



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

2023 MISSIONS - FEBRUARY
4th Sunday "Above and Beyond" Special Offering
(Please give generously)
Magdalena House (Transitional Shelter)

"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

Lent is a time of reflection and renewed faith as we focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



February 22, 2023 (Ash Wednesday)



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.

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

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

Prayer Meetings:
- Wednesdays via zoom at
2:15 p.m.
- Wednesdays, in-person in
the parlor at 5:30 p.m.

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
6800 Wurzbach Road,
San Antonio, Texas 78240
www.tumcsa.net

January 2023

ATTENDANCE IN WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY (IN-PERSON)

JANUARY 1	37
JANUARY 8	46
JANUARY 15	33
JANUARY 22	33
JANUARY 29	35

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.

JANUARY 1	112
JANUARY 8	125
JANUARY 15	126
JANUARY 22	58
JANUARY 29	119

TITHES & DONATIONS

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

JANUARY 1	\$10,155.00
JANUARY 8	\$4,806.00
JANUARY 15	\$1,055.00
JANUARY 22	\$4,359.00
JANUARY 29	\$ 211.00

Donate to Trinity UMC

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
sm artphone.
You may also text
giving to:
844-210-1179
(Type in the amount
you wish to donate,
then hit send).

Happy Birthday to:

MITZI KELLY	9-Feb
DOYLE STAMPS	11-Feb
JOHN REED	16-Feb
TYLER BROWN	18-Feb
NORMA KETCHUM	21-Feb

Happy Anniversary

DANIEL & BERTA SPAULDING	16-Feb
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PASTOR'S REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

Rev. John Meande
Pastor



In the summer holidays of my last year of elementary school, I had gone to visit my aunty, about a hundred and twenty miles from home. As I browsed through the shelves in a nearby library, I think I was guided by the Holy Spirit, and began to read a book on the pastoral work of John Wesley and how he had transformed a city of sin to a city of holiness in North East Scotland. I wish I could remember the title of that book, so as to give it a second read. The story about the calling and dedication of Mr. Wesley and the Holiness and moral excellence of the people called "Methodist" captivated my attention and won over my soul to search and later wait for the Methodist missionaries to arrive.

Though it took a long time, they finally got there, and I quickly walked in and became a full-blown member. My spirit was longing for Christ through the Methodists like the Macedonians were longing for Christ through St. Paul; "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:9 My first impression about the people called Methodist was on the pages of a text book, and this was reconfirmed by the simplicity, humility, love and holiness of the Methodist missionaries who came and established that relationship with the local population. I am sure we can all recall the exciting moments of your first visit to our local church, or that moment when you gave your life to Jesus Christ. Those early moments are the foundations of our faith because we were and may be still attached to our first ushers, first Sunday school teacher, youth leader, choir director, and custodian and to our first pastor.

Sometimes I can still hear the bass voice of Mr. Smith singing "Jesus loves me! This I know," and the soprano of his wife, Elizabeth, when singing "Oh for a thousand tongues to sing." The return of the Smiths to North America was a near excellent education of the same feelings the disciples had when Jesus went back to heaven - the feeling about the end of my Christianity and my relationship with Christ.

Though there is nothing wrong in the way I sometimes celebrated the Smiths, but holding them as a panacea and pillar for my Christianity made me guilty of idolatry; and this, I was quick to realize by grace. As I continue to spend more time in prayer, in compassionate ministry and on God's word, God began to walk more closely to my heart, revealing more of God's self, inside of me; and the finished work of Jesus Christ at the cross became more glaring and more meaningful in my heart.

Most times, our first impression is the foundational reason for starting a relationship and for settling in that relationship. So my prayer is for us at Trinity to continue creating that space that ignited our first and magnetic true impression with Jesus, which is sealed with the spirit of love, simplicity, humility and holiness within the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ within our church community. We the people called Methodist are unique in our love for God and neighbor, in the manifestation of grace to all humanity; and our thirst for holiness is unquenchable. Can love lead in our church? And can we live to offer Christ to all?

It sure beats the alternative

“

It Sure Beats the Alternative.”

Have you ever heard this reply when someone asks you how you are? I really hope this is NOT true! Of course, there are TWO alternatives - heaven or hell. If you expect to go to heaven, then, I believe this life does NOT beat the alternative! On the other hand, if you expect to go to hell, then, maybe this phrase is right - unless you prefer hell!

What are you doing to ensure that you are going to heaven? Are you a “Sunday Christian” only? If I had to guess, I would guess that is not enough to get you into heaven. I have always heard that we can’t be perfect in actions, but we can be perfect in aim. In other words, we can earnestly and sincerely try all the time to do God’s will. Of course, we all “fall short” sometimes, but we must keep trying. Do you do your best to be God’s arms, legs, and mouth? OR are you a “pew potato”? Do you believe that just sitting in a church pew is enough?

What are you doing to ensure that you are going to hell? I hope, nothing. Still, I would encourage you to evaluate your behavior and ask yourself where you believe it will take you. Remember that your behavior may be just one way to get to hell. Your thoughts and opinions of others may work, too. Will God want you in heaven with Him/Her, or will Satan be happy to welcome you into hell?

Just today I heard Winona Judd say that when someone told her that Lisa Marie Presley is in a better place, she replied, “I don’t want her in a better place; I want her here with me.” She admitted that that is selfish, but it’s the way she feels. When I cried while sitting with Layne as he was dying, he said, “Harriet, I’m going to a better place.” I replied, “I know, but I’ll miss you.” For those of us who are left behind, maybe the phrase isn’t true; but for the individual who is leaving, I really do believe the phrase IS true.

Besides, there is no alternative of just staying here; I assume you all know that. Therefore, I would encourage you to live your current life with the goal of spending your next life where you want to be! And remember that we don’t really know when we’ll have to make THE move. Do your best to just be ready!

Harriet Phillips
Lay Leader

Weekly Recurring Meetings:

- ⇒ Prayer meeting every Wednesday via zoom at 2:15pm.
- ⇒ In-person pastor-led prayer meeting every Wednesday in the parlor at 5:30pm.
- ⇒ “War Room” book study is right after Sunday’s worship service. All are welcome.
- ⇒ 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 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. 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 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, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.

The Security Myth

Helen Keller said, “Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature. Nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” [John C. Maxwell, *The Confidence That Convinces*, Audio Tape].

Many people who withhold their wholehearted support from God’s work are victims of that “superstition of security” to which Helen Keller referred. They somehow failed to learn that no amount of money makes us totally secure from the painful experiences that life flings against our windshields without the slightest warning.

What happens when we try to create our own security blankets by avoiding the risk of being generous? Our selfishness costs more than money. It robs us of a spiritual relationship with God.

Self-giving does not bring us total security. Nothing does that. Being alive puts us at risk in a thousand ways. But generously giving our money to God’s purposes gives us a sense of meaning and purpose as we work with other people in God’s great causes. That is a far greater reward than anything we can obtain by striving for the myth of security.

Hello my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Towards the end of last year, we had a Stewardship Campaign and the church asked us individually to step up in our giving. Everyone on the Finance Committee and Church Council wants to **thank everyone** for their gifts in 2022 and also your gifts to be given in this year. God's work could not be done here at Trinity without your generous gifts.

I believe we can make it again this year because I live by the Bible verse "For we walk by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7. I also believe our givers see the benefits in their lives when they give back to God.

*Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Smith*

**WHEN WE GIVE FROM THE HEART,
WE RECEIVE UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS—
ESPECIALLY THE JOY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN
SOMEONE'S LIFE.**



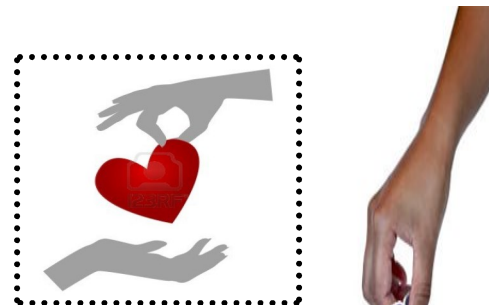
Calling all men and women!
We started the book study of the "War Room".
It's never too late to join us. Please stay after Sunday's
worship service as we continue the "War Room" discussion.

"You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work." - John Wesley

Prayer Intercessory Ministry meets every Wednesday via zoom at 2:15 p.m. and in-person in the parlor every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., for a prayer meeting. Please join us.



**"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."
-Augustine of Hippo**



GIVING BACK

"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. As long as ever you can.

- John Wesley

CHILLI COOK OFF



CALLING ALL COOKS!!!

Chili Cook-Off is back!

Chili Cook-Off Sunday, February 5th in the gym,
after the worship service. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Don't forget to mark your calendar.

Challengers! Plenty of spots for your famous Chili!

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Desserts and other sweet things are welcome!

LET'S HAVE FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND A YUMMY DAY!

Come one and come all.

SEE YA! 😊 😊 😊

“Fat Sunday” Instead

Trinity will celebrate **Mardi Gras** on **Sunday, February 19th**, after the worship service, in the gym. We will have breakfast for lunch. We will service pancakes, eggs, bacon, muffins, biscuits and gravy, pies and whatever else. The team will need extra help. We will have a sign up sheet as the celebration gets closer. Let's have fun!





Dear God,

In this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain that we don't see how our circumstances can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf.

Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through. Allow your power to be manifested through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than this trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

a deeper lent

-Trinity UMC Prayer Team

Sandy Keyser, Mary Hale, Byron Burge,
Kay Aguilar, and Cynthia Galang

Our weekly Wednesday prayer has been baptized "Trinity Holy Ghost Clinic". During this session, we confess our sins, reverence God, pray for our church, self and family. The prayer time is about 30 minutes and everyone is encouraged to attend. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is our watch word. So please join us in-person for prayer led by Pastor John Meande every Wednesday in the parlor which begins at 5:30 p.m.

† Please join us...

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday service: 6:30 p.m.

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday service (Holy Communion): 6:30 p.m.

April 7, 2023

Good Friday service: 7:00 p.m.