Trinotes

September 25, 2024

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.

Seasons Change

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. — Isaiah 43:19

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. — 1 John 4:16

Yesterday morning I was getting ready for worship and Aiden and I were trying to get out the door without forgetting anything. I had remembered, as I always do (but only on a Sunday morning) that the church sign really needed to be changed. During the week something has come up every time I have made a plan to change the sign OR a tropical depression has come through and made it relatively impossible to change what our sign says, until the flooding waters ceased. So, it was our plan to leave early enough to make changes to the sign before everyone came to worship.

I have a lot of ideas about what our sign says and normally do not have enough letters to say all that I want to say. It's important. It's often the first impression people make about our church and I am a big, old, sign-slacker.

Given that yesterday was the first day of Autumn, I made it what I deemed 'simple.' "Seasons change. God's love remains." It made sense for the day. We had enough of the right letters to spell that out on both sides of the sign. As I told Aiden, "Easy peasy."

Until I got to thinking about it…..

It's not that simple a message, is it? Yesterday when I placed the letters on the sign, I was referencing the Autumnal change of our hemisphere. I was referencing science and how God is in the midst as the leaves begin to change and we are reminded how beautiful death can be. I was making a reference to the 22nd of September — to the calendar — to where the sun is in relation to the earth. But then I began to think about the layers of inference in the message — the unintended possibilities.

Seasons change. LIFE changes. We've witnessed it over and over for the past seven years. We are not who we were in the last season of Trinity UMC. We are not who we were in the last season of the United Methodist Church. We aren't even who we were this time last year — who we were in the Spring, even. Never mind that HALF of the worshipping body is new (with new gifts and graces for ministry; with new needs and new levels of spiritual health and maturity), we who have been here for many years and through many seasons have changed as well. The seasons changing have changed us, and for the better. The mixing of the two — the new faces and those who've survived and thrived through all the seasons of Church life and remained wonderfully faithful to their membership vows, has created something wholly new, the new thing that God is doing.

And I know that it is the 'new thing that God is doing' because with every season, Trinity has been faithfully discerning where God is leading us. Seasons change. God's love remains. We have remained immersed in the love of God and I am not beyond considering that God's love for us has grown. I do not believe that God remains the same as yesterday. If humanity can grow and change and we are made in God's image (and God is omnipotent), God can certainly change too. As our love for God grows, God's love for us does as well. Hallelujah!

As you drive by the church in the coming days, I hope you'll be reminded of this simple, Gospel, truth. Our seasons have changed, and, thanks be to God, God's love has remained.

With Much Love,
Rev. Sara

New Online Giving Option

Trinity is now offering an upgraded Online Giving Platform as an option to PayPal. The Servant Keeper Online Giving Page fully integrates with our Servant Keeper Membership and Contribution Manager program making record keeping faster and simpler.

This giving page offers donors clearer choices about the Trinity funds to which one may give. It allows a donor to see one's giving records at any time. Donors' gifts are deposited to Trinity's checking account more quickly than PayPal contributions. If you are interested in learning more about Servant Keeper Online Giving see a video at: https://connect.servantkeeper.com/rRuDZnEQ

Written instructions for opening an account are found at https://scribehow.com/shared/Creating_your_Member_Account_and_Giving_for_the_First_Time_B4TEefaDSGiU03NhMKFPYQ

If you would like to use Trinity's Servant Keeper Online Giving Page go to: https://giving.servantkeeper.com/trinityumcmemphis/.

There you will complete your giving account and can immediately use it. You may also access the Giving Page with this QR Code:

Feel free to contract Craig Jordan at 901 412 1893 or jordanck2@gmail.com for further information.

Thankful for Volunteers

A couple of weeks ago, the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee celebrated our pastor, our staff, and the volunteers who assist with front desk and financial tasks, serving them a luncheon in the Center. It led me to think of other volunteers who make it possible for Trinity to minister to each other and to our community:

- Teachers in Sunday School (for kids and adults)
- Committee leaders and members
- Our hard-working Trustees
- Food Pantry and Tiny Pantry volunteers and donors
- Scout leaders
- Children's sermon leaders
- Folks who sign up to staff our booth at Mid-South Pride
- All who decorate their cars for Trunk or Treat, make our Easter Egg Hunt a success, and work at other community child-centered events, and the organizers of these events
- Bake Sale bakers and table helpers
- Cooks for Fifth Sunday Breakfast
- Community Coffee workers
- Sunday morning hospitality bakers and servers
- Singers and other musicians

I'm sure I forgot someone! If we were to have a luncheon to honor all these volunteers, we would have a hard time serving them, because most Trinity folks are volunteers. We would all be honoring each other! So, although we won't be serving lunch, let's all join in thanking each other for our volunteer work. We are the hands and feet of Christ in our church and in our community.

With gratitude,
Kay Jordan

Reluctant Prophet

I had the hardest time getting started on this article. It was as if my brain just couldn't focus. I knew the subject about which I wanted to write, but nothing came to mind. So, I took a short nap. When I woke up, I felt like running away, but I hung in there. I finally turned on my computer, and then the little icon on the screen kept spinning round and round for an aggravating length of time. After it finally stopped, I opened a new window in Microsoft Word, and the first few words that I typed crawled out in slow motion, as if the computer wanted to think about it before responding. I wanted to run away again.

I finally got the article written and emailed it to the office. When I opened the Thursday e-notes from Trinity and clicked on the ***Trinotes***, ready to read the latest issue, the previous issue popped up. I thought Debby had made a big mistake. Then I looked at the weekly schedule from the prior Sunday's worship bulletin and discovered that the ***Trinotes*** deadline was Monday of this week!

This article deals with this past Sunday's lesson in the Children's Sunday School Class, the story of Jonah. Could that have prompted my original reluctance and procrastination in writing this piece? After all, Jonah was an extremely reluctant, uncooperative prophet, who went to great lengths to avoid doing what God had called him to do.

The story begins with Jonah receiving a message from God to go to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, one of Israel's most hated enemies, with a dire warning from God to the people who lived there. So, what does Jonah do? He ignores God's command and buys a ticket on a boat headed in the opposite direction. God sends a terrible storm that threatens to sink the boat. Jonah confesses to the sailors that he's the reason for the trouble and suggests they throw him overboard, which they promptly do. God then rescues Jonah in a most unusual way, by having a big fish swallow him. While inside the fish for three days, Jonah passionately prays to the Lord, and God then has the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land.

Jonah finally does the job God has called him to do, which is to deliver the message to the Ninevites of their upcoming destruction due to their evil ways. But, by golly, they surprise Jonah by believing God and repenting of their evil behavior. Then God further surprises Jonah by forgiving the Ninevites! You would think that would delight any prophet, but it has the opposite effect on Jonah. He is furious with God! In fact, the story ends with Jonah still angry about God's compassionate forgiveness of the Ninevites.

Our God is a God of second chances. God wanted Jonah to do the right thing. Even after Jonah ran away, God gave Jonah another chance. That's grace. Grace is what we call God's love for us, no matter what we do. Grace can't be earned; it is freely given by God. Grace is something God calls us to share by offering our forgiveness and compassion to others, even when it's difficult to do.

Why is this story included under our FAITH FOCUS of **GOD IS CREATIVE**? The theme of last week's lesson was "God Creates Through Grace." The story of Jonah showed us, both children and teachers, that God's forgiveness helps us participate in God's creative grace for all people. It reminded us that creativity is not always about a thing we make. Sometimes we must be creative in the ways we solve problems or help others. That's not always easy for us to do. Sometimes our approach may even be oppositional defiant, like that of our biblical friend Jonah. But our God, who is the God of grace and who created us in His image, is always there to help us meet the challenge.

Living under grace,

Irene

Church Council Meeting

The Trinity Church Council will meet Sunday, October 13th following worship. Lunch will be included. Any Trinity participant is welcome to join Council members for our discussions. Please let Craig Jordan know if you plan to come through email at jordanck2@gmail.com or by calling 662 429 0158.

Calling All Trinity Bakers!

Baked goods and hosts/hostesses are needed for the Evergreen Garden Club's meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1st, in the Worship Center. The program, by Wes Hopper, will cover the rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of tree owners in our neighborhood. All are welcome.

Trinity will provide hosts and finger foods only. Baked goods could include sweet or savory items-- brownies, cookies, cupcakes, chips, and nuts. If you can bake, please bring your food items to Trinity Tuesday between 9:00-12:00. If you can help set up the Worship Center, please come at 10:00 a.m. If you can host, please come at 5:00 p.m. In whatever way you can, please help us extend gracious hospitality to our neighbors.

September Birthdays

Whendy Merryman	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 Day	September 23
Kadynce Hemingway	September 28
Joe Hatter	September 30

October Birthdays

Clara Farabee	October 2
Nora Dycus	October 8
Sonnet Booth	October 26
Natalie Stanton	October 27

Memorials & Honorariums

A DONATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED

IN HONOR OF

RAQUEL NORTON FROM SUE & MARC TAYLOR

United Methodist Black History Quiz

1. Historian Carter G. Woodson chose February as the month to honor black history because:
   A. Woodson was born in February.
   B. Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in February.
   C. February was the shortest month.
   D. All of the above.
2. True or False, Black History Month is only celebrated in the United States.
3. The first Black History Month celebration in the U.S. took place when?
   A. 1945
   B. 1957
   C. 1970
   D. 2000
4. This former slave became a famous abolitionist and a Methodist preacher.
   A. Sojourner Truth
   B. Harriet Tubman
   C. Harriett Beecher Stowe
   D. David Walker
5. Which United Methodist chuch is named after one of the "founding fathers of Gospel music?
   A. Tindley Temple
   B. Jones Memorial United Methodist Church
   C. Barratt's Chapel
   D. Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church
6. This former school, once a haven from racial prejudice, is now an UMCOR relief center:
   A. Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, Tennessee
   B. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
   C. Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, Lousiana
   D. The New Room, Bristol, England
7. After the U.S. Civil War, this trailblazing African American woman went to college, owned a business, and became a Methodist missionary:
   A. Susanna Wesley
   B. Susan Angeline Collins
   C. Billie Holiday
   D. Bishop Sharma Lewis
8. Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church in Philadelphia housed…
   A. The first well-baby clinic for African Americas
   B. A stop in the Underground Railroad
   C. A school
   D. All of the above
9. Who was the first African American bishop in the UMC?
   A. Roy G. Biv
   B. Roy C. Nichols
   C. Roy Rogers
   D. Roy Brown
10. Who was the only woman besides Coretta Scott King on the platform when MLK gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963?
   A. Jacquelyn Kennedy
   B. Lena Horne
   C. Mahalia Jackson
   D. Dorothy Height

Quiz Answers

1. B - Lincoln & Douglas born in February
2. False
3. C - 1970
4. A - Sojourner Truth
5. A - Tindley Temple
6. C - Sager-Brown Depot
7. B - Suzanne Angeline Collins
8. All of the above
9. B - Roy Nichols
10. D - Dorothy Height

Go to this link for the complete answers to this United Methodist Black History quiz: **https://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/Resources/documents/PDF_Complete_Answers_Page_Black_History_Quiz.pdf**

[Or go to umc.org and type Black History Quiz in the search bar & poke around until you find the quiz & answers.]

Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - 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; 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; pray for civility during upcoming Presidential campaigns.

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:

Sharman's brother, **Chuck Murley**, on radiation/chemo for throat cancer
Kathy Isbell's brother **Jeff**'s wife passed away unexpectedly. Please pray for Jeff and family as they grieve.
Carol Miller, fell on bleachers & fractured femur; recovering at home
Myra Finch's sisters-in-law **Margaret Beasley & Jo Ann Sumpter**
Kate Ostenrude asks for prayers for **Marshall**'s health concerns.
Katy Spake's son **Sean Berry**: medical tests for digestive issues
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, ongoing gastrointestinal problems; endoscopy scheduled
Adam Hill, serious vein ruptures in legs, much pain (friend of Joan Smith)
From Heather Jacoby-Keller: friend's husband **Eddie** diagnosed with cancer. Heather's sister **Faith** also fighting cancer (for the past year). Please pray for healing!
Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilynn Hawkins**
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment
Joan Smith's cousin, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**
Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith)
Olivia Dunn, 29 year old receiving treatment for uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)
Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS
Kanyon Glover has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.
Jacob Foreman, ongoing health problems & job search
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD; now has pneumonia. Carol's step-mother, **Barbara Womack**, in rehab for hip replacement; fell & broke femur.
Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, liver cancer returned, receiving radiation and chemotherapy
Val Coates, lots of physical pain
Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration; son **Rusty Ramsey**, torn kneecap tendon
Jonathan Goff, lost half of right index finger due to injury and resulting infection
Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease
For **Living Word Christian Church;** for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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