

# 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.**



## Words Matter

*"...a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." —James 3:18*

Words matter. That's a short, powerful statement that I probably say on repeat all week long. Words matter. How you say them matters as well. And when I say them, they may mean something different than when you say them, depending on what they are. Words really do matter. They can cut someone down in arrogance. They can build back someone who's broken. They can tell someone what they are worth, build a bridge, cause a storm, ignite a fire, and save a life.

And I think we know that — that words matter. The current culture might sway us one way or another on that fact. It seems like, in the past few years, we've begun to throw caution to the wind with our words — not being too concerned with their power. It's become a second thought, that words can make some sort of positive or negative difference — second to our constitutional rights offering us the freedoms of speech and expression. We've begun to misunderstand those rights, assuming that they give us the freedoms to do all the damage we possibly can and not have to pay a legal price. We've not only misunderstood that, but embraced it — some unconcerned with the proverbial walls our words have created and the continued harm they've done. What's worse, some of this harm has been done in the name of God, fully and completely negating all of John Wesley's three simple rules, to: do no harm, do good, and attend to the ordinances of God. Words matter.

James was already aware of the power of words in his time. In the third chapter of James he wrote:

*"...look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God."*

Pay close attention to those last words. With our tongue we bless the Lord and curse those made in the likeness of God. Wow. Even James got it.

But do we?

Sisters and brothers, we are called to such a great purpose as this — to learn the ancient art of

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taming our tongues. When we consider the enormity of goodness our words can accomplish and then the harm they can do, we find ourselves in need of a God who will guide us. Words are important and there are times they should be gentle, times they should be bold, times they should be truthful, and times they should be sensitive. Most importantly, there are times words shouldn't be spoken at all. At some point it became our nature to be uncomfortable with "awkward silence," but perhaps that's just a moment where God is silencing us so that God may do the speaking.

Words matter. We have a responsibility to know that and a calling to use them for only the betterment of humankind — for the work of the Kingdom in our time.

Words matter. What do you have to say about that?

In Christ's Peace,  
*Rev. Sara*

## Memorials & Honorariums

### Memorials have been received

In memory of **Jeri Ashley** from Elaine Amis

In memory of **Jeri Ashley** from Sally & Eddie Ramsey

In memory of **Jeri Ashley** from Shirley Flint

In memory of **Fred Martin** from Nelda Gray & Nancy Rankin

In memory of **Fred Martin** from Mike & Rosemary Potter

In memory of **Jeri Ashley** from Mike & Rosemary Potter

### An Honorarium has been received

In honor of **Sam Goff** from Nelda Gray & Nancy Rankin

## A MEMORIAL FOR A YOUNG MAN

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of a very ill young man from El Salvador who died in Memphis on his way to join family here in the U.S. Thanks to Binghampton UMM, Marlon will be cremated at no cost to the family and his cremains sent to them for burial. The money that you have donated to BUMM and the Immigration Relief Fund enables Binghampton to provide special services to families in need. Please continue to support this very worthwhile program.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

If you plan to attend in-person worship on any Sunday, please be sure and e-mail your RSVP to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message. 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.



# Accepted into God's Family

Our Children's Sunday School Class has started a new unit of study. The faith word for our current study is **BELONG: to know you are accepted and included in God's family.**

The lesson for this Sunday is "Peter's Dream," which is based on Acts 10:1-48. In this Bible story we meet Cornelius, who is a Gentile, not a Jew, but who worships God and lives the way God wants him to live. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, is a Jew who strictly follows the custom of not eating animals that are considered unclean.

Cornelius is visited by an angel, who tells him to send for a man named Peter. The next day, Peter, too, receives a message from the divine; his message takes the form of a dream in which unclean animals are being lowered from heaven. A voice tells him to eat the animals; Peter resists because, according to his beliefs, the animals are unclean. But the voice tells him that everything God has made is good. He is then told to go with the men who come to his home.

As Peter speaks to the people assembled at Cornelius' house, he realizes that the dream of eating unclean animals means accepting and including other people, even Gentiles. Peter sees their transformation and baptizes the Gentiles into the family of God. Through this experience, Peter finally knows that all God's people, even those who are not Jews, **belong**.

In preparation for this lesson, our children have been encouraged to think during the week before our class meeting about what their dream for the world might be, a dream in which everyone loves and is loved and where everyone belongs. For the art project for Sunday's lesson, they will be asked to draw a picture that illustrates that dream.

Acts 2:17 says, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." This is a quote from the Old Testament book of Joel.

God gives us amazing hopes and dreams. Do you have big dreams of what the world might look like, or a small dream of something you want to be different or to change? God can speak to us through our dreams. God knows what our hearts long for, and God is there with each of us as we live out our dreams.

Peace and love to all,  
Irene and Alyson



# Memphis Immigration Relief Fund

The Immigration Relief Task Force meets monthly in support of neighbors who are immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The Task Force reviews requests for rent assistance with a goal of preventing eviction of families unable to pay their rent due to work stoppage (often related to the COVID-19 virus) or under-employment. Many of the families with children have only one parent supporting them.



Members of the immigrant community recently received their first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccines at Asbury UMC in partnership with El Redentor UMC. With the support of several congregations, children were registered for school by Shelby County Schools' ESL staff while free cooking lessons were provided, with a crockpot for the first twelve who attended.

Supporters include Asbury UMC, El Redentor UMC, Colonial Park UMC, Aldersgate UMC, Memphis First UMC, Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA), Chosen Vessels Ministry, as well as the Shelby County Health Department, Shelby County Schools, and Dr. Ivan of the University of Tennessee.

If you wish to support this effort to provide for the needs of these, our brothers and sisters in Christ, donations can be made via Trinity's PayPal link on our website ([www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org)) or by check mailed to Trinity UMC, specifying "Immigration Relief" on the check's memo line.

Through Trinity's relationship with our sister congregation of Binghampton UMM, we provide the accounting support they need by cutting checks to pay rent and utilities. Further assistance is provided by Binghampton's Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, making critical foodstuffs available for families in need. You can bring canned goods and other staple items with you to worship on Sunday and leave them in a box designated for that purpose. Help care for "the least of these" by supporting this important Kingdom work.



## Tiny Pantry

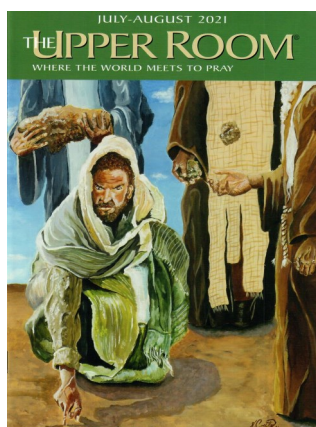
During these hot summer days, folks living on the street are particularly vulnerable. They need non-perishable food they can carry in a backpack, no refrigeration required.



Don't forget about our less fortunate neighbors when you make your weekly run to the grocery store. Pick up a few extras, remembering that foods with protein are important to folks who tend to resort to starchy stuff or whatever they can find cheaply and easily. Keep our Tiny Pantry filled!

## 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.



August 4	Lee Johns
August 16	Sean Booth
August 16	Rowan Booth
August 17	Phyllis Hoffman
August 18	Chris Comes
August 28	Reid McClurkan



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 and the Delta variant; 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, age 85, hospitalized for a UTI and pneumonia

Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, recovering from 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, moved 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, but happy they are able to be together

The family and friends of **Jeri Ashley**, as we grieve her loss

**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.

The family of **Marlon**, a young man from El Salvador who died while traveling to join his family

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