Trinotes

August 13, 2025

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.

From the desk of... The Rev.

Can I Get a Witness?

"…but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you…" —1 Peter 3:15

What do you like about your church? I feel like it's an important question, and each of us should be able to articulate an answer.. What do you like? Maybe, even better, what do you LOVE?

I tell people this one particular thing on a regular basis, and I want you to know it as well. I am appointed to a church. I'm assigned a church. I have a tiny bit of voice in that decision, but only a tiny bit, and my input can be received or, well, not. I receive a church as the Bishop sees fit to issue me one, for any number of reasons. The point is, I do not get to 'choose' where I go. Nine years ago, Trinity was chosen for me. I don't tell visitors or new people that. I **do** tell them that, were I to choose my church (as they do and as you did), I would choose Trinity over and over again. You would be my chosen church family — my flock. In my heart and mind I choose you over and over again at the beginning of each new conference year.

And I choose you for countless reasons.

I tell visitors any number of things I love about my church. I tell them that Trinity gets it right. You understand the heart of the mission and ministry of Jesus and are willing to be challenged to evaluate whether or not the work you do as a church fulfills Jesus' commission. You get it. I tell them that from the moment you step into the space, you feel as though you belong. It's one thing to be a welcoming congregation. It's another to create a space where people belong — and not conditionally or after a time, but immediately, as though there had **always** been a place for them. I tell people that the sounds of children, even if they are sad sounds like crying, or whispering sounds during somewhat important points in worship, are **celebrated**. I tell them that Trinity is a safe place — a place to talk about things that were once taboo like divorce or addiction. It is a safe and affirming place if you are LGBTQ+. It is safe if you are housing challenged. It is safe if you are a person of color. It's a safe place if the U.S. isn't your country of origin. It's safe. This is why I love my church, chosen or not, and these are the things I tell people.

I tend to think that if people could experience what happens at Trinity, even one time, they would choose it too (over and over again), and so I have worked, personally, to articulate all the reasons I love my church, because, when the opportunity arises, I know that I need to be able to say why someone else should come.

In August we celebrate our students. We send them back to school with tags on their backpacks to remind them that we have prayed for them and for their year at school. I want to remind you to do that. As they return to their routine, pray for them. Then I want to remind you to make sure you get back to your routine too. Committees will meet again soon. Make your meeting. Worship happens every Sunday at 11:00. Come. Our food pantries need to be filled. Remember to bring those cans. Remember those membership vows, to uphold this congregation of the United Methodist Church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your **witness**. Figure out what you love about Trinity and share the good work it does with other people, because they too belong. They may just need to hear why.

Choosing you, over and over,

Rev. Sara

A Word About Charlotte Comes' Daughter, Laura

(as shared by her granddaughter, Rev. Amanda Hartman-Westmoreland)

In January, Charlotte's daughter, Laura Hubbard (who grew up at Trinity, with her brothers and under the leadership of the Rev. George Comes, who pastored Trinity TWICE), was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. She soon after began chemotherapy. It was going well but she experienced a setback this summer. She's been in the hospital or in-patient rehab since June 13th with chemo paused. She is home now with in-home healthcare.

Multiple myeloma is a non-curable cancer and the median life expectancy after diagnosis is 4 years. She is fighting for time with her family, at this point.

Many of you know Laura and the rest of the Comes family. Please keep them in your prayers now and in the days to come. Time can be fleeting, but hope springs eternal for those who know of the resurrection.

Lock the Doors!

Friends, if you are in the Trinity church building at any time during the week, please make sure to:

1. close completely and lock any door you come in or out of, and
2. double-check to make sure the door is locked, because sometimes they are tricky and do not cooperate.

We are unintentionally creating a hazardous space when we leave doors unlocked. If at any time you come to the church when people are NOT supposed to be in the building, and find that the door is unlocked, please reach out to a trustee, Rev. Sara, or the non-emergency line at MPD before entering the building, for your safety. Further, at no time should windows in the building be open. Know that when we work to keep the building safe for us, we are working to keep it safe for everyone who uses our space, and that is very important.

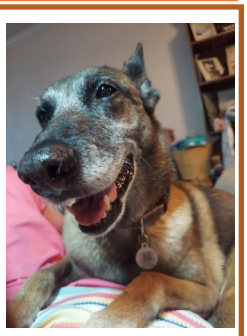
United Women in Faith

Upcoming UWF Luncheon

United Women of Faith will return to Paulette's at 11:30 on 22 August for our last summer vacation luncheon before returning to potluck in the Center in September. Auction items will be either books, games, OR knick-knacks. Please check your emails and RSVP for your reservation.

Remember, you need not be a Trinitarian; you need not even be a Methodist; you need only be a woman of faith. Come and bring a friend. See you there!

Djynn: OCD Church Dog



Joan Smith started bringing her rescue dog, Djynn, to Trinity back when Joan was one of the Monday morning money counters. The custom continued after Joan became our Monday/Tuesday morning front desk volunteer, and Djynn was always front and center, greeting anyone who came by the desk with a wagging tail and a doggy smile.

Djynn was a very meticulous creature, and we watched her organize random objects into neat rows on a chair seat with something approaching awe. (Hence the OCD label.) She was a sweet-tempered, quiet Belgium Malinois who was a loyal companion to Joan for eight years. When Djynn's health failed to the point she could no longer function, Joan made the difficult decision to let her go. Djynn passed away on August 4, 2025.

All of us who knew Djynn loved and respected her for her sweet and gentle nature. She is greatly missed and will not be forgotten.

Go Where God Calls Us

During the month of July, the **FAITH FOCUS** in the Children's Sunday School Class was **WE GO WHERE GOD CALL US**. One of our Bible stories, 1 Samuel 3:1-21, was about God's calling Samuel, who was just a child at the time, to be a prophet and to speak God's word to others. Our lesson reminded us that God calls children, just as surely as He calls adults, to serve Him.

The week before our Sunday School lesson, as I was preparing to teach this story, the scripture from one of the devotionals in ***The Upper Room*** was the story of the events that led up to Samuel's birth and of his mother Hannah's dedicating him as a very young child - just three years old - to doing the Lord's work in the tabernacle under the guidance of Eli the priest. In 1 Samuel 2:26, we find these words: "And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people." The wording of this Old Testament passage about Samuel is very similar to the New Testament description of Jesus in Luke 2:52. According to Jewish tradition, Samuel was twelve years old when the event in Samuel 3:1-21 took place, when God called him by name in the dark of night and charged him with the responsibility of speaking God's words to others as a prophet. Jesus, too, was twelve years old when the events of Luke 2:39-52 took place, the only reference in the Bible to Jesus' life between infancy and adulthood. A footnote in my ***Wesley Study Bible*** says:

> Luke implies that Jesus grew and developed as a normal child, growing 'in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor' (v. 52). Luke's observation of Jesus' regular developmental process – even maturing spiritually – led [John] Wesley to suggest: 'It plainly follows, that though a man were pure, even as Christ was pure, still he would have room to increase in holiness, and, in consequence thereof, to increase in the favor as well as the love of God' (*Notes,* 2:52).

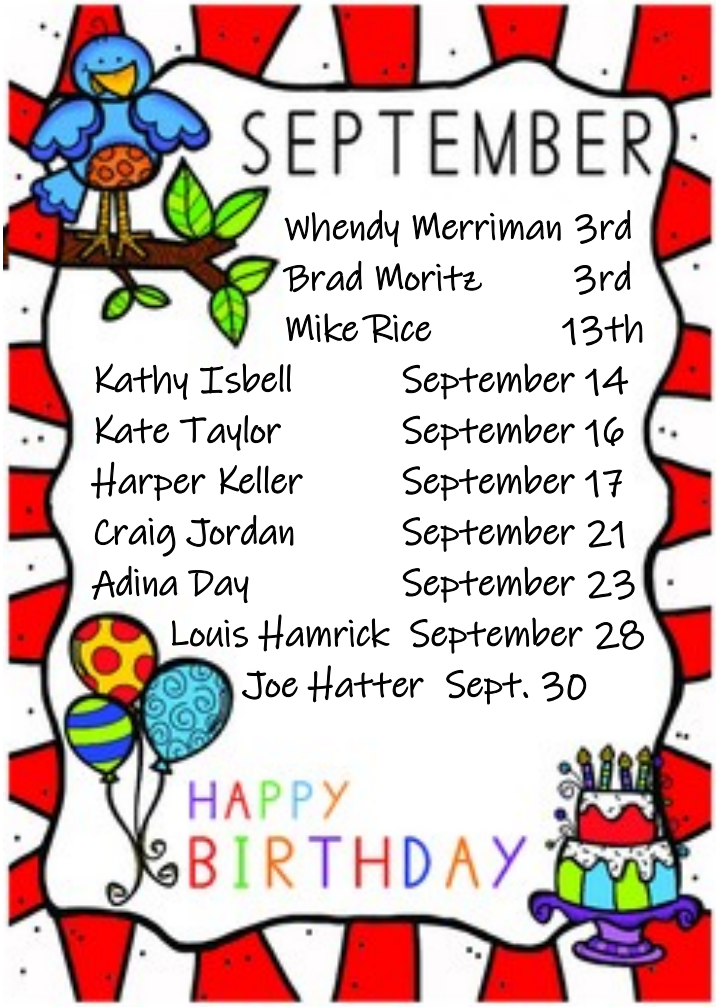
This reminded me of the importance of what we do with and for our children at Trinity UMC. Last week most of our kids started back to school. On the Sunday before, Pastor Sara conducted the Blessing of the Backpacks in our worship service. All Trinity children and youth were invited to join us for this special event, as we recognized our own kids' growth in "wisdom and stature" and as we prayed for their progress on their journeys as they continue to "grow in favor with God and man."

During the month of August, we are learning about the fruit of the Spirit. Our key verse is Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These virtues, evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, are certainly important things to which both students and teachers need to open our hearts as we begin a new school year.

As I reflected on these passages and on the milestones our children are reaching, I was struck by the tenderness and significance of the moments we share in faith. Whether through Sunday School, blessings before the new school year, or the encouragement offered by our church family, we are nurturing not only knowledge and understanding, but a deeper sense of belonging in God's story. Each classroom prayer and every act of kindness serves as a gentle reminder that our youngest members are continually invited to listen for God's voice and to respond, just as Samuel and Jesus did, with hearts open to grace and growth.

Let us remember that our support and prayers can help guide them as they discover their gifts, face challenges, and walk boldly into the future God has prepared. May we honor each step they take, trusting that God calls, blesses, and equips every child for a purpose only he or she can fulfill.

Peace and love,
Irene



Praying

"Everybody prays whether you think of it as praying or not. The odd silence you fall into when something very beautiful is happening or something very good or very bad. The ah-h-h-h! that sometimes floats up out of you as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the sky-rocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else's joy. Whatever words or sounds you use for sighing with over your own life. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to yourself but to God's Spirit."

—Frederick Buechner

This was shared by Lois Young, who also shared the following and credits it to a leader/teacher at Trinity:

You say this to yourself:
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know.
Be still.
Be.

GOLDEN CROSS
Senior Ministries

Golden Cross Senior Ministries has an ongoing need for help in gathering daily use items for seniors living in Wesley Living Communities, and our UWF has responded with a big "YES!" A big yellow box has been placed under the bulletin board to accept your donations. All items should be new, not leftovers. Here's a list of what's needed:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Facial tissues
- Laundry soap
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Disposable adult undergarments
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon sizes)
- New bath towel sets (wash cloth, hand town, bath towel)
- New full sized bed sheet sets
- Small kitchen items (potholders, utensils, dish towels)
- Crossword puzzles/word search books
- New arts & crafts supplies
- Coloring books and coloring pencils
- Puzzles
- Card Games
- Cleaning supplies
- Denture care items
- Pillows (new, in plastic)

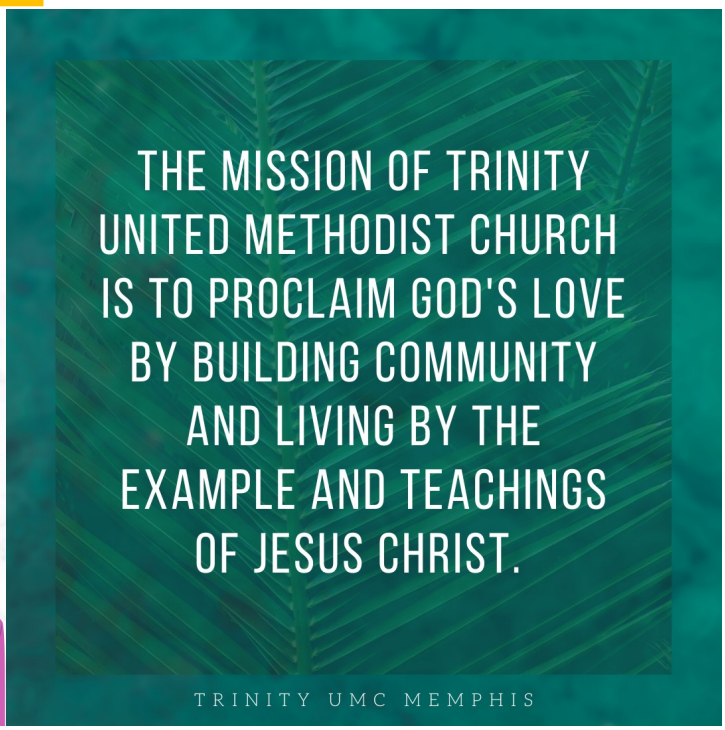
A Move In Kit List is clipped to the yellow box. This would be a great project for a Sunday School class or other group. The approximate cost is $325.00 for a Move In Kit. (Monetary donations preferred.)

Trinity Food Ministries

We continue to receive requests for food vouchers (Kroger cards) and staple items such as those distributed from the Tiny Pantry on the front lawn and the larger Food Pantry off the Galloway lobby. The generosity of members and friends of Trinity supports these ministries, and there are many grateful recipients.

Christ was clear when he told his disciples that the poor will be with us always. That prophecy seems even more true today, when there are so many, young and old, who go to bed hungry.

Please continue to support Trinity's food ministries with your monetary donations. A Kroger card costs $25.00. A 20 pound food box from Catholic Charities is only $5.00. Donations to the Tiny Pantry are used to purchase small canned or packaged items that are light and easy to carry in a back-pack. If you prefer to purchase canned goods, you can ask Sue Taylor or Kay Jordan about specific needs. Thank you!



Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - for resolution of the conflict between our country and Iran; for all those endangered by the war between Israel and Hamas and for families on both sides who have lost loved ones; for victims of natural disasters, especially for those who lost loved ones in flash flooding in Texas; 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 struggle due to lost jobs, threatened deportation, 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 Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. David Graves, especially as he grieves for death of his mother, Billie Schumpert Graves; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

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*;* and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Sue Taylor, follow up August 13th for July brain surgery
Lilly Nemenoff, 6 y.o. Idlewild kindergartener, recovering from June 3rd open heart surgery
Baby Stella, born 7 weeks early with extra chromosome; developmental problems expected
Sharman Murley & Frank Cantrell's son, **Frank, Jr.**, heart issues
Pam Stafford battling liver disease, surgery planned for June 13th; husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia
Joan Smith's friend **Donna Brewer**, out of hospital and doing better, but still in need of prayers
Elizabeth Hopper, for healing following surgery for thyroid cancer
Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey**, daughter **Sandi**, and the Ramsey family
Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's
David Chenault: undergoing final skin graft; out of hospital & in rehab
Pray for **Doug Robbins**, aggressive kidney cancer, treatment progressing well; wife **Ash Robbins** doing well after back surgery
Kate and **Neil Ostenrude**, as she continues to recover; strength to persevere in life's trials; **Neil** facing eye surgery
For Sharman Murley's grandsons **Asa** (improved behavior!) and **Eli** (high performing autism diagnosis)
Chris Glover's sister, **Sherry Carruthers**
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, serious ongoing medical concerns
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment
Kanyon Glover, good medical report; no sign of heart rejection
Jacob Foreman, for healing and pain relief
Gene Archer, stomach cancer, surgery scheduled for August 18th. His wife **Julia** has MS.
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, back in nursing home after rehab; Carey's brother, **Lee Miller**, recovering from stroke
Val Coates, back pain and extreme depression
Jonathan Goff, back injury; **Karen Barker**, Sara's sister, lung issues; **Laura Carruthers**, Sam's friend, has cancer; now in hospice.
Laura Major Conner, for her physical health and living situation
Back to school for our students, faculty, administrators, & school staff

(Please contact the church office to make changes to prayer concerns, to add new ones or to remove any.)