

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."

COMMUNITY



APRIL 2024

"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

TRINITY UMC MISSION PROJECTS *by Julie Vincent*

Trinity has several on-going mission out-reach projects. You are invited to participate by contacting the people mentioned.

This week our pastor and his son will be working on a mission project in the Rio Grande Valley where they will build ramps for those in need. This project is in coordination with McFarlin UMC from Norman, Oklahoma and their youth group. Members of the church are asked to pray for the project, the recipients, and the volunteers. If you are interested in participating in a similar project, please speak to Pastor Fred.

Last week, we had the opportunity to meet the Wesley Nurse, Pat Stepherson. Nurse Pat is in the church office Monday through Friday. She is reaching out to our community to serve, to pray, and to support other projects in our area. If you have ideas for areas she may partner with, please share with her. She is currently looking for some volunteers to be on a Health Ministry Board. There will not be a crazy amount of meetings, so if this is something you can help with, please contact Pat.

On most Sunday mornings, there is a busy group of volunteers working out in the narthex assembling food and other supplies. This group is part of San Antonio Partners in Service. This organization helps to assemble 18 dozen, that's 216 lunches, **each week**. These are distributed to patients at Methodist HealthCare clinics and to the homeless downtown. This task is completed by teams of people from both the Unicorn Center and the ARC of San Antonio. A focus of this organization is to work with people with physical and intellectual disabilities, and to offer a way for them to also serve our community. In addition to the weekly lunches, care packages are also created for people confined to their homes, those immigrating to the United States, children of those in prison, and other populations in need. If you are interested in helping with this mission, please see Don Ketchum, or come early on Sunday mornings and help.

The mission of The Arbutus Place is to create hope through prayer, food, and other necessities. This non-profit operates out of Trinity, and offers food and clothing to those in need in the San Antonio Medical Center area. The organization has fed over 2000 and clothed over 10,000 in the three years they have been operating. In partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, several elected officials, Endeavor (a program for military families), Christian Assistance Ministries, and other organizations, The Arbutus Place has helped families, seniors, children and babies. If you are interested in helping please contact Sandra Dance.

Loving our neighbor is critically important to Jesus. In Matthew 25, Jesus describes the actions of those welcomed into God's kingdom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Please find a place where you can join your brothers and sisters in Christ's family and volunteer to help in the mission projects of Trinity. The next outreach will be Saturday, May 11th.

Save The Date...



"3rd Annual Celebrations Of Volunteers"
"Food is Hope"

Silent Auction...Music...AND MORE!!!

SAT, APRIL 13, 2024

**11:30AM
to
2:00PM**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



MICHAEL GUERRA

**Chief Sustainment Officer
San Antonio Food Bank**

Come out, & Be Blessed!!!

Tickets \$50 / Tables of 8 \$400

Cash App: \$TheArbutusPlace

Zelle: thearbutusplace@gmail.com / 210-480-2969

Venmo: @TheArbutusPlace

**Contact Sandra at 210-480-2969 or
thearbutusplace@gmail.com for more information.**

MARRIOTT SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT

**77 NE Interstate 410 Loop,
San Antonio, TX 78216**



FUNDRAISER



Is joy an emotion?

This may seem like a basic question to be asking. However, if you place these same words into a Google search, you may be surprised by how many others are asking this same question. Online, leaders across many fields of study including psychology, theology, anthropology and even countless bloggers all weigh in on the topic of joy.

For some, joy is “the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying.” Others suggest joy is more of a virtue than an emotion.

Even still, biblical scholars point out that joy is much deeper than mere happiness, as scripture presents joy connected with suffering. From a Christian perspective, joy comes from the faith and hope we have in Jesus and can be defined this way:

Joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, that comes from relationship with God and people.

Regardless of how one may choose to answer this paradoxically simple yet complex question, there is one thing we can all agree on: joy is something we want to experience to a greater degree. Whether it's joy in times of trial, or more delight in the goodness around us, joy is something everyone welcomes. So, perhaps the better question than “Is joy an emotion?” is “How do I live with more joy?”

On the deepest level, the best way to live with more joy in our lives is to enter into a relationship with Jesus. Jesus promises that he will fill us with his joy when we abide in him (John 15:11). Growing in our relationship with Jesus and experiencing this constant source of joy is an ongoing process and can take years to mature. One practical and overlooked move we can make to grow in joy is to be more generous. That's right, joy and generosity are connected!

Generosity is a byproduct of living with joy. In 2 Corinthians 8:2, Paul praises the work and the generosity of the Macedonians when he says, “They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.” For the believers in Macedonia their joy led to greater generosity. However, this relationship between joy and generosity works the other way too! From the contributions of modern science there is an ever-growing body of evidence revealing that giving triggers chemicals in our brain that are associated with happiness, pleasure and joy. In other words, the more we give, the more joyful we become.

Whether giving is a byproduct of our joy or joy is a byproduct of our giving, in God's perfect design he made joy and generosity intricately connected. The truth is, being generous by living a life of giving makes life about as good as it can get. When Jesus said it is more of a blessing to give than receive, he was speaking of a life filled with joy. A life of generosity brings about tremendous joy, perhaps more than anything else we can do. In a world where so many of us are longing for more joy, let's tap into this together by being more generous. The more we grow in our generosity, the more joy we'll have that can overflow and spread towards others!





"Much Obligated"

Here is a short story that was shared with us and I wish to pass it on to you this spring season as we journey in our life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Writer Fulton Oursler had vivid memories of an old woman named Anna who helped care for him as a child. When she sat down to eat she would say, "Much obliged, dear Lord, for my vittles." Oursler wondered why she thanked God since she would get the food regardless of whether she gave thanks or not.

"It makes everything taste better to be thankful," Anna said. "You know, it's a game an old preacher taught me to play. It's about looking for things to be thankful for. Like one day I was walking to the store to buy a loaf of bread. I look in all the windows. There are so many pretty clothes."

"But Anna, you can't afford to buy any of them!" he interjected. "Oh, I know, but I can play dolls with them. I can imagine your mom and sister all dressed up in them and I'm thankful. Much obliged, dear Lord, for playing in an old lady's mind."

Many years later, when Anna was dying, Oursler remembered standing by her bedside. Deep in pain, her old hands were knotted together in a desperate clutch. "Poor old woman," he thought. "What had she to be thankful for now?" Just then, she opened her eyes and looked at him and said, "Much obliged, dear Lord, for such fine friends."

Being thankful is not about painting on a smile no matter what we're going through. According to the Reverend Dr. John Westerhoff, who tells Anna's story in a booklet called "Grateful and Generous Hearts," we can all learn much from Anna, who viewed life as a gift. "Taking nothing for granted, demanding nothing as her due, she recognized that we come into this world with nothing, we go out with nothing, and in between we are given all we have."

While the busyness and responsibilities of our lives can easily obstruct our view, none of us has to look very far to find a reason to be thankful. Living with an attitude of thankfulness is honoring to God, good for the soul, and infectious. What are you thankful for? Try making a list of ten things—the first ten that come to mind. Then give Anna's prayer a try: "Much obliged, dear Lord. Much Obligated."

"Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live." – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (MSG)

Happy Spring!
Shalom
Rev. David Cervantez

Monthly Food Drive at Glen Oaks Elementary

Glen Oaks Elementary (which is just a few blocks away on Newcome) is looking for volunteers to help them prepare bags of food for their students. Trinity will have a collection box in the Null Building for gently used plastic grocery bags to help with that.



They are looking for volunteers to help distribute groceries to 300 students each month:

- Wednesday, April 24th
- Wednesday, May 22nd
- Wednesday, June 26th

Please contact Ana Tejada at atejada@cissa.org if you are interested in volunteering.



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

TO: Trinity Church Congregation

FROM: Byron Burge, Church Council Chair
David Lopez, Trustee Board Chair
Fred Perez, Pastor



We are writing to give you some insight into the financial state of our church, Trinity United Methodist Church. You may or may not know that Trinity was established in 1879. Our current sanctuary opened in 1978. Many of our current members have been long-term members since the opening of the current sanctuary.

There have been many members who have been at the church over the years getting married, raising children in the church and/or church school, singing in the choir, attending Sunday school, and being involved in many outreach missions and activities. We love our church and know you do as well.

Did you know that over 4,000 churches since 2019 in the country have closed their doors? Over the years, attendance at Trinity has been affected by many factors and is probably at its lowest point. Unfortunately, the pandemic, waning interest in church and religious activities, and disaffiliation issues weigh in on people's decisions about attending church. We want you to know that the Church Board has been working tirelessly to determine how we can increase our membership, encourage current members to be involved, and figure out new ways to attract our neighbors to the church. Over the years we have had several pastors, all of whom have wanted to do the same; and our current pastor, Pastor Fred Perez, is working hard with us to sustain us as a viable church.

Our Trinity church's financial situation is serious. We have looked at different aspects to increase our finances and if we can't grow the church, we may need to close the doors, sell the property, or move to a smaller building to continue Trinity. We want to let you know that Trinity's finances are in trouble. As we continue to determine our path moving forward, we need your input and ideas on maintaining our church. Below is an idea of our income and expenses in the last two months.

	<i>January 2024</i>	<i>February 2024</i>
Income		
Offering/income	\$18,898.43	\$13,124.89
Building Usage	600.00	1,240.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,498.43	\$14,364.89
Expenses		
Insurance	\$ (4,862.18)	\$(4,825.18)
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ (679.19)	\$(6,488.48)
Utilities	\$(1,681.27)	\$(2,190.37)
Operating Expense	\$(1,466.85)	\$(1,256.91)
Staff Compensation	\$(14,953.66)	\$(14,891.49)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$(23,643.35)	\$(29,652.43)
TOTAL OVER (SHORT)	\$(4,144.92)	\$(15,287.54)

Continued ...

You may ask how we have covered the deficits these past two months. We are covering our shortfall by using the church credit card but of course, we cannot sustain the church with a credit card. Our current credit card debt is \$24,519.85.

So, we need your help to determine our future steps for the church. We would like to invite the entire church congregation to have our church service in the gym instead of the sanctuary, have a candid conversation about our church's future, and have a meal. We need your input and ideas on how to keep our church open.

In the meantime, you can help by inviting your family, friends, and neighbors to Holy Week church services this week and on Sunday, April 7th so they can see how friendly and committed we are to our God and Savior.

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Thank you to Julie, Kay, Laura, and Cindy for your help with the Easter basket crafts. Our friends from the Unicorn Center and the Arc of San Antonio put together 600 baskets that they shared with seniors, children, and other adults with disabilities.

Promises, Promises

When you marry, you promise to take your intended “for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish.”

When you joined Trinity U. M. C., you promised to uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and more recently, your witness. These promises are not to be made out of obligation, but out of love for your church, your fellow congregants, and, especially, your God and Jesus Christ.



When you give gifts to or do something for your spouse, your child, another family member, or a friend, you shouldn't do it out obligation, but because you love these people.

You PROMISED to uphold your church by your prayers. Pray for your church as a whole and for any and all members who need prayers. Don't just make a general prayer, but be specific about what you want for your church or for a specific person.

You PROMISED to uphold your church by your presence. The minimum you should want to do is to be at a service once a week, either in person or through a live stream. Our church has several activities. These are specifically for our members, so we should all be at any activities that are geared to us, as long as we are physically able. I would not be at a youth rally, but I will be at choir and bell practices, when they are in session. I do eat, so I will most likely be at our luncheons and will bring a covered dish or whatever is asked.

You PROMISED to uphold your church by your gifts. According to our bookkeeper, a great majority of our money goes to our payroll. If you love and appreciate these people and want to keep all of them, I implore you to give toward their salaries. Currently they include our pastor, Cynthia, Jason, Stacie, Tyler, Connie, Mitzi, and our cleaning crew. Also, we are very behind on our apportionments. Just FYI, when we fall behind, other churches have to “take up the slack.” Any money we have left goes toward CPS, SAWS, our lawn-care people, our phone system, copy paper, our trash pick-up, and usually urgent repairs. Which persons or items do you want to do away with?

You PROMISED to uphold your church by your service. Believe it or not, our few paid employees cannot do all the jobs needed at this church, although most do more than they are paid to do. If you have some time on your hands, ask around to see what needs to be done. Every week we ask for volunteers during our announcements for certain jobs.

You PROMISED to uphold your church by your witness. Do you love your church enough to want to share it with others? Do you ask anyone to join you at church? The worst you can get is a “no.” Do your friends and neighbors even know that you attend church, that you know God and Jesus? When you see someone at church that you don't recognize, do you make a special effort to let him or her know that he or she is welcome and that you are happy to have him or her here?

Finally, how DO you keep your promises to your church - or do you?

Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader



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

MARCH, 2024

ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

(report for holy week count and easter
Sunday will be reflected on next month's
newsletter)

IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

MARCH 3	45
MARCH 10	34
MARCH 17	30
MARCH 24	44

FACEBOOK LIVE – VIEWS

MARCH 3	75
MARCH 10	98
MARCH 17	80
MARCH 24	65

TITHES & DONATIONS

MARCH 3	\$6,107
MARCH 10	\$2,343
MARCH 17	\$1,110
MARCH 24	\$1,672

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

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).



Happy Birthday to:

CAROLYN MILLER	6-Apr
CURTIS FOSTER	8-Apr
ELIZABETH McCOWN	12-Apr
BEN TAN-JOHNSON	14-Apr
JULIANA M. RODULFO	16-Apr
DENISE WILSON	18-Apr
LOUISE LYLE	18-Apr

Happy Anniversary to:

BILL & LIZ CAVIN	27-Apr
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If we have missed your
special day, please notify
Cynthia in the church office.
Thank you!

Rummage/Yard Sale

- Bring your tables.
- The cost is \$15.00 per space.
- You may bring your canopy and chairs.
- Invite your friends, and come and have a picnic.
- Either prepay at the church office (April 1-April 4) between 11 am and 2 pm or bring in the day of – CASH Only.
- Great visibility on Wurzbach. Will advertise on social media and the church's electronic marquee.



APRIL 6, 2024 || 9 AM-1 PM | SATURDAY

Trinity United Methodist Church

6800 Wurzbach Road, 78240. 210-684-0261 church office.

Come early for a good location.



DEMONSTRATION – THE PUREST FORM OF TEACHING

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1

It has been said when it comes to teaching, values are more often caught than taught. Parents, teachers, coaches, and supervisors who demonstrate how to do something right have a better chance of helping those they lead to get it right themselves. Paul reminds us of this in today's scripture reference.

Jesus was exemplary when it came to leading by example as He poured His life into twelve men for three years. One powerful example comes to mind around the topic of forgiveness. Jesus preached about forgiving others, but it was when He was unjustly dying on the cross and publicly prayed, asking for God's forgiveness, “Father, forgive them. They just don't know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Now, that was something the disciples could begin to understand.

Earlier in the temple, Jesus had pointed out all the people loudly dropping their tithes and offerings into metal containers, only to praise a poor widow for her sacrificial gift. She gave the most in God's eyes because she gave all that she had. This would make more sense later as Jesus demonstrated His all by giving His life on the cross.

Another time Jesus explained that “He didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Luke 5:32). Like a doctor who needs to help those who are sick, not the healthy. Jesus again lived this out when He chose a crooked tax collector like Matthew to be one of his disciples.

Over and over, Jesus modeled that demonstration is the purest form of training.

So, leaders, teachers, coaches, and especially those who disciple Christians in how to walk in faith, make sure you are teaching by example – just like Jesus did.

You will be amazed at the results.

—Written by Bryant Wright

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 Mondays 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 †

“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.”

**Come
Let Us
Pray**



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