

# 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."

REV. JOHN MEANDE

Pastor

[pastor1@tumcsa.net](mailto: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. 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](mailto:ofcadmin@tumcsa.net)

TUMSchool phone

210-684-5214

[www.trinityums.org](http://www.trinityums.org)

**ENROLL NOW!**



## "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Van Dyke wrote this poem in 1907 while staying at the home of Williams College president Harry Augustus Garfield. He was serving as a guest preacher at Williams at the time. He told his host that the local Berkshire Mountains had been his inspiration. The lyrics were first published in 1911 in Van Dyke's *Book of Poems*, Third Edition.

Van Dyke wrote of this hymn:

These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.



2021 Missions  
**JANUARY**  
4TH SUNDAY  
SPECIAL  
OFFERING  
(PLEASE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY)

HUMAN  
REALATIONS  
DAY  
January 17, 2021

When we give from the heart,  
we receive  
unexpected blessings—  
especially the joy of making a  
difference in someone's life.

6800 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas 78240  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net)

# GOD, ALL MY SINS I NOW DETEST

## Reflection from the Gospel of Luke: 13: 6-9

Together for Christ,

*Rev. John N. Meande*



**T**hen he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

If our fruit tree fails to bear after its third harvest season, do we call it a barren tree? Do we cut it and use the stem as fire wood for BBQ or do we put more manure and fertilizer and give it another year or two? What about our smart phones? When they fall and go black, or if our car goes dead one early morning after several warnings from the mechanic to get a new battery? do we trash it, jump start it, or get the screen repaired?

Here, the owner is telling the gardener to cut down this fig tree because it has failed to bear fruits for the owner. As fruitless humans as we are, God has not called us barren or cut us down for rejecting the ordinances and covenants of God because Christ our Gardener is interceding on our behalf. Christ is asking God to tarry so He should suffer His passion and send the Holy Spirit to us before the final judgement takes place.

Yes! sometimes we feel like a barren tree, we have tried to bear fruits and we feel so much pressures to do more, we can't sleep well, we seems to be worried about everything, sometimes it seems we have run out of initiative to carry on, nothing goes as planned, we can't fix all the problems that keep coming to us again and again and again. Sometimes we wonder on the whereabouts of God and God's power to fix all evil in this world.

God is assuring us this season of Christmas to place our trust in the Lord, for God has come to us, to understand us and to better be of help in reconciling us to God's self. So God is calling us to be a witness, to bear fruits of hope and peace. Whatever we do, no matter how small goes a long way to make a difference and help ease the pain and suffering of others.

We are called to rally in sympathy with those who suffered so unjustly and not to play the blame game. As believers we must help one another to understand and live into our solidarity with others in suffering, and never to challenge God as one who tosses down thunderbolts of misery on some but not others. At the birth of Christ, God is teaching us how to give and how to worship, at the crucifixion of Christ, He taught us how to suffer, and at His death he taught us how to die, so much so that at his resurrection he assured us of New Life.

Robert Frost in his poem, "The Masque of Reason," imagines God thanking Job for setting God free from moral bondage to humanity, because in Job's suffering, he kind of opens the window into the truth, that human suffering and human goodness or badness are not cause-and-effect related. Bad things can happen to people, not because they did something bad or good, but when it happens, Jesus, in his mercy, wanted us to know how to respond to any and all news stories: to "breaking News", to News of a rising stock, to public stories, to news of the coming hurricane, to news of tragedy, to news of a won scratch off, news shared by someone we love and the news that Jesus Christ was born, so he can suffer and died to atone for all our "sin".

# NEW YEAR'S *Resolutions*

When we say, “Happy New Year,” do we really mean it? Do you say it as a habit, or do you wish everyone a really HAPPY year? I would recommend that each of you makes your first resolution to wish everyone well, and to use your words to make others feel happy and uplifted. Believe it or not, the place where I get the most negative remarks is here at church! What’s wrong with this picture? Many of you have seen Bambi. Thumper has one of the best lines ever for how to treat people. He says, “If you can’t say somethin’ nice, don’t say nothin’ at all.”

This past Sunday we gave thanks “for those who are generous with prayer, with time, with money, with CONSIDERATION, with energy, and with KIND WORDS.” Money is the only item listed that costs us monetarily! All the others SHOULD be given freely. I hope you will resolve to be generous with these things.

Consideration involves wearing a mask to protect others from a disease you may not even know you have. Many people are asymptomatic! Our worship team decided several meetings back not to allow anyone but the soloist to sing in church. He or she is far enough away from the rest of the congregation that others are not in danger of receiving his or her germs. Studies have shown that singing spreads germs much farther than simply talking; we are projecting those droplets out farther because we exert more effort to sing than to talk – even with a mask over the mouth and nose. Is your right to show your whole face more important to you than the safety of your fellow members or anyone else out in public? We are all beautiful in God’s eyes, but really? Why do you think surgeons use a mask when it is only their hands that touch the patient?

Consideration also involves not shaking hands with anyone unless you have JUST used hand sanitizer. Hands touch so many things! It is inevitable that they have lots of germs. We have hand sanitizer outside the sanctuary, available to everyone who comes in...but that’s no guarantee that it will be used.

Kind words are something else in shorter supply than should be here. When you insult someone, what is your reason? Are you insecure and feel that is the only way to build yourself up? Do you believe you are trying to help the other person to do better? Could you, at least, wait until someone asks for your opinion or help before you offer it? Do you overhear or read someone’s remark and repeat it hoping to get credit for it? Do you laugh when someone makes a mistake, believing that you are perfect? Even Jesus said that only God is perfect! Do you do someone else’s job, implying that the person who usually does it, didn’t do a good-enough job?

Remember that as Christians we are expected to treat others with kindness and consideration. Do I need to repeat the Golden Rule here? DO they know you are a Christian by your love? All these acts show that you respect others. This doesn’t even mean you have to like them! EVERYONE deserves R-E-S-P-E-C-T! EVERYONE deserves kindness and consideration. PLEASE remember who you are and whose you are! Treat others as if they are God’s children – you KNOW they are!

*Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader*

# New Year Prayer 2021

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered upon us.

We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses. Make the new year a more fruitful and blessed one.

We also thank You for every test of time that has brought us stronger in faith and trust in You.

Bestow upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

## Prayer For Us As Individuals In The New Year

Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up ourselves in our present state.

We pray that we become more responsible in our pursuits, our faith and our prayer life.

In our personal development, as members of our families, employees, and in society, we pray to improve in our duties and responsibilities. May we be more diligent and productive in our contribution.

We pray to keep our eyes, our ears and our hearts from clinging to the things of this world.

May we keep our whole being fixed on You, O Lord.

Let us never lose sight of You and let our love for You grow more and more every day.

Bestow upon us, O Lord, a genial spirit and unwearied forbearance. Give us a gentle, kind, loving and patient heart.

Bless us with a pleasant, cordial speech and manners.

We pray to be true to all in our words, thoughts and deeds.

May we be humble and respectful towards others and honoring God all our lives.

## For Our Family Life

Lord, we pray for all family members: father, mother, husband, wife, brothers and sisters. We pray for each one to be blessed with Your love and providence that they may be part of a family of unity, peace and well being.

May there be love in the family which will overlook all shortcomings. Let there be compassion which will see one another in mercy. And may there be forgiveness and acceptance in the times of failure and disappointments.

For those who are without faith, we pray that You open a door of opportunity for one to reach them with Your Good News. Convert their unbelief to embrace You, Lord Jesus Christ, with their hearts.

## For Employment Opportunities In The New Year

Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up those who are reading this who are unemployed and in desperate need of a job.

We pray for Your divine help and guidance as they seek suitable employment. They need Your wisdom to guide their footsteps along the right path, and to lead them to find the proper things to say and do in this quest.

We pray they use the gifts and talents You have given them, as you reveal opportunities to do so with gainful employment.

Do not abandon them, dear Lord, in this search, but rather grant them this favor so that they may return to You with praise and thanksgiving for Your gracious assistance.

## For Children Of All Ages

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for children of all ages who are either pursuing their studies or working.

May they be focused in their pursuit and become responsible individuals, contributing well to family and society.

Guard them, O Lord we pray, from all dangers and evil exposures. Protect them from the worldly pleasures that leads to a unhealthy lifestyle. May their homes be filled with love.

Let their hearts be strong and secure, not to fall into the way of darkness.

May education be important to them and may moral values and discipline be an integral part of their lives.

We pray that they turn to You, O Lord, in prayer for Your continued love, mercy and support as You lead them to green pastures all the days of their lives.

## Praying For The World Around Us

Lord Jesus Christ, last but not the least, we earnestly pray for world peace and unity.

May war and persecutions in the name of religion come to cease.

May there be respect and tolerance for one another's beliefs.

We pray for the sick, the terminally ill, the abandoned, the homeless, the rejected, the lost and those affected by natural calamities.

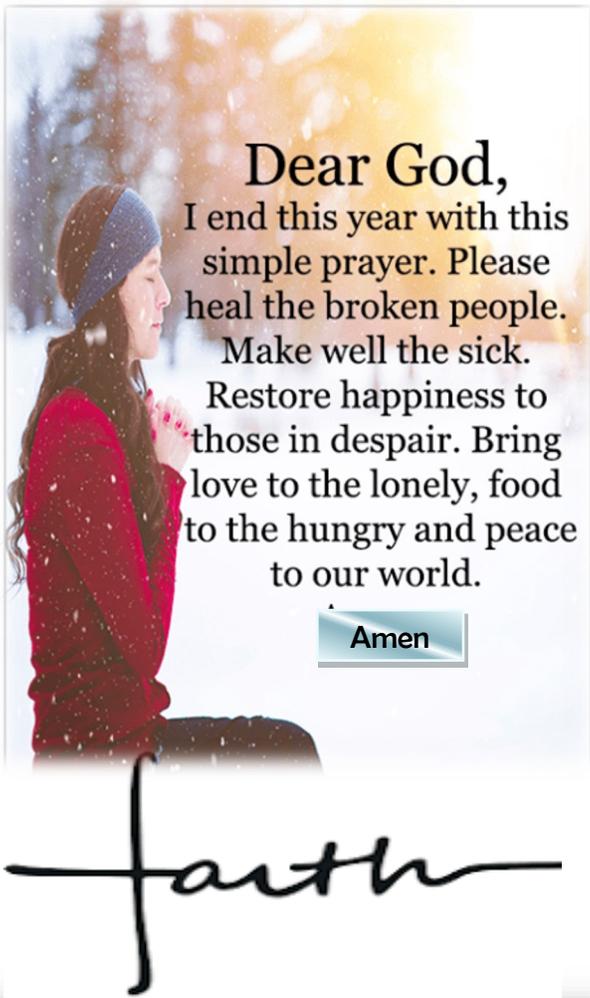
May we who are well and good, in our best, reach these who are suffering and aid them with care and support.

May our hearts extend with love, and our hands extend in sharing our blessings and providence, always for the glory of God, in Your blessed name Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Geevetha Mary Samuel / Christians TT

*Trinity UMC Prayer Team*

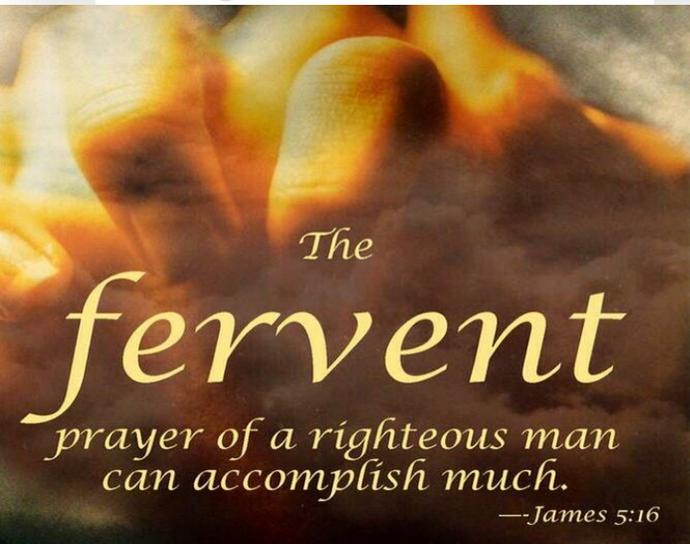
2021



**Dear God,**  
I end this year with this simple prayer. Please heal the broken people. Make well the sick. Restore happiness to those in despair. Bring love to the lonely, food to the hungry and peace to our world.

Amen

*faith*

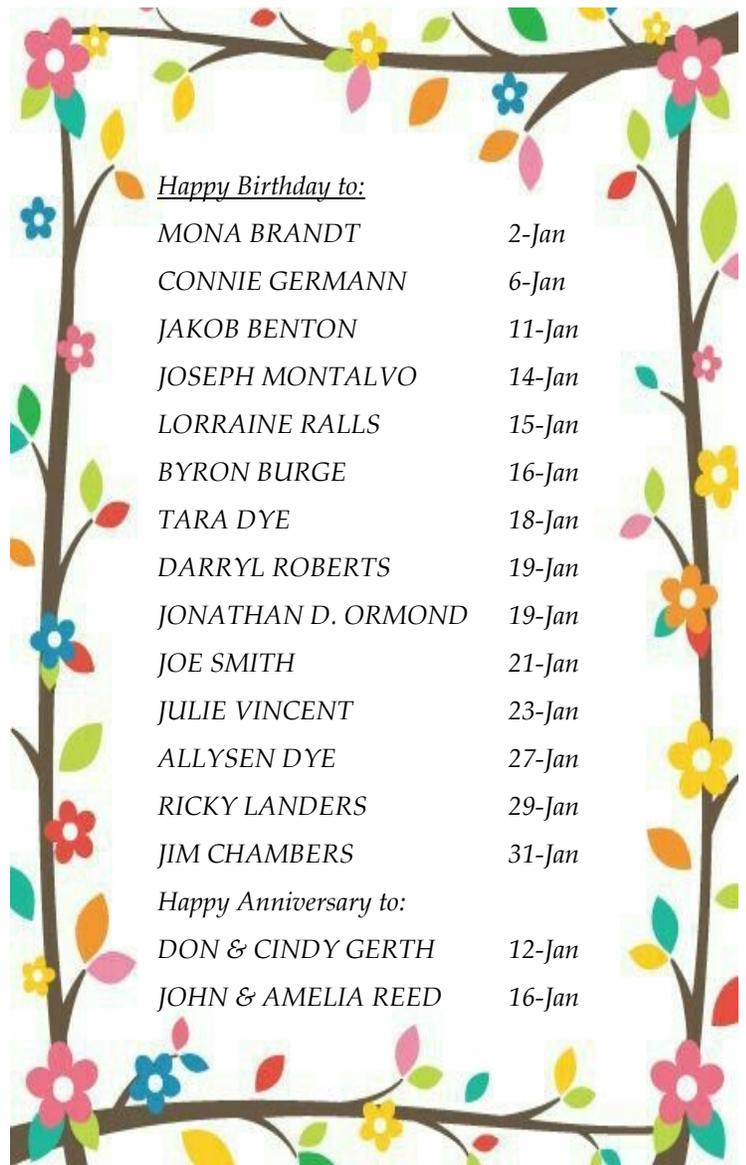


*The*

*fervent*

*prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

—James 5:16



*Happy Birthday to:*

MONA BRANDT	2-Jan
CONNIE GERMANN	6-Jan
JAKOB BENTON	11-Jan
JOSEPH MONTALVO	14-Jan
LORRAINE RALLS	15-Jan
BYRON BURGE	16-Jan
TARA DYE	18-Jan
DARRYL ROBERTS	19-Jan
JONATHAN D. ORMOND	19-Jan
JOE SMITH	21-Jan
JULIE VINCENT	23-Jan
ALLYSEN DYE	27-Jan
RICKY LANDERS	29-Jan
JIM CHAMBERS	31-Jan

*Happy Anniversary to:*

DON & CINDY GERTH	12-Jan
JOHN & AMELIA REED	16-Jan

**We will need help in taking the Christmas decorations down.**

**Please contact Mary Shoemaker for more information.**

*"We make a living by what we get;  
but we make a life by what we give"*

—Winston Churchill

**Please consider Trinity UMC as a place where your donations can make a difference.**

**Please pray for our church every day at noon by simply saying :**

**"JESUS I TRUST IN YOU"**

# Bible Story of the Three Wise Men

The Bible story of the Three Wise Men, from the gospel of Matthew, is also known as the biblical Magi or the Three Kings. This Bible story regards a group of scholarly foreigners who traveled to visit Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' When King Herod learned this he was troubled, and all of Jerusalem with him. He called together all the leading clerics and scholars of the law, he questioned them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they answered, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and found out from them the precise time the star had emerged. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

As directed by King Herod, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the East went before them until it stopped over the area where the child laid. Upon arriving at the house, they observed the child with his mother Mary, and they kneeled down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They were then miraculously warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, as he planned to kill Jesus in preserving his authority, and returned to their home by an alternative route.



You can read this Bible story in Matthew 2: 1-18  
Epiphany falls on Wednesday, January 6, 2021  
Bible Study Tools.com

**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 [www.trinityums.org](http://www.trinityums.org)

Jesus said, "Come follow Me and  
I will make you fishers of men".

**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](http://www.tumcsa.net)

Thank you.

**Pastor-led Bible Study on Tuesdays**

Bible Study via Zoom @ 5:00 p.m.

Please request the link from the church office.

Come join us!