

TRINITY TIDINGS SEPTEMBER 2023

Trinity United Methodist Church
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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church,

September 6, 2023

As I compose this letter, my heart is heavy because we approach the end of a historical era in the Church. The passing of a denomination is a painful event for everyone involved, and make no mistake, "The United Methodist Church" will, in the coming year cease to exist as we know it. The UMC is not now the church I joined as a young man nor is it the same denomination that I have served for so many years.

As you know, there is a rift in the UMC that is cutting us in two. More than one-third of the membership, nationwide, has made the decision to disaffiliate from the UMC due to the drastic change in theology espoused by the new Church. This change has been approaching for several years under the leadership of many in the Council of Bishops and has had a trickle-down effect throughout the clergy and lay leadership.

As you have struggled to determine your own viewpoints, I have for the most part, by the direction of the Church, kept my peace, not wanting to sway your decisions. However, I should tell you that I will not continue to serve The United Methodist Church past this appointive year. Suffice to say, I no longer respect or agree with the decisions being made by our denominational leadership.

Many of you have been lifelong members of the UMC. Most of you have been members for many years and that must be taken into consideration while making your decision. The larger perspective though is what you believe based on your own experience and knowledge of scripture. Do you believe that the same scripture is no longer inerrantly correct? That after all these years we discovered that the translation was wrong, our understandings were wrong, all of those preachers and teachers were wrong. That is a decision you have to make for yourself.

On September 13th you will have an opportunity and an obligation to act on your decision. The members of Trinity UMC will be voting on whether to disaffiliate from the denomination or not. This is your choice so don't complain if you don't come and vote.

May God lead us in this difficult time as we listen to the still small voice of his Holy Spirit in our lives.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor John

Methodist Men's Meeting

On September 9, 2023, the Methodist Men will host their September meeting and invite all attendees of Trinity to join us. We will have a guest speaker, Eric Botley, who is the chaplain at East Palatka Correctional Institute. Eric will provide a short devotion and update us on the happenings at the prison. He will also let us know of any needs that the prison currently has. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of his presentation.

Breakfast will be provided beginning at 8:30 a.m. and Chaplain Botley will speak for 20 – 25 minutes. At the end of his presentation we will have a short business meeting for our members, and we expect to be completed with the meeting by 10:00 a.m.

Please plan to attend, if possible, God Bless You All!

Kid's Klub

On Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Kids ages 3 thru 8th grade.

Ladies Bible study with Sandra

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in her home. (386) 937-6475

Choir & Flame Practice

*Wednesday's at 7:15 pm.—Chancel Choir Practice in choir room.

*Tuesday's at 6:00 pm.—Flame Practice

Dear Member of Trinity United Methodist Church,

As you are aware, a **straw poll** was recently taken to determine the next course of action the members of Trinity wish to take regarding the disaffiliation process. THIS WAS NOT a formal vote – only a straw ballot, however the majority (87%) of the ballots received voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and 70% of those voted to join the Global Methodist Church. Based on these results, the Leadership Team then began the process of pursuing disaffiliation.

The next step is a **FORMAL** Churchwide Charge Conference with the District Superintendent presiding. This will be an opportunity for all **professing (FULL) members** to officially vote on whether to disaffiliate or not.

This special Churchwide Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6 pm in the Sanctuary.

While everyone is welcome to attend, according to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, only ballots completed by **professing members in person** at this conference will be valid. Therefore, every effort should be made for members to be present to have their voices heard! Because this conference will be run by the NE Florida District, everyone will need to enter through the Narthex, verify who they are with some kind of identification (this can be a driver's license, a piece of mail sent to your address on file, or any other document showing who you are), and sign-in to receive a ballot. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call the church office at (386) 325-5272 from 9 am to 1 pm Monday through Thursday.

Please keep everyone here at Trinity, the United Methodist Church, and the Global Methodist Church in your prayers.

Faithfully yours,

The Leadership Team

~~~~~ SAVE THE DATE ~~~~~

## Churchwide Charge Conference

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – 6pm – in the Sanctuary

### Church Attendance

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have a community of faith on your on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.  
And you need the church.



**Prayer of Concern:** Addie Joy; Alayna; Ashton; Austin; Autumn; Barbara; Belinda; Beverly; Connie; Carolyn; Carol; Chris; Cheryl; Clint; Cody; Derrick; Dougie; Donna; Ed & Charlene; Elaine Ludwig; Emily & Ransom; Grace; Helen; Jack; Jayne; Jennifer; Joey & Micke; Johnny Brooks; Joy; Joyce; Ken & Linda; Kim; Kayla; Kevin; Linda & Bill Gardner; Marianne; Marlene; Paul & Elizabeth; Ronnie; Rhonda & Randy; Samantha; Sandra; Shane; Sharon & John; Susan Carter; Tommy & Tami; Those in the nursing homes and our shut-ins. We pray for our sister church in San Antonio de Rio Blanco in Cuba; Moseley Elementary School & teachers; Children at the Methodist Children's Home; our national leaders & military; America; The people of Ukraine; your Pastoral family & your Church.

#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT (Through 9/3/2023)

|                                                         |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Budget                                            | \$201,118.00 |
| Estimated needed to date                                | \$139,235.54 |
| Received to date. **                                    | \$99,768.30  |
| Amount of Received to date that came from E-giving      | \$8,149.35   |
| Percent of "needed to date" that has been collected     | 71.65%       |
| Percent of Year that is complete                        | 69.23%       |
| Percent of Yearly contributions that have been received | 49.61%       |
| <b>DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>                         |              |
| Children's Home                                         | \$1,520.86   |
| United Methodist Men                                    | \$1,400.00   |
| Cuba Covenant                                           | \$1,100.00   |
| Kid's Klub                                              | \$1,345.00   |
| Salary-Worship Leader                                   | \$3,333.28   |
| Memory of Don Kennard                                   | \$200.00     |
| Memory of Herb DuTour                                   | \$100.00     |
| Memory of Karen DuTour                                  | \$225.00     |
| Disaffiliation Fund                                     | \$3,750.00   |

## KIDS' KLUB CORNER

September is here and we are so excited to be "walking with God" through the Old Testament. We are looking for you to join us as we learn about, share, and serve Jesus. We hope that you will join us on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:00. Come learn and enjoy all the things that God has blessed us with.

God Bless!



Welcome back. We are learning about Genesis and being made in God's image.



Parent Night.



Learning about Gideon and how God gave him victory.

## The Art of Living

Often, we want to be able to see the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now? There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step--what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day. The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark.

When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away. --Henri Nouwen in *Bread for the Journey*

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### *Words of Wisdom*

- God's ability is not limited by our inability.
- The church cannot function at its best on the mere go wishes of its people.
- An example is a language anyone can read.
- Try not to become a [person] of success, but rather try to become a [person] of value. ---Albert Einstein
- There is no faster shortcut to a person's heart than loaning that person your ears. ---O.A. Battista
- Write injuries in the sand, kindness in marble. ---French proverb
- A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers. ---Ruth Bell Graham
- Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark. ---Rabindranath
- The new morality is not so much a change of custom as it is a change of character. ---James B. Thompson

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## Compassion

The seeds of compassion are sown in our very nature as human beings. Compassion seeks to retain our hold on an early awareness that we are all in the same boat, that "but for the grace of God there go I." Compassion comes close to the heart of moral awareness. How does one cultivate a compassionate nature in children? Helpful stories and maxims abound. And, unfortunately, compassion is as close to a "natural" disposition as any virtue. Treat no one with callous disregard. Children imitate what they see. ---William J. Bennett

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### *Wish a Happy Birthday To:*

- 01**—Sandy Sanders
- 02**—Carsyn Drew
- 08**—John Bennett
- 10**—Evan Simpson
- 17**—Teresa K. Thompson
- 26**—Bryan Hayes
- 29**—Tonia Hare
- 30**—Hayden Gill



# SEPTEMBER 2023

| SUNDAY                                                         | MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                      | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday Schedule</b><br>Sunday School 9:15<br>Worship: 10:30 |                                          |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |          | 1      | 2                                                                              |
| <b>3</b><br>Holy Communion                                     | <b>4</b><br>Labor Day<br>(Office Closed) | <b>5</b><br>Trinity Flame<br>practice 6:00<br>pm  | <b>6</b> Ladies Bible Study<br>with Sandra at 10:00<br>am.<br>*Choir Practice<br>@7:15<br>Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00<br>pm—Fellowship Hall                                                                           | 7        | 8      | <b>9</b><br>UMM breakfast<br>meeting 8:30 am<br>(guest speaker)<br>Eric Botley |
| 10                                                             | 11                                       | <b>12</b><br>Trinity Flame<br>practice 6:00<br>pm | <b>13</b> Ladies Bible Study<br>with Sandra at 10:00<br>am<br>*Choir Practice<br>@7:15 p.m.<br>Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00<br>pm—Fellowship Hall<br>*Disaffiliation Charge<br>Conference at 6:00 in<br>the Sanctuary. | 14       | 15     | 16                                                                             |
| 17                                                             | 18                                       | <b>19</b><br>Trinity Flame<br>practice 6:00<br>pm | <b>20</b> Ladies Bible Study<br>with Sandra at 10:00<br>am.<br>*Choir Practice<br>@7:15<br>Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00<br>pm—Fellowship Hall                                                                          | 21       | 22     | 23                                                                             |
| 24                                                             | 25                                       | <b>26</b><br>Trinity Flame<br>practice 6:00<br>pm | <b>27</b> Ladies Bible Study<br>with Sandra at 10:00<br>am.<br>*Choir Practice<br>@7:15<br>Kid's Klub 5:00-7:00<br>pm—Fellowship Hall                                                                          | 28       | 29     | 30                                                                             |

If you have any information for next month's newsletter, the deadline to have it in the Church office is Monday September 25, 2023. Please send an e-mail or drop something off in writing. Thank You!

**Christian Bible Reference Site**

<https://www.christianbiblereference.org/>

