

Trinotes

September 27, 2023

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.



...with a grateful heart.

From
the desk
of...
The Rev.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

— Psalm 95:1-3

This morning, as I was leaving Snowden, out of the blue, and after a chaotic morning of getting us all out the door for the day, I caught myself singing, “Give Thanks.” Give Thanks is a very short little song in The Faith We Sing that we use quite often. There’s a reason we sing it. It’s easy. Everyone seems to know it. It’s beautiful in melody and word and it directs us to take a posture of thanksgiving and gratefulness, almost always, as we prepare to give our tithes and offerings to the church. Taking that posture helps us give from the right place — our longing to contribute to the work of the Church in our community.

I took note that I was humming Give Thanks as I walked away and I wondered why. It had been a tough morning. Cooper was dragging (in right fashion with his status as a newly-minted middle schooler). Aiden was cheerful but seemed to be doing everything he needed to do in what’s not-so-affectionately known around here as “Aiden time.” Josh and I were two ships passing in the night with the weight of lengthy to-do lists on our minds. I was discontent, overall, with the feelings the morning engendered. Then, leaving school all of that seemed to fade away and for reasons I couldn’t quite pinpoint other than the possibility that the Holy Spirit was calling me to a better posture — gratitude.

As I reflect I can think of another place I’ve seen that this week. Sunday morning was wonderful. Attendance was such that we had to print extra bulletins (twice)! We saw faces we don’t always see and it was like the reunion of the father to the prodigal son — overwhelming joy and thanksgiving. There were smiles and laughter and it was nearly impossible to get everyone to assume the position of worship when it was time to begin. Likewise, no one wanted to LEAVE worship afterward. It was the first time in a long time that I was not the last to leave the church Sunday. The reason for the return, for the joy, and for the longing to be with one-another wasn’t entirely clear, but it was there and with a grateful heart, I give thanks.

I wonder if God doesn’t work overtime in seasons of grumbling to redirect us to a posture of thanksgiving. I wonder, hopefully, if the Holy Spirit doesn’t alight on us with the great intention of positively affecting our attitude. For a while I’ve reminded you (and, likewise, myself) that when we come to worship with the intention and expectation of witnessing wonderful things, it changes our act of worship altogether. Often God shows up and more than meets our expectations and maybe that bleeds over into more of our life that just those times we come together to offer our worship to God. Perhaps when we expect God to show up in the seemingly more mundane moments — the chaos of getting kids out the door to school, the quiet moment with our coffee early in the day, as we prepare a meal, change the laundry over, or wash the dishes — perhaps when we expect holy moments every day, God finds a way to fill us with something surprising — with gratitude — with thanksgiving — with joy.

It is my prayer for you, church, that the Holy Spirit move you to surprising feelings of gratitude this week — feelings that make the mundane holy.

Giving Thanks,
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



Clara Farabee	October 2
Nora Dycus	October 8
Valerie Coats	October 29



ANNUAL EVERGREEN AREA

trunk or treat

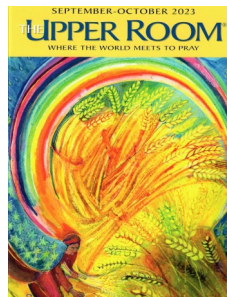


**oct
29**

1738 GALLOWAY AVE.
MEMPHIS, TN 38112

**3:00-
5:00pm**

TRINITY UMC, THE LAB SCHOOL,
ST. JOHNS UMC, EHDA, PACK13



THE UPPER ROOM

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

Election Day Bake Sale October 5th

Trinity's **Election Day Bake Sale** is fast-approaching! On Thursday, October 5th, our neighbors in the Evergreen Historic District will be looking for those delicious baked goods and the friendly faces that accompany them. Many of our shoppers come early

each time, having foregone early voting just so they can shop with us. (Yes, that's the truth!)



As always, we will need volunteers to provide sweet treats or savory food items for the sale. We are asking each family in the church to bake one or more items to sell. An "item" is a cake, a batch of cookies, a pie, a loaf of bread, a batch of muffins or cupcakes, etc. Please identify what each baked item is (examples: "chocolate chip cookies" or "banana nut bread"). If you want to leave a special note, such as "made from scratch," feel free to do so. However, do NOT put prices on your baked goods ahead of time; we will price all items after you bring them to the church.

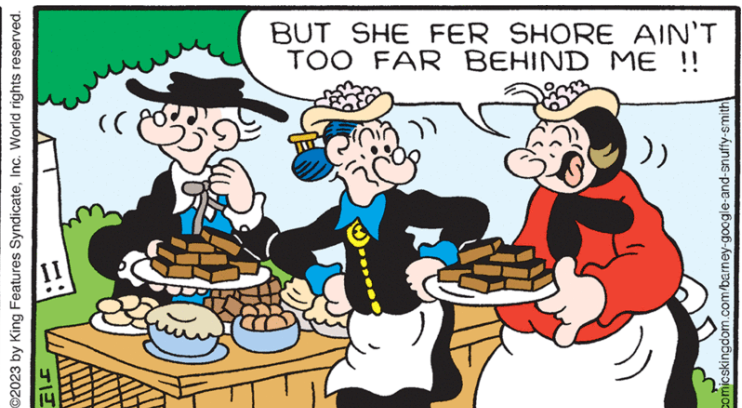
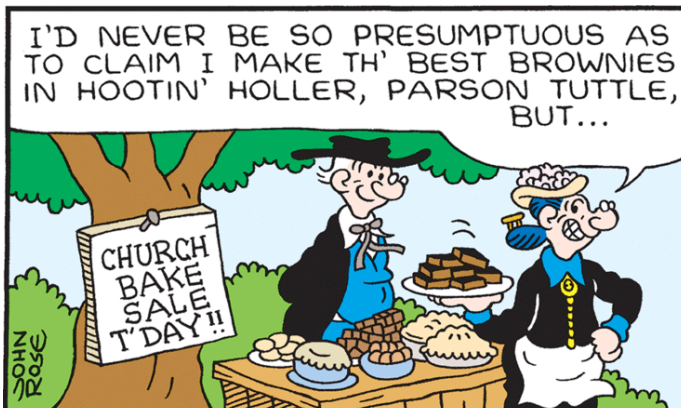
All sale items need to be delivered to Trinity Church no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4th. Smaller baked items such as cookies and brownies should be packed in zip-lock bags, 4 to a package if large ones and 6 to a package if smaller.

In addition to bakers, helpers will be needed to man the sales tables between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. We will need two volunteers to be on duty at all times throughout the day.

To volunteer your services as a baker or as an Election Day salesperson, please contact Irene Dycus (phone: 652-1105 or email: irenebdycus@hotmail.com). Proceeds from the bake sale will go toward our new Food Pantry, through which we will be helping feed less fortunate neighbors.

Thank you for doing your part to offer gracious hospitality to our neighbors!

Peace in Christ,
Irene Dycus



Trinity Food Pantry Update

by Alex Landrigan

Hello Trinity! Before anything else I would like to thank all of you who have supported me through this endeavor, especially Sam Goff for giving all those pews a new home. As of right now the pantry is in its final stages of construction, once the trim is glued down it will be ready for use. Once finished there will be six racks of shelves and one, hopefully two, refrigerators.

The pantry committee has been visiting other food pantries and I plan on meeting with them to see what else would be helpful in the space, as there is still some budget remaining. Excited to finish and start feeding our neighbors!



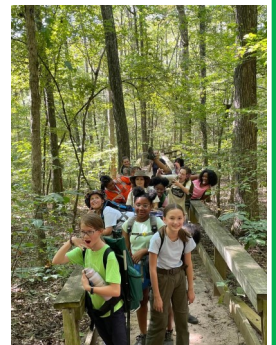
Scout Update

by Lisa Wong



Our scout troops have flourished in the last year with our first crew going to high adventure at Philmont for the first time in over 15 years. This was a crew of both 13 G and 13 B, joined by a Scout from Hoxie, KS, who entered New Mexico with some trepidation, but came down the mountain excited and confident in their own skills and abilities.

Troop 13 G has over doubled in size in the last year with 21 Scouts. This is a huge increase from when we first started in 2020 with five. We are also super excited to have chartered a venture crew for kids 14 to 21 years of age as a way for them to continue their scouting journey and focus on life skills and high adventure activities.



Over the last few months 13 G has welcomed several new scouts from Cub Scout packs that don't have girl units. We are very appreciative of Trinity for supporting our troop and giving a place for scouting for all girls. Our home at Trinity allows us to be a destination for children that would otherwise not have the chance to make friends and explore the world.

Our founder Scouts are focusing on teaching these new scouts all the things that they have learned over the last three years with a lot of success and a lot of excitement and a lot of growth for them, with our second Eagle candidate beginning her Eagle Project with Out Memphis.

Our units- from Kindergarten to after High School- reflect our community in way they haven't in a long while, in a way that would honestly be confusing to those first Scouts that gathered on the corner of Galloway and Evergreen back in 1922. We are so grateful to Trinity for setting the example and standard of a welcoming home to all that our Scouts can model.

How we try to help and why it's never quite enough...



We typically hand out 40 Kroger grocery cards each month, but run out long before the need is met for a lot of folks. We have some rules: an individual or household can receive one \$25 grocery card every 60 days and, after being given three cards within a 12 month period, that person or family can no longer qualify for the benefit. We keep an alphabetized, color-coded spreadsheet to ensure that front desk volunteers can readily tell a recipient not only the last time they received a grocery card, but when (or if) they qualify for another one. We only give cards out on Thursdays, which makes for a busy morning for Melba Abraham, who has oversight of card distribution. (Folks who come by asking for a card on a Thursday morning can also have a cup of coffee and a scone or muffin from the Community Coffee Café.)

Currently, we have a bit less than \$1,500.00 in the Food Voucher Fund. Forty cards cost \$1,000.00, so we usually buy only 20 at a time. Even so, the money runs low pretty fast. We have the Tiny Pantry, a soon-to-be launched on-site food pantry (yet to be named), the food voucher/Kroger card initiative, and we also have an Emergency Assistance Fund that helps people with their utilities and rent. What we can contribute is never quite enough, so we've started handing out instructions on how to set up an online account with MLGW so payment arrangements can be made. We also refer to other agencies and churches who have similar benevolence programs. Our neighbors' needs are great. With power outages causing food spoilage not so long ago, there was a big demand for grocery cards. The problems MLGW has been having with billing has also resulted in huge utility bills that many families can little afford. One woman reported receiving four utility bills in as many days, one right after another. Our response in September alone has been to assist eight households by sending \$50.00 each to MLGW on their behalf.

The anxiety and stress of poverty is debilitating. Most of the people we see and talk to on the phone are living paycheck to paycheck and have no money to spare. Decisions have to be made as to what's most important: purchasing food or purchasing much-needed medication. It's an old, old story: the poor will always be with us. Our prayer is that you will continue to donate money toward these specific needs. Our neighbors need us. Let no one go hungry tonight or have their utilities cut off or suffer an eviction because they can't meet the rent. Give generously to the Food Voucher and Emergency Assistance Funds.



September Meeting of Trinity's UWF

Trinity's UWF Unit Circle met on September 19th. They were glad to have Sara Jane Goodman back from her extensive trip to Europe. Sara Jane had arranged for the day's speaker, Rev. Kimberlyn Alexander. Pastor Kim spoke of the program St. Matthew's UMC has in cooperation with MIFA, St. Paul UMC, and other UMC churches in

the area. Their mission includes clothes closets for men, women, and children, food pantries, and emergency/transitional housing. Pastor Kim's presentation was well-received and the group enjoyed lunch together at Babalu afterwards.

At each regular Circle meeting a devotional and study start the session. Each member brings a can or box of food or a dollar. At this time, the donated food goes to the Binghampton UMM Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry. The UWF Circle has a mission focus each season. Coming up for the rest of 2023: Thanksgiving hams and sides dishes for BUMM and Christmas gifts for seniors at Meritan.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - 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.

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:

Gene Archer, friend of the millers, just diagnosed with stomach cancer

Lauren Crews, friend of the Millers, just diagnosed with ALS

Melba Abraham's cousin, **Lydia Melton**, has cervical cancer.

Gracia Alequin, Amelia Strickland's friend was in an auto accident and has been hospitalized.

V.J. Carter, Living Word Christian Church member Dru Phillips' aunt, broken hip and hip replacement surgery

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.

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

Chris Glover has had a second outpatient surgery.

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

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.)