

# Welcome to 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.”

6800 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio TX 78240  
www.tumcsa.net

REV. JOHN MEANDE  
Pastor  
pastor1@tumcsa.net

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

New Seekers Faith  
Meeting  
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.  
Zoom room

Church office phone  
210-684-0261  
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

Simply shop at  
smile.amazon.com  
Amazon donates to  
Trinity UMC.



**Dear Lord,**

**At this time of season,  
please open our hearts.**

**May we learn to be givers, not takers,  
for only then can we feel blessed.**

**Make us instruments of your peace,  
that peace might fill our world.  
May your abundant mercy  
touch our lives.**

**May our hearts so give and  
so receive as to expand  
to touch the stars.**

**May we learn to live with love,  
that we might know of  
heavenly bliss  
while still here on earth.**

**May the miracle of Christmas  
be a miracle in our hearts. Amen.**

2022 Missions - **DECEMBER**

4th Sunday "Above and Beyond" Special Offering (PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY)

**PROVIDENCE PLACE**



"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

## This and That .... 😊

- Help with the Family Life Committee alongside Alisa Roberts. Thanks to Alisa for volunteering to work on this committee. Family Life is responsible for our social activities, e.g. July 4th luncheon and sing-along, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving luncheon, and Super Chili Bowl Cook-off.
- 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 @ 210-502-9141. You may serve as a group, or your committee or team may donate and serve. For example: the worship team is donating and serving on a particular Sunday.

If you are led to serve in these areas, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.



**JOIN THE NEW SEEKERS (N' FIPS)**  
**NEW SEEKERS/FIPS LUNCHEON MEETINGS**  
**ARE EVERY SUNDAY (EXCEPT 5TH**  
**SUNDAYS) AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE .**

→ 1ST SUNDAY - JASON'S DELI; 5819 NW LOOP 410.

→ 2ND SUNDAY -ROYAL INN, 5440 BABCOCK.

→ 3RD SUNDAY, BILL MILLER BBQ, WURZBACH @ BANDERA.

→ 4TH SUNDAY - SEA ISLAND, 5959 NW LOOP 410.

### Happy Birthday to:

DON GERTH	12-Dec
DAVID C. LOPEZ	17-Dec
DON KHAN	19-Dec
MARCIA ALLEY	21-Dec
CAROL WILSON	27-Dec
DAVID DYE	30-Dec
DON KETCHUM	30-Dec
PAT PUTZ	30-Dec

### Happy Anniversary to:

BOB & TWILA ICENOGLA	23-Dec
----------------------	--------



## NOVEMBER 2022

### ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

#### IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON) -

NOVEMBER 6	39
NOVEMBER 13	40
NOVEMBER 20	44
NOVEMBER 27	33

FACEBOOK LIVE—(Engagements: engagement is any action someone takes on your Facebook Page or one of your posts. The most common examples are reactions (including likes), comments and shares, but it can also include saves, viewing a video or clicking on the link).

NOVEMBER 6	101
NOVEMBER 13	80
NOVEMBER 20	78
NOVEMBER 27	115

### TITHES & DONATIONS

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

NOVEMBER 6	\$5,226
NOVEMBER 13	\$1,220
NOVEMBER 20	\$1,663
NOVEMBER 27	\$1,940

## Advent Season: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4- **Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11- **Third Sunday of Advent, Jubilee Ringers play**


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18- **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Youth and Young Adults participate in Worship, visit with Santa in the Activities Building after the service.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24- **Candlelight Christmas Eve service 6:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25- **Christmas Day Lessons and Carols 10:00 a.m.**

Following the Christmas Eve service we are planning on having refreshments available. We are asking members that would like to provide treats for the table to bring them in a container that you do not want returned. (Ex. paper plates, disposable trays, etc.).



Thank you!  
The Worship Team 

# EXTRAORDINARY STORIES ABOUT GIVING

- JOE PLEMON -

## THE MAN WHO GAVE 90 PERCENT

R. G. LeTourneau (1888 - 1969) was a Christian industrialist who dedicated his life to "being a businessman for God." He was hugely successful, designing and developing his own line of earth-moving equipment.

LeTourneau was the maker of nearly 300 inventions, and had hundreds of patents in his lifetime. As he succeeded financially, he increased his giving to the point where he was giving 90% of his income to the Lord's work.

I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back—but God has a bigger shovel. - R. G. LeTourneau

You may be thinking, "I could give 90% too if I was a multi-millionaire." Maybe so, but LeTourneau didn't start out wealthy.

***A gentle challenge:** Whatever percentage of your income you are currently giving, make a lifelong plan to bump that percentage with every opportunity.*

## THE POOR WIDOW WHOSE GIVING IMPRESSES JESUS

Sometimes the sacrifice speaks louder than the size of the gift, as in this story: Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." - Mark 12:41-45 NIV

***A gentle challenge:** Consider increasing your giving (whether money, time, or talents) beyond mere convenience and into the realm of sacrifice.*

## THE PRIEST OF AUSCHWITZ

During the Second World War, Polish Priest Maximilian Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo for hiding Jews and Polish refugees from the Nazis. When three prisoners disappeared from the Auschwitz concentration camp, the deputy camp commander issued orders to pick ten men to be starved to death in order to deter further escape attempts. One of these ten, Franciszek Gajowniczek, began to cry out, “My wife! My children! I will never see them again!” At this point, Kolbe stepped forward, removed his cap, and said, “I am a Catholic Priest. Let me take his place. I am old. He has a wife and children.” Amazingly, the commander allowed the request.

In the starvation cell, he celebrated Mass each day and sang hymns with his fellow prisoners. After two weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe remained alive. Because the cell was needed for other prisoners, he was given a lethal injection. Those present say he raised his left arm and calmly waited for the injection.

***A gentle challenge:** Keep your mind open about how you may serve others. Avoid self-imposed limitations . . . God may have something bigger in store for you.*

## A PASTOR'S ACT OF KINDNESS SAVES THREE

*The following story is told in more detail by Ilene Wright. Here is my abbreviated version:*

Years ago, Ilene's preacher noticed the family standing in front of him at a New Orleans convenience store did not have enough money to pay for their few items. He tapped the man on the shoulder and said, “You don't need to turn around, but please accept this money.” The man took the money without ever seeing the preacher.

Nine years later, the pastor was invited to speak at a church in New Orleans. After the service, a man walked up to the preacher and shared this story about how he had come to faith in Christ: “Several years ago, my wife and our child were destitute. We had lost everything, had no jobs, no money and were living in our car. We also lost all hope, and agreed to a suicide pact, including our child. However, we decided to first give our son some food, so we drove to a convenience store to buy him some food and milk.”

“While we were standing in line at the store, we realized that we did not have enough money to pay for these items, but a man behind us asked us to please take the money from his hand and not look at him. This man told us that ‘Jesus loves you.’”

“We left the store, drove to our designated suicide site, and wept for hours. We couldn't go through with it, so we drove away. As we drove, we noticed a church with a sign out front which said, ‘Jesus love you.’ We went to that church the very next Sunday, and both my wife and I were saved that day.”

He then told the pastor, “When you began speaking this morning, I knew immediately that you were the man who gave us that money.” How did he know? The pastor was from South Africa and had a very distinct accent. He continued, “Your act of kindness was much more than a simple good deed. Three people are alive today because of it.”

***A gentle challenge:** Maintain your spiritual antennae, remembering that God can multiply the smallest gift many times over.*

## THE FATHER WHO GAVE HIS MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION

There once was a father who loved his children, but they didn't love him. One after another left their father's house, vowing never to return. Finally, the father had a son who reciprocated that love. This son honored, respected, and obeyed his father. The father was thrilled, but he still mourned over his other children who had rejected him. He then came up with a plan - a risky plan: "I will give up my beloved son to make room in my house for my wayward children to return. Hopefully, they will realize my love for them and come back home."

You may recognize this vignette as the story told in the book of John: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16 NIV  
No list of extraordinary giving stories could be complete without including this one. I hope you agree.

*A gentle challenge: Commit your family to the Lord - no strings attached. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." My hope is that you experience this blessedness that Jesus promises.*

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GIVE?  
WHICH OF THESE STORIES SPEAKS MOST DEEPLY TO YOU?

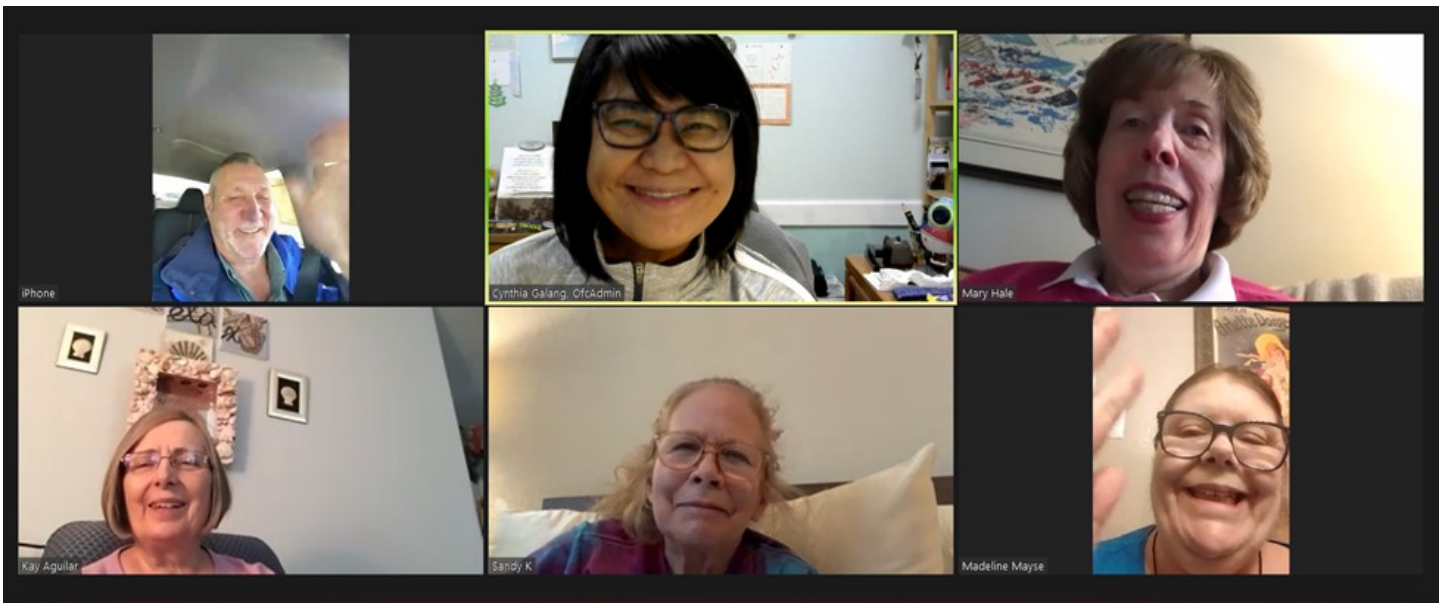
## JOHN WESLEY ON GIVING

Stewardship is at the heart of the Wesleyan revival, and John Wesley considered it an integral component of Christian discipleship. It was a consistent theme of his preaching and personal practice. Giving of financial resources was a necessary spiritual discipline of every member of the Wesleyan classes and societies. For Wesley, no one was exempt from the commandment to love God and neighbor, and giving was an expression of that love.

2023 PLEDGE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. YOU CAN ALSO CALL  
THE OFFICE (210-684-0261) TO HAVE ONE EMAILED TO YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR USUAL GENEROSITY.





*Merry Christmas!*  
 Greetings from  
 Trinity UMC Prayer Team.  
 Byron, Cynthia, Mary, Kay,  
 Sandy, & Madeline



**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**Location:**  
 Trinity Methodist Church  
 6800 Wurzbach Rd

**Time:**  
 12PM-5PM

**Admission:**  
 Non-perishable  
 food Item  
 2 and under FREE!!

**Featuring:**

- Design Christmas Card for Servicemen and Women!!
- DIY Ornaments \$1.00 and Up
- Graham Cracker Tent decorating \$5.00
- Photo with Grinch \$2.00
- Hot Cocoa/Cider
- Shop Market Vendors



**Pack 20**

**Join us for  
 Fasting and  
 Prayer Day  
 here at  
 Trinity on  
 Thursday,  
 December 15th,  
 from  
 6am-12noon.  
 Pastor John's  
 cell phone will  
 be open for  
 prayer during  
 those times.**



*River City Ringers Presents  
2022 Holiday Concert Series*

*Sounds  
of Christmas*

*Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm*

*Zion Lutheran Church*

*9944 Leslie Road*

*Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm*

*Christ Lutheran Church*

*6720 Broadway*

*Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm*

*Army Residence Community*

*7400 Crestway Drive*

*The Many Moods of Christmas  
with the Heart of Texas Concert Band  
featuring limited handbell selections by RCR*

*Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 3:00pm*

*Trinity Baptist Church*

*319 E Mulberry*



*RiverCityRingers.org*



*RiverCityRingers SA*

*All concerts are free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.  
River City Ringers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you to those that showed up for the all-church meeting on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. There is much going on with Trinity and the United Methodist Church that I believe you need to know. I am going to give a brief re-cap of the meeting. Please feel free to reach out to me, or Pastor Meande, or any Church Board members if you have questions or concerns about this. We will have another meeting in January. Please plan to attend.



### **The State of Trinity UMC:**

Trinity is going through some trying times. The Board has made some decisions in the past year or two that have helped address some things, but other concerns remain. We are missing the members that are not attending worship. Our attendance has remained steady with about 40 people in worship each Sunday. We also have concerns financially. In 2020 and 2021, we received PPP loans from the US Government for \$25,000 and \$18,000. This year, we have taken \$25,000 out of the Permanent Endowment Fund. Our income is about \$150,000 less than it was in 2020. Meanwhile, our expenses are about \$80,000 - \$100,000 less. We have only paid \$2500 in our apportionments for 2022. Due to our large facility and aging buildings, there are always maintenance issues that need to be addressed. We are currently working to figure out what is the problem with our HVAC system.

We have a very dedicated group of church leaders; however, several people have served for many years and are ready to take a break. I have indicated to the Pastor and the Board that after three years; I will no longer be serving as the Board Chair. We need someone to fill this position. We have developed a taskforce to look at the viable future of Trinity UMC. They will explore many aspects including finances, facilities, leadership and spirituality. David Lopez will chair this committee. If you are interested in serving on this, please contact the Pastor or Cynthia.

While we have people serving in administrative roles for the church, we are lacking in people willing to serve in spiritual and outreach roles. We need someone to teach our youth and young adults, someone to plan and prepare for VBS, organize our Women and Men's programs. Prayer is vital to the life of this church. Please come to the church office and pray with the Pastor.

### **What is going on with the United Methodist Church and the Disaffiliation**

#### **Process:**

On a global scale, the United Methodist Church is going through changes. In the several hundred years of our denomination, we have experienced change before, but this is different. In 2019, there was a called session of our General Conference (world meeting). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether our denomination would allow homosexual persons to be ordained as pastors, and whether or not we would allow pastors to perform marriage ceremonies for homosexual couples. Historically, our Book of Discipline (church law) states that neither of these are permitted. In 2019, it was voted to continue NOT allowing either homosexual pastors or performing gay marriages.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the General Conference was to be in 2020, however, due to COVID, it was postponed to 2022. Then, due to continuing COVID cases, it was postponed again to 2024.

In spite of the Book of Discipline stating that these two issues are against church law, some people and places in the country have chosen to put off any form of punishment for those that are allowing pastors to perform gay marriages and allowing pastors to practice a homosexual lifestyle. This has caused a divide in the United Methodist Church.



The General Conference plans to address this issue, but they do not meet until the summer of 2024. We do not know how the representatives will vote on these issues. There is discussion of a variety of ways to address it. Overall outlawing is one possibility, but there is also discussion of allowing each congregation to take their own stance, or possibly different Conferences will address it in different ways.

Meanwhile, some United Methodists decided they did not want to be affiliated with the UMC any longer due to the unclear stance on homosexuality. This group of people has formed the Global Methodist Church. Unlike in the past when the church has gone through changes, this is different in that the change did not come from within the church. This new denomination is NOT part of the UMC, not just a different branch. This is an entirely new denomination with their own book of discipline, etc. This denomination is taking a firmer stand on the issue of homosexuality. People and churches are leaving the United Methodist Church over this.

There has always been a protocol for a church to leave the denomination if they desire to. This is called the Disaffiliation Process, and it is spelled out how to do this in the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Churches can leave and become independent, or now they can choose to join the GMC. This process includes holding several meetings and entering a period of discernment: a period of prayer and discussion that lasts no less than 6 months. After this period – the church can decide to do nothing, or to act. This decision is made by a vote of members present at a meeting, and it must be a 2/3 vote to disaffiliate. There are financial and legal issues that must be addressed if a church votes to disaffiliate.

At our meeting last Sunday, there was a motion that we enter a period of discernment. After discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was voted down. Therefore, Trinity is continuing as we have been. Because there was a small percentage of our overall membership present at this meeting, it was decided that we will hold another meeting to inform our congregation about these issues. We are hoping to have representatives from the differing points of view present at the future meeting/s.

I encourage you all to educate yourselves on the issues facing our denomination. The consequences can change Trinity UMC severely. I have listed below the Conference website that has information for you to study. Please speak to your friends that are Methodists. This issue is being addressed at most of the churches. Whether we decide to remain as we have been, or if we vote for change, there are people with strong feelings that very likely will be hurt by this. My desire is that we can continue to be respectful of one another and recognize that Christ loved the hard-to-love. It is on us to love those we do not agree with. Please pray for Trinity daily, and for the world-wide United Methodist Church.

Thank you for reading through this article. Please look for information on the meetings that will be happening after Christmas.

Peace to you all,

*Julie Vincent* – Board Chair

Conference website: [Riotexas.org](http://Riotexas.org)

Look at these two places for information: “Discerning Pathways” and “We are UMC”

Dear Friends,



I am writing to inform you of a serious issue that is occurring within the United Methodist Church (UMC). Within the history of the UMC, there have been various serious issues that we have faced and have worked through. Regretfully, the UMC has come to a denominational impasse about the inclusion of and ministry with LGBTQ people within the UMC. For several decades, General Conference sessions have sought to address the impasse with no success. As a result, in 2019 a Special Session of the General Conference passed legislation allowing congregations to disaffiliate from the UMC if they felt that inclusion of LGBTQ people was something they did not want for their congregation. The 2020 General Conference was being positioned to further address the issue of separation. However, due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and the further postponement of the 2020 General Conference until 2024, a heightened confusion and even anxiety within annual conferences and local congregations regarding separation is hurting the witness and mission of The United Methodist Church. Currently, several annual conferences and congregations have decided to leave the UMC and have formed a new denomination called the Global Methodist Church.

Within Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC), the question has been raised if we want to consider disaffiliation from the UMC. As you will learn, the process for disaffiliation is rather complex and requires a certain process to be followed. In order to consider the pros and cons of disaffiliation and to understand the process, we will be scheduling a church wide meeting in January 2023 to learn more about this issue so TUMC members can make a sound decision as to what direction they want to take for TUMC. This meeting will take place on a Sunday morning immediately following a shorten Sunday service. We will be publicizing the date for this meeting very soon. I ask that you be on the lookout for an email, text or postcard for more information. In addition, we will post on our website and Facebook page. It is extremely important that we have as many members as possible present for this meeting.

In the interim, I ask that you begin to familiarize yourself with the issue by reviewing the following informational website of the Rio Texas Conference.

Please go to: [riotexas.org](http://riotexas.org)

Click on the panels labeled “We are UMC” and “Discerning Pathways” and you will be able to access additional information concerning this issue.

I also ask that you pray about the direction TUMC should take on this issue as your vote will determine the future of TUMC.

Sincerely,

*David Lopez*, PEF Chair