

**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.**



## My Secret Prayer Partner

From  
the desk  
of...  
The Rev.

*I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy. — Philipians 1:3-4*

I'll never forget being invited to church for the first time. I'd been to church on and off as a child, but regularly attending isn't something my family 'did,' for a myriad of reasons. For months I'd been receiving anonymous cards in the mail reflecting with kindness, in detail, that the sender was praying for me. I was 12 years old. I didn't know, at first, that it was a part of a program my home church was

doing where an adult in the church was committed to spending a certain part of the calendar year praying for a chosen 'youth' on the church roster. My person was intentional in asking to be assigned an "inactive youth." At the end of the months of praying, there was to be a dinner at the church where we were able to meet our 'secret prayer partners.' I didn't have to go, but this stranger had spent so much time praying for me. Admittedly, I felt like I owed them. So, I went to the dinner and met Laticia. I didn't know at the time that she'd play the part of my surrogate mother for the years to follow, while my own went to rehab for alcoholism and when we lost our home to a house fire. I didn't know then how she'd be a pivotal part of my feeling a call to ministry and how she'd spend years taking me out for my birthday to wherever had the best chocolate dessert. In meeting her, I didn't realize I'd come to know Jesus like I did then and like I do now. My invitation didn't lead me only to relationship with Laticia; it led me to a relationship with my Creator and a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus. In Methodism we attribute this to prevenient grace. In my life, I attribute it to someone willing to invite me and then walk with me in faith.

A recent statistic shows that nearly 70% of people who go to church now went the first time because someone (other than the pastor) invited them. It works. I'm a product of an invitation. I am a product of being invited to worship. I am a product of someone praying for me. Being invitational works.

Trinity's Discernment Team is working right now to discover ways where the church can cross over the line from being in relationship with our neighbors to helping our neighbors be in relationship with Jesus. The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who will transform the world. Helping people to come to know the love that Jesus has for them is what makes the Church different from a community center. It's what moves people who'd otherwise not know how valued they are to the One who created them and calls them to come to know the reckless, unashamed love of God — the hope for the hopeless, peace and forgiveness, joy of Jesus.

**None of what the team envisions will 'work' without you.**

By the time you receive your newsletter it'll be midweek. There's still time for you to be invitational, but Sunday comes. Who is God guiding you to bring this week? Who is God calling you to pray for? Most of us have spent our lives hearing that we ought not cross the line. Let's change that. Who will you cross the line with this week?

Praying, hoping loving, and inviting,  
Rev. Sara



*Fourteen kids of all ages joined Rev. Sara during worship Sunday, August 6th, for the "Blessing of the Backpacks."*



## Help Wanted!

Have you been keeping an eye on the area that used to be the Chapel? As we looked at using the space in our building well, we realized this room was never used and was becoming a dumping ground for odds and ends. We know (from our experience with

handing out grocery gift cards and keeping the Tiny Pantry stocked) that our neighbors are often in need of food. Alex Landrigan took on the challenge of converting the Chapel into a **Food Pantry** as his Eagle Scout project. It's almost ready, and plans are underway to stock it.

Help wanted! We need a team of 3 people to meet and plan how to run the Pantry. The Church Council envisions that at first we may offer service only on one day a month. The team we're looking for will plan what day, what hours, who will be on site to serve shoppers, how we will monitor who is served and any limits, and so on. So we need people who are big on compassion and also big on detail.

Please contact Kay Jordan, chairperson of the Church Council, if you can love your neighbor in this way. She can be reached at [jordanck2@gmail.com](mailto:jordanck2@gmail.com) or by text at 901-299-2624.

## Calling All Smiling Faces! *We Need YOU!*

We are in need of greeter volunteers from 10:30 'till 11:00 on Sunday mornings through the end of the year. Can you take a week? A month? Radical hospitality requires each of us to pitch in and welcome our Sunday visitors. Offering directions to the bathrooms, passing out bulletins, or just being a smiling, welcoming face is a great place to start! If you'd like to volunteer for any amount of time, please reach out to Rev. Sara.





## Practicing Gracious Hospitality

Last Sunday at Trinity Church we had a joyful celebration of our children and youth and their promotion to their new grade levels. We had fourteen kids of all ages who joined us for the Blessing of the Backpacks. Three of those were visitors. Everyone left in a happy mood after our feast of pizza and ice cream sundaes. What a blessing that day was for all of us!

When our first visitor arrived at Sunday School time with my own two granddaughters, I pulled out nametags on which everyone could write their own names. It's tough if you're a new kid and don't know anyone else's names, even if you have come with two kids whom you know well, as six-year-old Eleanor did. I did the "nametag thing" the week before at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast, too. That day, my friend and neighbor from the Parkway House, Marty Thomas, visited with me. I had to scramble to find nametags that day. Of course, none of us who were Trinity members were wearing our printed nametags. (Hmmm, do we not expect anyone to visit us anymore?)

I have a tremendous appreciation for those rare individuals who have a gift for names, who hear my name and call me by name from that point on. As far as I'm concerned, that is one of the most precious gifts anyone can have. It's not listed as an "official" spiritual gift, but for some folks whom I have been honored to know, it was a spiritual gift. I don't have that gift at all. I confess that I am "name-challenged" and always have been that way. I have a hard time remembering new folks' names and even long-time members' names sometimes. I NEED nametags, and I think that most of us do, especially if we are to practice gracious hospitality.

The recognition of our names is so very important to all of us. We are created in His image and need to do our very best to address anyone who enters this building by his or her given name or chosen name. We are called to view any person of any age, any sexual orientation, any race, any position in society, any "whatever" as a child of God. We are doing this in His name and out of love and respect for both Him and our neighbor.

During Vacation Bible School with our friends at St. John's UMC, I saw one of their members wearing their church's version of our Trinity nametags. The difference was that her first name was written in such HUGE LETTERS that I could read it from a good distance away. The rest of the adults and children who were VBS participants wore lanyards with nametags that had to be read sideways (or not at all, when they flipped over, with the name next to the body).

I have a suggestion for us as a congregation, and that is that we start expecting visitors at Trinity Church once again. We need to start wearing our nametags in faithful and hopeful anticipation of having new folks who don't know our names. As soon as possible, we need to get new nametags with HUGE LETTERS so that anyone can read them easily. And we always need to have nametags on hand for those visitors who are going to come our way. (Notice that I did not use the words "might," "maybe," or "if" in the previous sentence.) What do you think we need to do to become a truly welcoming congregation?

Peace and love,  
*Irene*



# Attention

## Safety Reminders

Friends, Sunday, toward the end of our Church Council meeting, in the early afternoon and sunshine, a member's truck was broken into in our back parking lot. Nothing was taken, and no one was hurt. We are blessed that this was witnessed by a Lab School employee, quickly reported to the police, and brought to our attention. We are also lucky this happened moments **before** any of our council members exited the church building.

This is a reminder note—one that should draw your attention to matters of safety.

- Please remember to lock your car doors when parked at the church and to not leave in sight anything that might encourage sticky fingers to enter your vehicle.
- Please remember that our campus is a **gun free** zone. This is a spiritual matter. There should be no guns left in your cars or brought into the building.
- Please be reminded that the front and back doors of the church are locked at 11:00 a.m. Sundays, If you are a smidge late to worship, please be prepared to be let in the main door (the Galloway entrance). There is no need to be embarrassed. We are simply trying to keep everyone safe.
- Please do not open a locked door at the church without vetting the person requesting to be let in. No one unexpected should be coming to the church.
- Please remember, if you are at the church during the week while school is in session, to observe our *Safe Sanctuaries* policy. You should never be in a position where you are alone with a child in the church. The benefit of the doubt is no longer a reality in our culture.

Your safety is extremely important, and our collective safety is dependent upon everyone observing the above list. It is also our duty to help protect those who use our building. Know that there are working surveillance cameras on campus that cover the back parking lot. Know that the classrooms for the Lab School are also monitored. No one unaccounted for has a key to the building, and our partnering organizations who cohabitate with us are receiving the same reminders.

Finally, please do not neglect to pray. Pray for the poverty, violence, and crime in our city. Pray for the need in our community that often leads to poor decision making. Pray for one another, our partnering organizations, and for a day when we no longer have to consider, with such seriousness, these means of staying safe.

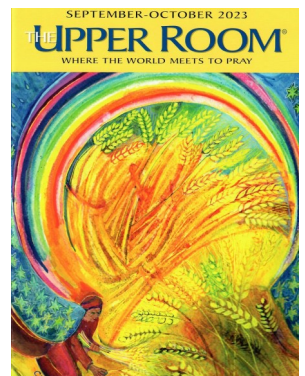
If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Rev. Sara or any member of the Trinity Church Trustees.



Heather Witt	August 4
Amelia Strickland	August 14
Rowan Booth	August 16
Sean Booth	August 16
Savannah Strickland	August 26
Read McClurkin	August 28

## THE UPPER ROOM

The September/October *Upper Rooms* are now on display at the reception desk just outside The Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you (or a friend or neighbor) and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, send an email to Debby Marston at [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or call the church office at 901-274-6895 with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



## Home from Philmont!

by Rob Landrigan

Our Philmont crews are home! Each of our crews covered over 50 miles, and thousands of feet of elevation on their treks, reaching heights nearing 12,000 feet. As impressive as the mileage and the physical accomplishments were, however, the real transformation from Philmont Scout Ranch is mental. The kids we brought back were not the same kids we left with. They had to rely on one another, to care for one another. Our own Alex Landrigan was crew chaplain and had to learn to ignore the exhaustion and motivate his fellow scouts. The phone call from 12,000 feet on top of Mount Phillips was one of the happiest I've ever received from him.



## Tiny Pantry Still Needs Donations

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. Let's remember to take care of "the least of these."

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for earthquake & tornado victims; 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.

**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 interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. David Weatherly;

**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:

The family, friends, and Art Center colleagues of 24 year old **Amanda Reynolds**, who died unexpectedly  
**Bishop Bill McAlilly**, surgery on his right ankle August 7th; full ankle replacement to be done later this fall  
**Chris Glover** saw a cardiologist August 8th to obtain clearance for surgery to remove small tumor.

**Edna Hoffman**, surgery for broken hip from fall July 24th

**Gwen Dodson**, bladder cancer, COPD, and osteoporosis; IV cancer treatment ongoing every 3 weeks

**Charlotte Comes**, out-patient treatment using Y90 radiation therapy; successful surgery on August 1st!

**Sydney Elliott**, friend of Irene Dycus, in hospice care; pray for his wife **Mary**, as well.

**Maggi Comes'** niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

**Kanyon Glover**, pray for his speech therapy and the use of his left arm (due to a stroke)

**Jacob Foreman**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, in ICU, on dialysis, paralyzed on one side after stroke, asthma, COPD

**Don Culpepper**, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has cancer in five locations; receiving radiation therapy.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, receiving in-home hospice care

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 97 year old cousin, now residing permanently in a rehab center

**Val Coates**, multiple health problems

**Lori Brown** has aggressive HER2 breast cancer and is receiving gene therapy.

**Eddie Ramsey**, multiple health concerns, and for **Sally**, as she cares for him

**Edward Thigpen**, ongoing cancer treatment; financial difficulties due to medical expenses; having to use walker every day due to a stroke or mild heart attack, which has caused shortness of breath & chest pain  
Pray for **Joan Foley's** daughter-in-law, **Marilyn Hawkins**. Joan's sister passed away recently, so remember Joan in your prayers, as well.

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

**Lyle Klein**, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease

**Sandra Poole**, medical concerns, needs employment; her daughter **Amanda** missing for seven years

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Rev. Kyle Dearen**

For **The Lab School**, as their students learn, grow, and develop, and for their adult Guides

For all our Scouts in **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**, and for all their leaders as they camp this summer

For those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity and for their continued determination to succeed

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