

# 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](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:

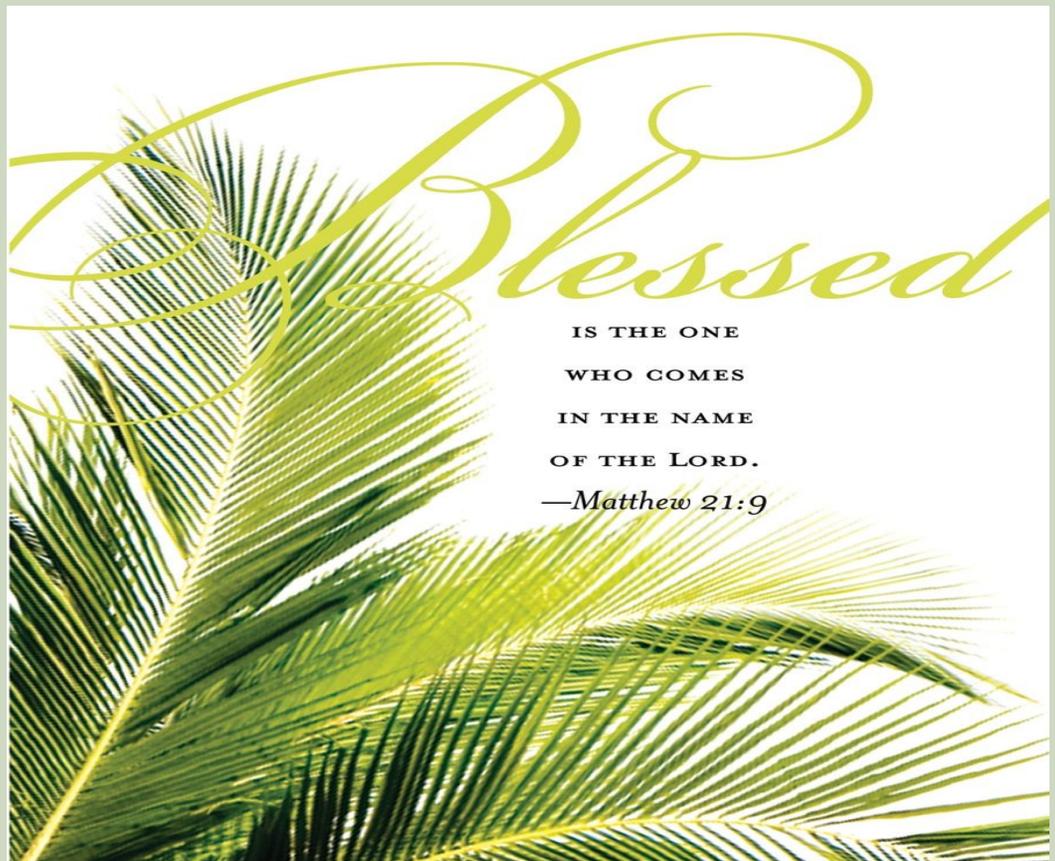
[ofcadmin@tumcsa.net](mailto:ofcadmin@tumcsa.net)

TUMSchool phone

210-684-5214

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

**ENROLL NOW!**



2021 Missions  
**MARCH**

**4TH SUNDAY  
SPECIAL  
OFFERING**  
(PLEASE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY)

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

# Carrying the cross in the ICU

Together for Christ,

*Rev. John N. Meande*



**E**arly this year I had gone to visit a member of our church in the hospital. On my way out, I was walking through the ICU, heading to the elevator on my way home when I met this family standing by one of the doors looking at their significant other as she pulls her last breath. This family was not on my program to visit, I had no clue who they were, neither did they ask for my help. The husband to the sick patient is a pastor as he later told me. Yet he was depressed, disappointed, bewildered and overwhelmed.

I greeted him, introduced myself as a pastor with the United Methodist Church and asked how he was feeling. His perception check did not relay a good sign. This was confirmed when he told me he's been through some tough and terrible journey with his wife for the last three years. He went ahead to narrate that after praying for so long for God to heal his wife, he has finally come to a point as a pastor to accept God's will of death. The wife had a colon hemorrhage, and all attempts at stopping this has failed, and she is becoming very septic daily.

As I listened to him, I was overwhelmed and became very compassionate; I asked him if we can go down to the chapel, where we prayed for God's mercy on his wife and a healing miracle. Two days later, I stopped by to visit the family as a follow up and the husband told me of a dramatic turnaround later that night to the consternation of the Doctors. The wife was conscious, could eat and was able to respond to her husband's introduction of me as the pastor who has been supportive of the family.

As I reflect on this visit, I could see the power of God directing the footsteps of the righteous. I could see the will of God in the life of this woman right from when I was able to discern that the family was in need of a pastoral encounter. That they were in need of a spiritual support, that they needed someone to partner with them to rebuild their faith, so God's purpose in their life can surely come to pass.

This situation has created in me an awareness of the presence of fear to lay helpless, in pain, agony, despair and suffering in the ICU like this lady and like some of the patients. Sometimes, thoughts of been in those "shoes" make me emotional and starts shivering. As you reflect on your own life and family dynamics, especially during this period of the pandemic and the crucifixion of Christ, do you feel that way? This is what is driving me with a fullness of empathy and compassion, to be there for families, parishioners, friends and patients.

I have seen my mom, dad and close friend in this state before, while mom came out of it, dad and my friend did not. Watching a love one suffer has generated terrible feelings of fear, and emotional depression, and there have been times when I have asked God why humanity has to suffer and die. However, I have turn around to answer this question, because the agony, suffering and pain that my love ones went through before dying helped me to understand what Jesus went through for me and for you.

I now feel good because I was able to listen to God's voice asking me to stop, turn around and speak to the family, and I feel please that God in his majesty is able to use me in this role as God's servant to bring peace, joy, love, and hope in the midst of anger, sadness, bitterness, and hopelessness, not only to this family but to many more that I meet daily.

# *What Are Your Temptations?*

During our first Wednesday service for this season, our pastor mentioned that we are not all tempted by the same things. Therefore, our sins are probably different, too. I know I have referred to the movie, *Jumanji*, before, but it keeps giving me lessons. (The last time I quoted it I used, “Like it or not, we’re all in this together.”) This time I will refer to the scene where each character learns his or her strengths and weaknesses. I couldn’t help but notice that one character had NO weaknesses! Clearly this is fiction, not fact.

I hope all of you will remember that where you have a particular strength, someone else might have a weakness in that same area. I hope you will refrain from demoralizing that person for his or her lack of that strength since you surely have a weakness in a different area, maybe in that SAME area!

These weaknesses lead me to different temptations. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan to turn a rock into bread. I’m sure he was hungry, so I am also sure he was tempted! What would tempt you? I would greatly be tempted by a slice of key lime pie! It’s my favorite! However, I absolutely despise cilantro, so my only temptation regarding it would be to push it away as fast as possible!

Perhaps your temptations do not involve food. Are you tempted by fast cars, a big TV, another person’s spouse, or power over others? Are you tempted to steal any of these? Would you berate someone in order to feel more powerful? Would you “kill” someone’s spirit even though you didn’t kill the actual person? According to Scripture, both are a way of killing! Would you claim a clever comment that you heard someone else say? This is just another way of stealing. According to Adam Hamilton, being late is a form of stealing. You have taken time from someone that he or she can never get back. Even in the comic strip, *Family Circus*, the grandmother tells her grandchildren, “Be careful how you spend time and words; you can’t get either of them back.”

So, are your temptations a reflection of your weaknesses? I don’t really know, but I hope you will consider that possibility when you feel tempted - about anything. Ask yourself why you want something, whether it is tangible or intangible. Also, ask yourself what the consequences will be if you give in to that temptation. If you give in to eating the piece of key lime pie, will you gain weight? If you give in to berating someone, will you lose a friend, cause a fight, even a suicide? We hear stories all the time in which people have taken their own lives because they were taunted over and over until they simply decided death was better. Is that the kind of power you really want? If you give in to stealing something, will you leave someone without something he or she really needed to survive? Will you risk going to jail?

The Golden Rule applies here more than anywhere. I truly believe that if we stop and ask ourselves how we would want to be treated in any of these situations, we would make much better decisions. “Yield not to temptation!”

*Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader*

# Jesus talks of prayer, fasting, almsgiving

MT 6: 1-6, 16-18

Great crowds followed Jesus wherever he went. People loved to hear him preach.

One day, he left the crowds and went up a mountain. He gathered his apostles around him and began to teach.

Jesus talked about many things. He said that being angry with another person is sinful. He assured those who were having hard lives on earth that they would find rest and peace in heaven. He even taught the people that they should love and pray for their enemies instead of hating them.

“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect,” Jesus said.

Then Jesus talked about three things that were very important to the Jewish people: almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

Jesus said that God does not like it when people do righteous deeds just to look good in front of others.

For example, when giving to the poor, “do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others,”

Jesus said, referring to the scribes and Pharisees. “But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” Jesus said the same thing regarding prayer.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them,” he warned. “But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

And he taught that those who are fasting shouldn't look as if they were.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting,” he said. “But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

After Jesus was done teaching, he came down the mountain to the crowd and began to heal people.

## Guide to Holy Week



### Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



### Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



### Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



### Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



### Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



With God's blessing,  
we all can help our suffering  
neighbors through these  
difficult times.

# 40 CANS FOR LENT



Trinity is joining hundreds of other congregations around the country in the **40 Cans of Lent** program. Everyone is invited to collect a can of food each day during the 40 days of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) and concludes with Easter (April 4). Just drop off your food items throughout the season in one of the drums at church or some other collection point around town. We will pass those much-needed supplies on to local food pantries and the San Antonio Food Bank. If you prefer, just call the church office, 210/684-0261, and we will have someone pick it up from your home.

Some of the most needed items include:

Canned vegetables	Canned meat	Cereal
Soup	Peanut butter	Canned fruit
Pasta	Rice	Stews
Pasta sauce	Beans	

“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”**



Happy Birthday to:

ALISA ROBERTS	2-Mar
PAM SPRAGUE	9-Mar
CYNTHIA SETTLES	12-Mar
MARCIA FOSTER	13-Mar
DEBRA PUTZ- TREVINO	14-Mar
JACK TOOLE	14-Mar
TOM PHILLIPS	20-Mar
KAREN SUE MAY	22-Mar
DON DANCAK	22-Mar
SHIRLEY FERGUSON	24-Mar
MARY HALE	24-Mar
HARRIET PHILLIPS	24-Mar
JARED MAY	28-Mar
WARDINE WILCOX	28-Mar

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

## Happy Birthday, Trinity!

Trinity United Methodist Church (aka Trinity Methodist Episcopal and Trinity Methodist Church) will be 142 years old on April 10, 2021! To help us celebrate, we would like all of you to send pictures, articles, memories, and hopes for the future to Cynthia at [ofcAdmin@tumcsa.net](mailto:ofcAdmin@tumcsa.net) or to Ashley at [ashleydulin@tumcsa.net](mailto:ashleydulin@tumcsa.net) by March 28 so Ashley will have time to compile them for a presentation on April 11.

Thank you all.  
Harriet Phillips, Worship Chair