

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.



From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

The Ways We Worship

*"Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago." - Isaiah 25:1*

When I was a teenager, like a lot of teenagers, worship felt like it dragged on — like it was the longest hour of the week. It helped that I sat in the balcony of First United Methodist Church in Jackson, with the rest of the youth, where, in subtle ways, and just out of eyeshot of the TV camera, we cut up every week. On the Sundays after Tennessee beat Florida in football, as soon as the pastor, Tim Carpenter, (an avid Florida Gators fan) stood up to preach, we'd lift signs that read, "Go VOLS!" and make bets on whether or not he'd be able to keep a straight face (he **always** did). We found our own ways to make worship *entertaining*.

This was harder with the music. Just how often did we really need to sing, "And Are We Yet Alive?" It felt like a dirge (and sometimes, sung the wrong way at the wrong time, it still does). Why couldn't we be one of those churches with a band? Drums would sound AWESOME in that 100+-year-old sanctuary (My grandfather is currently rolling over in his grave.) I was convinced, as a teenager, that if I was going to stick with the church, worship needed to be more of what I needed.

Luckily, as I've grown, I've learned that my pastor really enjoyed when the youth from the balcony interacted with him during church, even if it was in support of Tennessee football. Tim is now the pastor at Germantown UMC and I truly hope the youth still give him a hard time. I've also really come to appreciate singing many of the old hymns. I never realized then, that someday, "Here I Am, Lord," and, "Hymn of Promise," would mean very much to me or how "This is My Father's World" would remind me, so powerfully, of my relationship with the Creator.

Worship truly hasn't changed much in 20 years, and I have grown to appreciate its familiarity. I am also more cognizant now, than ever before, of how skewed my understanding of the purpose of worship was back then.

Anyone who's joined us for worship at any time in the last year-and-a-half has heard me say, in reminding the virtual viewers that there is an interactive worship guide posted for them to use to fully-participate in worship, that worship is not a spectator sport. It certainly isn't at all akin to sitting through a football game and cheering on a team. "Go God!" It isn't like watching a movie — something we watch to keep our brains functioning on all cylinders at all times. It isn't even like reading a book in hopes that we'd drift away from reality to some other existence.

Worship is about engaging the Divine and the Divine engaging us in a way that cannot happen at other times — a truly holy time. It is a collective giving of ourselves in the fullness of praise and adoration of Jesus as the Lord of our lives. Worship is about trusting that the Holy Spirit will descend upon us again and again, every single time we engage in it — calling us to It, beckoning us to a purpose, wooing us to our Maker.

And when this happens — when we are able to come to worship, surrendering our preferences,

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preconceived notions, and human desires — when worship becomes a set apart time and space in our lives where God truly is in control, it will pour over into the rest of our lives. Worship will be ongoing. It will become an ongoing reminder of Christ’s sacrifice for us and, in turn, also become an ongoing sacrifice of ourselves to the glory of God in all that we do — every choice we make — every smile we offer — every way that we feel. Worship will become a way of life and none of us can go wrong spending that kind of time in the presence of the Creator.

We’ve had to give up an awful lot of our way of worshipping since the beginning of covid. As a church, we’ve done so faithfully. And God has still met us in whatever holy space and time we’ve been able to make to lift our voices and lift our hearts to a God whose Spirit is still with us, hoping, wooing, beckoning us to It, again and again.

Worship with all your life this week, and every week, as long as you have breath.

Stay Well,
Rev. Sara

Making a difference...

We received a card from Binghampton UMM Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, thanking us for our participation in their efforts to feed families needing assistance. The image on the left is the front of the card, on which is printed:

“Just a little reminder that God sees the little things you do that make a big difference - the kindness, the thoughtfulness, the ways you live out His love.” Inside, Pantry Director Michael Anderson wrote: “...your kindness for the month of July helped Fishes & Loaves provide emergency food bags for **62** households.”

May the LORD continually bless you. —Psalm 128:5 NLT



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, folks 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 at 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. 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 appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let’s commit to feeding our neighbors in need!



Encourage: to put the heart in

“Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Our Children’s Sunday School lesson two weeks ago focused on “the courageous queen,” Queen Esther. These words were spoken to Queen Esther by her cousin Mordecai, encouraging her to stand up and speak out with courage for her people and for God.

“Encourage” and “courage” are two key words here. The Latin root of the word “courage” is *cor*, which means “heart.” The original meaning of “courage” was “to speak one’s mind by telling all one’s heart.” A study note from **The Wesley Study Bible** says that in French, the word *encourage* literally means “to put the heart in.”

As we had our pre-lesson sharing and prayer request time with the children on that Sunday, Kaylee mentioned that she and her mom were going that afternoon to the funeral of the father of a boy in her class at school. She said that the child was not really a friend in the sense of being a buddy of hers. We celebrated and encouraged Kaylee’s seeking to be a friend to this child, although she was not close to him.

Our Cooper and Aiden would later that same day receive the heartbreaking news that their own stepmother Sarah Tate had died following brain surgery. We, as their teachers, have been praying a scripture for them and their family following this tragedy. We have also encouraged our children’s families to do the same. This scripture is our current memory verse, Psalm 27:14: “Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!”

“Who knows? Perhaps you have come to.....for just such a time as this.” Within these words lies God’s call to Esther and to us. None of us have royal status, but in the living of our everyday lives, there are many times that we can hear God’s call for courage or encouragement or both at the same time.

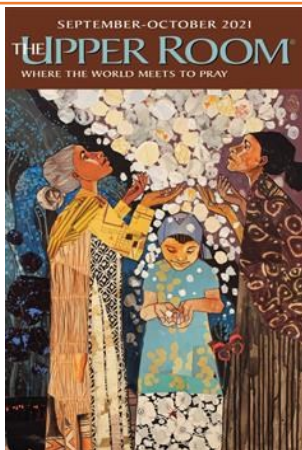
My husband Joe once said to me that I was a born caregiver. That’s not true, but I was raised to be a caregiver, having a lifetime example set by my parents, who cared for family members, friends, and neighbors lovingly and compassionately over the years. My sister, who was a faithful caregiver to our mother for many years, now finds herself in the position of needing comprehensive care after a health catastrophe that has left her with mobility difficulties and a sudden rapid decline in cognitive abilities. I spent much of this summer in Jackson, TN, helping my sister as she went through back surgery, followed by therapy in transitional care, and then adjustment to life in an assisted living facility. Situations that remind us that we are created “for just such a time as this” are sprung upon us without warning sometimes. We hear God’s call through other people – family members, friends, faith family members, doctors, physical therapists, and others. We have the choice - to pick up the challenge with courage, to face our own fears, to put our own health and welfare at risk, or to give up something else that may be more pleasant and less threatening - in order to answer God’s call. One of my main roles in this whole painful process with my sister has been to encourage her – my bright, articulate sister, a former reference librarian, a person who read extensively all her life – to find the words to end a sentence or even to begin one. I’m also encouraging her children, my niece, nephew, and granddaughter, as they willingly pick up the big jobs of caring for my sister’s health, her finances, her home, and her pets. I continue to pray the words of Psalm 27:14 for my own family, as well as for members of our faith family at Trinity Church: “Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage. Hope in the Lord!”

Peace and love to all,
Irene

Thanks to the Scouts for all their hard work last week!



Last Monday evening, many of the Scouts and their families came together and helped cut up and remove a large portion of our tree that was damaged in the storm. We're very thankful to have, for over 100 years now, Troop 13 as a part of our Trinity family.



September/ October

The large and regular print versions of the latest issue of *The Upper Room* can be picked up from the front porch of the church building.

We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out.

Leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895) or e-mail office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.



[Editor's note...]

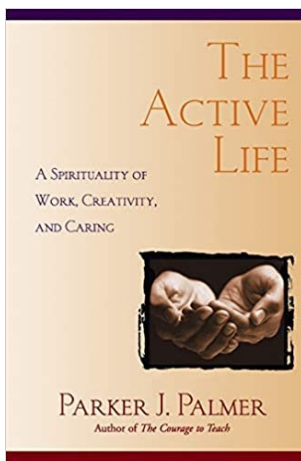
I am writing this Tuesday evening, August 24, at 8:05 p.m. following a very long day that started at 4:00 a.m. when my alarm went off. (It's days like this that affirm my decision to give up make-up. Saves lots of time.)

I transported my husband George to St. Francis Hospital, where he was scheduled for an AV fistula placement at 7:30 a.m. This will offer a safer access for his dialysis, allowing the permacath in his chest (which goes directly into his heart) to be removed. I have dreaded this surgery for weeks, fearful of the possibility of something going wrong, overtaxing his heart.

The procedure couldn't have gone any better, and we were able to come home the same morning. The surgeon was very happy with the outcome and communicated that to me in an almost joyful manner. While I credit him with his skillful handling of the surgery, I also give thanks to God for his mercy and healing. And I give thanks to all of you who were praying for us. God is good! All the time!
—Debby Marston

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[Editor's Note: If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to 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.]



The Nowlin Class has started a study of "The Active Life - A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring" by Parker Palmer. It can be ordered from Amazon or a bookstore. Mike Potter is leading the study.



August 28	Reid McClurkan
September 6	Jamie Windham
September 10	Timothy Taylor
September 13	David Potter
September 13	Marty Rice
September 14	Kathy Isbell
September 16	Kate Taylor
September 17	Harper Keller
September 17	Jan Bailey Young
September 20	Charlotte Comes
September 22	Bennett Brown
September 22	Craig Jordan
September 22	Virginia Walters
September 23	John Stuart
September 26	Nancy Rankin
September 27	Doug Miles
September 28	Kadynce Hemingway
September 29	Evelyn Windham
September 30	Joe Hatter

If any birthdays have been omitted, please send the name and date of birth to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message so we can make that correction.

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 Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake and hurricane; 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 first year 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

Irene Opel hospitalized August 13th with pneumonia, dehydration, and covid-19; moved to nursing home facility temporarily before returning to The Glenmary. Husband **Gene** tested negative for covid-19.

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, now residing permanently in rehab center; had to sell home and store her possessions.

Charles Abraham, now at home and using his new ramp for physical therapy.

Val Coates, serious heart condition; still in pain after shoulder surgery

George Marston, successful placement of an AV fistula for better dialysis access, praise God!

Nancy Rankin, pancreatic cancer, on chemotherapy; for **Nelda Gray** as she cares for her

John Stuart, now living with brother **Robert**, both in poor health, but have caregivers

Jean Moss, now at Alan Morgan Health Center in Trezevant View Place on Highland, Room 339

Margaret Rucker, Irene Dycus' sister, moved to assisted living

Phil Isbell, fighting Parkinson's Disease, and for **Kathy** as she supports him

Jim Schaeffer, now in rehab following repair of a broken femur and hip

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