



**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.**



## **Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Pandemic**

*We stand right now at a threshold where past and future are in conflict. This conflict takes place between the kinds of perceptions we've held—about ourselves, about life and reality—and the new kind of perception that is needed. We may experience the threshold as a crisis—and it is. For though we want to step beyond it, what we may have to do to leave it goes against the grain of everything we've believed to be true.*

*The crisis we experience at a threshold is often painful but it also holds the seeds of possibility. The Chinese symbol for the word crisis contains two characters: one for danger and the other for opportunity. To face a crisis in this way is a chance to see everything differently—and ultimately, the change in how we see characterizes an awakening.*

-- Anne Hillman, Awakening the Energies of Love, p. 39.

The above quote was written by Anne Hillman in 2016, but it applies equally today as we attempt to navigate through the crisis we now face in this pandemic and begin to see in new ways. Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23). As for how we are to follow him, Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We can't do this unless we change how we see others.

Danger and opportunity are both before us today. So let us not be overwhelmed by the danger, have confidence that God is with us - as Scripture tells us repeatedly - and seek out the opportunities that await us in this new way of seeing and being in the world. Let Love guide your every step.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase." Let us take that first step together.

-- Rev. Mike Potter



# en·cour·age·ment

Definition of “encourage” -

1.    a.    to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope: hearten  
      b.    To attempt to persuade: urge
2.    to spur on: stimulate
3.    to give help or patronage to: foster

We are living in a time that tends to leave us anxious, fearful, discouraged, and lonely. While there have been pandemics throughout human history, most of us have not experienced anything quite like the current crisis. We have read reports of a few fortunate individuals, still living, who survived not only COVID-19, but the 1918 pandemic (the Spanish flu) and the Asian flu that started in Singapore and Hong Kong in 1957. They are, however, the exceptions, and we are still left with our concerns for our own health and that of our loved ones.

At times like these, we need to look to God for encouragement. The scripture verses that follow might inspire us to start looking more intentionally through the Bible for passages that will help to alleviate our fears and anxieties.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NRSV) *As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

Mark 10:27 (NRSV) *Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”*

Philippians 1:6 (NRSV) *I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Psalms 37:23-24 (NRSV) *Our steps are made firm by the LORD, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the LORD holds us by the hand.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV) *And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

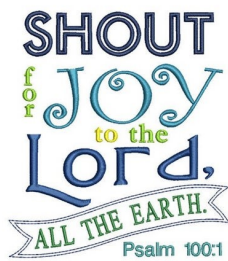
Luke 12:32 (NRSV) [Jesus said,] *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*

Philippians 4:7 (NRSV) *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NRSV) *Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.*

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV) *...for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Psalms 23:5-6 (NRSV) *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.*



## “Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!”

This verse, Psalm 100:1, was our children’s memory verse for the final weeks of our summer Zoom meetings. There continues to be much in which to find joy, even in the midst of this pandemic, a time when we have gone from a hands-on approach to virtual teaching and learning.

We have taken great joy in:

- the children’s steady attendance at our Wednesday Zoom meetings
- the support of their busy parents and grandparents; despite the demands that some face in working from home, they have faithfully made the effort to see that their children have gotten online for these meetings
- the children’s willingness to assume leadership in our class meetings by taking turns reading the Bible stories out loud, by leading the songs, and even by designing some of the art projects
- our being able to learn as teachers, after our initial fears and frustrations, to do new things every week as we have faced the challenges of planning and leading Zoom sessions
- all of the precious moments that we have spent with our children each week, as they continue to grow and change before our eyes and as they demonstrate their willingness to adapt to new situations

This Wednesday’s Zoom meeting was the last one we will have for a few weeks. We will take a short break while our children adjust to their new learning situations as school begins once again. Most of our children will be engaging in virtual learning, and some will be home schooling for the first time. Our prayers will be with all of our children and their families as they adjust and adapt to meet the demands of this very different new school year.

The **parents of all children** are invited to join us for a **Zoom meeting on Sunday, September 20, at 3:00 p.m.** Our agenda will be to determine the best day and time to resume our weekly Trinity Kids’ Zoom meetings. We will send an invitation with the Zoom link to all parents during the middle of the week prior to the meeting. We hope everyone will do their best to join us.

We’re all in this together, and what a great comfort and what a great joy it is to know that the Lord is here with us as we meet each change and each new challenge that comes our way. The apostle Paul reminds us to “rejoice in the Lord always.” Not only that, but he tells us to “pray without ceasing” and to “give thanks in all circumstances.” These are good things for all of us to keep in mind each day.

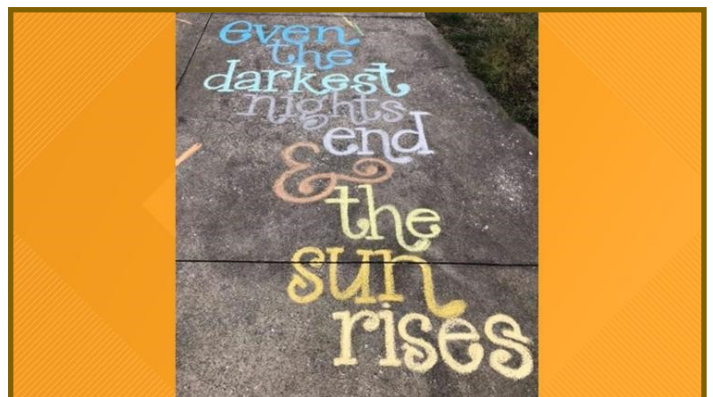
Peace in Christ,

*Irene and Alyson*

happy  
birthday

August 28	Reid McClurkan
September 6	Jamie Windham
September 11	Doris Webster
September 13	David Potter
September 13	Marty (Mike) Rice
September 14	Kathy Isbell
September 15	Kate Taylor
September 17	Harper Keller
September 20	Charlotte Comes
September 22	Craig Jordan
September 22	Virginia Walters
September 23	John Stuart
September 26	Nancy Rankin
September 28	Kadynce Hemingway

~Encouragement~



In the face of uncertainty,  
there is nothing wrong with hope.

— O. CARL SIMONTON —



# Memorials & Honorariums

## *An honorarium has been received*

*In honor of Kay Jordan from Connie Johns*

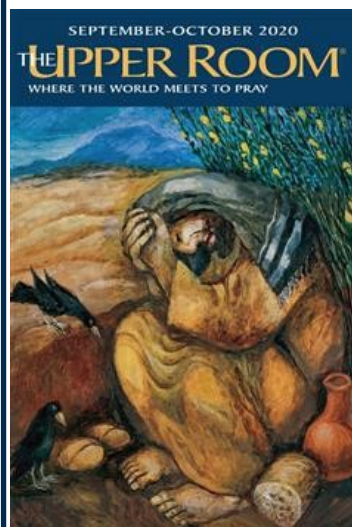
*in recognition of Kay's generosity in making face masks for any who need them. The donation was designated for the Food Voucher program.*

## 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



## September/October Upper Room

The latest issue of *The Upper Room* is now available. If you want to pick up a copy at Trinity, you will find a display on the front porch. We can also mail your copy. Send an email to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895). Other resources are available on *The Upper Room* website. Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> in order to access daily devotionals, a digital version, pandemic prayer practices, a prayer wall, meditations on living with COVID-19, and more.

## 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 as they go back to school, whether virtually or in person; 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

**Donnie Glover**, Chris's brother, still battling leukemia

**Katie**, young mother of an infant & toddler, now out of abusive relationship and doing well  
(concern shared by **Chris Glover**)

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS, undergoing treatment; please pray for him.

**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's** biopsy showed benign lymph nodes, praise God! Nancy faces surgery for a mass in her right lung.

**Maggi Comes**, experiencing back pain

**Elwood Oliver**, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, recovering from his strokes

**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

The family of **Laura Fellin** (niece of Mary McConnell), who passed away on August 1

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

**Sally Ramsey** recovering from a back injury and now in a back brace. Pray for relief from her pain.

**Albert Seals** (father of our custodian, Lisa Seals) passed away July 31st after an extended illness.

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.)*