



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.

FB live, YouTube

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

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

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San Antonio, Texas
78240
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Welcome September!

May this month bring you
satisfaction, peace and joy.

May all the desires of your
heart be granted.

May this be the beginning of
new things in your life.

Stay strong, be positive and
fulfill your dreams

Happy new month friends!



2022 Missions - **SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



"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



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

Justice or Mercy?

Micah 6:8 says to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

Another opinion is that "justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is being spared what we deserve. Grace is being given what we do not deserve."

When you seek justice, do you really want that, or are you really hoping for mercy? When you are stopped for speeding, do you hope for justice, which would be being fined and expected to pay; or do you hope for mercy, which would mean being given a warning instead of a ticket? When you ask God for justice, consider what you have done and decide whether or not that is truly what you want. Think carefully before asking for justice. Mercy might be safer.

Thank God, truly thank God, that God does not always react with justice, but with mercy and grace! Of course, I am speaking only to those of you who sin; those of you who have achieved perfection need not worry about what you will receive.

In turn, we actually pray (in the Lord's prayer) to "forgive us our trespasses, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US." Do you really want to be forgiven in the same way that you forgive? I really do believe this is what the prayer is saying. Try to remember that when you ask God for forgiveness. I also believe that you must be sorry (heartily sorry) for your sins before God forgives you. If you meant to sin, a lack of request for forgiveness implies that you are NOT sorry and intend to repeat the sin.



Cathleen Felsani says it this way, "Justice is getting what you deserve; mercy is NOT getting what you deserve, and grace is getting what you absolutely DON'T deserve...benign good will, unprovoked compassion, the unlearnable gift."

Please try to remember God's order in Micah and how he reacts to your actions, and, then, pass that treatment on to others. Jesus came to show us who God is so that we could know how to become more like God. If you profess to be a Christian (a follower of Jesus Christ), it is your Christian duty to try your best to be Christ-like, to forgive as God forgives.

Harriet Phillips
Lay Leader

Treasure in Clay Balls

This simple short story helps us to remember we are God's treasure in clay. Too often we act as though people are nothing more than clay balls.

2 Corinthians 4:7

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

God's Treasure in Clay

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled the clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him.

As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could. He thought little about it, until he dropped one and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone - treasure in clay!

Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so balls he had left. Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the balls with their hidden treasure in the clay into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it.

We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure in clay - hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.



Our friends at Nuevo Amanecer UMC are having a

Tamale Fundraiser on Saturday, September 3.

They have pork, beans & cheese, and chicken.

The cost is \$10/dozen.

You can place your orders at 210/527-3148.

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

We are a nation filled with sin of every kind, rebellion against God, and hearts so far from Him. We desperately need sweeping repentance and radical heart change if we are to have peace and unity. Can we have the kind of healing promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14? Yes, we can. Although this promise was given specifically to the nation of Israel, the principle still applies. Unfortunately, our tendency is to focus on God's part without considering the depth and extent of our part. Humility? Repentance? Turn from sin? It's a lot easier to say a quick prayer and leave it at that, but miraculous healing doesn't work that way. Peace and unity must be preceded by heart change. God's instructions for a nation in time of peril are both clear and specific. The prayer He demands is more than words and platitudes, more than bent knees and bowed head. The prayer for healing a nation requires humility, repentance, and actively seeking His face.

Let us pray:

Oh God, we confess our failure to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We confess our failure to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We confess our stubborn, judgmental, critical spirits, our prejudice, our pride, and our sinful ways. Forgive us, we pray.

Our nation is in an uproar and we are utterly dependent on You, God, for we have already proved we cannot bring peace and unity with words, protests, violence, or legislation. Our eyes are on You for answers and healing. Direct the hearts of leaders at every level. Move hearts to make godly decisions even if they are not godly people. Cleanse our hearts, especially prejudice and a divisive spirit. Bring us to common ground where we can celebrate both our similarities and our differences and help us to love one another as You have loved us. Help us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Help us see injustice and pray for mercy to those who have suffered injustice. Give us Your heart for others and fill us with a willingness for unity. Fill us with love for those most like us *and* for those who are least like us. Bring healing to our land. Bring the peace that passes all understanding. Begin with me and help me to share Your peace, Your love, Your healing to all I meet.

In the powerful name of **Jesus**, Amen.



Weekly Recurring Meetings:

- Prayer meeting is every Monday via zoom at 2:15pm.
- Pastor-led Bible study is every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.; please join us via zoom.
- New Seekers faith meeting meets on Thursdays at 3:00pm via zoom.

Please call Cynthia for zoom links.

Trinity is asking for volunteers to ...

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

..... help Alisa Roberts, with the Family Life Committee.

Family Life Committee 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.

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.

AUGUST 2022

ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON) -

AUGUST 7	37
AUGUST 14	32
AUGUST 21	37
AUGUST 28	38

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).

AUGUST 7	64
AUGUST 14	33
AUGUST 21	75
AUGUST 28	84

TITHES & DONATIONS

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

AUGUST 7	\$3,314
AUGUST 14	\$3,701
AUGUST 21	\$1,192
AUGUST 28	\$4,889

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

DONNA SETTLES	1-Sep
ANGIE KHAN	1-Sep
CARTER KINGSTON KROLL	5-Sep
SANDRA DANCE	9-Sep
ROY PUTZ	12-Sep
BROOKLYN LEWIS	13-Sep
BRENT PHILLIPS	16-Sep
LOUBELLE VANDEVENTER	21-Sep
STACIE BROWN	22-Sep

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

SARAH ELIZABETH & PATRICK ORMOND	19-Sep
JOE & BONNIE SMITH	23-Sep
TOMAS & LISA TORRES	24-Sep



TRAINING
SERIES THAT
WILL OCCUR
MONTHLY

[5 SESSIONS]
FROM

SEPTEMBER,
2022 TO

JANUARY,
2023.

About this event

Fire and Freeze

Floods and Droughts

Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Our congregations are being increasingly harmed by extreme weather events. When our congregations were threatened by COVID-19, we did whatever was needed to keep our people safe. How are we responding to the rapidly-changing climate?

While politicians, activists, economists, and scientists debate the climate crisis, the church remains remarkably silent. And yet we know according to Paul in Romans that “creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Romans 8:19-23).

Our first commandment before the fall was to care for creation. Like the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Luke 20:9-16), we were given dominion over creation (Gen. 1:26) to “till it and keep it” (Gen. 2:16). And like the parable, our sin warped that original call to one of exploitation, greed, and gluttony. The climate has become an outward and visible sign of our sin, which creation can no longer bear. The climate crisis is a spiritual crisis, and we will be judged (Rev. 11:18).

While in this fractured world we may not agree on the same response, we are called as faithful disciples to respond to the spiritual crisis at the root of the climate crisis. You are invited to join with others in the Rio Texas Conference to explore ways to respond that are appropriate for you and your congregation. A series of virtual meetings every other month beginning in September will explore the following topics:

- 1) Using the General Rules, what is the correct response in my context?
- 2) What is the scriptural basis for a spiritual response to climate change?
- 3) What resources are available for preaching and teaching a spiritual response?
- 4) What traditional spiritual practices can be used for a faith response?
- 5) What opportunities are available to engage my church and my community in a response?

If you are interested in joining a cohort that will meet virtually from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month (September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, 2022, and January 12, 2023) to explore these questions, **please email Rev. Mark Brechin at revbrechin@gmail.com**. Participants will be invited to join the Rio Texas Creation Care Team as together we spiritually respond to this climate crisis threatening all of us.



Leadership Development and Clergy Excellence is always a high priority in Rio Texas.

To that end, the Office of Clergy Excellence, directed by Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, and the office of Creating / Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders, directed by Rev. Karen Horan, want to offer some incentives for clergy and laity to ***learn and lead together***.

There are several Leadership conferences offered in the fall of 2022 both in person and online. Here is a list of conferences we would encourage you to attend- laity and clergy together!

New Room Conference – Sept. 21-23 <https://newroomconference.com/>

Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection – Sept. 28-30 <https://leadership.sharechurch.com/>

No Need Among You Conference – Oct. 5-7 <https://txccd.net/event/nnay/>

APTS – Story Telling as Outreach Ministry – Oct. 25-26 (see flyer later in Unidos with the QR code for a discounted Rio Texas rate)

Exponential Multiplication Conference – Oct. 26-27 in Houston (other locations and dates) <https://exponential.org/events/>

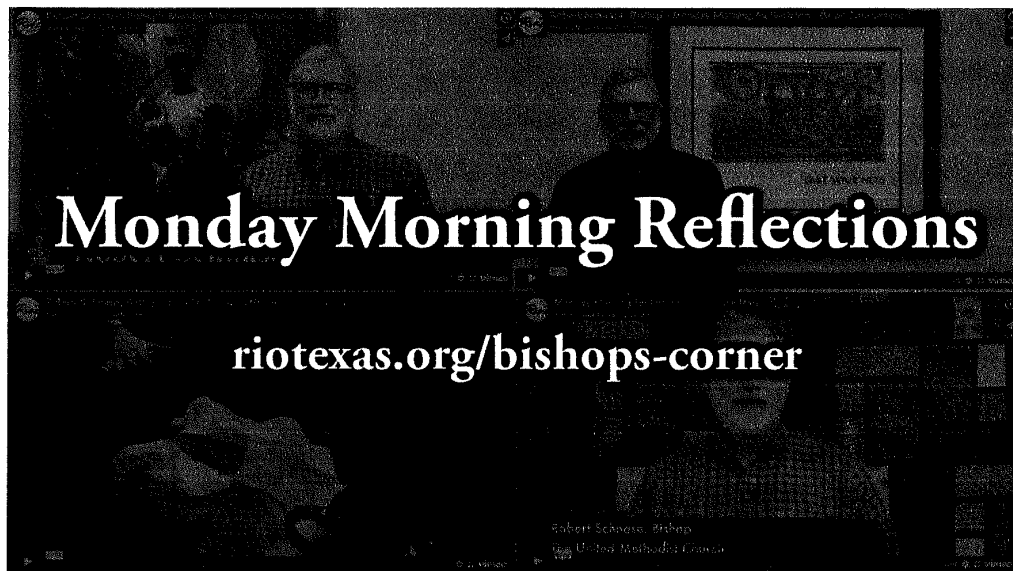
Our combined offices can offer up to \$75 for each clergy who attends + up to \$75 each for 2

laity when they attend with their pastor. Once you have registered and paid for the event, complete this form: <https://leadershipvitality.wufoo.com/forms/2022-leadership-conferences-attendee-form/> and return it plus a copy of your registration receipt and we will mail the reimbursement amount as directed on the form. That's all! There will be some follow up questions sent to you after the event so we can hear what all you learned and how it will strengthen you and your church.

Questions?

Contact either Karen Horan (khoran@riotexas.org) or Robert Lopez (lopeza2b@riotexas.org)

**Watch Monday Morning Reflections
with Robert Schnase, Bishop
every Monday**



[A Reminder Regarding Discerning Pathways -
Disaffiliation](#)