



# Trinity UMC SEPTEMBER 2021



"Together we LIVE to see our lives, our community,  
and our world transformed by the power of the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ."

## 2021 Missions September

ABOVE AND BEYOND  
SUNDAY Offering

### Habitat for Humanity



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

REV. JOHN MEANDE  
Pastor  
pastor1@tumcsa.net

Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary (please wear  
your mask if you are not  
fully vaccinated), FB live,  
YouTube

New Seekers Faith Mtng.  
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

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

TUMSchool phone  
210-684-5214  
www.trinityums.org

**ENROLL NOW!**



Join us this Sunday for  
**United Methodist Men**  
Worship Service!  
Bring the whole family  
and invite friends!



Men Serving Others Through Christ

**UMM**  
UNITED METHODIST MEN

**Sunday—10:00 a.m.**  
**September 12, 2021**

## Pastor's Reflection

Together for Christ,

*Rev. John N. Meande*



**W**e are welcoming everyone into any of our series of small group studies. We intend to build relationship with one another in our small groups that will help us get connected to the local church body. We can find a safe place to share our stories, celebrate our successes and bring our worries. It is here that we meet other Disciples of Christ who can partner with us in prayers and be for us the hands and feet of Jesus.

Our study groups utilize the Threshold Bible Study for prayer, study, and discussion. As we grow in discipleship making, we are approaching the teaching of the gospel with the four human cognitive potentials of vision, listening, writing and reading. This has been glaring within the last month when the youth and young adults, the children and the women have lead in worship. We have seen and experience God reaching out to us in new ways. And that is the beauty of life in Jesus Christ.

The pandemic has also helped us to learn new ways of our connection. With our zoom Bible studies, prayer meetings and Sunday school, it seems we are still sitting in person on a semi-circle and using the media systems to follow lectures and teachings of the holy Bible. Our Tuesday's bible study took us through the book Acts and now Ephesians and we are also open depending on the need of the church to teach on a particular topic like strife, peace, joy, trust and holiness. Though all these are ways to make disciples in a congregation, we may decide to make that more practical by creating a space for conversation, testimonies and personal stories relating to the topic. In doing this, we will be trying to meet each believer at the point of their spiritual walk. Then we will be able to empower each Christian to see the importance of our interpretation of scripture, how it can impact the lives of all present and a confidence that the Holy Spirit is our teacher.

We are excited about the growth this will bring to our church and the desire for many to step up to be a part of our small groups. It's been a long walk for our church from a small existence of vital small groups during this pandemic period. Many of us will tap in to our gift of ministry as we try to get involved in the children's ministry, the youth group, the young adult, women's group, the Men's' group and Bible studies and as worship team. The passion for participating in small groups and the excitement to testify on what God is doing in our lives each week during our Divine service is a proof that we are truly seeking after entire sanctification.

Watch out for our sermon series on the "ACTS" (**Adoration, Confessing Christ, Thanksgiving and Supplications**) OF GOD beginning this Sunday.

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# What is Stewardship?

Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader

Usually in the church stewardship is mentioned when it's time to update our pledges for monetary donations. However, there are many other areas where we can and should be good stewards of our church. Yes, our church could NOT survive without monetary giving, but there are many other areas where I believe we would be in real trouble if certain things were not done.

For instance, I grew up in a very small church, where the total membership was under 100 people. We had only 1 paid employee, the pastor. EVERYTHING else was done on a volunteer basis. We are lucky to have several paid employees here, but we have them BECAUSE we have people who give us money on a regular basis.

Volunteers answer phones and greet people in the office so Cynthia can devote her attention to her job. A volunteer records who was at church each Sunday and enters new members or visitors into our computer. A volunteer proofs the bulletin and other publications each week. A volunteer prepares the "Little Wiggles" packets for our children. A volunteer waters our plants, both inside and outside our buildings. Volunteers teach Godly Play (beginning this Sunday, Sept. 5). A volunteer teaches Children's Time (when we have children present). Even though we have paid personnel to preach, lead music, and play piano (or organ), we need volunteers to read scripture, assist with Communion, and accompany our music director on guitar and be a Lay Leader). ALL our committees are led by volunteers. Our only "Sunday" school class is led by a volunteer. A volunteer prepares receptions after funerals, etc.

Other areas where we MUST be good stewards is an area where we are given responsibilities for our church's upkeep and safety. When you see trash on the grounds, do you pick it up or leave it for our lawn person. By the way his job is to mow, trim shrubs and trees, and edge. He really isn't paid to pick up trash. If you have an umbrella at your house that says "Trinity United Methodist Church" on it, as a good steward it is your job to return it to our church so someone else who is caught without an umbrella on a rainy day can get to his or her car without getting wet. (That person would also be expected to return the umbrella for the next rainy day). These are property of our church, not for individuals to keep).

Another area where possibly too many people are given a responsibility and trust is the area of signing for church keys. Employees and volunteers (maybe others) have a responsibility to keep our church property safe if they have unlocked any buildings or have loaned their keys to anyone. (By the way, when you sign keys out, you agree NOT to loan the keys to anyone else). It's very simple: did you unlock a door or loan keys to someone else? Then it is your DUTY to lock up or make sure the person you loaned keys to locks up. Even if you aren't the one who unlocked a building, it is your job to make sure SOMEONE (preferably you) locks it back up. If you see a building unlocked and don't have a key, PLEASE find someone who does and get it locked.

Just because you don't OWN this church doesn't mean you have no responsibility towards it. I have called Trinity MY CHURCH for a very long time and feel a big responsibility to take care of her. All of you should feel the same way. Where can you step up? Where are you falling short? Yes, this is God's house, but WE are responsible for taking care of her!

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# Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work

He has no feet but our feet to lead men in the way  
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how He died  
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.  
We are the only Bible the careless world will read,  
We are the sinner's gospel; we are the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message, given in word and deed;  
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?  
What if our hands are busy with other work than His?  
What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?  
What if our tongue is speaking of things His lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help Him or welcome His return?

-John Palmer



*Happy Birthday to:*

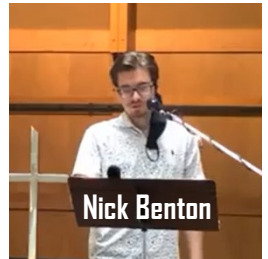
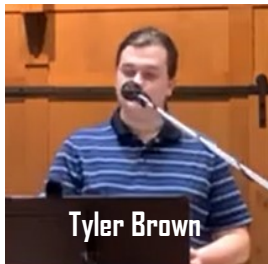
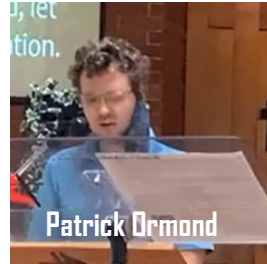
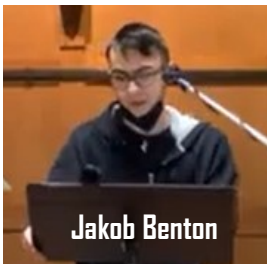
DONNA SETTLES	1-Sep	SUSANA DEKU	19-Sep
ANGIE KHAN	1-Sep	LOUBELLE VANDEVENTER	21-Sep
DEBRA SCHNEIDER	2-Sep	JUDITH E. FRIZZELL-VIRES	22-Sep
EUGENE AZBILL	4-Sep	STACIE BROWN	22-Sep
CARTER KINGSTON KROLL	5-Sep	RAYMOND A. EFTA	28-Sep
SHANE SPRAGUE	9-Sep	DOROTHLYN STAMPS	29-Sep
SANDRA DANCE	9-Sep	ETHAN CALK	30-Sep
ROY PUTZ	12-Sep	<i>Happy Anniversary to:</i>	
BROOKLYN LEWIS	13-Sep	DOYLE & DORTHLYN STAMPS	11-Sep
BRENT PHILLIPS	16-Sep	SARAH ELIZABETH & PATRICK ORMOND	19-Sep
		JOE & BONNIE SMITH	23-Sep

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

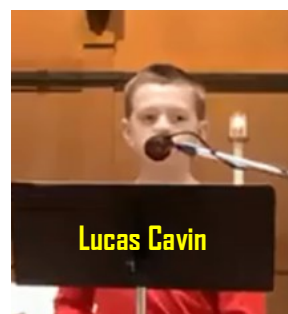
# CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS IN AUGUST

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP SERVICE

**August 8, 2021  
SPEAKERS**



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP

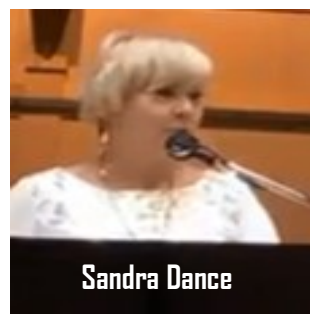
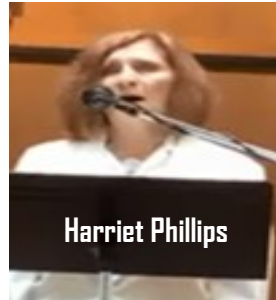


**August 15, 2021  
SPEAKERS**



*Sunday*  
**WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

**August 22, 2021**  
**SPEAKERS**



## The Gift Beyond Imagination

*A story of the gift of love*

### ***Dedication***

Here in the South, we like to use “double names.” Therefore, I chose to incorporate both my daughters’ names. How I thank God for the four precious children He’s given me! The story of the gift of Mary Em’s grandmother is dedicated to the memory of my own mother, another Mary – Mary Mhoon Noble Ball who passed on to be with Jesus in the summer of 1993. My youngest daughter never got to know her, but because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we know they will meet one day in Heaven. Dear friend, take to heart the precious gift God has given you in His Son...a gift beyond imagination.

The gift was simple...the gift was small... But the promise it held was larger than life! What made it so special was that it was a gift from Mary Em’s grandmother. Gram had wrapped it in a beautiful scrap of red silk scarf.





Mary Em rushed to open it, but when the gift fell out, she just looked at it. It was just a seed – a tiny black seed. Why did Gram leave her a seed before she died?

Mary Em was eight, and her Gram had said she would be leaving soon on a trip to Heaven. Gram assured her that before she left, she would leave her a special gift...a gift beyond imagination.

The little girl clung to the promise of the gift as she saw her grandmother begin to fade away. The cancer had made her so thin and frail, but Gram still smiled and said Jesus would be traveling with her on this trip.

Even now, two weeks after Gram had left on her “new journey”, as she had called it, Mary Em clung to the promise. But a seed...? What had Gram been thinking? Tears of disappointment began to drip down Mary Em’s face. She had hoped for more. But what was there left to do now, except to plant the tiny seed.



An old clay pot was found behind the shed and filled with chilled spring dirt. She placed the seed deep into the soil as she thought of Gram. Two long months had passed and oh, how she still missed her! New tears of sadness and grief slid down her cheeks gently watering the seed’s new resting place.

As the days and weeks passed, Mary Em cared for the seed. She placed the pot in a sunny spot, watered it, and waited. As she waited, she remembered...Gram’s smile, the fun they had baking cookies together, the way Gram pushed her high into the air on the swing until squeals of delight escaped her lips. As she remembered, she didn’t feel as sad anymore.

Finally about a week into summer, the tiny plant poked its head above the soil and drank in the rays of sunlight. Every day it grew taller and stronger as Mary Em cared for it. The small plant quickly grew and soon bloomed into a beautiful red poppy – just like the ones Gram had grown in her garden!



Mary Em loved to wake up to the little flower every morning. It was like hearing Gram say “*I love you*” each and every day. But then one morning, the poppy began to droop and hang its head. Mary Em watered it more and moved it to a sunnier spot. In spite of all her efforts though, the little poppy shriveled and died. Mary Em couldn’t bear to throw it away. She just left it there on her window sill. Now it brought sad thoughts – thoughts of Gram’s sickness and death.



Many weeks later, the air began to chill and the leaves began to tumble off the trees. Winter was on its way. Mary Em decided it was time to throw out the remains of the little poppy. As she did though, tiny black specks began to fall. They were seeds!

That is when Mary Em remembered what Gram had said – “*Winter may come, but that just means Spring is on its way.*” With this thought, Mary Em began to smile. She now understood that Gram’s spring had come in Heaven! She also realized the preciousness of Gram’s gift. The real gift was a lesson about life, a lesson about Christ – wrapped in the red scarf of His love, the seed of our life continues to live even after death and leaves even more seeds behind to be planted in the hearts of others. Truly He is the gift “beyond imagination.”

**Note to the reader about "The Gift":**

The seed of God's love was once wrapped in a draping of red...His Son's blood. Even when Jesus appeared to be dead and buried, life was born anew as the Father raised Him from the dead. The Bible says in 1 John 5:12, "He who has the Son, has the life; he who does not have the Son of God, does not have the life." Just like a flower, our earthly bodies will shrivel and die, but because of God's gift life will go on for us, and the seeds we have planted in this life will be left - seeds of memories, seeds of love, seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which hold eternal life – a gift truly beyond imagination.

A note from the author: *A dream of mine is to write inspirational stories that will touch lives with the love of God. This is one I wrote last summer; I hope you enjoyed it! Thanks for reading!*

⇒ Susan ⇐

# This N That

**Trinity is asking for volunteers to:**

- Usher on Sundays at our worship services.
- Broadcast our worship service live on Facebook (on rotation).
- Help in the church office on Mondays or Wednesdays from 11am-2pm to answer the phones, check the mail, receive visitors, and other tasks alike.

*If you are led to serve, please contact Cynthia in the church office or Harriet Phillips.*

**Save the Date:**

- Godly Play starts Sunday, September 5.
- Sept. 12 - United Methodist Men Sunday.
- Sept. 26 – District Superintendent Greg Hackett will be preaching this Sunday.
- Back to School! – We are requesting a donation of school supplies for Trinity UM School. There is a box in the narthex to put the school items in. Thank you for your generosity.

Weekly Recurring Meetings:

- ⇒ Prayer Meeting every Monday at 1:00pm via zoom.
- ⇒ New Seekers faith meeting meets on Thursdays at 3:00pm via zoom.
- ⇒ Pastor-led Bible study is every Tuesday; please join us via zoom.  
Please call Cynthia for zoom links.

**Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m.**  
**Just a friendly reminder ☺**

In the sanctuary please wear your mask if you have not been fully vaccinated, and please keep physical distance.

Please turn off your phones during worship service. Thank you for your cooperation.

You may also join us live on Facebook or YouTube.

Here's the link—[www.tumcsa.net](http://www.tumcsa.net) then click on "JOIN 10am WORSHIP LIVE"

Thank you!

