

# 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."



### JULY 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's **RUMMAGE/YARD SALE** is on Saturday:

JULY 13th from 9 am -2 pm.

If you would like to save a spot for the rummage/yard sale, please prepay at the church office or bring on the day of - *cash only and the exact amount please*. Bring your table and chairs. You may erect a canopy if you'd like. It is \$15 per space.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

Find great company in us!



**Picnic at Trinity** on  
Sunday, July 7th  
following the 10:00 a.m.  
worship.

Everyone is invited to our Independence Day Indoor Picnic in the gym after the 10:00am service on Sunday, July 7th.

Hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings will be provided. Dress in red, white, and blue and bring your friends and neighbors.

**Freewill-offering baskets will be available to cover the cost of the food.**

Jason Brown, our Music Director, will lead our patriotic sing-along honoring

the many branches of the military. Wear your uniform if you wish.

*Anyone available can come on Saturday, July 6th about 2:00 p.m. to set up tables and decorate for our patriotic picnic.*

See you at the picnic!

**Trinity UMC** Family Life Committee





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  
7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays  
Zoom room

'Sunday School' meetings  
- Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.  
Zoom room

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

## JUNE 2024

### ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

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

JUNE 2	41
JUNE 9	34
JUNE 16	39
JUNE 23	40
JUNE 30	August newsletter

#### FACEBOOK LIVE – VIEWS

JUNE 2	55
JUNE 9	50
JUNE 16	50
JUNE 23	50
JUNE 30	August newsletter

### TITHES & DONATIONS

JUNE 2	\$3,268
JUNE 9	\$ 717
JUNE 16	\$2,261
JUNE 23	\$ 377
JUNE 30	August newsletter

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

#### Happy Birthday to:

JEREMY CADE	3-Jul
JAMES RYAN LANDERS	3-Jul
REV. DAVID CERVANTEZ	6-Jul
THALIA SALINAS	11-Jul
FRED LYLE	20-Jul
ROBIN LANDERS	24-Jul
MARY SHOEMAKER	24-Jul
BRIAN PHILLIPS	29-Jul
JOE MONTALVO	30-Jul

#### Happy Anniversary to:

DAVID C. & CYNTHIA LOPEZ	1-Jul
TOM & HARRIET PHILLIPS	5-Jul
ROY & PAT PUTZ	12-Jul
DAVID & TARA DYE	24-Jul

**DONATE ONLINE**  
Simply scan this  
image using your  
phone's camera  
(or QR code  
reader).



You may also go  
to:  
[www.tumcsa.net](http://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).



*If we have missed your  
special day, please notify  
Cynthia in the church office.  
Thank you!*

## Rummage/Yard Sale (every 2nd Saturday of the month)

- ⇒ 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 (Mon-Thurs) between 11am and 2pm or bring in the day of – CASH Only and the exact amount, please.
- ⇒ Great visibility on Wurzbach. Will advertise on social media and the church's electronic marquee.



**JULY 13, 2024 | | 9 AM-2 PM | SATURDAY**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

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

**Come early for a good location.**



*"Happy Fourth of July"*

**D**id you know that the Fourth of July is one of the greatest times to gather everyone and bring our church together to celebrate the true freedom that comes from God? And the best part of this celebration is that you can celebrate this man-made holiday through the eyes of faith.

In other words, this is a great time to see this holiday from a Godly perspective and celebrate this freedom with the true freedom found only by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and personal Savior. So let us come together this coming Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as we celebrate this Independence Day patriotic picnic right after our worship service.

Did you also know that in the Bible, there is a common verse about freedom that both Christians and non-Christian individuals are using? Yes. You read that right. What's more interesting is that ordinary people do not just use this specific verse. It also entered films, movies, TV shows, and other pop culture. This specific verse is none other than John 8:32:

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

This verse might have made its way, whether intentionally or not, to different aspects of pop culture, but most of the time, it is being used without having the proper understanding of its context.

*Continued "Happy Fourth ..."*

So, what is this freedom being talked about here? More importantly, how can we attain true freedom?

To fully understand the context of John 8:32, we need to continue and read the following verses -- especially John 8:36

*"If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

The truth is that true freedom can only be found in Christ. And just like what John 8:36 says, if the Son, meaning Jesus, will set us free, then we shall be freed. Why? Jesus Christ has always been God's answer to our loss of freedom.

When Jesus began His ministry on earth, he announced He was the one God's people had been waiting for. He did so by reading a particular message from the book of Isaiah.

*"And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,*

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'*

*He rolled up the scroll gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing - Luke 4:17-21*

In the last verse of this passage, we can see that Jesus Himself confirms how the Scripture is being fulfilled in their midst through Him -- that He is the Messiah that the people are waiting for. That Jesus will free all of humanity from the bondage of sin and that He is a manifestation of freedom Himself.

This means that without Jesus, without accepting Him as our Lord and personal Savior, we can never attain true freedom. Yes, we might experience some freedom, but this is only temporal. Without Jesus, we will always experience chaos, disorder, injustice, etc.

So, true freedom, as defined by the Bible, can only be found in Christ. And we, as God's people, should always seek Christ to experience freedom from all things chaotic -- freedom from things that will keep us away from God.

As we celebrate freedom this coming Fourth of July, let us remember the men and women who fought for our freedom and the true freedom found in Jesus Christ, for Christ, freed us from sin, bondage, death, and all evil things. With this, Christ deserves to be praised and honored during this day.

This coming Fourth of July, let the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be spread amongst all the nations and not just in the United States of America. For true freedom is found in Christ. Henrietta and I pray that this article will touch your hearts and that Christ is freedom Himself.

*Happy Fourth of July!*  
*Rev. David and Henrietta Cerwantez*



**O**ur U.S. currency can be used to teach impactful Christian object lessons at a time when there is a strong push to remove God from our schools, government, and daily lives.

***Christian object lessons through a story:*** Have you found a penny? Do you keep it?

The story is about a husband and wife who were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. The wife felt nervous about the weekend because the boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway and cars that cost more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and she was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host and took them to the finest restaurants. The wife knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so she was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss walked slightly ahead of her and her husband. He stopped suddenly and looked down at the pavement for a long, silent moment.

The wife was uncertain whether she should pass him. The ground was barren, with only a single darkened penny and a few cigarette butts. The man stooped to pick up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure.

What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it," he said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"**In God we Trust?**"

"Yes!"

"And?"

**A Penny**



"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it. God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust is in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God—that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

This man understood the impact of uncomplicated, everyday Christian object lessons!

We often hear stories about the good luck associated with finding pennies on the sidewalk. Here's a story with a twist to hopefully redirect our thoughts towards God. Just like in Jesus' day, we must pay taxes to the government, but only God deserves our trust and devotion.

*Mark 12:17 "Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him." (This same event and statement are also contained in Matthew 22 and Luke 20).*

Let's let a penny remind us, just like the man in the story, to stop and thank God for all His blessings and to make sure we trust Him in our lives at that very moment.

Also, the next time you use the phrase "a penny for your thoughts," these Christian object lessons can remind you that even a small penny really can bring your thoughts back to God.

**"In God We Trust!"**



*Hello to all!*

*The long days of summer are here, and during this time, the regular offerings tend to decrease. However, we are hopeful that God will bless each and every one of us, so that we may continue to fulfill our regular offerings.*

*Let's not forget that as God blesses us, we should give back to Him to demonstrate our gratitude for the blessings we receive.*

*Trinity would like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all who have given, are giving, and will give. It's truly a blessing to be part of such an amazing church!*

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

- John Wesley



GIVING  
*Thanks*  
& GIVING  
*Back*



*H*ave you ever heard that “one man’s freedom extends only as far as another man’s freedom”? This means only that if one obstructs another person’s freedom, he has overstepped his own bounds.

We here in America have so many freedoms that people in other countries can only dream about. Our laws simply protect ours and others’ freedoms. I have the right to live; so if someone tries to take my life, he has stepped into my freedom. I have the right to work and own property; so if someone “blacklists” me so that I can't work or steals my property, he has, again, cut into my freedoms.

So far, we have freedom of religion. Please understand that I don't believe that gay behavior is in line with God’s wishes for us. On the other hand, I believe we are all God’s creatures and have the right to live as we choose as long as it doesn’t encroach on another person’s freedom to live as he chooses. Therefore, I have chosen to accept the Conference’s decision to accept gays in some churches’ pulpits - as long as that church has chosen to accept them, too.

We learned at the most recent Board meeting that just because the Conference has accepted them does not mean we must accept one in our own church. From the discussion I heard, we are VERY unlikely to have a gay pastor or to allow a gay marriage here.

As we are free to marry whomever we please (remember that there are countries where that is not true), we should allow others to do the same. No, we don't have to endorse it in our own church, but we should not condemn those who choose to do so.

There are many sins that I consider much worse than being gay. A murderer, a thief, a rapist, an abuser, or even someone who simply berates others, to me, is much worse than a gay person.

For this Independence Day I hope that we can choose to love all God’s creatures, no matter what their lifestyle is. As I have heard all my life (so far), we can hate the sin, but love the sinner. Of course, those of you who are without sin don’t have to adhere to this rule.

In God’s love for all,

*Harriet Phillips*, Lay Leader

**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.
- Pastor-led Bible study every Tuesday via zoom at 7:00pm.
- 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](http://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, 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.

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