

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.

10 Thousand Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1-5

There is a contemporary Christian hymn that begins, “The sun comes up; it’s a new day dawning. It’s time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes.” If you frequent worship, it shouldn’t be an unfamiliar song. It’s one the choir sings from time-to-time called 10 Thousand Reasons. Unlike a lot of contemporary Christian music, there is a depth to this song that is unequaled in the genre. The lyrics explore the truth that there are endless (or at least 10 thousand) reasons to praise God and at the very end of the song, we are drawn into a place where we can claim that, for 10 thousand years or forever.

God’s blessings seem to multiply and are endless, and I think that when we claim those blessings, and claim God’s work and sovereignty over us and our existence, the possibilities are just as endless.

Trinity has a knack for that. During covid quarantine, we didn’t wallow in woes, but explored ways to stay connected. In my early time with you, we redefined what our ‘heyday’ was. We shifted from a perceived abundance (worship numbers in the 400’s), to a Kingdom abundance (actual ministry happening with those to whom Jesus calls us), and that abundance — those blessings — have continued to multiply, sometimes in spite of us, but, more often, because of us and the work the Holy Spirit is doing to lead us to the next blessing — the next claiming of God’s work in and through us, and so the hymn of praise we sing goes on and on.

Last Sunday we took a vote after worship. It almost felt like a failure to me. I didn’t want to model our response to Jesus’ calling in an ‘either/or’ spirit. I wanted, and prayed for, and hoped that whatever we quickly jotted down on a ballot, would be a response to a culmination of 10 thousand things. I was hopeful that whatever we marked would be a response to the worship service we just transitioned out of — one where we looked at the Gospel of Jesus and explored just how far God is willing to go to reach those outside of our flock, and our calling to “go and do likewise.” I hoped our response would be a reflection of holy conversations we welcomed the entire church to come and have over these last months. I prayed fervently, tearfully, hopefully that our response would be a reflection of who we’ve come to understand Jesus to be and what we understand our calling to be. That is being “church.” I hoped that whatever checkmark or X we put on our ballots would be less about who we are, and more about who God is. I wanted our actions after worship to be holy, not democratic. I wanted them to leave us, as a community of faith, singing God’s praises, 10 thousand times or more, and God singing praises to us, the same.

The culmination of Sunday’s responses, and those absentee responses through Monday, told a Gospel story — one where brave people made counter-cultural choices, some with fear and trembling, to leave the

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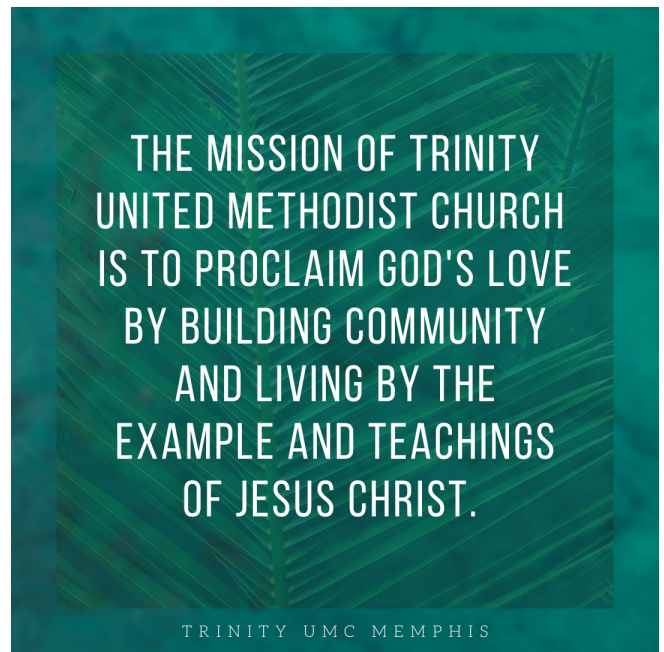
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flock and go searching for the lost sheep, that we might welcome them home, celebrating just as God did when we were found. Becoming a reconciling congregation — one that seeks in earnest to heal broken parts of our world — has been a hope for Trinity for a long time. It stretches back to years before I ever came. It will go forward with you for, I hope, 10 thousand years, for 10 thousand hugs, for 10 thousand moments of healing, for 10 thousand stories, for 10 thousand sheep lost, for 10 thousand hearts mended, and on, and on, and on.

And there is a place marked holy for each of us in this new thing we pray God is doing, no matter what you marked, because the mission will not change. Even the spirit will not change. If we keep in mind that it is our goal to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, we can celebrate, together, our unity of mission amid our diversity of thought and maybe even theology, because there has never been strength in surrounding ourselves only with those who think and do like we think and do. There is much strength in walking 10 thousand miles with someone who is different. In fact, the differences are the very mark of the Kingdom of God.

As the Spirit of the Living God helps us to lay these new bricks along our journey's path, I hope you feel so moved as to join in the labor and I feel very certain, there are 10 thousand reasons the Kingdom of God needs you.

In the Grip of God's Grace,
Rev. Sara



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

ELAINE AMIS FROM DAVID & ELIZABETH HOPPER

ELAINE AMIS FROM CONNIE JOHNS

ELAINE AMIS FROM CAROL & CAREY MILLER



THE CANDY DISH

As children, my sister and I spent many a pleasant hour at a neighbor's house down the road from our home. In the house lived our Aunt Mary. Aunt Mary was not really our aunt since she was related to no one in our family. But she was our aunt by virtue of the fact that we had adopted her in that capacity, in the passionate love that children sometimes feel for a favorite adult.

Aunt Mary's living room once held the neighborhood's only television set. On school-day afternoons, down the gravel road we would trudge, to sit entranced by the small screen's black and white image of Howdy Doody and Buffalo Bob as they performed all sorts of wonderful antics.

The other featured attraction in Aunt Mary's living room was a beautiful, stemmed crystal candy dish which resided on a round wooden table in the center of the room. Fashioned of clear and ruby red crystal, the candy dish reigned over the room in resplendent beauty. Beneath its sparkling lid, which a young child could rarely lift and replace without making at least one small clinking sound, were candy treasures galore.

Years passed, and I did what all children do in time; I grew up. Joe and I had only been married a short time when one evening close to Christmas, my mother phoned me with a special request. Aunt Mary's candy dish had been accidentally knocked from the table and broken, she said, and would I mind shopping for a similar one for the family to give to her for Christmas?

Far and wide I searched – in jewelry stores, discount stores, and department stores. Finally, I found a stemmed dish of clear and ruby crystal. Although it was quite expensive, this piece was not nearly so fine, so beautiful, so intricately cut as Aunt Mary's candy dish; it seemed such a poor substitute. The memory of the old dish shone like diamonds compared to the inadequate glass of this one. But it would have to do.

On my next trip home, the family made the trek down the road to present Aunt Mary with the gift. Upon entering her living room, I glanced around at the familiar setting. To my astonishment, there in the middle of the table sat the old candy dish, a small chip out of one end of the lid. It had not been smashed to smithereens, as my mother had supposed; it had merely sustained a slight battle scar. To my further astonishment, the "inadequate" candy dish I had purchased was an exact duplicate of the original.

Later I reflected on the implications of what had happened. I decided that the charm and beauty of that old candy dish had become more exquisite in my mind's eye through the years because that image had been enhanced by the memories of the love I experienced in that home.

I have been so greatly loved in my lifetime. The gift of love that I received as a child from so many wonderful adults, including Aunt Mary and Sunday School teachers and other significant adults in my life, is one of the reasons I answered the call to teach. I am so thankful that I can continue to pass that love on to the children who come my way.

I am currently unable to be in our Sunday School classroom with Ms. Alyson and our Trinity children, and I miss them all so much. This is my 21st day of being in quarantine for COVID. I look forward to a negative test one day soon and hope to be back in the classroom before long. (Who would ever have thought I would want to be negative in any way?) In the meantime, I encourage you to pray for our children and to love them in my absence.

Peace and love,
Irene

Editor's Note: As we go to press, we learned that Ms. Irene is no longer contagious. She celebrated by taking a nap.

Mark Your Calendars!

Please join ALL United Methodists and friends from Shelby, Fayette, and Tipton Counties and beyond for an inclusive, spirit-filled worship service of music, fellowship, inspiration and rededication:

Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
Mullins United Methodist Church
4 N. Mendenhall at Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Robbins
Music by: Metro Chorale led by Cynthia Haley

Offering to be collected for the newly formed ***Soul Force Initiative***

The Soul Force Initiative began to take shape on July 14, 2022 with a meeting including Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams to address ways to decrease gun violence. Tragically, four days later, Dr. Eason-Williams' life was taken by this same terrible scourge.

SFI is dedicated to not work alone, but to discover and work with all groups sincerely seeking to curtail violence. Among those discovered so far are the Tennessee-Western Kentucky (TWKY) Anti-racism Coalition, Youth Villages, Inc., and Moms Demand Action. We urge all clergy and laity to join in as the Spirit leads to help in this urgent work.

Please mark your calendars for September 25th, 4:00 p.m. at Mullins UMC at the corner of Mendenhall Rd. and Walnut Grove Rd.

BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

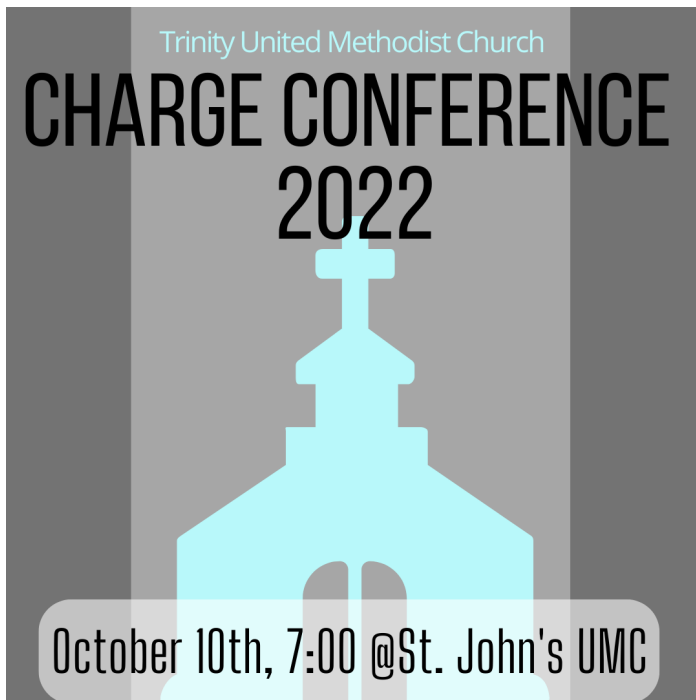


**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

Once a month, folks can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need.....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Trinity members: You can bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for BUMM's food pantry. A box for donated foodstuffs has been placed in the lobby in front of the reception desk. Also, donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let's commit to feeding our neighbors in need! **Special Note:** *The children's Tuna Challenge has ended, and all the donated food will be taken to BUMM. The total "can count" will be revealed on Sunday, September 18th. Stay tuned!*

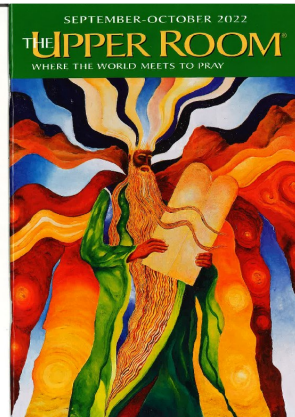


It's Charge Conference season. Please be prepared to be "yes" people this season and to join Rev. Sara for Charge Conference at St. John's UMC, Monday, Oct. 10th at 7:00.



Stay tuned for information regarding Trunk-or-Treat 2022.

THE UPPER ROOM



The September/October *Upper Room* is now on display at the reception desk just outside the Worship Center. Feel free to pick up a copy when you come for worship on Sunday. If you need to have one mailed to you and aren't on the regular *Upper Room* mailing list, call the

church office at 901-274-6895 or send an e-mail to office@trinityumcmemphis.org with your request. Be sure to specify the font size: large or regular.



September 3	Whendy Merryman
September 3	Brad Moritz
September 6	Jamie Windham
September 13	Marty (Mike) Rice
September 14	Kathy Isbell
September 16	Kate Taylor
September 17	Harper Keller
September 20	Charlotte Comes
September 21	Craig Jordan
September 28	Kadynce Hemingway
September 30	Joe Hatter

Tiny Pantry
Don't forget to help stock the Tiny Pantry with non-perishable food items!



PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for those families and communities who have fallen victim to the horror of gun violence in our country; for the people of Ukraine still 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 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; the family and many friends of the Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams as we grieve

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. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

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

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; making plans for college.

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

Bobby Glover, now in permanent housing

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

Gene Opel, at Allen Morgan Health & Rehab Center at Trezevant Manor, hopes to return home soon;

Irene very ready for him to come home!

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 lung cancer, but doing better.

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

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

Val Coates, in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Rev. Kyle Dearen**, as they worship and do ministry here on the campus of Trinity UMC.

Rosemary Potter, recovering from falls at home and starting in-home physical therapy soon

Lori Brown, in treatment for breast cancer

Irene Dycus, who has been quarantined with COVID for three weeks, has just learned that she is no longer contagious, praise God!

Eddie Ramsey, multiple health concerns

Bishop Bill McAlilly as he recovers from injuries sustained in auto accident and subsequent surgery

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