

# 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.**



## A Happy Anniversary

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. — Ephesians 2:10*

About this time three years ago, I was busy unpacking boxes. There was crumpled up newspaper all over the house. Things were really a mess. I was still flying solo with two small children (who absolutely loved the mess). I was finishing eating a bunch of Debby's chocolate chip cookies, the fridge was pretty empty, as was the pantry. I didn't have a plan for where things would go. I didn't have time to make a plan. When you're an itinerate pastor, you hit the ground running. And, I did.

This week I celebrated the anniversary of my move here. I'd been pretty intimidated by the move. For all intents and purposes, it had seemed like a pretty well-thought-out appointment. One hopes it always is. But I was hesitant. I'd been burned a few times. I knew good and well that a square peg does not in fact fit in a round hole. I was afraid of a lot of things. I knew that I didn't need to be burned again.

I was pretty afraid of Memphis. Sure, I'd spent a lot of time here. My first drive on the interstate at 16 was the drive from Jackson to Memphis. We'd grown up visiting Beale St., the Zoo, and the Pink Palace. I'd spent some time over in Cordova. Wolfchase was where the Jacksonians came to do their Christmas shopping. But other than that, I didn't know Memphis well.

I remember someone hand-drawing me a wonderful map of the area, complete with banks I should and should not use, gas stations that I should and should not use, schools, places to eat, etc. I still have it. It was a profound and genuinely kind thing to do because, well, it was a comfort and I was afraid.

Memphis has a bad reputation. MLK was killed here. Crime is high. Poverty is high. Racial tension is real. Traffic is.....crazy. How on earth could this be where I needed to be? Surely I wasn't qualified — wasn't ready — for this.

One of my favorite college professors liked to discuss the motifs of the bible. The barren woman motif. The haughty authority motif. My favorite: the motif of God's use of imperfect people.

Think about it. Abram and Sarai didn't trust God one bit. Sarai and Abram even lied about Sarai's identity while fulfilling the task God had given them, because they didn't think God would see them through. Then there's that little thing about Sarah laughing at God when God told her she'd have Issac. And what about Moses? Didn't he murder that Israelite before leaving Egypt? Even when Cain killed Abel, God made a nation from him. David had Uriah killed and, yet, his lineage is the most famous in history. Rahab the prostitute became a deliverer. Jonah was the king of second chances. Saul, the greatest persecutor of Christians in the history of the world, became the greatest apostle. And God chose, not a king or a prince, to bring his son into the world, but two young, unmarried teens of unimportant lineage to be the earthly parents of Jesus.

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God loves imperfect, unqualified, unready people. God uses those people in such a way that they begin to realize their potential in the building of the Kingdom of God.

My hesitations were very real when I came to Memphis. The job was big — share the Good News of the love of God in this big, scary, messy, fast, and amazing place. The reality is not that we truly are ready — that we truly are qualified. That's not it. We probably aren't on both accounts. The reality is that God loves us and loves to use us as we are to make a world of difference.

Thank you for three years. I hope you are as interested and excited as I am to see what God has for us next.

Stay well,  
*Rev. Sara*

## TUMC Re-Entry Task Force

Trinity's Re-Entry Task Force will regather at the end of July and re-examine where Shelby County is in relation to COVID-19, with no plans to resume traditional in-person worship until sometime in August and possibly September. Stay tuned for more opportunities to worship in different ways in the coming weeks and feel free to reach out to any member of the task force to offer additional input. Those members are:

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Mike Potter     | (901) 230-4997                   |
| Craig Jordan    | (662) 429-0158 or (901) 412-1893 |
| Kay Jordan      | (662) 429-0158 or (901)          |
| Charlotte Comes | (901) 489-8222                   |
| Sam Goff        | (901) 233-4474                   |
| Brad Moritz     | (901) 530-0015                   |
| Amy Moritz      | (901) 463-0983                   |
| Krissi Moore    | (228) 860-1733                   |
| Sara Corum      | (731) 616-2474                   |



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

## 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:** please contact Debby Marston at [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or leave a message at (901) 274-6895 to ask about the next opportunity to bring staple items for Binghampton UMM's food pantry. We can wear masks and practice social distancing while still partnering in this vital ministry to the poor. 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

# Scouting Report

by Rob Landrigan

## Pack 13

We had a Zoom-ified end of year Crossover for 4 of our Webelos - Logan and Daniel crossing over to Troop 13 and River and Brooke crossing over to ...Troop 13!: Our cubs are working with their families and talking on Zoom as we stay busy and safe over the summer.

## Troop 13, Girls

River (Senior Patrol Leader), Brooke (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader), Piper (Quartermaster), Kaimay (Scribe) and Sylvania (Den Chief and Guide) have hit the ground running. Since May, the Scouts - all rising 6th graders - have started their own troop and have all earned Scout rank. The Storming Manticores are getting online, and learning the ropes (literally - 2 1/2 hitches, the Square Knot, and the Tautline are required for Scout rank). Lisa Wong is Scoutmaster, with Rob Landrigan and Maddie Williams serving as Assistant Scoutmasters.

## Troop 13, Boys

Jack Danley completed his Eagle project at Snowden School in June - he built an outdoor white-board and learning space to augment an outdoor classroom. A Snowden alumni and 2020 graduate of Central High School, Jack has been with 13 since he was a Tiger. He is attending the Colorado School of Mines in the fall for Chemical Engineering.

Alex O'Connor finished his project, a pergola for JUICE Orange Mound, on July 5th. A Snowden alum, and 2020 graduate of Central High School, he has been at 13 since he was Tiger. Alex is attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, majoring in History.

My first interaction with the Troop was on Scout Sunday. Jack was Senior Patrol Leader, and was in the entryway of the sanctuary, checking over the Color Guard before they proceeded. One of the scouts' neckerchiefs was wrinkled, and smoothly, Jack just leaned down, grabbed a neatly folded one from his side pocket, whipped it around the scout's neck and removed the old one in one step, and somehow did it in an instructive, not critical manner.

That Scout was Alex. A few years later, when I looked over at a Cub Scout flag presentation, I saw Alex, fixing a young Wolf's neckerchief, in the same manner.

Jack and Alex have taught hundreds, possibly thousands, of campers at Kia Kima, led fellow scouts as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Den Chief. They've been mentor, friend, and sometimes confessor to their fellow Scouts for over seven years, and we are so very proud at what they've accomplished, and will miss them on Monday nights and our weekends in the woods (well, when we get to go back in the woods).

We are also deeply grateful to their parents - who have driven, cooked, shopped, and led for so many years. No Scout gets to Eagle alone, and the Troop and Pack have been stronger for Shannon, Drake, Tracey, and Paul stepping up and pitching in. Alex and Jack will have their final Eagle Boards of Review this summer, with Ceremonies most likely to occur in the winter break. Thank you to Trinity for giving these amazing Scouts, and our amazing families, a home where they can learn, serve, and grow.



Alex O'Conner with JUICE Orange Mound pergola.



Jack Danley & Snowden outdoor white board

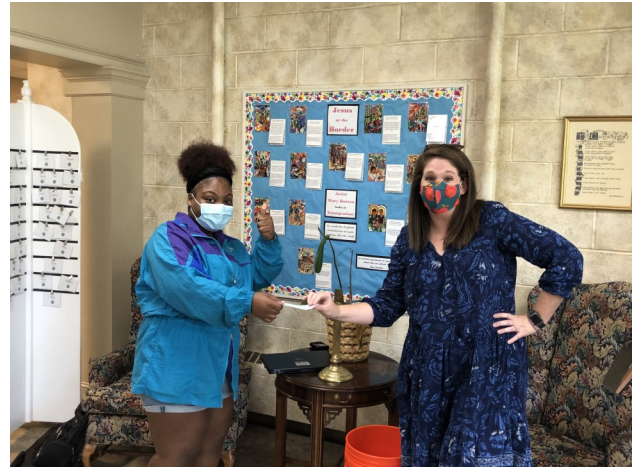


## New Spark Performing Arts Camp

Trinity's resident youth theatre group, New Spark Performing Arts, hasn't let the pandemic slow them down (much). In June, they had a virtual talent show and people voted by making donations online. In July, with the permission of the Trinity Board of Trustees, they held a Willy Wonka summer camp for kids aged 8 – 13. For more information about their safety procedures, visit their website <https://www.newspark901.org/covid-19.html>.



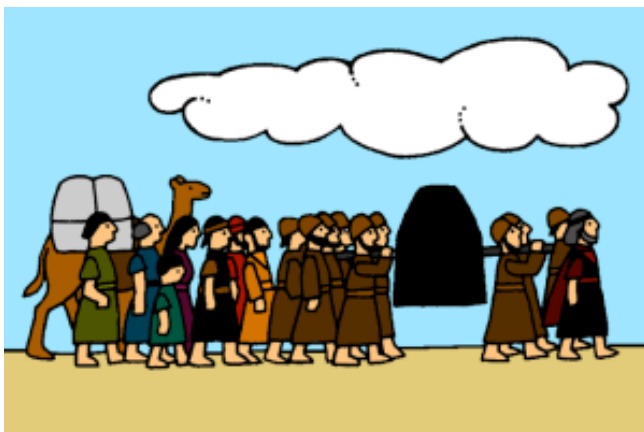
Running lines in the sanctuary while social distancing. All singing and dancing was rehearsed outside under the shade trees on Evergreen.



Raejah Bratcher, Artistic Director for NSPA, sharing some of the proceeds from the talent show with Rev. Sara to be donated to Trinity's food pantry partners in Binghampton. (See blurb on page 2.)

## "Communities Remember" Children's Sunday School

by Irene Dycus



As we continue our study about the Christian community and what it means to be a part of it, our Trinity children at this week's Zoom meeting learned how God's powerful presence enabled the Israelites to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Crossing the river may have seemed like an impossible task, but they had faith that God would see them through, and He did, just as He had helped them cross the Red Sea when they escaped from Egypt. When the priests' feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing, and God's chosen people crossed over on dry land.

Our lesson was titled "Communities Remember," and we explored ways in which we remember and acknowledge God's love and provision for us. Our memory verse from Joshua 1:9 continues to encourage us as we discover new and different ways of living, teaching, and learning: "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Amen!

## ***Update Your Contact Information!***

Currently, we have around 140 subscribers to our online newsletter, ENews. If you wish to receive ENews each Thursday, please email the church office at [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org), and your email address will be added to the list of subscribers. *Trinotes* is included in ENews twice a month, so you won't be missing important information, such as Prayer Concerns, the monthly birthday list, and articles about the various ministries in which Trinity UMC is engaged. Please take advantage of this communication opportunity. We all want to stay in touch and stay informed.

Grace and peace,  
Debby Marston



|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| July 1  | Lois Young       |
| July 2  | Jamie Skjoldager |
| July 6  | Sara Goff        |
| July 7  | Julie McMahan    |
| 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 | Dorothy Sue Smith |
| July 22 | Krissi Moore      |
| July 23 | Rod Maddox        |
| July 25 | Richard Ashley    |
| July 26 | Madeleine Edwards |
| July 26 | Steve Humbert     |
| July 27 | Mike Potter       |
| July 28 | Sam Goff          |

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those in our country and around the world who are 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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; 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.

**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. Dr. Deborah Smith.

**Trinity UMC** - for members in the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth and for their peace of mind during the current crisis; 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

**Paige Warmath**, **Alyson Foreman's** cousin, continuing treatment for brain tumor

**Kanyon Glover**, heart transplant survivor; in and out of hospital

**Katie**, young mother of an infant & toddler, in abusive relationship and suffering from major depression  
(concern shared by **Chris Glover**)

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosed with ENS & undergoing treatment; prayers still appreciated

**Gene Opel**, in good spirits despite being confined to their home; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns, but strong in her faith; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

**Nancy Rankin**, as she awaits results of recent tests

**Albert Seals**, on dialysis and being treated for colon cancer (our custodian **Lisa Seal's** father)

**Maggi Comes**, diagnosed with pneumonia earlier and recovering at home

**Elwood Oliver**, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, has improved enough to be moved to rehab

**Valerie Coats**, shoulder replacement surgery on July 2nd, in pain, but recovering at home and undergoing physical therapy; for **Chris Glover**, as she cares for her

**Tom Machen**, former TUMC choir director, underwent heart surgery July 1st and is still hospitalized. His wife **Lisa** is his primary caregiver as he recovers.

For all members and friends of **Trinity UMC** as they shelter at home, as they work from home, and as they look forward to a time when they can see — in person — the faces of their church family

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