

Trinotes

August 10, 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.



To Return

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. — Luke 15:20

It's the second week of August. Already, it's the second week of August. This summer, one of the hottest on record, flew by. As I pulled backpacks out of the closet over the weekend, it was a strange feeling. Hadn't I just cleaned them out (for fear of something growing in them over the summer) and placed them in the closet? It was an exciting feeling to get lunch boxes and water bottles ready — to write their names on the bottom (like any other

mother who over-thinks things). It gave me joy to unbox their new shoes — a back-to-school tradition — and iron their uniforms for the week. Every weekend for five years, I've ironed the uniforms. There will be no throwing them in the dryer with ice cubes around here. Collars will be pressed. My grandmother is proud. I thought about how the week would go and was at peace because there is something peaceful about routine and we were about to be back in the swing of a disciplined life.

And there is something about that...something we crave. We like knowing what's coming. We like the momentum of schedules and traditions. It keeps us going. Children like it, too. We run through the daily schedule as we prepare to head out the door. We run through the check list. Do you have your backpack? Lunch box? Water bottle? Signed papers and homework? Tablets and headphones? Phone? Shoes tied? Teeth brushed? Hair tousled just right to make mom think you brushed it? We like checking things off. There's comfort. And, for more mature young people and for grown people, there's soul-tending peace in the routine.

Every Fall we talk about getting back to what was. For some, that's school. For others, that's work. For all of us, I wonder if it can be church.

When covid began, we made it somewhat easy to not be a part of the life of the church. Debby and I rushed to set up online giving. Josh and I rushed to get the right technology to live-stream (and to LEARN that technology). We encouraged the church and community to stock the Tiny Pantry, because we knew a need would be there. The last serious run for food vouchers was for families with school-aged children, because, at the time, students would be home an extra week for Spring Break. Little did we know that would last more than a year. We mobilized and got ready to hunker down and wait out the storm.

And we did. We waited. We worshiped. We did what we could with our community to meet needs that were there and maintain relationships. It wasn't easy and it wasn't perfect and, most significantly, it knocked us out of routine.

The practice of faith is a routine that should be maintained. We call that discipline. The discipline of our faith isn't only soul-tending, it is life-giving. But, it takes work. Working at our faith is part of our calling. Doing so in ways that support the church at work in the world, is commitment. The blessing and curse of how we've managed both calling and commitment over the last two years is that we've made it easy. We've made it easy both TO worship, give, and serve and we've made it equally easy to NOT.

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I want to offer both words of encouragement and challenge in this writing. I want to encourage you and challenge you to your calling and commitment to both your faith life and your church this Fall. There are ways to serve and volunteer, if you are able. The Trustees, for certain, need some extra hands. The Shepherds will be gathering food for a memorial service soon. The Tiny Pantry always needs to be stocked. Our teens and tweens need to see YOU be involved. Can you cook? There's another 5th Sunday Breakfast in October. Can you tend to the church grounds? Can you jump on a committee and serve or lead? Can you give? Can you pray? Can you warm a chair during worship? **You may not know what your presence means "to the least of these."**

Momentum is a blessing. Losing momentum is a challenge. If we haven't seen you in ages, know that there's nothing more beautiful than the story of the Prodigal Son. And if you cannot physically come, know that we are praying for you, and we really have made it possible for you to be present in other ways and, if we can improve on that still, we hope you'll let us know. If this is challenging to you, remember that the purpose of a community of faith is the covenant we've made to be present for and with one-another. You are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

In the Grip of God's Grace,
Rev. Sara

In Memory of...

Edna Hoffman called the church office last week and shared memories of her late sister-in-law, **Phyllis Benson Hoffman**. In the memorial bulletin Edna provided, details of Phyllis' life were offered that her friends at Trinity UMC might like to read. Phyllis lived to the great age of 102, dying peacefully in her sleep on April 24, 2022 in Maryville, Tennessee. Memphis was her home for 50 years, and she and husband Dr. Walter Hoffman attended Trinity while living here. As a teacher, Phyllis taught grammar, typing, and physical education. She was described as a "meticulous wordsmith and a witty poet." She coached the local football team when the men were deployed during WWII in 1942. Phyllis enjoyed needlework of all kinds and created dresses, suits, dolls, and quilts. She was a volunteer and spent much of her time supporting such organizations as The Memphis Heart Association, St. Mary's Episcopal School, Memphis Athletic Club, Danny Thomas Memphis Classic, the Memphis State Tigers, and Trinity UMC. She volunteered with Crime Stoppers into her 80s, handing monetary rewards to tipsters from the backseat of a patrol car. Phyllis Hoffman was a woman of strong character with a generous heart. She is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, a living legacy of which to be proud.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

ELAINE AMIS FROM WILMA BICKERS

ELAINE AMIS FROM ALICIA BUTLER

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN HONOR OF

IRENE DYCUS FROM WILMA BICKERS

TOM WILSON FROM WILMA BICKERS

JINX WINN FROM SUE AND MARC TAYLOR



The Great Tuna Challenge

The Trinity Children's Sunday School Class invites you to participate in **THE GREAT TUNA CHALLENGE** with us! Each Sunday during the month of August we encourage you to bring one or more cans of tuna (or other canned meat) for our Tiny Pantry at Trinity or the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry operated by our friends at Binghampton United Methodist Mission. We have measured the youngest member of our class, Eli, and have drawn his outline on a large piece of paper. Our first goal is to reach Eli's height in tuna cans. Once we reach this goal, the next challenge will be to reach Nora's height. (These are our two 5-year-old kindergarten kids, the youngest ones in our group.) We will keep you updated on our progress as we go along. At some point, we will change the challenge to collecting jars of peanut butter. No telling where we will go from there! How the challenge proceeds is entirely up to **YOU** and **YOUR GENEROSITY!** Your response will encourage us to reach even greater "heights." Should you forget your cans, feel free to give us a little cash, and we will purchase cans on your behalf. Remember, this is an ongoing challenge, so do your best to bring something each week!

In our Sunday School studies this month, the **FAITH WORD** is **SCRIPTURE: GOD'S LIVING WORD**. Our key verse is John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Our first lesson will focus on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The poetry of this well-known passage has been a source of inspiration for readers and songwriters through the years:

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens,
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.



As we read these words, we are reminded that, although we are not in control of so many things, we can trust that God is present with us in all the seasons of our lives. This offers us the strength and the comfort that we need in the difficult times and reminds us to give thanks to Him always and in all things.

Peace and love,
Irene and Alyson

The United Methodist Bible Quiz

- Who were Adam's children?**
 - Cain and Abel
 - Cain, Abel, and Seth
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
 - Cain, Abel, Seth and other sons and daughters
- Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"?**
 - Ishmael
 - Isaac
 - Esau
 - Elmo
- Does The United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible?**
 - Yes
 - No
- In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testament?**
 - 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament
 - 66 books: 27 in the OT, 39 in the NT
 - 73 books: 46 in the OT, 27 in the NT
 - 73 books: 39 in the OT, 34 in the NT
- Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?**
 - Exodus
 - 1 Chronicles
 - 2 Chronicles
 - Lamentations
- Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name?**
 - Zechariah
 - Joe, Sr.
 - Jacob
 - Ezekiel
- Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible?**
 - Cherubim
 - Seraphim
 - Angel
 - All of the above
- Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?**
 - Clarence
 - Michael
 - Malachi
 - Gabriel
- Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?**
 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
 - Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish
 - Jesus walks on water
 - Jesus turns water into wine
- Which disciple said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet?"**
 - Thomas
 - Judas
 - Peter
 - Ralph

SEE THE ANSWERS TO ALL 10 QUIZ QUESTIONS BELOW:

- Answers to the United Methodist Bible Quiz**
- Who were Adam's children? **D**
 - Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"? **B**
 - Does the UMC have an official translation of the Bible? **B**
 - In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testament? **A**
 - Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah? **D**
 - Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name? **C**
 - Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible? **D**
 - Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth? **D**
 - Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels? **B**
 - Which disciple said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet"? **C**

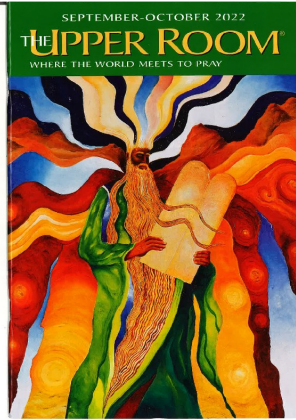


Blessing of the Backpacks will happen in worship August 14th. As we gather together to worship, we invite our students to bring their backpacks and have them blessed by the Trinity congregation for the 2022-2023 school year.

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



THE UPPER ROOM



The September/October *Upper Room* is now 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. [The July/August *Upper Room* is still available in regular print.]



- August 4 Lee Johns
- August 4 Heather Witt
- August 13 Lucy Hiatt
- 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

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 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; the family and many 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 Bruce**, now living with Melanie, her daughter

Bobby Glover, COVID at present housing, so cannot move to permanent 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, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

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 UMC August 25th: 1:00 p.m. visitation, 2:00 p.m. service

Rosemary Potter finally went for an x-ray and learned that she has three broken ribs after a fall at home

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