Trinotes

September 10, 2025

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.

Contagious Joy

"…and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away…" Isaiah 35:10

I may seem more excited than I should be. I may be prompting YOU to be more excited than I should be, but I just about can't help it. I am oh-so-excited about our bright-shiny new confirmation class. I knew that it had been at least 10 years since there had been a confirmation class at Trinity. Since I mentioned that, someone else told me that it's been at least 15! WOW!! The reality is that no one can really pinpoint when the last class happened and now, IT'S HAPPENING!

Why is that a big deal? It's not. It's a HUGE deal.

In a season of the Church (universal) where just about every denomination is seeing decline in the United States, especially since Covid, and for United Methodists, especially since the disaffiliation of the last several years, a confirmation class is a sign of new life. It's not the season of the solstice for that. We're approaching Fall. Soon the leaves on the trees, brittle from a relatively dry summer, will skip the beauty that is usually Autumn and head straight to a crunchy brown mess. We begin to approach the END of the year. That's normally marked by signs of death that will eventually lead us to Spring and signs of new life — resurrection hope. This is the time for shriveling up leaves — not new buds on trees.

And yet…

Yet, we have 5 new buds on our tree and with that, signs of resurrection hope months out from and months ahead of Easter.

It's just one of the many signs we've seen of new life in recent months. Our young adult families are jumping in headfirst to help support the ministries of the church. They are leading Sunday School classes. They are helping to teach the new confirmands. They are volunteering for Card Factory and in the nursery because now WE NEED A NURSERY! There are weddings on the calendar. There will be be new liturgists next year to blend in with our wonderfully seasoned group of liturgists. Young adults are leading committees and joining them in the coming year. It's AMAZING. And this confirmation class is icing on the cake.

Confirmation, as explained to the new confirmands, is a crash course in scripture and the church. They will get a glimpse of the entire canon this year. They will learn some church history, and a lot about Wesleyanism and Methodism. They'll come to know what polity is and what our doctrine looks like. And, hopefully, they'll learn some of Trinity's rich history in Memphis. Oh, and they'll have fun. I have promised them that they'll have fun. At the end of the school year, they will have an opportunity to choose whether or not they will join the church in full membership, and have an opportunity to do so. It will be their choice and their choice alone.

The church is growing. I have been hesitant to use those words. It's "slow growth" but it's growth. It's changing. It's shifting. I think — I believe — it's being molded and made into something I could never have predicted and I can't but be incredibly excited about that. So, pardon me if I cannot contain my joy. Excuse me if it became contagious. I'm sorry if it gets you excited too. Except, I'm not. I'm not sorry at all. Get excited. Share in my joy. This is resurrection hope staring us in the face and what a miraculous thing that is.

Joyfully Yours,

Rev. Sara

UWF Update

UWF Circle held our last summer vacation meeting 22 August at the Cupboard with 13 members and two welcome guests attending. We enjoyed Southern comfort food, the easy congeniality of friends with a common purpose, and of course the Chinese auction of books, games, and knickknacks.

We have completed our fall mission project of providing a move-in kit for Golden Cross. In addition to our check, Sue Taylor coordinated a Trinity-wide collection of daily use items for residents. As always, Trinity members heard the call and donated generously—so generously that a pickup truck (thanks, Sam) was necessary to deliver the bounty to Golden Cross.

Trinity is growing, including a number of younger members. Trinity used to have two Circles, one that met at noon and one that met in the evening. If any of our members is interested in forming an evening Circle, please let us know. We will be happy to help you get started.

On 26 September at 11:30 we resume our potluck meetings in the Worship Center to roll up our sleeves and get back to our mission of serving others. Our program will be from the 24 September devotional in **The Upper Room**. Discussion questions can be found on page 75.

Remember, you need not be a Trinitarian; you need not even be a Methodist; you need only be a woman of faith. Come and be welcome.

Those whom God has joined together.

Trinity UMC celebrates and congratulates Christy and Adina on their recent nuptials. We pray for their marriage and the grand adventure that is ahead. May wedded blessings abound!

Circle of the Church Year

On the morning of the day I wrote this article, I was greeted by a full moon as I opened the shutters at my balcony door. I am usually surprised by the sight of the full moons, as I don't keep up with their schedules. Whenever I witness one, I am taken aback by its astounding beauty. Because I am an early riser (5 a.m. and sometimes earlier), I often catch the full moon in the morning darkness before sunrise and am astonished by the brightness of the heavenly body that Genesis 1:16 calls "the lesser light to govern the night." On this day, shortly after 6:30 a.m., the hues in the sky were already pastel pink and blue when I saw the moon, and it was just moments before it totally faded from sight, as the "greater light" of the sun began to shine on the treetops. As so often happens during these awesome moments in the still and quiet of the morning, I am aware that these events are gentle reminders of the passage of time and of the ongoing endings and beginnings that are part of all our lives.

I frequently am prompted to look up the name of a particular full moon and the meaning of that name in the online version of ***The Old Farmer's Almanac***. Many Native American peoples called the September full moon the Corn Moon - or some variation of this, such as the Corn Maker Moon (Western Abenaki) or Corn Harvest Moon (Dakota) - because this time of the year corresponds with the period of harvesting corn in much of the United States. Other Native American names for the September full moon highlight how this month is the transitional period between summer and fall, such as Autumn Moon (Cree) and Falling Leaves Moon (Ojibwe), and Yellow Leaf Moon (Assiniboine).

This past Sunday, in our first session of *Godly Play*, Rev. Rebekah (or Ms. Rebekah, as we call her in our class) introduced us to the "Circle of the Church Year." The focus of the lesson was on how the church tells time, and we learned that the church tells time by colors as well as by clocks and calendars. We were introduced to the three great times in the Christian year and their corresponding colors: Christmas (white), Easter (white), and Pentecost (red). There are times for getting ready for the mysteries of these seasons: Advent (purple or blue) as we prepare for Christmas, Lent (purple) as we get ready for Easter, and the Easter season (white) that follows Easter Sunday up to Pentecost. We also learned that there are many "great, green, growing Sundays" (also called "ordinary times") between these great times.

So, we had our introduction to *Godly Play* in our Trinity Children's Sunday School Class. Everyone showed up on time for our first "official" session. We had time for our lesson, as well as "work time" during which the children used their creative ability on two- or three-dimensional pieces of art of their own choice. We also had our "feast" (formerly known as snack) with three children serving as helpers (and almost everyone wanting to help). We spent some time in being quiet and still, in giving thanks to God, and in receiving a blessing from our adult guide who was our storyteller. It was a time to remember and cherish this quote from the day's lesson: "For every beginning there is an ending, and for every ending there is a beginning. It goes on and on, forever and ever."

Thank you for your prayers for our children and for those of us who are serving as their guides.

Peace and love to all,
Irene D.

Lucas Smith Concert

A piano recital featuring our own Lucas Smith is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. in The Center at Trinity United Methodist Church. Lucas will be performing works of Mozart, Chopin, and Schumann, as well as his own arrangements. Please plan to attend.

September Birthdays

Whendy Merriman	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 LaFlamme	September 23
Louis Hamrick	September 28
Joe Hatter	September 30

GOLDEN CROSS
Senior Ministries

Thanks to our generous church family, the Golden Cross family has been very blessed by your contributions. Just some of your contributions include adult diapers, shampoo, books, puzzles, dishwashing soap, paper products to name a few. As usual, Trinity has demonstrated a heart for the least of God's children.

Confirmation Class Fall Schedule

September 21: Exodus/Law

October 5: Babylonian Captivity/Prophets

October 19: Rise of Rome/New Testament

November 2: Jesus

November 16: Mathew/Mark

December 14: Luke/John

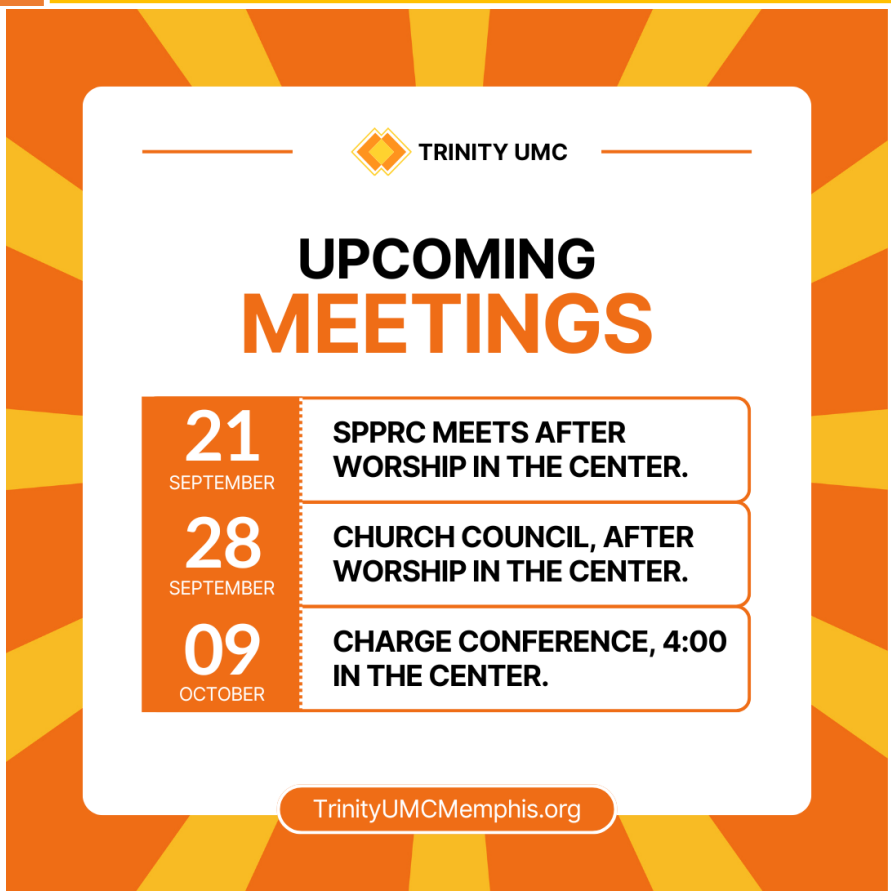
What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a “crash course” in scripture and the history and polity of the UMC. It is a “youth-geared” right of passage to full membership in the church.

Confirmands for 2025/2026 are Alexis Weatherly, Hadley Jacoby Keller, Aiden Tate, Carson Witt, and Daniel Gienapp.

They are pictured above having lunch September 7th with the leader of the Canon/Genesis class, Martha Ostenrude.

REMEMBER! If you are the last one out of the building, make sure you check that all doors are locked. Let’s keep everyone safe.



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; 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:

Kay Jordan, as she recovers from pneumonia and injury to her right wrist
Laura Comes Hubbard, incurable multiple myeloma
Betsy Black's friend **Ken Savage**, diagnosed with metastatic cancer
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 postponed after fall & broken hip; 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
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 September 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 started September 7th