



Welcome!

Trinity United Methodist Church

"Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST."

2023 Missions - NOVEMBER

4th Sunday "Above and Beyond" Special Offering
(Please give generously)

United Methodist Student Day

"Do All the GOOD you can in ALL the PLACES you can" - John Wesley
"Serve each other according to the gift each person has received,
as good managers of God's diverse gifts" - 1 Peter 4:10

MAY EVERY DAY BE FILLED WITH GOD'S
UNCOUNTABLE BLESSINGS,
MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND HAPPINESS.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED
THANKSGIVING



Pray ... every day with Thanksgiving

Trinity UMC November 2023

I don't know about you, but I've heard a lot of droopy prayers in my lifetime. And I've prayed a lot of them, too. Here listed below are just a few of them.

Prayers of desperation -- God, you've got to help me!

Prayers of self-pity -- God, things are so awful!

Prayers of resignation -- God, if you want to leave me unemployed,
then I can't stop you!

But I'm learning how to pray a different kind of prayer -- prayers said with thanksgiving. I learned it from the apostle Paul who, writing from prison, taught me a most powerful lesson. He said,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Strange. Here the apostle Paul is suffering himself, yet he's telling me (and you) to pray with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is the seasoning that makes our prayers more acceptable to God. After all, who wants to hear people whine all the time? I've learned that you can't whine and give thanks in the same breath. Self-pity and thankfulness don't mix any better than oil and water.

In fact, mixing thanks with whining prayer somehow changes it. When we remember what God has done for us in the past and think about who he is in the present -- and express that in thankfulness -- our prayers become gentler, more trusting somehow. Thankful prayers are offered with faith. And faith is an essential ingredient for prayers that I believe God chooses to answer more often.

Remember the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day, not so much for their turkey dinner, but for the sheer faith that inspired them to give thanks in a year that saw nearly half their number die of sickness. Yet they prayed with thanksgiving.

When your annual day of feasting is over, you may be so full that you passed on your extra helpings of dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But if you can hang on to the "thanks" part of Thanksgiving, you will be a different person; because when you learn to talk to God about your needs - - mixed with a healthy dose of heartfelt thanks -- then you have crossed the divide from whining at God to real prayer of Thanks Giving.



Happy **thanks**-giving,
Rev. David Cervantez

Save
the Date

November 4 ~ 10:00am-Noon

Craft kit assembly. Everyone welcome and encouraged! We will enjoy this fellowship time and assemble craft kits to be distributed to children, seniors, and people with different abilities. Bring friends! We will have some refreshments and enjoy being together.



Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, November 19, 2023, right after worship service.

Details to follow. Stay tuned!

[Board Meeting](#) is right after the worship service on [Sunday, November 12th.](#)

[Charge Conference](#) at 6:30pm on [Monday, November 13th.](#)

Attention Board Members!

Please turn in your reports by November 2nd, or even earlier please. Thank you!



A Message from SPRC

Dear Congregants,

As we continue to have various events on church property such as utilization of the gym, sanctuary, and other areas of the church campus, we now have an Event Coordinator, **Stacie Brown**, who will need to be notified of any events on church property and can consult with you about your needs for a successful event. Also, she will let you know about anything you need to know about the church (i.e. lights, doors, air needs). We are grateful for Stacie's willingness to assist you for your event.

Please continue to contact Cynthia Galang at the church office to book your event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joanne Smith

Chair, Staff/Parish Relations

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope everyone is enjoying the tiny bit of Fall weather we are having! This is one of my favorite times of year. November is time to give extra thanks to God for all my blessings, and December is the month we celebrate the greatest gift ever given, God's son!

I know some churchgoers are not always excited about going to church during October and November because a lot of churches have their Stewardship Campaign during this time. I used to feel that way. I would like to share with you how I changed my thinking on this subject and in doing so turned my life around for the better and have never looked back.

Some of you already know my story but some don't. I grew up as a Methodist, and I saw my mom's check register from time to time. I was amazed at how little she made, but there was never a month she did not write a check to the church. When I would ask her why are you giving so much money away, she said it was because she knew God always took care of us, and she was going to always give back to Him. This tugged on my heart for years; but no matter how much I made, I never had anything left over to give to God.

I wanted to know if this tithing thing really worked. It wasn't until I was going to school and had a small part-time job that I decided to take that leap of faith. I made a \$100 a month, so the church got \$10. At first, I thought really, what is \$10 going to do for the church? I WAS WRONG!

What was I wrong about? It wasn't the amount I was giving. It was the fact that for the first time in my life I said whatever I am going to make, God gets the first 10%. When I shifted my priorities and included God as part of my budget (I know most people can't stand that word), I got a peace about me that I never experienced before. Yes, there have been some rough years that we didn't fully pay our pledge because I overestimated what we could give. I didn't beat myself up because God was still first. God is always there picking me up and still blessing me with more than I could ever need.

I know when I give to my church, my offering is my gift back to God for all the wonderful things He provides me with. Our church does so many wonderful things and NONE of it would happen without ALL our support. And, yes I know, some of my offering goes to the boring things like water, electricity and insurance but so does part of my money at home. I would love to not have to pay SAWS, CPS and insurance, but I pay these things to be able to live. My household would not stay afloat if I didn't pay these expenses. The church is the same way. We use offering to pay the necessities, but we also use it to change lives, and that is the greatest thing a church can do.

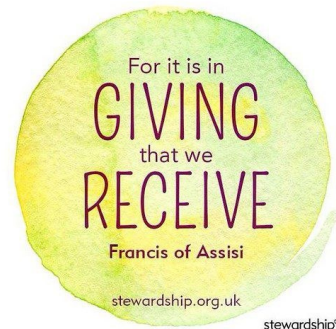
I have used the word "I" a lot in the above, but most of it should really be "we." I am married to the happiest giver I have ever met. He saw the transformation in me when I put God first, and he was on board without my even asking. The smile on his face when he puts our offering in the plate is priceless!

Thank you for staying with me through this letter. I know it was long. But I wanted to share my story of how we all have to start somewhere. My prayer is for everyone who reads this to understand and grasp the concept that if you haven't put God first and you are not giving, please try it. If you feel you could give more, please try it. My guess is you will be amazed at how your life changes and the peace that will come. I know mine was!

Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Smith
Trinity UMC Treasurer



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us



Inspiring Story: Do You Love Me?

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me.

He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Saviour!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?" I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?" How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?" How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?" How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?" With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!" I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect." "Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray the earnest?" I had no answers ... only tears. The Lord continued. "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?" The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all. Do you truly love me? I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child." The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child." I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?" The Lord answered, " Because you are My creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever." Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done?



I asked God, "How much do You love me?" The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

(Inspirational Christian Story) - Author Unknown

So, I spoke to people getting food at a food bank and here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener, (or a sharp paring knife can open those can tops), or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice, too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did.

If you are helping a family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!

In HIS service,
John Reed

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our October collection of socks, soap, and blankets. Our donation box in the narthex was overflowing with more than enough to fill 50 backpacks with cold weather supplies for those living on the street downtown.

Our friends from the Unicorn Center will pack up the donations along with ponchos, caps, and other hygiene supplies. Pastor Bob Clark and the kind folks at Travis Park UMC will then distribute the backpacks to the many homeless people they serve.

May the Good Lord continue to guide us in helping those this need.

Thanks again for your generosity!
Don Ketchum



PASTOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY AND TRINITY'S FIRST SUNDAY RECEPTION



MOBIL AUTO TRADES

Sell your vehicle right from your house, plus we will also buy vehicles of people that are going into assisted living. Any automobile needs, we will help for free. Please call our brother, Byron Burge at 210-825-7075. Let's give him our support!



When we joined the church,
we pledged to
uphold it with our prayers.

***Please pray for our
church every day at
noon***



JOIN THE SEEKERS ('N' FIPS)

THE SEEKERS/FIPS LUNCHEON MEETINGS ARE EVERY SUNDAY (EXCEPT 5TH SUNDAYS) AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE .

- 1ST SUNDAY — LUBY'S (FLOYD CURL AND HUEBNER RD)**
- 2ND SUNDAY — SEA ISLAND (5959 NW LOOP 410)**
- 3RD SUNDAY — JASON'S DELI (5819 NW LOOP 410)**
- 4TH SUNDAY — BILL MILLER BBQ (WURZBACH & BANDERA.)**

- Contact John Reed



REV. FEDERICO PEREZ, JR.
Pastor
fperez@riotx.org

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.
In the sanctuary -
we encourage you to wear
your mask as you feel
comfortable.

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. is also available
on Facebook live, &
www.tumcsa.net

Pastor-led Bible Study
5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays
Zoom room

Seekers Faith Meeting
(Sunday School):
- Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
Zoom room
- Sundays, in-person, Null
building at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Meetings:
- Wednesdays via zoom at
2:15 p.m.

Church office phone
210-684-0261
Office hours:
Mondays—Thursdays
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
or call for an appointment

e-mail:
ofcadmin@tumcsa.net
6800 Wurzbach Road,
San Antonio, Texas 78240
www.tumcsa.net

OCTOBER 2023

ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

October 1	38
October 8	35
October 15	36
October 22	41
October 29	45

FACEBOOK LIVE – VIEWS

October 1	51
October 8	64
October 15	48
October 22	64
October 29	52

TITHES & DONATIONS

(Report taken from ONLY the counters;
NOT including online and text giving).

October 1	\$5,883
October 8	\$5,075
October 15	\$2,398
October 22	\$4,191
October 29	\$ 848



Happy Birthday to:

RYAN LANDERS	3-Nov
PAUL GERTH	7-Nov
CALEB WILSON	8-Nov
CONNIE MEDRANO	10-Nov
JEFF WILSON	11-Nov
CINDY COZART	14-Nov
JAMES PARKS VINCENT	14-Nov
GAIL HALL	17-Nov
DANIEL SPAULDING	17-Nov
GODFRED EKOMBE ESSOMBE	22-Nov
JIM LANDERS	23-Nov
VALERIE PUTZ	28-Nov

Happy Anniversary to:

ERICK & JOANNE BENTON	1-Nov
JORY & JULIE VINCENT	12-Nov

DONATE ONLINE

Simply scan this
image using your
phone's camera
(or QR code
reader).



You may also go
to:

www.tumcsa.net

then click on the
"Donate" button.

DONATE FROM YOUR

SMARTPHONE.

You may also **text**
giving to:

844-210-1179

(Type in the
amount you wish
to donate, then
hit send).



*If we have missed your
special day, please notify
Cynthia in the church office.
Thank you!*

Weekly Recurring Meetings where everyone is invited:

- Sack lunch ministry each Sunday at 9:15am in the narthex.
Everyone is welcome to help. For more information, please contact Don Ketchum.
- Seekers Sunday school every Sunday at 9:00am in the parlor.
- Pastor-led Bible study every Tuesday via zoom at 5:00pm.
- Prayer meeting every Wednesday via zoom at 2:15pm.
- Sunday school meetings every Thursday via zoom at 3:00 p.m.

Please call Cynthia for zoom links or visit our website at www.tumcsa.net.

Trinity is asking for volunteers to...

..... broadcast our worship service live on Facebook (on rotation).

..... help with the Family Life Committee alongside Alisa Roberts, Carol Lewis, & Sandra Dance. Family Life is responsible for our social activities, e.g., July 4th luncheon and sing-along, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving luncheon, Super Chili Bowl Cook-off, and “Fat Sunday instead” (Sunday before Ash Wednesday).

..... read at our Sunday’s worship services, on rotation.

..... help in the church office with very light clerical duties such as answering phones, assisting visitors, and other tasks alike. Help is needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am -2pm.

..... serve refreshments and clean up after church on the 1st Sunday of every month.

..... donate refreshments such as cookies, doughnuts, sweet breads and beverages to serve after the first Sunday worship services; please contact Stacie Brown.

If you are led to serve in these areas, or any other ministries not mentioned, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.



Trinity UMC Prayer Team †

**Come
Let Us
Pray**



“God, help me navigate whatever challenges I encounter this day. Be my comfort and my rock. Guide me to do Your will and be an instrument of Your peace today and each day. Amen.”

*Prayer team meets every Wednesday at 2:15pm via Zoom.
Please join us or send us your prayer request at www.tumcsa.net*



Christmas Bells are Ringing

2023 Holiday Handbell Concert Series

Sunday 12/3
4:00 pm

First UMC of Boerne
205 James St, 78006

Tuesday 12/5
7:00 pm

Army Residence Community (ARC)
7400 Crestway, 78239

Thursday 12/7
7:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church
9944 Leslie 78254

Monday 12/11

Private Event

Tuesday 12/12
7:00 pm

San Antonio Central Library
600 Soledad, 78205

Friday 12/15
7:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church
6720 Broadway, 78209

Sunday 12/17
3:00 pm

Trinity Baptist Church
319 E. Mulberry, 78212
(w/ Heart of Texas Concert Band)



RiverCityRingers.org



[RiverCityRingersSA](https://www.facebook.com/RiverCityRingersSA)

Concerts are free and open to the public. Donations appreciated!

River City Ringers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Artwork designed by pikisuperstar/freepik