



Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church

“The mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to make disciples of **Jesus Christ** for the transformation of the world.”

6800 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio TX 78240

www.tumcsa.net



REV. JOHN MEANDE
Pastor
pastor1@tumcsa.net

Rev. Octaviano Garcia
Associate Pastor

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary (please wear
your mask), FB live,
YouTube

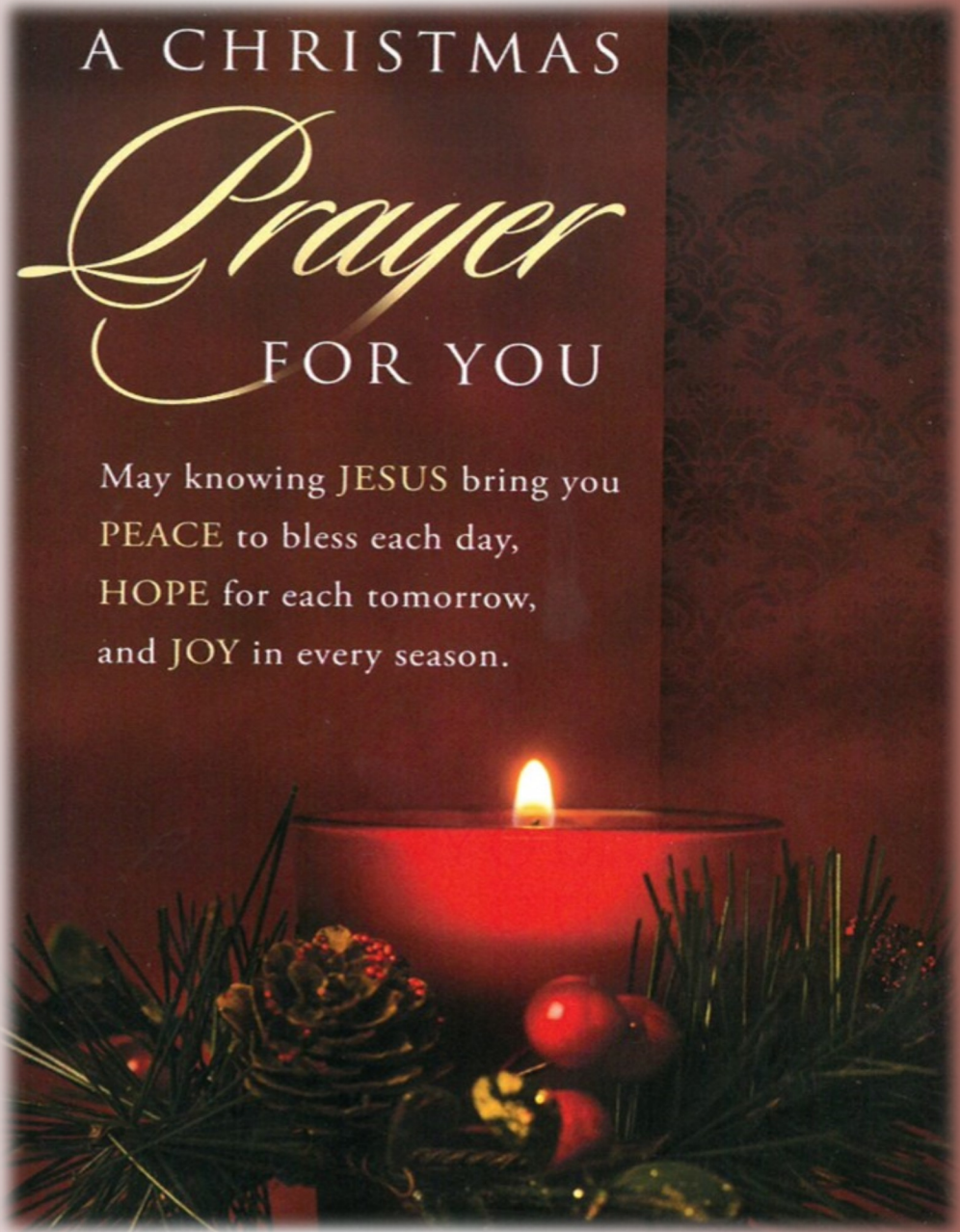
Sunday School
Thursday at 3:00 p.m.
Zoom room

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

TUMSchool phone
210-684-5214
www.trinityums.org



A CHRISTMAS

Prayer
FOR YOU

May knowing JESUS bring you
PEACE to bless each day,
HOPE for each tomorrow,
and JOY in every season.

2020 Missions - DECEMBER

4TH SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING (PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY)

*** PROVIDENCE PLACE ***



WAITING FOR OUR LONG EXPECTED JESUS

(Isaiah 2:1-5)

We are looking at 700 BC when the temple of the Lord was built on the Moriah Mountain, the place where Abraham sacrificed his son Isaac and the place where Jesus Christ was crucified. The temple was very significant for the following reasons:

1. It was a symbol of religious authority. It was God's way of centralizing worship in Jerusalem in order to ensure that correct belief will be kept intact through many generations.
2. It was a symbol of God's holiness. Its beautiful atmosphere inspired respect and awe for God.
3. It was a symbol of God's covenant with Israel. The temple kept the people to focus on God's laws, (the tablets of the 10 commandments were kept in the temple) rather on the kings exploitation. It was a place where God was present with His people.
4. It was a symbol of forgiveness. Its design, furniture and customs were great object lessons for all the people, reminding them of the seriousness of sin, the penalty that sin incurred, and their need of forgiveness.
5. It prepared the people for the Messiah. In the New Testament, Christ said he came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it.
6. It was a testimony to human effort and creativity, inspired by the beauty of God character, people devoted themselves to high achievement in engineering, science, and art in order to praise him.
7. It was a place of prayer. In the temple, people could spend time in prayer to God.

We have heard of seven significant reasons of the important of the temple in Jerusalem. The scripture says in the last days and we are living in the season of the last days. The temple will attract the nations, not because of the architecture and prominence but because of God's presence and influence.

These seven reasons still stand as the significance of our church. What are we doing with our church? Do we really consider it to be a symbol of religious authority? Do we see it as a symbol of God's Holiness?

Does this temple remind us of our need for Divine grace and God's forgiveness? Do we consider this church as a place made to prepare us for our coming king and Messiah? Have we made this temple a place of prayer?

God gave Isaiah the gift of seeing into the future. At this time, God showed Isaiah what would eventually happen to Jerusalem.

Revelation 21 depicts the glorious fulfillment of these prophesy in the New Jerusalem where only those whose names are written in the lamb's book of life will be allowed to enter.

Revelation from chapter 21 the first verse says *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first*



heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home^[a] of God is among mortals. He will dwell^[b] with them; they will be his peoples,^[c] and God himself will be with them,^[d] he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

Verse 22 "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb."²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

God made a covenant with his people and will never break that covenant. God's faithfulness to His covenant and promise gives us hope for a better tomorrow.

For us living out this period when we are waiting for our long expected Jesus, this temple should be our most important place, it should be our first home, it should be a place of grace and peace, where everyone is welcomed and where every spiritual gift is put into use. We should work with God to make it a place where people from all over the world will come and worship a place where people will be excited to tell others about the goodness and loving presence of God.

Isaiah says in the temple of the Lord, God will teach us His ways, so we may obey Him. When I was a student in the seminary, Home work was just too overwhelming at times. Some days I have to complete two book reviews of at least 300 pages each and must submit latest 11:55pm. There were moments that I felt like giving up, sometimes it was hard and frustrating, and sometimes even confusing. But I had a strong support system in my mentor, family and the Holy Spirit that kept helping and encouraging me every day.

Many times I watch how my kids are struggling and at times enjoying their home work. If we all had a way to succeed without these home works we will advocate for that easy way out. Homework is tough, time consuming and may seem unnecessary. But No!! Homework is how we learn; grow in knowledge, and in confidence that we can do it.

God too have homework for us. The scripture says he will teach us so we can obey Him. So our home work is a book review on learning how to obey God. We must master this subject, and if we can't get it, we must seek for extra tutoring or register at the closest library and spend time to understand what it means to obey God. Because questions for that final SAT, that final exam or paper will be based on that topic. God's temple is no longer just about this architecture, but it about our own body which is His temple:

Hebrews 8:8b-13 reads: "The day is coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.⁹ This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD.¹⁰ But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,^[a] says the LORD I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.¹¹ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives,^[a] saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already.¹² And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."^[e]¹³ When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

The coming of Christ's reign will usher in the great conflict in Revelation between a Christian faith that is authentic and vital, and one that is nominal and mere pretense.

Wesley continually used the adjective "true" and "real" to distinguish between those who are genuine and those who are false. Wesley spoke of "true repentance", "true conversion" "true saints" and "true believers".

He defined the bride of Christ as "all holy people and the whole invisible church".

By contrast, he described the visible church to be all "dead and unholy Christians". These are "false Christians", he calls them mere "outward-court worshipers", those following human tradition, flouting outward pomp, honoring the beast, and pretending to serve God while they live carnal lives.

Wesley says but "real Christians" are different. They are symbolized by the 144,000 standing on heavenly Mt. Zion, these are the "most eminently holy" who have been freed from "all sin." They have practiced "universal purity" in soul and body- in other words they are rich in "faith and love," having been "circumcised in the heart", are entirely sanctified and perfect Christians. For Wesley, this is the church triumphant bringing encouragement and instruction to the true church on earth, who is suffering persecution at the hands of the beast. "Real, inward Christians" overcome the accusations of Satan by the blood of the Lamb; which, he says, "cleanses the soul from all sin, and so leaves no room for accusing". This should be our prayer and goal.

The coming of Christ brings in a wonderful period of peace, when instruments of war will be converted to instruments of farming, and we will be taught God's law and obey them. Although we know that God will remove all sin, which leads to war, conflicts and other problems, we should not wait for God to act before we begin to obey Him. We should walk in His light now, just as Judah was told to do. Though our eternal reward awaits us, we can already enjoy many benefits of obedience now as we apply God's word to our life. We all know our homework, lest we forget: what are we doing with our church? Is it a symbol of religious authority or a symbol of our need for divine grace and forgiveness? Is it a place of prayer or a symbol of God's loving peace? Is it a place where we learn about obeying God or a place where we come to be nurtured into perfection? It is worth the wait for our long expected Jesus.

Together for Christ,
Rev. John N. Meande



CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY'S CHRISTMAS TOY AND GIFT DRIVE

CAM's toy and gift drive is proceeding well. Their goal is to serve 1,000 families, but with Covid many more could be seeking help. If you missed the earlier email, I have copied it below. There are many things I find appealing about their plans, but at the top of the list is that parents can choose what they think will most appeal to their children. The earlier email follows.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

A Covid Christmas. I could not have imagined this situation. Those in need face an unimaginable Christmas, too. Christian Assistance Ministry has developed a safe and easy way to purchase toys and gifts for those in need. Click on the Amazon link below or copy and paste the Target link below into your web browser, decide which toys and gifts appeal to you, purchase those according to your budget, and the items are sent directly to CAM at 110 McCollough, San Antonio 78215. Just a note, when you check out, make sure that CAM's delivery address is checked. Since I shop at both Amazon and Target, the system defaulted to my home address. It's only a matter of unchecking one box and checking another.

Amazon registry https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25LII4S929PHP/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

The Target registry: [tgt.gifts/camchristmas2020](https://www.target.com/gifts/camchristmas2020) Copy this into your web browser.

For more information and volunteer opportunities see christianassistanceministry.org

I participated in the Amazon program last year and the Target and Amazon lists this year. The process was convenient, easy, and fun.

If you prefer to purchase gifts from a local shop, that is an option. Take your new and unwrapped gift(s) to the CAM downtown location at 110 McCollough by Wednesday, December 9.

Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

Peace and Blessings,
Sandy Keyser



Greetings from the prayer team!

Thank you, God, for hearing and answering the prayers of your people. Thank you, Trinity UMC for sharing your joys and prayer concerns. One of my favorite hymns is from my days as a child in Sunday School. What a friend we have in Jesus was written in 1855 by Joseph Scriven. The first verse reads, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer, O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." Kind of says it all. God has shown me such grace in my prayer life. He's done it for the prayer team. We continue to grow in our faith and our relationship with Him. It's that time of the year when we start to think about our relationship with God and ask Him for a deeper relationship and a more meaningful prayer life. It begins with His Word. Maybe it's time to amp up our reading of scripture, or to read more faith-based books, or to keep our radio tuned to praise music, or to join a Bible study, or all of the above.

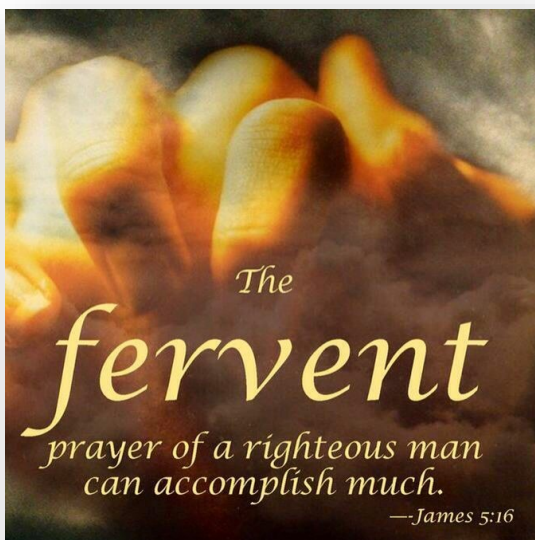
There are many free on-line resources to help with the daily discipline of reading scripture. And if you don't have Internet access or prefer ink on paper, I'd be happy to help you search for a resource that speaks to you. I'm sure Pastor John knows many. I'm currently following <http://satucket.com> lectionary online. There are daily readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Gospel. There's a psalm for the morning and a psalm to read in the evening. There're also readings for Sunday's lectionary. These are the same scriptures read by Christians all over the world each Sunday. Bottom line: join me in asking God how we can grow in relationship with Him. We invite you to join the prayer team Fridays, at 1:00 p.m. in the zoom room. You can join us regularly or visit periodically.

May God richly bless us and increase our faith.

In Him....

Sandy Keyser, Trinity UMC Prayer Team

faith





Our care package ministry has an ongoing program to provide backpacks filled with useful items for people living on the streets. The backpacks are assembled by volunteers from Mission Road Ministries and distributed by the congregations of St Ignatius in Austin and Travis Park UMC here in San Antonio.

We welcome and would greatly appreciate anything you might contribute. Our kits include the following items: socks, wipes, reusable water bottle, Vienna sausages, peaches, apple sauce, granola bars, cookies, peanut butter crackers, and a hygiene kit (comb, soap, shampoo, razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant). When the weather gets cooler, we'll add thermal blankets, ponchos, and stocking caps.

*Blessings,
Don Ketchum*



It's that time again! If you would like to give a poinsettia in honor or in remembrance of a loved one, please complete a Christmas envelope (found on the offering table) with the name of the loved one (showing in honor or in remembrance of), your name, and \$12.00/poinsettia. If you have any questions, please call Harriet Phillips (210-861-6635) or the church office.

Thank you.

Let Us Pray

“For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.
For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.
For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.
For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.
For public officials and decision makers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.
Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.
Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.”



SEEKERS' CLASS ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Dwight Hale will be showing the DVD, Incarnation, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas, a four week study by Adam Hamilton. The class will be held on Thursday afternoons at 3 pm beginning on December 3, continuing on December 10, 17, and due to Christmas Eve, ending on December 23.

Many of you are familiar with Rev. Hamilton. He is pastor of one of the fastest growing United Methodist churches in America. He has written many books that the Seekers' class have studied including The Call, The Journey, Revival, and Not a Silent Night.

In Incarnation, Rev. Hamilton explores the why, to what end, and the how of Incarnation. Each chapter delves into the different names for Jesus used by New Testament writers. Hamilton writes with clarity, honesty, and simplicity. His goal is to deepen our faith and understanding of Jesus and our faith.

'Tis the season of giving, Trinity!

We have several opportunities to share this Christmas season.
Please help others feel the love of Christ during this special time.

*** We are also collecting HEB or Wal-Mart **gift cards** for \$10 or \$20 to be given to our Nuevo Amanecer congregation. We will be collecting now through Dec. 13.
Bring to either the church office or the sanctuary.*

*** We are participating in **Wreaths Across America**. On Dec. 19, at 12noon, we will meet at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of America's Veterans. Everyone is invited to join us. Bring friends and family.

*** If you would like someone to pick up items from your house, or if you would like to donate cash and have someone else do the shopping, please text or call Julie Vincent - 210-215-9232. Thank you.

Contact Julie with any questions about any of the above.





Happy Birthday to:

MACLETA CLARK 2-Dec
 RENO GERMANN 3-Dec
 WENDY WELLER 3-Dec
 DON GERTH 12-Dec
 TEN MUZOREWA 12-Dec
 CAROLYN SCRIMSHIRE 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
 CYNTHIA ROMO 31-Dec

Happy Anniversary to:

CYNTHIA & ESTEBAN ROMO 12-Dec
 ROY & MARY ROGERS 22-Dec
 BOB & TWILA ICENOGLE 23-Dec



ENROLL NOW!

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST SCHOOL

Open for childcare
 (18 months to Pre-K4)

Open enrollment for In-person Distant
 Learning Support and Supervision

Please call
 210-684-5214 or visit



THURSDAY,
 DECEMBER 24TH
 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY,
 DECEMBER 27
 at 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP— 10:00 A.M.

In the sanctuary (please wear your mask and keep physical distance)
 You may also join us live on Facebook or YouTube. Here's the link—www.tumcsa.net
 Thank you.

Pastor-led Bible Study on Tuesdays —-///— Bible Study via Zoom @ 5:00 p.m.
 The link to the zoom room is posted on Facebook (or please request the link from the church office).
 Come join us!



Collecting Gift Cards
Please donate \$10 or \$20
gift cards to either
HEB, Wal-Mart, or Target.

We will give these to Pastor Octaviano at Nuevo Amanecer.
He will distribute these so that parents can purchase items for their
families during this Christmas time.

Gift Cards, or money to purchase cards, may be
brought to the church office Mon. – Thur. (11am-2pm) or to the sanctuary
on Sunday. Thank you!



Thank you Trinity UMC! Merry Christmas!

**The Boy Scout troop greatly appreciates the donations of toys.
They will be giving them to the Blue Santa program.**



REMEMBER
our fallen U.S. veterans
HONOR
those who serve
TEACH
your children the value of freedom

Everyone is welcome!
Join a group from Trinity to help lay wreaths at
Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020
12noon

Contact Julie Vincent if you are interested, 210-215-9232
All ages are welcome to come and participate
in this beautiful tribute.