

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.



Not Only Our Joys

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

—John 16:33

One of the most appealing things to me about a relationship with Jesus might be surprising to you. I admit that in the earliest days of my faith-walk, it was pretty standard. A life with Christ was appealing to me because Jesus gave me joy, Jesus was my Savior, Jesus loved me no matter what (even in those fun years of teenage angst where I definitely didn't love myself very much). Faith was easy and thus filled with joy and excitement — a constant reason to praise God, lift my hands in joy, and shine a light in all the dark places — the things we're supposed to do. The scriptures say it again and again.

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Psalm 150:1-6

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. James 5:13b

*'For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. 2 Samuel 22:50
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103:1-2*

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Hebrews 13:15

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Exodus 15:2

As I grew I discovered that praising God, because God is so, so good to me, isn't the only thing that appeals to me about a personal relationship with Jesus. As life offers challenges, God is the One who so lovingly — so joyfully — receives our hurts too. I think that's why we have Lamentations. I think that's why we have the story of Job. I think that's why so many of the Psalms begin with pleas to God, and why the story of Holy Week is so hard. Because, the God who is and was and has our being, is also the God who understands that maybe this is a hard time. Maybe we need a shoulder instead of offerings of praise.

About 10 years ago I lost a baby in a pretty tough and scary way and there was no real explanation for it. It was a fluke. But I hurt. Boy, did I hurt, and the worst part was, at that point in my life, (right or wrong) it was some sort of catharsis to have someone or something to blame. But, I had no one. There was no explanation. Sometimes things just happen.

I was serving my first church charge then. It was my first year in ministry. I had a lot going on and I was grieving. I remember one night, on my long drive home from the churches I served, pulling over on our dark, country road in Millington and just crying. I remember yelling at God. I remember yelling as

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as I possibly could until I had no more yell to yell. Then I drove home. It would be something I'd repeat for about 6 months and a big part of my healing process.

Yelling at God. It helped me heal.

That probably doesn't read right or 'sound' right. But I mean what I said.

Think about it. There's no one who understands our pain better. There's no one who's walked through more pain with others. There's no one bigger or stronger or more understanding — no one who can take our proverbial punches more than God. And maybe that's something to praise, but it's also something we can praise later, after the pain subsides, after the need is no more.

Our relationship with God may, at times, look more like praise in the morning, and disgruntlement in the afternoon and, really, we should praise God (when we're ready) that, that's ok. I think what God wants from us the most is our understanding that the praise and adoration is great, but the chance for God to show us love, mercy, comfort, and peace is even greater.

If you're filled with praise, remember, God covets it. Sing your praise to the Lord!

If you're not there right now, remember, God still covets it — all of it — all of you — always.

Loving You Each from Afar,

Rev. Sara

SAVE THE DATE!!



SAVE THE DATE!!

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.

An Opportunity

Trinity has had a Covenant Disciple group for several years. This group convenes weekly for a one-hour meeting to hold each other accountable for keeping faith with the clauses of an agreed-upon covenant. We take turns serving as leader as we ask each member to speak about how s/he has lived out acts of compassion, acts of justice, acts of personal devotion, and acts of group worship. These four areas are the ones John Wesley identified long ago as ways a Christian witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world. We hold each other accountable for doing what we have agreed to do. Where we fail (and we often do), we encourage each other and promise to hold each other in prayer during the coming week, that we might be more faithful. I have found this group to be a strong help to me as I try to grow in discipleship. "God is not finished with me yet," even though I'm so old! I am better able to complete daily Bible readings and prayer, to look for ways to be of service to others, to search out what "justice" means in the world around me, and to enter into group worship (mostly online nowadays), because I know my friends will be asking me at the meeting for a report.

Because of the changes the current pandemic has caused in our lives, we are now meeting through Zoom. This means that it's not hard to make it to the meetings, even if you don't live in Memphis! We have temporarily lost a couple of members due to some of the pandemic effects. We invite you to consider whether or not this is an opportunity for you to join in this growth experience. We can meet at any time, so don't let scheduling be a barrier. If you want more details, or want to join us, please contact Kay Jordan jordanck2@gmail.com or Rosemary Potter rosemary.potter@att.net. You will be blessed by this experience.

—Kay Jordan



Back to School—Virtually

As I write this article, I am preparing to go back to school – not back to college – but to the very beginning of formal schooling, to kindergarten. I will be assisting my five-year-old granddaughter Lila, as she begins her kindergarten year at Idlewild School. The only person on site in the classroom at Idlewild will be her teacher. Lila

and I will be attending virtually, as will every other child in her class, along with their adult helpers. In our case, our personal classroom is located in my apartment in the Parkway House. Lila has a 6x9 inch electronic tablet by which we will see and hear her teacher. We also have headphones to assist us in hearing. Five-year-old Lila needs hers to help her focus and to be less distracted, and I need mine because I’m deaf as a post (and also to keep me focused and less distracted). It’s going to be an interesting experience, and I know we’re both going to learn a lot. Hopefully, our children will be able to attend school in their real classroom eventually. But right this minute, I’m just praying that we (most especially Grandma) will make it through the first half-day. We will begin with two weeks of half-day classes, and then we go to a full-day schedule on the third week. Last week we had one day, with one hour in the morning with a small group of children and one hour in the afternoon for Lila’s personal assessment. Lila’s teacher has many years of teaching experience, and she handled things beautifully on that first day. After seeing her in action last Monday, I know she is going to do her best to make sure that every child in her class has a good kindergarten experience.

I am thankful for my experience this summer in our Zoom meetings with our Trinity kids. I’m not terrified of using the computer for learning, but I’m awfully glad I’m not the teacher on the other end. Ms. Alyson and I agonized over planning and carrying out our one-hour meeting each week with the Trinity children. I can’t imagine what it would be like to be Mrs. Knight, Lila’s teacher, and to have to deal remotely with a whole class of kindergarten students for over seven hours a day, five days a week. I’m happy to be with my own little student. I’m sure I will get over my first-day jitters, and Lila doesn’t appear to be anxious at all. Please pray for all the students and teachers in all schools right now, and pray for those who are helping their children learn at home. Whether they are in classrooms together or teaching and learning virtually, all are facing tremendous challenges.

Sometimes in the middle of the night I wake up worrying about things. At such times, I often pray this passage from the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). This always helps keep things in proper perspective for me, and I hope it does the same for you.

May God’s peace be with us all,
Irene Dycus

The **parents of all Trinity children** are invited to join Ms. Alyson and Ms. Irene for a **Zoom meeting on Sunday, September 20, at 3:00 p.m.** We will be determining the best day and time to resume our weekly Trinity Kids' Zoom meetings, and we need your input! You will receive an invitation with the Zoom link during the middle of the week prior to the meeting. See you there!





September 6	Jamie Windham
September 11	Doris Webster
September 13	David Potter
September 13	Marty (Mike) Rice
September 14	Kathy Isbell
September 15	Kate Taylor
September 17	Harper Keller
September 20	Charlotte Comes
September 22	Craig Jordan
September 22	Virginia Walters
September 23	John Stuart
September 26	Nancy Rankin
September 28	Kadynce Hemingway

Welcome, Raquel!

We want to welcome our new custodian, Raquel Norton, to the Trinity UMC staff. She will be working mostly in the evenings, or during the day when there are no groups meeting or other staff members present. In an effort to keep everyone safe, Raquel will be focused on keeping all surfaces sanitized throughout the building. Please be sure and let the church office know if you have plans to be in the building. We keep a Google calendar up-to-date, so by calling 901-274-6895 or emailing office@trinityumcmemphis with your building use requests, we will be able to schedule Raquel's hours most effectively.



Things to Remember

With Midtown Montessori School beginning classes September 8th, if you intend to come to the church for any reason, that needs to be scheduled through the church office. Yes, ANY reason. We need to know when **any** volunteer is stopping by to clean something, to organize something, to pick something up, or drop something off. Please contact the church office and get your 'drop by' on the church calendar. I know this is a change in how we've always done things, but this is the season we are in.

Please plan to no longer use the Montessori School entrance for any reason. Most of you do not. A few of you do. No one can be in the MMS hallway right now without notice and if you do need to be in their hallway for any reason, please be prepared to offer several days' notice and to participate in a health screening. This is primarily for the Trinity Trustees as they are the keepers of the building and may need to be in that space from time-to-time.

MMS is working hard to ensure that Trinitarians are safe as their primary concern because there are more of us in a covid-19 vulnerable position than them. This is very, very kind and considerate, and we are thankful. It is also their duty and responsibility to protect their children and staff and of course we want and support that endeavor. So let's work really hard to work with them and make sure this is the case.

Please remember that if you do intend to come by the church, a cotton mask covering both mouth and nose is mandatory and we would encourage you not to come if you haven't been feeling well. We are also asking that no one expect to enter or use the church office or office equipment other than Debby so there is less of a need to disinfect that area and the office is not large enough for social distancing. Remember that church staff is not keeping regular office hours on campus, but we can each still be reached at home and are prepared to do just about everything we'd normally do for you, from home. Do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.

We know this is different. We know that this has been different for far longer than any of us could've anticipated. For those who've tuned into worship still, we pray that you have been blessed. For those who'd like to tune in but haven't been able to for various reasons, please reach out and let us help you get there. For your faithful giving, positive words of support, and continued endeavor to be faithful to your membership vows and baptismal vows, we are ever-so-thankful and give God the glory!

With Much Gratitude,
Rev. Sara



Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received

In memory of Frederick T. Carney from Doris Carney

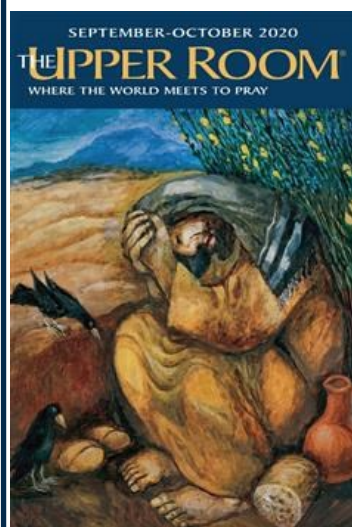
In memory of Fred A. Carney from Doris Carney

BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

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, persons 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: please contact Debby Marston at office@trinityumcmemphis.org or leave a message at (901) 274-6895 to ask about the next opportunity to bring staple items for Binghampton UMM's food pantry. We can wear masks and practice social distancing while still partnering in this vital ministry to the poor. A donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will also help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated.



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. Send an email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895). Other resources are available on *The Upper Room* website. Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> in order to access daily devotionals, a digital version, pandemic prayer practices, a prayer wall, meditations on living with COVID-19, and more.

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, undergoing treatment; 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

Nancy Rankin had surgery on September 4th and tolerated the surgery very well. She is in a step-down unit and doing well.

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, soon to be out of her back brace and soon to start physical therapy

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.)*