

**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.**



## Flipping Tables

From  
the desk  
of...  
The Rev.

*Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers.' — Matthew 12:12-13*

Every weekday morning I walk Aiden to school. It's always been such a blessing that the parsonage is so close. It's also a blessing that we've been a part of this neighborhood and this school as long as we have. I know all the teachers, and so coming to the school each day is very much like going to see friends.

Most mornings I spend a few minutes checking in with Coach Cole about how he's adjusting. He's the new PE teacher. Some mornings I'll check in with Mr. Reese — the new Art teacher. Every morning I chat for a few minutes with Ms. Carter ("Betsy") — the long-time Snowden music teacher and someone I consider a friend. She often gives me parenting advice (her kids are older than mine). Sometimes we just chat. Betsy has a history with the United Methodist Church and is a strong advocate for creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth. She's also helped both my kids find their voices much sooner than I recall finding mine. I think the world of her.

This morning, as we were chatting, we talked about the worldview expectations of a pastor and how that worldview conflicts, at times, with my advocating for my kids. The worldview is often that we (pastors) are always docile, demur, and people-pleasing. The reality is that we were called, often, to works that are far less than keeping the status quo, smoothing out wrinkles, and keeping the whole content. We are called to works of justice for righteousness' sake and often, instead of gently shaking hands, we are turning over tables. In our world, that tends to work better when we REMOVE our clergy hat to "just be mom," or just be "advocate."

I admit that's difficult for me. No one wants to ripple the water. Everyone prefers peace. But our world isn't peaceful for so many who deserve it. Folks in all corners of our society sow seeds of harm and hurt and every voice pressing back against the systems that engender inequality is a necessary piece to the puzzle. My voice in wrong-doing is important.

And so is yours.

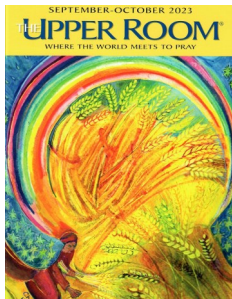
The work the Spirit of God does in us at our baptism is only the beginning of our being a part of a movement that creates positive change in our world. As beautiful as that 'sounds,' that often means work that presses back against systems of power and authority that would rather benefit from injustice. It means calling a brood of vipers what they are — a brood of vipers — knowing that vipers have serrated teeth and venom. It means flipping over tables even if your position in life is accompanied by a misnomer that you are always kind, patient, and endearing — making space for honesty, authenticity, and pointing out wrongdoing.

Sometimes that is my calling. Sometimes that is our collective calling. I promise to always make room for you to flip over tables. Know that I will flip them over with you.

Authentically Yours,  
Rev. Sara



Brad Moritz	September 3
Whendy Merriman	September 3
Marty Rice	September 13
Kathy Isbell	September 14
Kate Taylor	September 16
Harper Keller	September 17
Charlotte Comes	September 20
Craig Jordan	September 22
Virginia Walters	September 22
Kadynce Hemingway	September 28
Joe Hatter	September 30



The current *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, call the church office at 901-274-6895 or send an email to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



...that weekly between 200 and 350 people engage in or participate in our worship ONLINE? It is an amazing number of people that could be significantly boosted by you clicking on the 'share' button below any of our services. Every 'share' averages another 76 people participating in worship with TUMC. If you 'share,' new people will see what your church is doing and new people will hear the Gospel. In a small way to us, and potentially big way to them, they will become a part of our family of faith. This is the simplest way YOU can support your church.

#TUMCMemphis

# The Practice of Hospitality

Within the next few weeks, we at Trinity Church will have **three opportunities to practice gracious hospitality** with our neighbors. Two of these will be **Election Day Bake Sales**, which will take place on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Sandwiched between these two day-long affairs will be **Trunk or Treat**, which will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> in the Trinity parking lot. For all of these, we will need volunteers to provide “sweet treats” of some sort: baked goods for the two bake sales and candies for the Trunk or Treat. Savory food items are welcome for any of these three events as well.



For each Election Day sale, in addition to food items, helpers will be needed to help man the sales tables between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Our neighbors come looking for us on each of these election days! They are always pleased to see our tables loaded with baked goods AND to see our friendly smiles and to hear our words of welcome.

## BAKE SALE

Of course, it goes without saying that a trunk of a vehicle (or the bed of a truck) is required for the Trunk or Treat affair. Halloween decorations, games, and lots and lots of candy add to the fun for this get-together with neighborhood children. We will be encouraging folks in Cub Scout Pack 13, Boy Scout Troops 13B and 13G, the Lab School, and the EHDA to partner with us in hosting this exciting affair.

The dictionary defines “hospitality” as “the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.” Gracious hospitality, especially when we consider it in the context of our faith, can take things to an even deeper level. Being gracious means showing respect, kindness, and courtesy toward others. It also encourages positive relationships and a sense of community. The reason why we as a church family do these things for our neighbors is not measured in terms of calories. It has more to do with our hearts. That’s why we push ourselves to offer hospitality, even though it means we spend a lot of time on our feet, in our kitchens, and in grocery stores as we prepare for each event.

So, please mark your calendars NOW for these special dates:

**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Election Day Bake Sale**

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) – Trunk or Treat**

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Election Day Bake Sale**

Thanks in advance for your help!

Peace in Christ,

*Irene Dycus*



# Financial Update Report as of July 31, 2023

The summary for the financial performance for January 1—July 31, 2023 is as follows:

The income and expenses are presented by major categories.

<b>January 1, 2023—July 31, 2023:</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Non-Pledged	\$ 54,211	\$ 27,300	\$ 26,911
Pledged	\$ 52,427	\$ 56,595	\$ (4,168)
Facility Use	\$ 33,282	\$ 35,448	\$ (2,166)
All Other Income	<u>\$ 9,261</u>	<u>\$ 5,240</u>	<u>\$ 3,841</u>
Total Revenue	\$149,001	\$124,583	\$ 24,418
Expenditures			
Administrative/ General	\$ 68,155	\$ 81,763	\$ (13,108)
Apportionments	\$ 16,611	\$ 12,920	\$ 3,691*
Maintenance/ Operations	\$ 50,602	\$ 57,863	\$ ( 7,261)
Program Expenses	\$ 6,137	\$ 5,011	\$ 1,126
Other Expenses	<u>\$ 466**</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ ( 33) adj.</u>
Total Expenditures	\$141,971	\$157,556	\$ (15,585)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,030</b>	<b>\$ (32,973)</b>	<b>\$ 40,004</b>

\*Two conference payments were made in May and in June. This overpayment will correct itself in September.

\*\* Minister's Health Insurance Contribution for July

Before your eyes glaze over from all of the above, the numbers show that Trinity is in a much better financial position at this point in time than we originally thought we would be. Thanks to generous giving, a bequest from Jean Moss' estate, and increased rent from the Lab School, as well as rent from Living Word church, our total income is about \$25,000 above budget while our expenses have remained below budget by about \$15,500 thus far through July. Hopefully, this trend will continue over the next five months!

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Potter  
Finance Co-Chair

Craig Jordan  
Finance Co-Chair



## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

A MEMORIAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF KATHRYN "GIGI" ELLIS FROM SHIRLEY FLINT



### 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."



# LAKESHORE

united methodist camp & retreat center

### Support the Lakeshore Scholarship Fund

Lakeshore is a camp and retreat center located on the shores of the Tennessee River, providing Christian hospitality, rest, and reflection for guests of all ages and backgrounds since 1948.

Programming at Lakeshore includes summer camps, parent/child weekends, special needs camps, retreats, work weekends, banquets, and a variety of other events.

Historically, Trinity has maintained a scholarship fund for our children and youth, allowing kids to attend camps who otherwise would not be able to afford the experience. **The fund balance is still very low.** We invite you to contribute to the Lakeshore Scholarship Fund in order to allow our children to enjoy the camping experience offered by Lakeshore. Simply write a check to Trinity UMC and note "Lakeshore" on the memo line.

### Coming Soon: TUMC Food Pantry



A planning committee of four, Kay Jordan, Amelia Strickland, Melba Abraham, and Mike Potter, have started research on how best to stock our future food pantry and equip our congregation for this important ministry. Amelia, Melba, and Mike visited the Binghampton UMM Fishes and Loaves pantry September 12th and were amazed at the volume of donations delivered by area churches and other organizations to keep BUMM's food pantry well-stocked. Michael Anderson, the pantry director, is said to have a real gift for inspiring generosity in community members and in keeping things organized. Trinity's food pantry committee is searching for inspiration on how best to invite the Memphis community and the Midtown neighborhood to join us in feeding families who lack the basics in terms of good nutrition. They will be touring other pantries in the area for ideas. In the meantime, Alex Landrigan is working toward completion of the physical space that will be used for the pantry. A great deal of hard work has gone into creating a space that will fulfill Trinity's goal of sharing healthy food with our neighbors. Stay tuned for updates in the next few issues of *Trinotes*.

## 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:

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, passed away last week.

**Melanie LaRue**, friend of Irene Dycus and former teacher at Trinity's preschool, died peacefully Sept. 5th. Pray for the **children and youth** who returned to school in August: for travel safety, health, successes & recoveries from failures, and for teachers & parents as they guide them.

**Dorothy Sue Smith** passed away recently. Pray for her family and many friends as they grieve.

**Bishop Bill McAlilly**, surgery on his right ankle August 7th; full ankle replacement to be done later this fall

**Chris Glover**, a second outpatient surgery is being scheduled

**Edna Hoffman**, surgery for broken hip from fall July 24th; recovering at Ave Maria

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

**Charlotte Comes**, out-patient treatment using Y90 radiation therapy

**Sydney Elliott**, friend of Irene Dycus, died recently; pray for his wife **Mary** as she grieves.

**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, 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.

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

**Val Coates**, ongoing serious health concerns

**Eddie Ramsey**, now in hospice care at home; **Sally**, as she prepares herself for the future; the **Ramsey family**

**Edward Thigpen**, multiple serious health problems & financial difficulties

Pray for **Jonathan Goff**.

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

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

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.)*