

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."

REV. JOHN MEANDE
Pastor
pastor1@tumcsa.net

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary (please wear
your mask), FB live,
YouTube

Sunday School
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

TUMSchool phone
210-684-5214
www.trinityums.org
ENROLL NOW!



"Come, Follow Me"

2021 Missions

MAY

**ABOVE AND
BEYOND
SUNDAY
OFFERING**
(PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY)

**PEACE WITH
JUSTICE
SUNDAY**



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

Hello, brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope everyone has been able to return to some type of normalcy. The thing that I have noticed the most is how different people perceive the not knowing so differently. There are very few constants in my life, but there are 3 I cannot live without, God, family/friends and church. Even in my family, each family member has had their own perception of this pandemic.

I use the word "perceive" a lot more than I use the word "offend." In fact, I cannot tell you the last time I thought or said "I am offended." I don't get offended. The reason why is because I believe every human being has the right to have his or her own opinion. I heard a nurse years ago at one of our church's blood drives tell a donor that he can't get offended because he doesn't put much thought into people's opinions. It is their opinion, and he had his own. That has stuck with me for years. I think it is one of the most overused words in our society, and what doesn't make sense to me is people get offended even though they usually don't know the whole story behind what offends them. You know the saying, there are 3 sides to a story, person A's side, person B's side and then the truth. God is the only one that knows the whole truth about life. That is why I chose to live my life by how I perceive something not whether or not I should be offended by it. I have been our church treasurer for several years, and growing up as a preacher's kid, I have always seen the church side and the business side. Because of this, I have experienced some not-so-happy conversations because telling people we don't have the money to fund a project or we don't have the money to do something specific isn't easy to say or hear. Nobody wants to hear we are short on funds or we have no money, but it is what it is.

I could have walked away from this job many times, but I do what I do for God and our church. When we do our part, should we get offended by the people that don't? No. I chose to perceive the fact that I do not know everyone's story. I do not know why some people give and some people don't, so that part I give to God and just continue to do my job to the best of my ability.

I have the perfect example of how damaging it can be when we perceive something without knowing the full story. I have suffered from chronic depression since I was a teenager. I know that is hard for some people to believe, but with the grace of God, an awesome doctor and a lot of work on my part, I have had it under control for decades. While I was working with my doctor years ago, I realized I had a feeling of being unloved and unwanted, which is the farthest thing from the truth. We worked on this, and it was discovered I started these feelings when I was 4 or 5. My mother would let her mother take me home with her to Oklahoma a lot when I was young because we really enjoyed being together.



My mother's greatest joy was watching her family be happy. She made the decision of letting me go with my grandmother because of the joy we shared being together. But as a child, I started feeling that my family didn't love me as much as they did each other and that was why they would send me off to grandma's. After discovering this during my treatment, I talked it over with my mom and also with one of my siblings. My mom assured me I was loved and wanted 100%, which I already knew. My sibling told me they were jealous of me because I got to go with my grandmother, but no one else did. I was the one that perceived it wrong. Person A (me) felt unloved, person B (my sibling) felt jealousy, and then the truth - these actions were done by my mother out of love for her mother and me.

Trinity is my church and yours, but it is like anything else in our life; people and pastors will come and go but our church will stay constant as long as we remember what our purpose is -- to share and spread God's love.

I pray we continue to heal from this rough time and we learn that everyone perceives every situation in their own way and hope we can find God's grace in knowing we are all different and that is okay.

Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Smith, TUMC Church Treasurer



The Story of the Cracked Pot

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?' 'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.'

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

- *Author Unknown*

Pastor's Reflection: Is Christ Born in Your Heart?

Together for Christ,

Rev. John N. Meande



Most people begin the New Year with many resolutions, while some begin by heading to the gym, others will be longing to find and receive Jesus in their hearts. To become sons and daughters of God by grace we must believe in and know the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this process of deification, God's goodness always attracts us. Jesus is always at the center of this mutual attraction with His dual purpose of God and man. So Jesus, both God and man, will always take the initiative by showing us love, by waiting and by inviting us into His family. The initiative is always His. Jesus is God made man, made flesh. He was born for us.

God goes before us. The prophet Isaiah said "God is like the flower of the almond tree, because in that region the almond tree is the first to bloom. God always goes first: he always looks out for us; He always takes the first step. Remember we were all living in darkness until God made the first step to liberate us. The state of darkness sometimes is our comfort zone with our skeleton in our cupboards; this might give us the tendency to resist our liberation. We are afraid of freedom and paradoxically we unconsciously prefer our darkness. God's freedom from our darkness frightens us because it takes us to confront our darkness and to face our responsibility to live well as the image of God.

Living in the comfort of darkness prevents us from truly and fully living in the present because it makes us believe that we cannot dream, that we cannot fly, and it takes away our hope that with God all things are possible.

As we journey together with Christ, let us remember that it was easier for God to take the Israelites out of Egypt than to take Egypt out of their hearts. Yes! The Israelites were physically freed from their slavery but while wandering in the desert, faced with many difficulties and hunger, they began to feel nostalgic for Egypt, and they remembered when they ate of the onion and the garlic (Numbers 11:5). They forgot, however, that they ate them at the table of darkness and slavery.

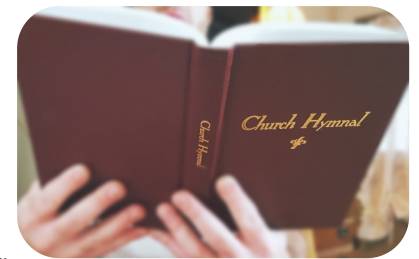
Nostalgia for darkness/sin is nestled in our hearts because it looks more reassuring than freedom, holiness, and righteousness in God, which looks far riskier. How we like being captivated by lots of fireworks on July 4th, which are beautiful at first glance but which in reality last a few seconds! This is the power of darkness because it is the charm of the movement. To overcome this charm of the moment we have to be born again, strive to become deified and persevere till the end.

It is not enough to say we know that Jesus is God; it is not enough to say that He is our redeemer; it begins with a reception in our hearts, a transformation of our life and a growth in love for God, self and neighbor. God is born in Jesus, yes! but is He born in our hearts?

When the centurion found Jesus at the cross, he said "Truly this man is the son of God" and he ..

.... bowed down and worshiped him. He did not just look at Him; he didn't just say a circumstantial prayer and leave, NO! He worshiped him: Tradition says he entered into a personal communion of love with Jesus. Jesus has come to redeem us who were under the law of darkness, so we can be adopted into the family of the Godhead such that we by grace can take up the nature of God come out of our darkness into the light of God.

God's light is helping us to resist the charm of the moment and to give us the grace to follow him till the end if we can let the grace of God's love nurture us to becoming perfect and mature Christians.



Dear Church Family -

The Church Board met this past Sunday, April 25.

We made some recommendations to move the church forward. Beginning this next Sunday, May 2nd, we will once again be singing as a congregation - with masks on. We recognize that singing is a vital part of worshiping. Please respect the request to keep your mask on.

An additional change the Board recommends is returning to the 11:00 worship time. This will allow for Sunday School to resume prior to worship, when people feel comfortable meeting in small groups. Please reach out to Board members and share your thoughts about this change.

Please continue to pray for our community and the people of our country and world. It would be wonderful if on Sunday, July 4th, we could celebrate together!

Our Church Board members would like your feedback. What would you like to see at Trinity? What programs are important to you? Is there something you would like to work towards? What is God placing on your heart for the future of Trinity? The Board members are listed below. Please contact them or call the church office with your thoughts and concerns.

Serving Trinity for God's Glory,
Julie Vincent, Board Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS:

Pastor John Meande, Harriet Phillips, Julie Vincent, Bonnie Smith, David Lopez, Liz Cavin, Gail Hall, Joanne Smith, Gene Sprague, Byron Burge, Joe Montalvo, Mary Shoemaker, Tony Aguilar, Layne Kerley.

EASTER EGG HUNT

FUN



Our Vegetable Garden needs TLC 😊

We would like to invite anyone interested in helping us water the vegetable garden (which is the Victory Garden) to lend us a much-needed hand. If you're interested, please contact Ashley Dulin or Don Ketchum.

Also, we do take donations for the purchase of soil, seeds, and other gardening supplies. Please memo your check "Victory Garden". Thank you! 😊



We are still in the “Easter” Sundays, so we are still celebrating Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for us. There really is no greater love! Love from a parent usually comes pretty close, though. What parent wouldn’t give his or her own life to save a son or daughter? Yes, there are exceptions to that, but they are very rare.

Just a few days ago, a sweet little girl named Lalli saw me here at church (again), obviously noted that she sees me here a lot, and, therefore, asked me whether or not I worked here. I said, “Well, I do a lot of work here, but I’m not paid for it.” Her reply was, “Then, why do you do it?” I said, “Because it’s my church.” She said, “Do you own it?” I said, “No, but I am a member and have been for a long time.”

I am definitely not alone in this! There are so many people here who serve this church because they feel that this is their church. No, none of them owns it, but we definitely call it “our church.” What would you do for “your” church? Is it because you own it, or because you love it? I want to say a big “thank you” to all of you who give of your money, time, prayers, and witness for “your” church! Hopefully, when COVID is over, more of you will be able to be present in the sanctuary again, too.

Families are the same in many ways. Do you do things for your family members because you “own” them, because they are your employees, or because you love them? Of course, it is because you love them! At least until family members grow up and are on their own, you support them financially, but I know most of you support your family emotionally, too, even after they have grown up.

I doubt that parents, brothers and sisters, or children know ahead of time that they are about to make the ultimate sacrifice for their family members, but it does happen. Yes, there are instances where they do know ahead of time what they are about to do. Here again, there is no greater love! I hate to admit it sometimes, but I seriously doubt that I would have the courage to go through what Jesus went through willingly for anyone, even my own children. On the other hand, I hope and pray that I would find that courage in order to save my child’s life. I don’t know, and I hope I will never have to find out!

To celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, let us take notice of what each has done for us! I especially have to take note of my dad. My mother died when I was 10 years old and was bedridden for the last 7 years of her life. This left my dad as the main caregiver for me and my brother for all that time. He really was father and mother to us – a sacrifice he was forced by circumstances to make, but I know he would never have walked away. Why? Because he loved us! I know there are many other families that have had similar situations. We owe a big “thank you” to anyone who has made such a sacrifice for us! Too many have walked away!

Obviously, the One we owe the biggest “thank you” to is Jesus Christ. Not only did He make the ultimate sacrifice, He knew ahead of time that He was going to do that! No greater love!



No
Greater
Love...

Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader

The Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF)

.... is seeking someone to sit on the PEF Committee as an at-large member.

The PEF Committee was established on January 28, 2007, for the purpose of providing TUMC members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to TUMC. The objectives of the PEF are to conserve principal and to make distributions as determined by the TUMC PEF Committee. The earnings of the PEF are to be used exclusively for the support of:

1. Special ministries and mission projects.
2. Scholarships and other educational activities.
3. Unusual expenses for maintenance and repairs of TUMC property.

If you are interested in filling this vacancy, please contact David Lopez at 210-867-2375
or Julie Vincent at 210-215-9232.

Happy Birthday to:

CHERI DANCAK	1-May
JOANNE BENTON	3-May
COLLEEN KROLL	7-May
JASON BROWN	7-May
CHRISTOPHER CALK	9-May
MIRIAM MAY	9-May
CATHY McFEATERS	11-May
AUSTIN BURGE	12-May
MATTHEW SETTLES	14-May
BONNIE SMITH	14-May
FOHN D. GOANEH	15-May
PATSY HARDIN	15-May
THOMAS SETTLES	15-May
ANDREW KHAN	18-May
JONATHAN LOPEZ	19-May
SOILA LARES	19-May

Happy Birthday to:

KAITLYN PHAIR	21-May
EMILY CALK	23-May
TINA LOPEZ	23-May
JAN IRETON	24-May
LETHA ADAMS	27-May
TWILA ICENOGLE	27-May
JEFFREY ARNOLD	28-May
DORCAS GOANEH	28-May
NICK BENTON	31-May

Happy Anniversary to:

JEFF & CAROL WILSON	16-May
JAMES & DR JOANNE SMITH	17-May
DON & NORMA KETCHUM	25-May

(If we have missed your special day, please notify Cynthia in the church office).