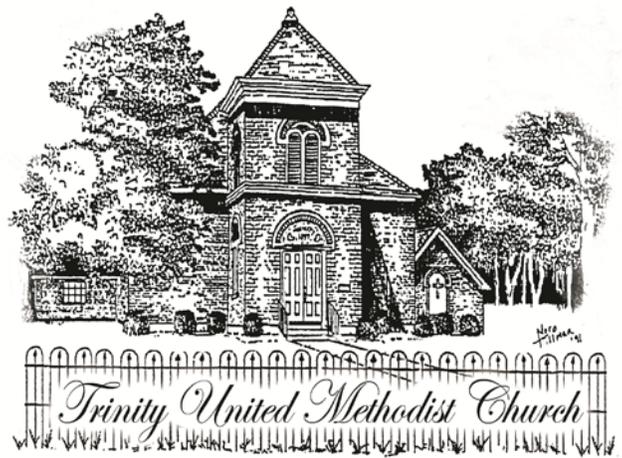




# Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



2084 Wilson Pike · Franklin, TN 37067 · 615.794.2665  
Pastor Dennis Meaker: 615.794.2665 · djmeaker@gmail.com

---

September 21, 2016

## Understanding the Old Testament The Kingdom of Judah, the Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, and the Exile

<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.  
*Isaiah 1:16-17 NRSV*

<sup>16</sup> And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have made offerings to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. *Jeremiah 1:16 NRSV*

In 722 B.C.E. Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Its capital, Samaria fell in that year and the majority of its people were carried into exile. The Assyrian armies then swept South and laid siege to Jerusalem in Judah. It seemed that Jerusalem would fall as well. But, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed that God would deliver the City. And indeed the besieging armies of Assyria were struck with sickness and died by the thousands. The armies retreated to Assyria and Jerusalem knew over 100 years of relative peace. (See Isaiah 37:36-38.

But, the people of Jerusalem took the wrong message from the deliverance. Instead of repenting and returning to the rule of Law, they decided that God would never allow Jerusalem to be destroyed because of the Temple. So 100 years later when Jeremiah warned the city that it must repent, he wasn't believed:

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. <sup>4</sup> Do not trust in these deceptive words: "*This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.*"

<sup>5</sup> For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, <sup>6</sup> if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, <sup>7</sup> then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. *Jeremiah 7:2-7*

Jeremiah warned the people not to listen to those saying that the Lord would not destroy the Temple. Finally, Jeremiah was left with the message that Jerusalem would fall and the people would be taken into exile. He was instructed to deliver that message in a dramatic manner:

*Thus said the LORD: Go and buy a potter's earthenware jug. Take with you some of the elders of the people and some of the senior priests,<sup>2</sup> and go out to the valley of the son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you...*

*<sup>10</sup> Then you shall break the jug in the sight of those who go with you,<sup>11</sup> and shall say to them: Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended. Jeremiah 19:1-2; 10-11 NRSV.*

Yet, God did assure Jeremiah that the people would return one day, that the people would accept a new Covenant:

*<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:31-34 NRSV*

The armies of Babylon did lay siege to Jerusalem and Jerusalem was eventually destroyed. The Temple was also destroyed and the priests and scribes, the educated, the royalty and the artisans were taken into exile. The only people left in Judah were the farmers. The Exiles would be in Babylon for seventy years.

The Exile was the most influential event in the life of Israel after the Exodus. During the Exile the Old Testament was edited into the form we have today. Much of the history of Israel as contained in the Old Testament was written during the Exile and is meant to explain why the people had suffered this terrible calamity; to explain where they had gone wrong. The Exile also posed a Theological dilemma of sorts. With the Temple destroyed, where would God reside? It was during the Exile that the people concluded that God inhabits the whole world. Also, with the temple destroyed, Synagogue worship became important to the spiritual life of the people. In Babylon, and when the people returned, they brought the Synagogue tradition with them.

Finally, the writer of Second Isaiah brings words of great comfort to the people:

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. Isaiah 40:1-2*

After seventy years of Exile, God was bringing the People of Israel back home.

## **Children's Church/Nursery**

Sunday School and Nursery care is available every Sunday during the Sunday school hour. Children from birth through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Children's Church and Nursery care are available for Children from birth through pre-k after the Children's Time in worship. We encourage parents to keep their children of

Kindergarten age and up in the sanctuary during worship. It's important that our children experience the worship of the Church community from an early age.

Lesson plans are currently available that volunteers can use to lead Children's Church during worship. These lesson plans (almost 100 separate plans) do not require any preparation or pre-planning. Each lesson includes a short Bible Story to be read to the children as well as a corresponding craft project. All supplies for the crafts are on hand in the Nursery.

We need two volunteers each Sunday to provide Children's Church during worship. With enough volunteers it shouldn't be necessary for any adult to miss worship more than one Sunday every two months. If you would be willing to volunteer to help with the Children's Church ministry please see Jeanne Rybolt, Julia Moore, Dawn Stevens or Dana Bauguess to learn more.

## **Halloween Trunk or Treat Event at Trinity**

*From Jeanne Rybolt*

For the uninitiated, think of Trunk or Treat as tailgating for Halloween. We'll have cars placed in the parking lot with their trunks decorated and the kids go from car trunk to car trunk to trick or treat. Beyond that, events are still in the planning stage. The *almost firm* date for the event is Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Possible events include contests (best costume, best decorated trunk, most original, etc.), hot dog supper inside, movie night, the ever-popular bounce house, games, entertainment, crafts, photo booth, etc.– whatever we feel we'd like to include in our event. You can find loads of ideas for trunk decorations on-line. I encourage the adults to come in costumes as well as the kids (a certain preacher and I would be dressing up as a couple of dwarves). Selfishly, I think it important to have family friendly decorations and costumes only – I get “spooked” very easily and will want to be able to sleep at night..... I'm proposing having the event on Saturday, October 29 beginning at 4 or 4:30 PM (the cars with decorated trunks would need to be in place earlier). We already have nine trunks promised but there is room for more. Please e-mail me to let me know if you would be willing to participate and would be able to help with games and food.

*Jeanne.Rybolt@gmail.com*



## Prophets, Harlots, Witches & Warriors:

### Untamed Women of the Old Testament & You



## Sherry Cothran

The words “wild” and “woman” are like a fairytale knocking on the door of the heart.\* In this interactive concert, Cothran weaves together songs and stories from the characters she calls “untamed women” of the Bible.

Women’s stories where the Wild Woman Archetype is at play, revealing the Holy through the hidden in the wilderness spaces of text. Cothran has written a series of songs based on the lives of what she calls the “untamed” women of the Old Testament on her last CD, “Sunland.”

Cothran will also lead a workshop on Saturday morning, a deeper dive into the characters of women as Warrior, Prophet, Healer, and Hero to connect with your own story. Join us for this delightful concert & workshop.

*critically acclaimed  
singer/songwriter;  
pastor/preacher, Sherry Cothran, leads  
us on an adventure in this interactive  
Friday evening concert and  
Saturday Morning workshop.*

*Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>  
7 p.m. concert*

*Saturday, Oct. 1st,  
10 - 1:00 workshop*

*Trinity UMC  
Franklin, TN*

[www.sherrycothran.com](http://www.sherrycothran.com)

## **Untamed Women of the Old Testament & You**

As Indicated above, we will have a special concert on September 30th. Sherry Cothran Woolsey is an Elder in the Tennessee Conference. She was my associate at West Nashville during my last three years at the Church and she was appointed the Senior Pastor after I left. Sherry, like me, is a second career pastor. However, where I left the practice of law Sherry was the lead singer in a professional rock band, the “Evenrudes.” She left the band to enter the ministry just before they were to start a tour of Europe. She has since combined her songwriting and performing skills with her ministry. On September 30<sup>th</sup> she will offer an interactive concert on the Untamed Women of the Old Testament featuring a series of original songs. We’ll begin at 7:00. Please come to this special event. Also, on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, Sherry will lead a workshop at the church from 10:00 to 1:00.

## **Preacher, What Does the Bible Say about ...?**

From the time I came to Trinity I have stated on numerous occasions that I am willing to consider a sermon, or sermon series, on any subject that is of concern. If there is a subject upon which you would like me to preach I will consider it. If I do not think it appropriate for a sermon I will explain why. It might also be appropriate to address some issues as part of a Newsletter article or series or as part of the Sunday School curriculum. But, if at all possible, I will seek to speak to these issues that are of interest on Sunday morning. One purpose of worship is to contemplate our relationship with God and if something is bothering you it is likely bothering others as well.

## **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

The Thursday Morning Bible Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. This week we will begin with Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

## **Prayer Ministry**

The following persons are part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

Elva Beard	Rachel Newman	Sam Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Leslie Eastwood	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson

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

**September 25: Sermon: Good or Bad, Rich or Poor?** One of Jesus' more troubling parables is the Rich Man and Lazarus. What is it telling us? My texts are 1 Timothy 6:6–19 and Luke 16:19–31.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sermon: How Much Faith is Enough?** Is Faith something that can be measured? If so, how much is enough? My texts are 2 Timothy 1:1–14 and Luke 17:5–10.

## Worship Leaders

### September 25

Joann Harper, **Liturgist**  
 Ken and Jan Strait, **Greeters**  
 Mike and Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

### October 2

Hal Newman, Liturgist  
 Jan and Stacy Bell, Greeters  
 Maurice and Joyce Edwards, Ushers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Men's Club** will be providing a **Pancake Breakfast Saturday, October 1**. You are invited for food and fellowship from 7:30 – 9:30 AM. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this flavorful and fun event.

**Updated Church Directory:** The church directory is being updated. A draft copy of the directory is available for your review on the table at the back door. Please review the information that pertains to you to ensure accuracy. If needed, please make any corrections on this draft copy.

**GraceWorks** has a shortage on many items in our food pantry, and we need your help restocking it! Here is a list of some very critical items needed in our food pantry: **Critical Needs:** Canned green vegetables (not green

beans), Canned beans, Canned meat (not tuna), Cereal, Hamburger Helper type boxed meals, Soup. Please support this important ministry with your regular donations. The box is located beside the side door.

**Parents Night Out:** Parents Night Out takes place the first Friday of the month from 5:30 – 9:00 PM. The next opportunity will be Friday, October 7. If you can help, or simply wish to become familiar with this new ministry, please come out. Please make your friends and neighbors aware of this opportunity.

**Hosts and Hostesses for First Sunday Lunch:** Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please add your name to host this occasion for the coming months.

**The Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School Class** is both learning and enjoying a series of videos, narrated by Ray Vanderlann. The videos as well as the narration take place in ancient lands described in the Old Testament. We enjoy discussion about what we are learning and the application of the lessons to our lives. We enjoy fellowship beginning at 9:45 with our study beginning at 10:00. All are welcome to join us as we pursue Biblical truths and the application for our lives.

### **Birthdays in September**

Elva Beard, Ava Aldred, JoAnn Harper, Jessica Bauguess, Wanda Folds, GL Jones, Gina Locke, Bill LeCates

**Happy Birthday to each of you!**