our beliefs, we are, indeed, "different."

Brothers and sisters of Christ, let us stop seeing each other as "other" and embrace the ways we are the same. We are human. We love. We beget and adopt children. We love those children and try to raise them to be fully human and humane. Why can we not embrace those ways in which we are the same more fully than the ways we are different? Are we not created by the same God? Are we not saved by the same sacrifice that God made in becoming human, man and God incarnate?

I enjoy the differences I find among my friends and acquaintances. The friends I have enjoyed the most over the years have been Japanese (Keishi), Colombian (Bernardo), Liberian (Coker), Kenyan (Jennifer), Chinese (Raymond and Phyllis), and the list goes on and on. I love them because we share our faith and our love of the same Lord, Jesus Christ. I also love them because they are different. I love the diversity I find in my neighborhood, where most of my neighbors speak English as a second language. That diversity is sheer joy. The fact that we can come together and share gossip on the sidewalk and trade home-grown vegetables (they share, we enjoy) is what makes us a neighborhood.

Rejoice in the differences among ourselves and our neighbors. Those differences make us human, a family, a community, and the people of God.



Wishing you enough,
Debbie Marston

A church as diverse as
Jesus' friends were

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; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. David Weatherly, and for the family of friends of the Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams as we grieve

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**, still in physical therapy following a fall in her yard

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; expressing thanks for cards, and especially the children's artwork

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

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, having trouble breathing

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

The family and many friends of **Elaine Amis**; memorial service at Trinity on August 25th, 1:00 visitation, 2:00 service

Brittany Meeks (Krissi Moore's housemate), home from second hospital stay, still on IV antibiotics, but recovering

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