August 28, 2024

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 Front Window and the Rearview Mirror

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

I think it began Sunday, when I mentioned the pandemic and our year of virtual school at home. I think that's probably when I began looking back. It happened again this morning, as I pulled an older, loose-fitting t-shirt out of the closet — one I hadn't worn in I don't know how long. I let my mind wander, trying to remember when I bought the shirt (2020). I wanted to wear the shirt because it had sleeves, and though it will be blisteringly hot today, I wanted to cover the surgical area on my arm.

I went to the bathroom to brush my teeth and do my hair and turned on an audio-book I'd been listening to — one that one of you suggested I read. Audio-books mean that I can venture into the book while doing something like brushing my teeth. The book is called "The Midnight Library" by Mark Haig. As I listened to the book, I realized why I'd been reminiscing so much. The book is about a young woman who'd died (or, almost died), and in the liminal space between life and death, she finds herself in a library. All of the books in the library are illustrations of how her life might've been different if she'd made different choices. I don't know where this will lead. I am only halfway through. But, it has me thinking.

It's fascinating. I'm not a proponent of looking back. From my very first weeks at Trinity, I have encouraged you not to look back because, "We're not going that way." At General Conference, Bishop Swanson illustrated in a sermon that the front window of the car is much larger than the rear-view mirror for a reason. We aren't going back. We cannot juggle what-ifs. Regrets offer us little.

One of my earliest sermons at Trinity (some of you may remember it) redefined our heyday. We were looking toward selling the sanctuary building to 'right size' ourselves for the ministries of the church. I was blessed with beautiful reflections — memories of weddings, baptisms, and funerals that took place there, when one Sunday School class had over 100 members, when the worshipping body was 400+ on a Sunday. A lot of the reflections were about numbers and that's ok because after taking a glance in the rear-view mirror, I reminded you that, in those days, the number of people outside of the walls of Trinity that were served in Christian ministry were few in comparison to the now. Now we serve folks through the use of two food pantries. Now we house a school where children grow and learn. Now we are home to a fully-inclusive Scouting ministry. Now we are a home that is fully-inclusive in general. Now we incubate our sister church every Sunday, and they partner with us in ministry. Now we are more than a community center, but are, instead, a hub of Christian discipleship, well-known in our community for stepping in when we know of needs.

This is our heyday.

We can look back with regrets that we are no longer who we once were, but I do not understand why we would do that. Regrets will not offer us an opportunity to make different choices in a time that no longer exists. We can look back fondly and reminisce over the saints we have lost, but otherwise, we settle ourselves in the "now," knowing that God's calling on us is for today and for tomorrow.

Today (and, tomorrow, I am certain), we are growing and that can only mean that we are being faithful. What will this mean for our next months and our next years? It's time to talk about that.

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On September 8th, in lieu of our usual Church Council meeting, we will be gathering after worship for a "bring-a-dish" meal (otherwise known in the South as a potluck). We'll be celebrating the ministry of now. We will be discussing potholes, hurdles, and deficits (because being practical is important). We will be hoping together for all that is next — looking ahead to the race still before us, knowing that God is still speaking, that God is still there.

I hope you'll make plans to come and look ahead.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Sara

Don't forget to pass the attendance pads around during Sunday worship. Help us update our records.

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GOLDEN CROSS
Senior Ministries

Golden Cross Senior Ministries has called 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 next to the front desk 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
- Denture care items
- Disposable adult undergarments
- Cleaning supplies
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon sizes)
- New bath towel sets (wash cloth, hand town, bath towel)
- New full sized bed sheet sets
- Pillows (new in plastic)
- Small kitchen items (potholders, utensils, dish towels)
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Crossword puzzles/word search books
- New arts & crafts supplies
- Coloring books and coloring pencils

A Move In Kit List is available at the front desk. 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.

Lost Sheep

"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." (Psalm 4:8)

Last night I lost a lot of sleep because on that morning (Sunday), we temporarily lost one of our three-year-olds at church. In fact, we didn't know he was missing until his mom returned him to us; this is with four adults on duty, two in the nursery and two in the children's classroom. I take full responsibility for this happening because I'm the one who said he could play in the children's classroom as well as in the nursery because his baby brother was there. At some point between "here and there," he took a detour and went up the stairs by himself.

Thank God, he headed straight to the worship service, where he served notice on his mom that he would like to have his snack bar. (After all, that was only fair because he had seen that baby brother had his own snacks downstairs in the nursery.) Mom was extremely gracious and amazingly good humored when she returned our little "lost sheep" to the care of his totally clueless shepherds. While there is some humor in the situation, at least in my telling of it, more than anything else it was scary as the dickens for those of us who serve as caregivers for our children. Most especially as Children's Coordinator, I saw this as a prompting from God for me personally to be more attentive and for all of our caregivers to be consistent with our children.

Ms. Kathy, Pastor Sara, and I communicated about this situation this morning. We agreed that we could take some immediate steps that will hopefully prevent this happening again. Here are the simple procedures that we need to be consistent in observing:

- No children three-years-old or older should visit the nursery, unless their parent(s) are with them.
- The Nursery gate will stay closed whenever children are in care there.
- The Children's Classroom door will stay closed whenever children are present there.
- At times that a gate/door is open, such as when a child goes to the restroom, an adult needs to be at the doorway or in the hallway.

I would love to tell you that this is the only child that I ever lost in my years of teaching. Unfortunately, that's not true. Thankfully, every child was quickly found and there was no lasting trauma attached to the occurrence. But I can also tell you that there is a huge amount of fear and anxiety that's a part of any situation like this. As a teacher, one is humbled by it, never forgets it, and hopefully always learns something from it.

Thankful for your prayers,
Irene

Last UWF Summer Luncheon a Success

Sixteen women united in faith met for our last summer vacation luncheon. After prayer and mission statement, acknowledging absent members, and welcoming new ones, we moved on to old business.

Treasurer Sandy reported on our finance committee meeting and presented the budget for fiscal year 2024-25 which was approved by acclamation. An account will be opened at Orion FCU. Signators on the account will be the budget committee consisting of the president, treasurer, and finance chair, currently Sandy, Sue, and Joan S. Pledge envelopes will be distributed at the September meeting.

The next order of business was a request by Evergreen Garden Club for UWF to host a program in October. We voted unanimously to extend radical hospitality to our neighbors. The program will be open to the public and address tree ownership and who is responsible for trimming, damages to property and tree, and other homeowner concerns. Please let us know if you will be able to attend, bake, or extend hospitality. A sign-up sheet will be circulated soon. Further details will be in the next Trinotes.

Our Chinese auction was handbags, and we had great fun claiming our favorites. Blue Monkey was an excellent host for our last summer vacation meeting.

September 27 will find us back in the Worship Center for potluck. We will resume our study of 12 Ordinary Men. Katy will lead the discussion. We hope to welcome you there.

September Birthdays

Whendy Merryman	September 3
Brad Moritz	September 3
Mike Rice	September 13
Kathy Isbell	September 14
Kate Taylor	September 16
Harper Keller	September 17
Craig Jordan	September 21
Adina Day	September 23
Kadynce Hemingway	September 28
Joe Hatter	September 30

Memorials & Honorariums

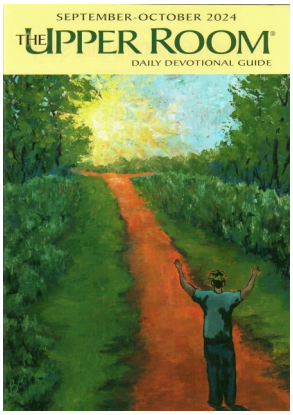
A donation has been received in honor of

The Front Desk Volunteers

from Sue Taylor

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* Now Available

The September/October *Upper Room* devotional guides have just arrived! They are now on display on the counter in front of the reception desk. In order to ensure that our homebound members receive their copy in a timely fashion, 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).

TRINITY UMC

State of the Church Meeting
& Bring-a-Dish Lunch
Sunday, Sept. 8th

State of Trinity Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 8th, following morning worship, please join us for a congregational exploration of Trinity's strengths, hopes, and needs. The meeting will include an "add a dish" lunch. Sam Goff has graciously agreed to cook our protein. If you plan to attend the meeting, please consider bringing a side to share. During the meeting you will have an opportunity to hear Sara discuss ministry strengths, hopes, and needs. Craig will do likewise about congregational finances.

It is important for all Trinitarians to be more aware of the current circumstances that are encouraging, and concerning, and offer us a strengthened path forward. There will be ample time for participant questions, ideas, and suggestions.

This meeting will be in lieu of our regularly-scheduled Church Council meeting. Please plan to be present and participate in this effort.

Craig Jordan, Council Chair and Treasurer

The Tree Whisperer

On Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00 p.m., the Evergreen Garden Club is hosting a special event in Trinity's Center. The focus will be on trees, with the City of Germantown's arborist Wes Hopper as guest speaker. Mr. Hopper is said to be fluent in the language of trees. In 2020, he played a key role in securing Germantown's designation as a Tree City of the World.

Members of the public are invited to attend, and the United Women in Faith will provide refreshments as part of their fund-raising efforts to support our food pantries. (It's not a bake sale; the Garden Club is making a cash gift to support the UWF.)

Mr. Hopper will address tree ownership and who bears responsibility for trimming, damages to property and trees, and other homeowner concerns.

Wes Hopper, Natural Resources Manager

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; awaiting pathology results
Family of **Julia Allen**, widow of Dr. Ray Allen, Sr. Mrs. Allen died recently.
Alyson Foreman is home recovering from surgery. **Caley** has covid.
Josh McClurkan, kidney stones.
Adam Hill, serious vein ruptures in legs, much pain (friend of Joan Smith)
LeeAnne Vamantee, Amelia's mother-in-law, is recovering well from her broken 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** passed away August 22nd. Funeral is in Brownsville on the date of this publication.
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; now has pneumonia. Carol's step-mother, **Barbara Womack**, in rehab for hip replacement; fell & broke femur.
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.)