

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.



People Say I'm a Dreamer

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9

I am primarily a lectionary preacher. The lectionary is my comfortable place. You are welcome to pull that statement out next time I say something hypocritical like, “Get out of the box!” or, “We’re likely to find God in our discomfort.” Those things are not untrue. Neither is the first statement. The lectionary is my comfortable place and if there’s anything we’ve needed this year, it’s a comfortable place. As our way of living has been completely upended, perhaps a retreat to whatever place is comfortable is God’s grace.

The lectionary is my comfortable place until the lectionary throws me a curveball. It did that this week. You may have noticed. If you haven’t yet heard the sermon, it’ll be on our Facebook page all week. You do not have to have a Facebook account to go to Trinity UMC Memphis on Facebook and find our service.

This week’s text was about an equal playing field for all God’s people. In our society it would bring the wealthy down from on high and pull up the bootstraps of the poor and for no other reason than, that’s God’s way. The text strips away thought processes that claim that what we’ve earned is ours — that we deserve it. It makes us confront our feelings that we are better than anyone else, or worse (for that matter). On the comfortable end, it reminds us of God’s providing just what we need, because God is benevolent, but then back to the uncomfortable place. It requires us to treat each other the same way. And the reason this text is so difficult is that it is rarely how we actually live. We don’t keep only what we need. We save for a rainy day. We don’t all make the same salary. Different skills are worth more than others in the world where we live. The equal playing field where everyone has a living wage, doesn’t exist yet but the scripture tells us that in God’s order everyone should have what they need to live life unimpeded by many of the worries that many are confronted with.

Now, that was the sermon in a nutshell. But this is more about how we deal with scripture that challenges us in uncomfortable ways — in ways that require disciples to confront the world as it has always been.

Scripture can do that to us and where we might be apt to, “skip over that one,” or try to write it off as, “no longer relevant,” we have to ask ourselves if that’s true or if we’re simply uncomfortable. The Israelites struggled with this. The first disciples struggled with this. The early church struggled with this. The current structure of the entire world — it struggles with this, because scripture can call us to be so completely different than our culture, that we cannot even envision what that looks like. So, yes, it’s a whole lot easier to avoid the difficult texts — the texts that tell us to give away our possessions, to level the playing field, or to love our enemies.

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I wonder, though, if it might help to dream a little. We can look at what scripture is calling us to do and who it's calling us to be and be overwhelmed by all the ways it's calling us to change and all the ways it's calling us to change the world, OR.....we can dream. We can dream of a world where God's vision for all of creation is more like these difficult texts where the unlikely people are loving the other unlikely people — where forgiveness abounds — where no one is suffering economically — where there are no more have's and have-not's. John Lennon sang about it in his song "Imagine." *Imagine no possessions. I wonder if you can. No need for greed or hunger. A brotherhood of man. Imagine all the people sharing all the world.....Imagine all the people, living life in peace.*

Maybe if we can envision God's hope, the task won't feel so overwhelming. Maybe if we can see the world as God sees it, the difficult scripture will be motivation — fuel for the fire — to help build this Kingdom God is hoping for now, as we wait for the Kingdom that is to come.

Dream a little. Hope a little. Pray a lot. Remember, you are not alone.

Stay Well, Be Blessed,
Rev. Sara

Worshipping Outdoors With TUMC

On Saturday, September 19th, the Trinity Re-Entry Task Force met via Zoom to discuss the state of the city concerning COVID-19 and what that means for the church. It is the decision of the task force, after looking at Shelby County's most recent reports and recommendations from the medical professionals on the Shelby County COVID-19 task force, as well as the state of our own members, that we not pursue a regular return to in-person worship at this time. However, the task force also decided to pursue several outdoor, in-person worship experiences (weather permitting) in October. The following is the full announcement and details for those worship gatherings.

Trinity will hold two worship services during October during the regular, 11:00 Sunday worship hour, on the lawn behind the Worship Center. These services will be on October 4th and October 18th. We are asking that those who are planning to attend make a reservation through the church office by Friday of the week prior, so that we can place the appropriate number of chairs spaced as they should be to accommodate social distancing. Masks are still required. Please note that we still do not plan to sing congregationally, but, as good Methodists, we intend to do our best to make a joyful noise. The building will be open if the restrooms are needed. Entry will be staggered to accommodate social distancing. Where children are welcome and even encouraged to attend, please know that where we normally have a special spot for children and activities for them to do, we are asking family units to sit together. Further, if you plan to attend, please self-screen before you come. If you believe you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have had a fever or a general feeling of not being well 48 hours before the service, please make other plans to participate in worship. We are making every attempt to still livestream these services via

Facebook Live on Sunday morning for those who are not comfortable participating in person. If livestreaming will not work, we will record and post the service to our social media when worship has concluded.

Finally, if you plan to attend and can come early to set up, we need several volunteers to help bring the piano outside as well as chairs. Gloves will be provided to help curb the spread of germs. Please let Rev. Sara know if you can help with set up and take down.

This is not a stepping stone to return to traditional, in person worship. These are opportunities to worship differently, but together, and we hope, as you are able and comfortable, that you will make plans to attend.

Sincerely,
TUMC Re-Entry Task Force



Sunday School on Sunday!

by Irene Dycus

Several of our Trinity parents took time out from their busy weekends this past Sunday afternoon to meet with Ms. Alyson and Ms. Irene to set a new meeting time for our Trinity Kids' Zoom Meetings. Now that our children are back in school in one form or another, virtually or on-site, we are ready to resume meeting

together on Sundays at our regular Sunday School meeting time. **Our Zoom meetings will take place at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, beginning Sunday, October 4th.** The meetings will last for only 45 minutes because we will be meeting on a private Zoom account rather than Trinity Church's Zoom site. So, all you Trinity kids, do your best to be on time!

We are starting our new Sunday School year with a brand-new Cokesbury curriculum, **Celebrate Wonder**. We're excited about this new curriculum, which is designed to honor the spiritual life of children and to serve as a biblical guide to help children make meaning for their lives. We will start the year at the very beginning of it all: God's creation of the world. Made in the image of God the Creator, we will be doing some very creative things ourselves. Toward the end of October, one thing that we will be doing is designing "critters" from recyclable items. Now is the time for parents and kids to start collecting items such as paper towel tubes, large paper bags, Kleenex/Puffs boxes, small cardboard boxes, milk jugs, oatmeal boxes, popsicle sticks, plastic water/Gatorade bottles, etc., with which kids can make models of new and different kinds of animals. Further details will be emailed to parents about our new meeting time and materials that are needed for each child.



On **Sunday, October 25th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**, we will offer special Halloween goodies for Trinity kids, as well as neighborhood kids. Remember all that candy that was never handed out because COVID-19 hit town before we could have our neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt? Well, it's been patiently waiting in the Children's Department for someone to eat it, and we're going to help that happen. This year, we will be offering a **"Trick or Treat on Wheels"** to neighborhood children; this is a drive-up and drive-off event. Families are invited to drive by the Galloway side of Trinity Church to pick up plastic zip-lock bags of candy for each child. This will operate in much the same way that Pastor Sara has done the drive-by Communion. Kids are welcome to dress in their Halloween costumes, but there will be no getting out of vehicles. Bags of candy will be given to families through open windows, and we hope families will remember to wear masks. Our "candy car-hops" will mask up and glove up for this event to protect everyone's health and safety.

Lots of learning and lots of fun are ahead for Trinity kids, as well as friends in the neighborhood, as October follows quickly on the heels of September. We hope you are continuing to pray for all children, families, and teachers as we move farther along in this new and different school year.



September 23	John Stuart
September 26	Nancy Rankin
September 28	Kadynce Hemingway



October 1	Davis Hopper
October 2	Clara Farrabee
October 7	Tom Edwards
October 7	Irene Opel
October 8	Nora Dycus
October 13	Sullivan Potter
October 18	Gracie McClurkan
October 19	Jacob Foreman

Spiritual Formation



Spiritual Formation Opportunity on Zoom

For the past ten years, a large group of people have gathered at Church of the Holy Communion on the first Saturday of each month to pray together in silence and prayerfully meditate on the Sunday gospel reading. These gatherings are now available online. I invite you to join us the first Saturday of October at 9:00 a.m. for a morning of silent prayer and reflection using the ancient contemplative practices of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture).

Please email Eileen Olewinski to register at eileen.olewinski@gmail.com with your name so that the Zoom link can be sent to you.

-- Rev. Mike Potter

**The Church Council will meet
at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom on
Sunday, September 27.**



CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE IRENE OPEL, WHO WILL CELEBRATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH ON OCTOBER 7. MANY HAPPY RETURNS!

(CARDS AND CONGRATULATORY NOTES ARE WELCOME!)

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received

In memory of Eddie Walton from Shirley Flint

In memory of Doris Webster from Elaine Amis

In memory of Doris Webster from Rosemary Potter

In memory of Doris Webster from Mike & Carolyn Moss

In memory of Doris Webster from Wendel & Linda Stoltz

In memory of Doris Webster from Torrey Hughes

In memory of Doris Webster from Sandra McCorry

In memory of Doris Webster from Gary & Mary Joyce Lewis

In memory of Doris Webster from Darrell L. Mack

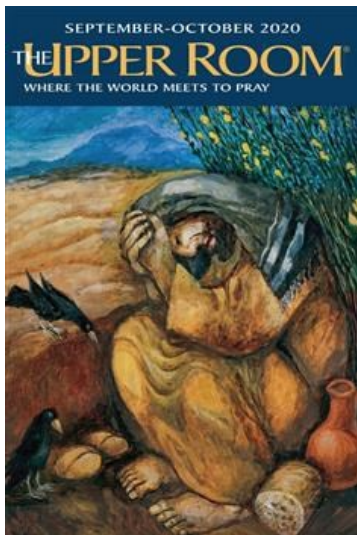
In memory of Doris Webster from Shirley Flint

SAVE THE DATE!!



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Charge Conference is November 1st from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. All church leadership is asked to attend. All church members are encourage to.



September/October Upper Room

The latest issue of *The Upper Room* is now available. If you want to pick up a copy at Trinity, you will find a display on the front porch. We can also mail your copy. Leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895) or send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Other resources are available on *The Upper Room* website. in order to access daily devotionals, a digital version, pandemic prayer practices, a prayer wall, meditations on living with COVID-19, and more, go to <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19>,

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those in our country and around the world who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; 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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who are struggling 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.

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 District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith.

Trinity UMC - for members in the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they go back to school, whether virtually or in person; for new visitors joining us as we worship 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

Paige Warmath, **Alyson Foreman's** cousin, continuing treatment for brain tumor

Kanyon Glover, heart transplant survivor; in and out of hospital

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, still battling leukemia

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

Gene Opel, in good spirits despite being confined to their home; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns, but strong in her faith; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

A PRAISE! **Mary Irene Opel** will celebrate her 90th birthday on October 7th.

Nancy Rankin is back home after her surgery. Please pray for her complete recovery.

Maggi Comes, experiencing back pain

Elwood Oliver, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, recovering from his strokes

Jeri Ashley, multiple health concerns

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

Sally Ramsey, out of her back brace and having physical therapy, but still using a walker

Nathan Hill, quarantined after a positive COVID-19 test, is asymptomatic, but still confined to his home.

For all members and friends of **Trinity UMC** as they shelter at home, as they work from home, and as they look forward to a time when they can see — in person — the faces of their church family

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