



# Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



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## We Are Called to Live as Disciples of Christ, Even Though We Are Sometimes Afraid of What will Happen

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
Psalm 46:1-2(NRSV)*

Fear, and its effect on our lives, is a recurring theme in scripture. Consider these examples (all citations to the NRSV):

*Ge 3:10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

*Nu 13:30-33 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we." ...*

*Ps 55:4-5 My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.*

*Pr 29:25 The fear of others lays a snare, but one who trusts in the Lord is secure.*

*Mt 10:26-33 "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ...*

*2 Ti 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.*

Fear is a growing problem in this nation. Too often in our public discourse people are telling us that we should fear something: fear immigrants, fear the ‘government’, fear the poor, fear the stranger.

Fear is always with us. We are made that way. It is a survival mechanism. It is logical to fear some things because they are a danger to life and limb. Also, as we develop socially, we develop fear of how our conduct will affect those around us. Finally, there is fear of the unknown. The fear that something unexpected will turn our lives upside down. Try as we might, none of us can totally escape our fear.

One of the most debilitating forms of fear is fear of failure. We resist doing something new because we are afraid that we might not succeed, or might not succeed in accordance with our expectations. Yet, our experience tells us that some type of failure is the likely result of almost anything we try. Sometimes it is total failure that teaches us a lot but may set us back in terms of money and time. Sometimes it is a failure to achieve all we hoped. And sometimes “failure” turns out to be a success of a type that we didn’t expect. The only way to avoid failure is to do nothing, and, in the final analysis, that is failure as well. Failure to live as God would have us live.

As disciples, we are called to live with faith, hope and intention. As go forward in ministry there are opportunities before us to offer Christ in this community to those who are new to the community, who may have fallen away from the church or who may never have heard the Gospel. Offering Christ to these persons may call us to do things we haven’t done before. As a Church, let us not draw back from something simply because it is new or because we might fail. And, if we choose not to do something, let’s be intentional in our decision making and not simply let inaction choose our course.

## **Vacation Bible School at Trinity**

**VBS will be held Aug 1st and 2nd (Friday and Saturday) with a celebration during the church service on Aug 3 (also first Sunday).**

We are nearly ready to “**Blast Off.**” Readiness continues in the evenings. If you have a minute, come by and have fun and fellowship as we prepare for launch. Time is fleeting!

We'll meet Friday night 6pm - 8:30 pm, Saturday morning 9am - 11:30 am and then Sunday worship at 11am. We are in need of old solid-color sheets and rugs.

As a part of our VBS plans, our congregation will be providing school supplies for Williamson County children. We will be filling backpacks with index cards, composition notebooks and pocket folders. We are collecting these items now.

We will also be collecting items for fuel bags through Grace Works. Those items include: 8oz milk boxes - non refrigerated, Easy Mac, Microwaveable meat meals, cereals, canned/package meat with crackers. These are all individual servings, please.

Thank you for participating in this important effort.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Jeanne and I would like you to join us this February on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will leave on February 16 for nine days of Biblical discovery, returning on February 25th. We will be part of a larger group of primarily United Methodists from all over Middle and West Tennessee. This is a special tour organized by Bishop William McAlilly, the Bishop for the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences.

I first visited the Holy Land in 2000. Jeanne and I went back in 2005 and again in 2012. Before I went the first time I was somewhat cynical about the upcoming experience. I didn't think that it would have much of an effect on me. But, when you stand on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, or travel to the Synagogue at Capernaum, you suddenly realize that you are likely walking ground that Christ walked. When you pray among the Olive trees in Gethsemane, stand in the prison cell contained in the House of Caiaphas, or see the name of Pilate inscribed on a monument in Caesarea, the events surrounding the imprisonment, trial and passion of Christ take on new meaning; a new reality.

Brochures for the trip, including exact costs and travel itineraries, are available in my office. I'll also schedule a time this summer to share photographs taken on my previous trips to Israel and answer questions about the trip. I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this faith building experience.

## The Poverty and Justice Bible

*The Poverty & Justice Bible* is a bible that highlights each passage of scripture that deals with the issues of poverty and justice. There are more than 2000 references in scripture to poverty and justice, as opposed to four or five on such controversial subjects as homosexual acts or marriage. Yet many Christians seem to think that helping the poor is a pointless and even harmful act. As an on-going part of this newsletter, I will be providing citations to passages from the Old and New Testaments each week that deal with what scripture tells us about poverty and justice. If you are interested in learning more about *The Poverty & Justice Bible* you can check on Amazon.com or go to [www.Justicebible.org](http://www.Justicebible.org).

*21 You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. 22 You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. 23 If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry.*

*Exodus 22:21-23NRSV*

A recurring refrain in the law of Israel is the admonition from God to 'remember you were once slaves in Egypt and I heard your cries.' Here, that admonition is coupled with the concept of treating the resident alien in our midst as we would treat anyone else.

From the New Testament is *Matthew 25:35*:

*...I was a stranger and you welcomed me,...*

When I was at West Nashville UMC my Lay leader was a man whose parents were "illegal immigrants." His name was Zinkowicz and his parents had emigrated from Poland through Canada. They crossed into the US from Canada without visas or other immigration papers. His father volunteered for the Army and earned his citizenship after the Second World War. His is one of millions of stories of "illegal immigrants" over the last two hundred years.

Are there important and difficult issues involved in the immigration debate? Certainly. But as Christians we must also be mindful of the fact that borders are human creations and are not established by God. We should always be asking, "How would God expect us to treat the person before us?"

### **Bible Study**

Our Thursday morning Bible study will take a break for the month of July and the first two weeks in August. We will continue with the study of 1 Samuel on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM.

I believe that the study of scriptures with other Christians is an essential part of our journey as Disciples. If you would like to be a part of a bible study at another time, during the day or evening, please contact me. If we can interest four or five people in gathering at a particular time I would be glad to lead another study.

### **Still Seeking People Interested in Disciple Bible Study**

Disciple Bible Study is a 32 week study of the bible from Genesis to Revelation. It has guided many people to a deeper understanding of scripture and their faith over the years. Many in the Church have completed this study.

I have been approached by two people who would be interested in a Disciple Bible Study to meet from 7:00 to 9:00 on Thursday evenings. If needed, we will seek to provide child care for this study. I would like to get at least five or more people to participate in this study. If you have considered undertaking a study of the bible before, this is a wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact me.

### **Prayer Ministry**

The following persons have agreed to be part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

Elva Beard	Sarah Jordan	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Mac McAfee	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson
Leslie Eastwood	Rachel Newman	Sam Richardson	

The members of the prayer ministry of Trinity United Methodist church covenant with one another to pray daily for:

- Those concerns on the prayer list of the Church and for healing of body and spirit for all persons listed;
- For each ministry of the church that each ministry would work to bring the Gospel to those within our community and most especially to bring the Gospel to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- For all the members of the Trinity UMC community that they be led and enabled to live as the Body of Christ;

- For our local community and all its needs, especially for those who are struggling with the burden of poverty;
- For our nation and our world that God help lead the people of the world to live in peace with God's Kingdom.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry (or if you have already spoken to me about it and were inadvertently left off the list) please let me know and I will see that you are added.

## **Up-Coming Sermons**

### **August 3rd VBS Celebration and communion.**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>: Fear and Faith:** There are laws of nature. Relationships discovered through years of study by humankind. Mathematical relations like the Pythagorean Theorem; Einstein's famous  $E=mc^2$ ; the relationship between the radius and the circumference of a circle that is known as Pi. Religion has a few such relationships too. One is that fear of the unknown can destroy faith. My texts are John 14:25-27 and Matthew 14:22-33

## **Worship Leaders Schedule**

### **August 3**

Rachel Newman, **Liturgist**  
Tommy & Jo Cotton, **Greeters**  
Mike & Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

### **August 10**

Elaine Rohrig, **Liturgist**  
Donnie & Renita, **Greeters**  
Marty Bauguess & Herb Haynes, **Ushers**

## **Announcements**

**Program Council Meeting July 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.** We will be discussing final preparations for the VBS as well as plans for this fall and the Advent season. Please make every effort to attend.

The next opportunity to serve will be **Saturday, August 16 at 61<sup>st</sup> Street Methodist Church.** We will be providing dinner, serving and worshiping with the people there. We will need volunteers to help. We will be there from 4:00 PM until after worship. Please make **Charles Wilson** or **Judy Richardson** aware of your plans to participate in this wonderful ministry.

The "Companions in Christ" Sunday school class is beginning a new study Sunday, July 27. The study is, **"Dare to Dream"** which will help us discern God's dream for us and how we live it out prayerfully and spiritually. We will be creating a "God-Sized" mission for ourselves. Please join us. You will be enriched spiritually and you will enjoy the fellowship and commitment of others.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers to sign up to assist in the nursery or Sunday school. Please sign up for one or more Sunday's. Thank you for being a part of this vital ministry of our church.

There are sign-up lists on the Bulletin Board for volunteers who will prepare communion as well as hosting the First Sunday meal. Please sign up!

**July Birthdays**

**Nanette Crowell, Mac McAfee, Leslie Eastwood, Linda Robinson, Renita Hartsock**

**Happy Birthday to each of you!**