Trinotes

August 14, 2024

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.

Prayer Partners

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Ephesians 1:16-19

The alarm clock (HIS alarm clock) sounds a bit before I need to wake. Josh quietly gets up to move to the front of the house. I think he needs more time to be awake than I do. Around 6:20 he comes back in the bedroom, gently pats my knee, and wakes me up. I'm still a bit glazed over when he hands me my cup of coffee. "Good morning, sunshine." I am anything but sun-shiny at 6:20 a.m. He turns on the news and crawls back in bed, beside me, with his cup of coffee. We have 40 minutes before it's "rise and shine!" for the kiddos. That's how last Monday went. It was the first day of school.

And I was a little grumpy about it. I was. When they go back to school, I am required to be up at least an hour before I want to be. I am required to fill out a dozen "preliminary information" sheets, as though all of that information can't be found in Memphis-Shelby County School's student portal. I will begin communicating with teachers (which is sometimes very difficult), and 'Shouting' stains from uniform polos. I will help with homework, and no, none of what they do NOW is how we did it when I was in school. When THEY go back to school, it's a lot of work for me!

I grumbled as I drank my cup of coffee. "Here we go."

Last Sunday in worship we welcomed SEVENTEEN school-aged kids. Read that again. It is a rare event that we have more than, maybe, 6 children in worship, and normally that rare occasion is Easter Sunday or Scout Sunday. I've held a Blessing of the Backpacks in worship every year I've been at Trinity. Even during covid, children received backpack tags in the mail and a promise of prayer ahead of virtual learning. Last Sunday, children flooded the front of the Center when I called them forward for the children's message. There were so many that they did not fit on our quilt. There were faces I've known for 8 years, faces I've only recently met, and faces I'd never seen before — all present to talk with me about their excitement and concerns with heading back to school. We gave thanks for the exciting things, and we prayed about the worrisome things. At the end, I put a backpack tag (a luggage tag) on their backpacks that read (simply) "You Are Loved." Many of the children took an extra tag to give someone at school. They want others to know that they are loved too.

At the end of the time, I asked the congregation to pray for our children this year, and I raise that to you again now. At one point we imagined that children are our future. Now we are starting to see, as newer generations are finding their voices much sooner than perhaps we did, that they are our present. That rings true as well in the Church. Children are not the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today. We saw that very clearly last week when 25% of our worshipping body flooded the front of our worship space to be blessed and prayed for ahead of the school year.

Church, will you pray for these students this year? Actually, I'm not going to ask. Let's pray for these students this year.

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Next Sunday in worship, because I did not think of it last week (my mom-brain was trying to get my own ready to go back to school), I will have a list of our students and I'd like to ask that you commit to praying for each one this school year. You will have an opportunity to grab an envelop with one of our children in it, along with their birthdate and address. Send them cards with loving support throughout the year. Offer them encouragement when you see them. They are our future. They are our today. They are our family of faith. Let's be their prayer partners this year.

Join me.

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

Community Food Pantry

Congratulations to Alex Landrigan for achieving his Eagle rank with Troop 13! We are proud of Alex's work and dedication to scouting ministries here at TUMC. We celebrate his Eagle project (our new food pantry) and all it is doing to serve our community. With the support of Trinity's Trustees, we will be dedicating the new pantry in Alex's honor and naming it the Alexander Y. Landrigan Community Food Pantry. Congratulations again, Alex!

Golden Cross Senior Ministries has called for help in gathering the following items: Coffee cups/mugs and instant coffee packets; puzzle books; microwave oatmeal; microwave popcorn; small pencil sharpeners; playing cards; Emory boards; short combs; small packs of Kleenex; pre-packaged plastic utensils (like you get with fast food); hard candy, wash cloths, and boxes of paper towels. A box for donations will be placed in the lobby.

We ask that you fill out an attendance pad each Sunday. Tear out the sheet and place in the offering plate. As we are updating our rolls due to the volume of returned mail, please **legibly print** your name and all contact info. If you need a new nametag or have a question, please write a note on the back of the sheet. As you leave please do not put the attendance pad under the seat or on the floor; put it ON your seat. Thank you.

Pondering

On August 4th, Pastor Sara led the Blessing of the Backpacks in the morning worship service. After the service the children and youth and their families assembled in the Center for pizza and "make-your-own" ice cream sundaes. On this special day in the life of our children and youth, we celebrated their growth in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. The recognition of this day always brings back fond memories of Promotion Sundays when I was growing up, as well as those at Trinity UMC through the years.

This year, for some reason, I felt moved to read over and over the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke, which gives us such great insight into Jesus' life as an infant and child. I found myself looking at the events recorded there through the eyes of a mother and grandmother, considering especially how Mary's heart and mind processed these wonder-filled experiences.

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." These are the words we read in Luke 2:19, after the shepherds had visited the newborn baby Jesus in the humble stable, then left to spread the wonderful news about what they had been told about this special birth. The footnote on this verse in my **Life Application Study Bible** says: "Luke gave this tender reflection on Mary's heart, giving us a clue that she may have been the one who related these events to Luke many years later. Most mothers can likely identify with some of Mary's experience, storing up memories of their children and reflecting on them."

The Gospel of Luke further tells us that when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple to be consecrated to God, they met an old man named Simeon, who told them Who their son would be. The Bible says that the child's parents "marveled at what was said about him." When Simeon blessed them, he spoke directly to Mary as Jesus' mother, saying, "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Simeon's final words were a foreshadowing of the grief she would later experience as his mother. After the consecration of Jesus, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth, where "the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him." (Luke 2:22-35, 39-40)

In Luke 2:41-52, we find the last account of Jesus' childhood, when at age 12 he went with his parents to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. On the family's way back home, he was discovered to be missing. When the community caravan had left Jerusalem to return home to Nazareth, Jesus stayed behind, absorbed in his discussion with the religious leaders. His mother, reacting as a typical mother, berated him when they finally found him: "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

Jesus' response was, "Why were you looking for me?" Today this would be considered a typical middle schooler's response. But the following words would <u>not</u> be so typical of a 12-year-old today: "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" These words reflected that Jesus knew exactly Who He Was, but his parents did not understand what he was saying to them.

Luke's account of this last event ends with these words: "Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:51-52)

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United Women in Faith July Meeting

Sixteen United Women of Faith met at noon, 26 July, at Madison Tavern for our second 2024 summer luncheon. The food was delicious; the service was excellent; the music rocked; and they set up to accommodate our meeting needs.

As we had already completed our year to date projects, after sharing prayer requests and reciting our Purpose, our meeting was purely social.

Overachieving, as always, many of our ladies brought multiple scarves for our Chinese auction. Everyone left with at least one new (to them) scarf, and Sandy donated the leftovers to charity.

Our election day bake sale netted $881. Thank you to Irene and to all who worked and baked. Several of our neighbors stated they voted early but came by just to visit our bake sale!

Our finance committee met and formulated a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Watch your inbox for mail from Sandy sharing our proposed budget. We will vote to approve this FY 2024-5 budget at our next meeting.

We will meet at noon 23 August at Blue Monkey. Please RSVP to Katie so Blue Monkey can set up for us. Our Chinese auction item will be handbags. A good time will be had by all! We resume our potluck meetings in the Worship Center in September. Remember, you need not be a Trinitarian or a Methodist, only a woman of faith. Join us and be welcome.

Help needed!

Hopefully you have read about our new arrangement for getting good food for our **Food Pantry**: Catholic Charities is providing 20 pound boxes of mixed foods for $5 a box! This is much more food than any of us can buy at retail outlets, even with careful bargain hunting. So a cash donation is the best way to support our ministry in this area.

Here's where we need help: The two volunteers who are presently working on distribution days (fourth Monday of each month, 9-11 am) are barely able to lift the 20 pound boxes. (We're little old ladies!) Even using the church two-wheeler, we are having a hard time. Is there anyone who can help, two hours a month? Call or text Kay Jordan, at 901-299-2624, if you are available on the fourth Monday from 9-11 am. Thanks!

Memorials & Honorariums

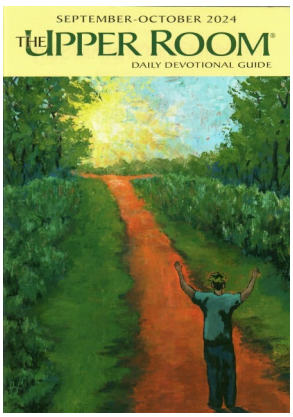
A donation has been received in honor of

Sara & Sam Goff

from Doris Porter

August Birthdays

Heather Witt	August 4
Amelia Strickland	August 15
Sean Booth	August 16
Rowan Booth	August 16
Savannah Strickland	August 26



New *Upper Rooms* Available Soon

The September/October *Upper Room* devotional guides have just arrived! We will be putting them out on the counter in front of the reception desk in the next week or two. In order to ensure that our homebound members receive their copy, we mailed their *Upper Rooms* in early August.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this important resource—a neighbor, co-worker, family member, or friend—we are happy to include them in the mailing. Just email your request to office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Be sure to include the name, address, and font size preferred (regular or large).

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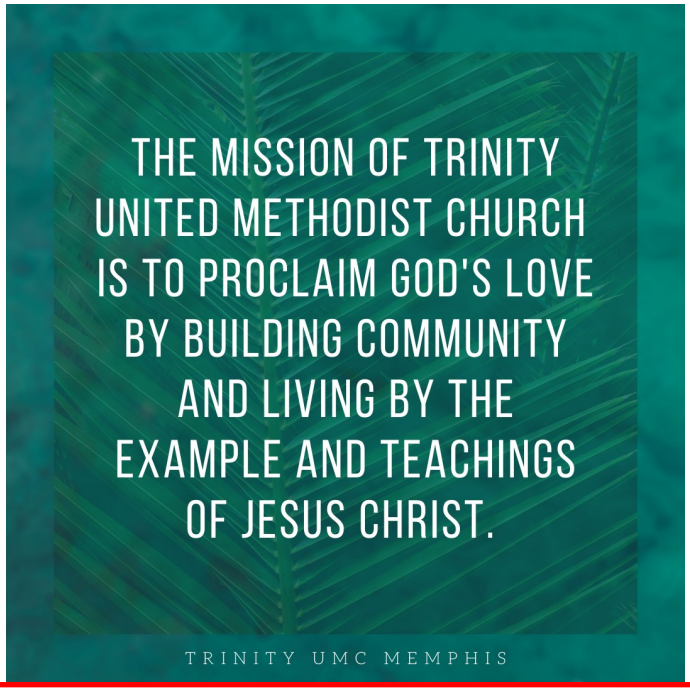
These words always warm my heart and cause it to ache at the same time because they remind me of the pride and joy we parents and grandparents feel at baptisms, school programs, awards ceremonies, promotions, graduations, weddings, and other special moments in our children's lives. While we rejoice at those times, they can also fill our minds with fear and anxiety about the challenges that we know they will face as they mature. We so often don't understand our children. Quite frankly, we often don't understand ourselves when it comes to our own responses and reactions when our children encounter difficulties of different kinds. I think mothers, in particular, treasure things in our hearts, and we also do a lot of pondering, questioning, and wondering.

When I pray for my family, I pray that we may always be close to the Lord and to each other, that we may each make wise and faithful decisions, and that we may stay safe and well. For my grandchildren, I pray that they may always be loved, that they may always know that they are loved, and that they may grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and their fellow man. I then pray that same prayer for all the children of our church family as I call them each by name. Like Mary, I treasure up and ponder all things about them because I see all of them as my children. Each of them is a precious gift whom God has entrusted to me, and while the responsibility can be daunting at times, it is my great honor to continue to answer God's call to raise them in the Christian faith.

Peace in Christ,
Irene



Tiny Pantry

Our **Tiny Pantry** is still perched in place on Trinity's front lawn, and we occasionally see neighbors come by to replenish it. It's easy to forget how important the gift of a little food can be. Most of us don't miss many meals. There are, however, hungry folks who come by looking for a can of tuna or soup, or for just enough to get them by until their food stamps arrive. Those neighbors who are chronically unsheltered may not even have public aid in the form of food subsidies. Imagine going to bed hungry, not just one night, but almost every night.

Remember to keep our Tiny Pantry stocked. Next time you go to the grocery store, pick up some extra food that can be eaten "as is," without cooking, like Vienna sausages, fruit cups, or tuna packets with crackers. Pop-tops are best. Not everyone owns a can opener! (For suggestions, see Tiny Pantry manager Sue Taylor.)

Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - 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; 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 race related violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. Bill McAlilly; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith; and for our newly appointed Bishop (effective September 1st) Rev. David Graves

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:

Rev. Sara, surgery to remove melanomas on August 15th
Family of **Julia Allen**, widow of Dr. Ray Allen, Sr. Mrs. Allen died recently.
Sharman Murley, recovering at home from hip replacement surgery; doing well & thankful for prayers!
Josh McClurkan, kidney stones; **Reid McClurkan**, recovering well from snakebite
Adam Hill, serious vein ruptures in legs, much pain (friend of Joan Smith)
LeeAnne Vamantee, Amelia's mother-in-law, fell & broke her hip
From Heather Jacoby-Keller: friend's husband **Eddie** diagnosed with cancer. Heather's sister **Faith** also fighting cancer (for the past year). Please pray for healing!
Melba Abraham's cousin **Lydia Melton**, cancer in new site
Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilynn Hawkins**
Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**
Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith)
Chris Glover's sister **Carol** is in hospice care at home and heavily medicated.
Olivia Dunn, 29 year old receiving treatment for uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)
Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS
Kanyon Glover has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.
Jacob Foreman, chronic back pain and nerve damage in left leg
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD; has moved to a nursing home; having a good spell right now
Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, liver cancer returned, receiving radiation and chemotherapy
Val Coates, lots of physical pain
Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration
Jonathan Goff, lost half of right index finger due to injury and resulting infection
Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease
For **Living Word Christian Church;** for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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