August 27, 2025

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.

Signs of Hope

I spent some time last weekend looking through homilies I'd preached for the last month or so, and realized that, from where I sat at least, there was an overarching tone of empowerment for the pursuit of justice, equity, and a Kingdom (or Kindom) ethic, for which I am grateful. I know that I preached it and being grateful seems a bit odd, but I do believe that the exposition of a sermon is divinely inspired, when written as it should be, and thus, I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for its work in preparing me for Sunday morning.

Where we might be in a season for messages of empowerment, I know what it *can* sound like. On the other side of messages like that, we might find ourselves eager to go into the world to rage against the machine. Where empowerment can be encouraging, however, it isn't always laced with hope, and I find myself needing words of hope more now than in most years. And, even if the message is one that presses back against what we are experiencing in our world, shouldn't it always encourage hope in the aftermath of its being heard?

Maybe you **have** left worship with hope, and for that I am grateful also. But maybe you haven't. Maybe we ought to be reminded that sometimes hope is something we have to actively pursue, as it does not always seem, at least, to pursue us. As the Sunday message is often laid in your lap, hope may not always accompany it. So we have to go looking for it, or train ourselves to be aware of hope as we experience it every day.

Even amid climbing grocery prices, the formation of tenuous relationships with neighboring countries becoming our reality, and the suffering of the world coming into the foreground, it is not hard to find things around us that inspire hope.

In two weeks, Trinity's first confirmation class in, I'm told 15 years, will begin. We have five committed youth who will come together under the leadership of seven faithful leaders and another seven Safe Sanctuaries trained "second adults," alongside five mentors that they will choose, to learn about the Old and New Testaments in the Fall and church history and polity in the Spring, before being given the opportunity to join the church in full membership in May. How incredibly hopeful is that for the life of the church?!

Trinity has two couples getting married this Fall. These are the first weddings our church has seen in my tenure (this is my 9th year). Christy LaFlamme and Adina Day are getting married this weekend, and Clay Polk and Danielle Wilkinson are getting married in November. That means we are being given the opportunity to celebrate the work of God in the joining together of these couples — their commitments to one-another in Christian marriage. How beautifully hopeful is that?!

We have new Sunday school leadership stepping up in the Nowlin Sunday School class as well as our Children's Sunday School class. New leadership means additional perspective which leads to growth that otherwise wouldn't happen. There is always hope to be found when we grow in faith.

The re-scheduled Pride Fest is on the horizon, and Trinity will participate. We have members working on Advent craft ideas for Evergreen's annual Christmas Parade (which always ends at Trinity). We're installing a shower on the lower floor of the building, as well as a laundry room with a washer and dryer, c/o one of our prospective Eagle Scouts, so that when we reignite our participation with Room in the Inn (for the first time since Covid), we'll be able to offer those things to our guests.

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Hope. Hope. HOPE!

It's easy to be marred by the troubles of our world, but we are told that we must not lose hope (Joshua 1:9) — that God may be doing a *new thing* (Isaiah 43:19), and that, in all things, God works for the good of those who love him and who are called according to his purpose (masculine language for God used only because it is how Romans 8:28 words it).

So, do not lose hope, Trinity. Pursue it. Do not wait for it to find you. Find it. It's everywhere if only you'll reach out and touch it.

With great hope,
Rev. Sara

UWF Update

United Women in Faith

After a comedy of errors resembling a Chinese fire drill sixteen UWF met for our last summer vacation meeting at The Cupboard. We welcomed two of our community neighbors and hope they will join us again. After a delicious lunch we exchanged books, games, and knickknacks.

UWF is co-sponsoring a project for Golden Cross Senior Ministries, our fall mission. Along with our $325. cash contribution for a complete move-in kit, we ask members of the congregation to place items from the list in the boxes in the lobby. Not on the list but also welcome are books to add to their library. Golden Cross will pick up items after the first Sunday in September.

In order to continue the tradition of Sam's Scones in his and Sara's absence, the following ladies have volunteered to bring noshes for the first (07 September) and third (21 September) worship services: Irene, Sue, Sharman, Katy, Kate, Joan, and Joan. If you have not volunteered and feel led to share, add your dish to the serving table. There's always room for at least one more!

UWF will resume our regular potluck meetings 26 September at 11:30 in the Center. Our program will be from the 24 September *UPPER ROOM* "God with us." Please pick up your free copy in the lobby. Discussion questions can be found on page 74 of the large print copy and page 75 of the regular copy. We look forward to meeting with you then.

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.

"Since my youth, God, you have taught me…"

Psalm 71 was one of the lectionary readings last week. It has become one of my "new favorites" because it speaks to me about where I am right now in my personal life. ***The Wesley Study Bible*** titles it "Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help." In the footnotes, it identifies the psalm as "the prayer of an elderly person." Yep, that's me! I am an elderly person, and yet, here I am, still working with children.

One of the most important things about this scripture is that it takes me back to the very beginning of my relationship with the Lord, back to the time when I was totally unaware that He was even in my life. "For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord," says the psalmist in verses 5-6, "my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you."

This is a perfect description of my life. I went reluctantly as a child to Sunday School and church, but I fell in love with the church as a youth when I became active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship. That happened because a friend who was a year older persisted in inviting me to participate in MYF. When I finally took her up on that invitation, something unexpectedly bloomed inside of me and, yes, I began to develop a certain confidence that I had lacked before. It took many more years of spiritually stumbling around until, again at the invitation of a friend and neighbor - this time one who was two generations older - I arrived at Trinity Church. In the years following that first Sunday at Trinity, I have grown in age from a young mother to an elderly grandmother.

Now I find myself in verses 9 and 17-18 of Psalm 71:

> Do not cast me away when I am old;
> do not forsake me when my strength is gone.
> ***
> Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
> and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
> Even when I am old and gray,
> do not forsake me, my God,
> till I declare your power to the next generation,
> your mighty acts to all who are to come.

The children whom I have taught have grown older as well. Rebekah Jordan was in the 5th and 6th grades when I taught her in Sunday School. Over the following years, she became the Rev. Rebekah Gienapp, a United Methodist minister, a wife, and a mother. The Gienapp family – Andy, Rebekah, and their son Daniel – became part of our Trinity Church family some time ago. Rev. Rebekah is taking on a major leadership role in the Children's Sunday School Class, as we prepare to begin using the *Godly Play* curriculum and materials in our studies. Rebekah has also recruited some younger teachers who will join Ms. Kathy and me as we begin a wonderful new chapter in our teaching lives.

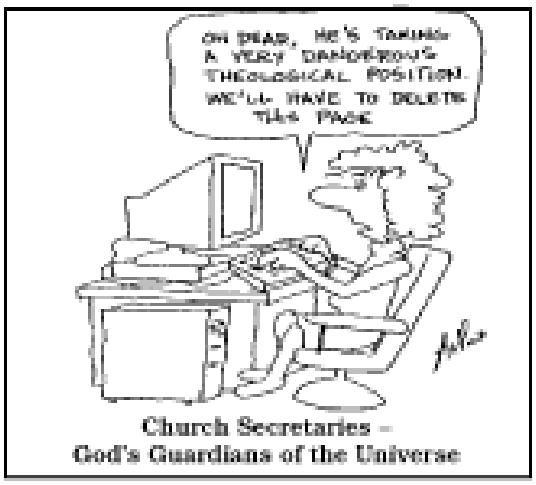
I hope you will continue praying for our children and teachers in our Children's Sunday School Class, as well as for our new Youth Group and the Confirmation Class, which will be starting soon. New and exciting things are on the horizon!

Peace and love,
Irene D.

GOLDEN CROSS NEEDS

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Laundry soap
- Hand soap/sanitizer
- Cleaning supplies
- Denture care items
- New bath towel sets
- New full-size bed sheets
- Small kitchen items (utensils, dish towels, potholders)
- Crossword puzzles/word search books
- New arts & crafts supplies
- Ziploc bags, all sizes
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Facial tissues
- Coloring books
- Colored pencils
- New pillows (in plastic)

Place items in boxes in Galloway lobby.



Church Secretaries –
God's Guardians of the Universe

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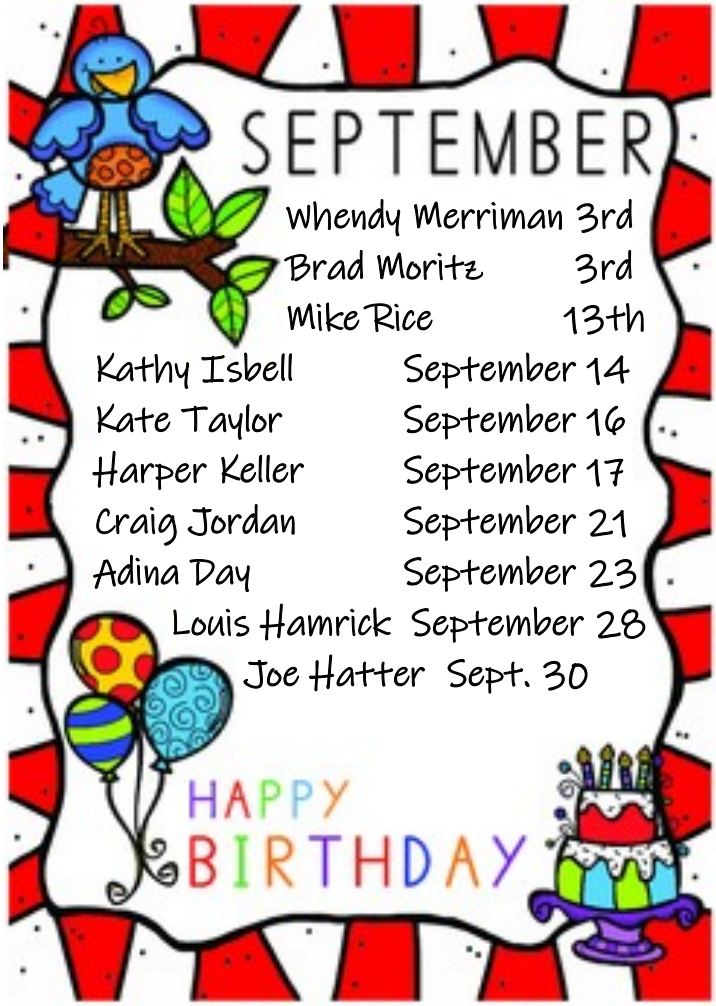

It is important to have current information on our members and guests. Even if you have not moved and even if you have been attending Trinity for many years, please **legibly print** your name and completely fill in **all** information on the attendance register. Place your completed form in the **offering plate**. Leave the attendance registry folder on **top of your seat** as you leave. Thank you for your assistance!

MLGW

Trinity Emergency Assistance Ministry

We receive many requests for assistance with utilities and some for rent. In August, to date, we have written 13 checks to MLGW for $50.00 each to help families with their utility bills. That's not much, given the high cost of utility bills recently, but it's better than offering no help at all. The generosity of members and friends of Trinity supports this emergency assistance ministry, and there are many grateful recipients. Your contributions to the Communion Offering Fund on first Sundays helps in this effort.

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 who can't afford to pay their bills and have to make hard decisions, such as, "Do I buy groceries for my family, or do I purchase the prescription medication I need to stay healthy?"

Please be generous!

Communion Offering

September's communion offering will help fund a laundry room installation on our lower floor — a project taken on by one of our prospective Eagle Scouts, Elliot Carrillo. It is our hope to re-visit Trinity being active with Room in the Inn, and this time we are offering a shower and laundry room to support that ministry. We are blessed to have a Scout willing to help take on the construction of this project and, as a church, want to support him in his endeavors as he supports us in our calling. Roughly, Elliot has to raise between $2000 and $2500 to make this happen.

Here is what Elliot has offered as his goal for this Eagle project:

"I'm Elliot Carrillo, a Life Scout with Troop 13B in Memphis, TN. We meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, and I have chosen to help Room In The Inn at the Church. This project will be beneficial to "Room in the Inn," which is always free. They try to help the unhoused have a safe place to sleep. So providing a platform and installing a washer and dryer will benefit unhoused people, in case they don't have anywhere to wash their clothes. We will be building a platform for the dryer and adding a vent for the dryer exhaust, running a drain line for the water, and providing the machines towards this project."

Let's help Elliot make this happen. Please consider what you might be able to contribute to this project for the communion offering on September 7th.

ROOM IN THE INN MEMPHIS

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:

Betsy Black's friend **Ken Savage**, diagnosed with metastatic cancer
Continued healing for **Sue Taylor** and **Elizabeth Hopper** following their surgeries
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
Elizabeth Hopper, for healing following surgery for thyroid cancer
Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey** and daughter **Sandi**; for Sally's son **Kenny** and his wife **Peggy**'s move to Missouri; for **Seily** as she begins her studies at Austin Peay University
Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's
David Chenault: has undergone final skin graft; out of hospital & in rehab
Neil Ostenrude, as he recovers from 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; **Raquel**, as she recovers from respiratory issues
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 did not go as expected; pray for him & his family. His wife **Julia** has MS.
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, released by surgeon; wound from amputation is healing well, & he is looking forward to getting his prosthesis. Carey's brother, **Lee Miller**, is recovering from a stroke.
Praise that prayers have been answered for Katy Spake's son, **William Berry**! **Katy** will have cataract surgery on Sept. 11 on her first eye: pray for Joe as her driver & nurse and Dr. Smith, the ophthalmologist.
Val Coates, back pain and extreme depression
Jonathan Goff, back injury; **Karen Barker**, Sara's sister, lung issues; **Laura Carruthers**, Sam's friend, passed away.
Laura Major Conner, for her physical health and living situation
Back to school for our students, faculty, administrators, & school staff
For Trinity's **Children's Sunday School Class** as they begin the *Godly Play* curriculum. Praise that **Rev. Rebekah Gienapp** is coordinating this effort and that new teachers have been recruited to help
For Trinity's new **Youth Group** and **Confirmation Class**, which will be starting soon.