



# The Mustard Seed

*"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing will be impossible for you."*

## A Note From the Pastor

Happy New Year!

The past few years have been hard. Trouble within the denomination, Covid-19, and a search for normalcy have been the order of the day. In the Gospel according to John, chapter 21, the disciples go to Galilee. They go fishing and catch nothing. They were probably feeling a little down, unsure exactly what to do. They had also had a rough time what with the crucifixion of Jesus and going into hiding. They see someone on the beach and realize that Jesus has met them and has breakfast cooking for them. Wherever we find ourselves, whatever our troubles, God is there for us. That is the Good News for the poor. God is with us!

So, in all of these changes that have been taking place. With all the churches that left the United Methodist Church. God is still with us! God loves us and there is nothing we can do to change that fact! Of course, like the disciples, we have tasks to do for God. Jesus reminds us to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The way we show our love to God is simple; it is to love our neighbors. Our neighbors live in a vast variety of places. They may not look like us, act like us, or even worship the way we do. We are to love them! What better way to show our love, and God's love then telling our neighbors our experiences with God's love.

As we start this New Year, looking for that new normal, let us remember to reach our and sing God's praises. We should be telling everyone about our Lord and Savior and then listening to their beliefs and thoughts as well. Love truly is about developing relationships. As you develop these relationships with your new friends invite them to join you in a Bible Study or a church activity. You can even invite them to worship with us. Let's make the resolution to rebuild our church bigger and better than ever. Let's make it a place where believers mature into disciples and spread the Good News or Jesus Christ out to the world!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Tom

### Trinity Staff

**Pastor**

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**Adult & Family/Youth Director**

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**Children's Director**

Leslie Trail, Extension 105  
Email: trinitychild@comcast.net

**Preschool Director**

Kirsten McDaniel, Extension 107  
Email: trinityumcpreschool@gmail.com

# Upcoming Calendar

## January

- 1 Church Offices Closed
- 3 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 4 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 4 SPRC Committee @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Sisters in Ministry @ 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Epiphany Ring @ First UMC @ 4:00 p.m.
- 7 Worship Committee Meeting @ 11:30 a.m.
- 8 United Women in Faith @ 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Trustees Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 11 Chuckwagon Committee @ 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Golden Agers Game Day @ 10:00 a.m.
- 14 UMM Breakfast @ 7:00 a.m.
- 15 Church Offices Closed (MLK Jr. Day)
- 17 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 17 Wonderful Wednesday Resumes
- 18 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Rutherford Laity Club @ 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 25 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 31 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am

## February

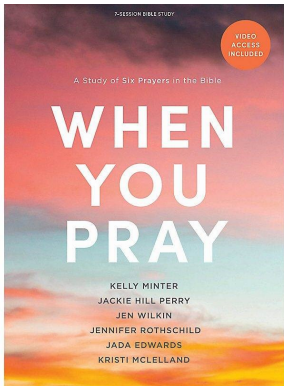
- 1 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 2 Sisters in Ministry @ 6:30 p.m.
- 5 United Women in Faith @ 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Finance Committee @ 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 8 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 9 Golden Agers Game Day @ 10:00 a.m.
- 11 UMM Breakfast @ 7:00 a.m.
- 13 Trustees Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 15 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 22 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Rutherford Laity Club @ 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Coffee with Pastor @ Just Love @ 8am
- 29 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 10:00 a.m.

Get the latest calendar updates on our  
Church Website!

Use this QR Code to go straight to Trinity's  
website!



# Women's Bible Study



**The Women's Bible Study will resume on January 24th with "When You Pray."**

**Authors include: Minter, Perry, Wilkin, Rothschild, Edwards, and McClelland.**

# Hanging of Greens/Chili Cook-off Fun

## Thank You!

Trinity's United Methodist Men express their thanks to the church family members who attended the Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, December 3, 2023. We are grateful to all those who brought a chili entrée to the church to share with members of our church family. We hope it was enjoyable for you and that it, along with the morning worship service and Hanging of the Greens, helped get your Advent season off to a great start!



# Trinity Preschool

The preschool enjoyed a wonderful fall semester. We had lots of fun activities, some special visitors, many crafts, and so much more! We had a successful Thanksgiving lunch for students and their families, with lots of help from the Sisters in Ministry and the support from the other staff at Trinity-- we appreciate all of the help! It was well-attended and everyone enjoyed their time together. We have had many practices for our Christmas program, and we expect a large turn-out of parents and other family members for our program and dinner. We currently have openings in our 3 year old classroom and Pre-k/4 and 5 year old classroom, however our younger classrooms remain at full enrollment. We have 37 students enrolled who are expected to return in January after our Christmas break is complete. We have had a few staffing changes in our classrooms due to teachers leaving to pursue full-time employment, and we have wonderful and caring teachers who have joined us on our team! We are excited about the spring semester and hope to have more visitors and continued participation from our families!



# Children's Ministry

During December, the children participated in studying *The Journey* as our Advent Workshop for 2023. We also kicked off the New Year with games and a celebration in our Happy Noon Year party on December 31.

We are looking forward to the spring. We will continue our Sunday morning deep dive into the Old Testament through the first quarter. On Wednesday nights, we will begin a new quarter in Dig In to kick off the winter with a focus on Digging into the Life of Jesus this semester. We will also continue Fun Fourth Wednesday with a devotion and game night through the second semester.

# Youth Ministry

Trinity's Youth Group remains very active as we continue to create videos each week for morning announcements during Worship. The youth are wanting to include more animals in the Spring, so if you have a pet that you would like to share and have be a part of the fun, please let Sheryl Mabry know!

The Advent and Christmas seasons are so easy to get caught up in all the crazy schedules and for our youth, a lot of mid-terms and projects! This year we have used the story of the birth of Jesus to examine different aspects in our own lives such as assumptions, empathy, and friendships. We have paused to look at things from different perspectives as well as trying to put ourselves in other people's shoes in hopes of getting a better understanding of others in our lives as well as the overall world.

We also had a lot of fun this season! We had a Christmas party where we exchanged items from our own homes, played lots of games, and everyone brought in favorite dishes to share. We also had a special time of going to see the Opryland Lights with our families. Recognizing the business and adapting is a wonderful strategy to help keep the traditions alive without potentially burning each other out with too many activities in a short amount of time. Therefore, we partied early and saw the lights after Christmas. It's not enough to say we want to keep Christ in our hearts all of the time; it's the ability to allow things to change in order to make that happen by our actions.

We look forward to a great start to the new year and appreciate the church's continuous support of the youth group!



# Trinity's Leadership

## Administrative Council

Cathy Johnson	Pat Counts	Jeremy Trail	Nancy Hendrix
Nancy Lane	Karen Malpas	Beverly Anthony	Nancy Smith
Connie Golson	Cornelia Brown	Gary Johnson	Claudia Schooley
Gene Cain	Kirsten McDaniel	Wanda Stricklin	David Anthony
Tom Pierce	Kristen Donahue	Stephen Burnette	Sheryl Mabry
Leslie Trail	Trustees Chair (TBD 2024)		

## Nominations & Lay Leadership Team

David Anthony	Carlene Brown	Aaron Mulroy	Richard Youree
Denny Schooley	Teri Towe	Tom Pierce	

## Finance

Cornelia Brown (chair)	Pat Counts	Teri Towe	Nancy Hendrix
Betty Lane	Steve Lewis	Jim Hart	Cindy Burkitt
Debbie Goss	Connie Golson	Tom Pierce	Kristen Donahue
Jeremy Trail	Trustees Chair (TBD 2024)		

## Trustees

Sara Roy (chair 2023)	Jim Whitehead	Mike Counts	Nancy Hendrix
David Anthony	Dwight Brown	Diana Adcock	Wanda Stricklin
Butch Golson	Jeremy Trail		

## Staff-Parrish Relations Team

Connie Golson (chair)	Miles Lane	Jim Malpas	Claudia Schooley
Judy Hennessy	Bobby Boylan	Ginny Purviance	

## Nurture Work Area

Karen Malpas (chair)	Diane Mitchell	Sheryl Mabry	Leslie Trail
Sue Young	Steve Lewis	Gene Cain	Annie Woosley

## Worship

Nancy Smith (co-chair)	Stephen Burnette (co-chair)	Sheryl Mabry	Leslie Trail
Steve Bugg	Gene Cain	Beverly Anthony	Pat Counts
Wanda Stricklin			

## Outreach

Beverly Anthony (chair)	Sheryl Mabry	Leslie Trail	Nancy Long
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## Nursery Preschool Board

Diane Mitchell (chair)	Kirsten McDaniel	Sara Roy	Nancy Hendrix
Connie Golson			

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE SERVING IN THESE AREAS AND OTHERS FOR TRINITY!!!**

# Finance Report

Date	Giving	Attendance
10/8/2023	\$ 9,348.00	76
10/15/2023	\$ 3,256.00	77
10/22/2023	\$ 8,438.00	65
10/29/2023	\$ 3,734.75	73
11/5/2023	\$ 1,760.69	86
11/12/2023	\$ 1,336.00	90
11/19/2023	\$ 4,660.00	69
11/26/2023	\$ 2,729.88	74
12/3/2023	\$ 10,340.00	85
12/10/2023	\$ 7,453.50	87
12/17/2023	\$ 4,810.00	83



Don't have cash or check, but still want to give financially to Trinity? Use this QR code to donate on-line or set up an automatic payment. Create one less thing you have to remember to take care of each week, month, or quarter!

If anyone is interested in collecting pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities, please contact Selma Pancake [selmaathome@aol.com](mailto:selmaathome@aol.com)



**Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®**  
Nashville



Founded in 2006, The Journey Home is a Christian ministry that serves the homeless and disadvantaged of Rutherford County by helping to rehouse and provide resources and relationships that encourage faith, economic stability, wholeness, and reintegration into community life. We are collecting reading materials for the Journey Home. There is a basket in the church library where donations can be dropped off.

# Celebrations



## January

1 Tori Nichols  
1 Rylee DeLuca  
5 Pat Houseman  
10 Debra Johnson  
12 Ann Woosley  
13 Gretchen Campbell  
14 Butch Golson  
16 Becca Davis  
16 Stephanie Gravely  
17 Steve Bugg  
19 Elaine Davis  
19 Lauren VanEtten  
20 Anna Campbell  
21 Charlie Fultz  
22 Tom Shepherd  
22 John White  
24 Ron Sledge  
24 Dave Long  
26 Ginny Purviance  
27 Phillip Adcock  
27 Cameron Robinson  
29 Theresa Johnson  
31 Landon Robinson

## February

1 Claudia Schooley  
8 Randy Strong  
12 Devin West  
15 Paxton Cooke  
15 Taylor West  
15 Annelyn Trail  
17 Carroll Jarvis  
18 Keith Paul  
19 Eric Snyder  
20 Betty Lane  
21 Mike Counts  
21 Karter Johnson  
22 Chandler Johnson  
24 Aaron Mulroy  
27 Aaron Lewis  
28 Bill Young  
29 Lee Wallis  
29 Kiersten Johnson

**HAPPY** Anniversary  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY

## **January**

21 Bob & Pauline Hackler  
27 Ron & Sherrie Sledge

## **February**

18 Tim & Amy Glascoe



# The Church Family



If you have updates for the Circle of Concern, please call or e-mail the church office.

615-896-0413 or

trinityumcboro@gmail.com



## **Prayer Requests**

Luke Alsup, Taylor & Tom Coil, Karen Garner, Jane Kurek, Rebekah & Dustin Pate  
If you have someone that is in need of prayers you may call or email the church office and we will gladly add them to the prayer list. Please help us to keep the list current by notifying the office of any updates. Thank you for your help.

## **Continue to Pray For**

Alfred Arayza, Caitlyn Bomar, Coil Family, Andrew Golson, Shirley Kull, Miles Lane, Kaye & Powell McClellan, Stephanie McConkey, Steven Lowel, Selma Pancake, Becky Waldrop, EJ Williams

## **At Home/Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:**

Sadie Agnew-Adams Place

Jack Arbuckle-NHC

Julia King-The Rutherford

Marlene Massey-The Villages

Doug Mason- Regency Retirement Village

Reba Miller-Adams Place

Don Richardson-Adams Place

Clarice Stewart

## **Military Personnel**

Shane Aylesworth, Seth Bell, Chaplain Jen Bowden, Chance Cooke, Tristin Corson, David Foster, Deserae Lacznia, Kelsey Lane, Thomas Lane, Robert Tracey, and the families of service men/women.

# From Our Congregation

## **Reflection on God's Enduring Grace**

**By Gary Johnson**

In 1969 I was deployed to serve one year in Vietnam as a Navy hospital corpsman assigned to Echo Company 2nd Battalion 1st Marines. When my tour of duty was up and I left to return to the states, I did not take down addresses of other men I served with which I regretted. Several months ago one of the hospital corpsman (Ron Bobele) I served with contacted me. He informed me that he had been trying to track me down for over 50 years. He eventually was successful only because he had found my contact information on the Charles County Veteran's Memorial Museum in O'Fallon, Missouri (near St Louis). Two years ago I was invited to be interviewed by the director of the Charles County Veteran's Memorial Museum and my contact information got posted on their website. Ron indicated that he was on the internet continuing to search for me saw my contact information on the website. That is how Ron located me in Murfreesboro. Tennessee.

During the week of Thanksgiving I made a trip to Daytona Beach, Florida to meet up with Ron. We met up on November 21, 2023 and I took him and his wife out to dinner. We caught up on each other's lives and shared many memories of Vietnam, some good and some bad. Ron and his wife invited me to spend Thanksgiving with them and their friends. It was a wonderful and memorable time of lifting up praise, gratitude and thanksgiving to God as well as a time of personal reflection. Such a contrast in time from 1969 to Thanksgiving 2023. So many personal life events occurred over that period of time. As I reflected over those past years I was and continue to be humbled by God's amazing grace!



Here are two photos. One photo is of Ron and myself taken in 1969 with some other hospital corpsman in our battalion. The other photo is of me (in the black leather jacket) and Ron taken on November 21, 2023.