

**Our Mission:**

Embracing All In God's Love

**Our Core Values:**

Sanctuary, Community, Renewal

**APRIL 2024 Newsletter****Worship Times**

10am Traditional

11:15am Contemporary

Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue, Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 316-283-6410

Email: [office@trinityheightsumc.org](mailto:office@trinityheightsumc.org)**Music the Soundtrack of Our Lives**

The second Sunday of April we will begin a new Worship Series here at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church. The Series will be focused on the music of our lives. This is a piece I wrote a few years ago that still resonates deep within me as I reread it again this morning. In preparation for the New Worship Series, *The Soundtrack of Our Lives; Faith and the Power of Music*, here is a bit from my heart of music to yours.

An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace – sacrament. In the United Methodist Church, there are two official sacraments, communion and baptism. We believe there is something about these to rituals, these two acts that carry us to another place, so to speak. They are in the mystery of the Divine, thin places where real and tangible encounters with God in community can and do happen. I believe this, on levels that defy words I have experienced such thin places where somehow, somehow the present moment melds into the very presence of God, the Spirit, and have been carried away into another place of nothing but pure inexplicable love and grace. Other religious traditions have additional official sacraments. The Catholic church includes, baptism, communion, confirmation, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, marriage, and holy orders. These fit into the same definition and realm of mystery and encounter with the divine.

These definitions and markers of sacrament are important in my faith journey. However, I have long been one who refuses to limit the presence or reach of God. I believe one can encounter an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace in innumerable places, spaces, ways, and practices; sitting on a granite rock in the Rocky Mountains, drinking a cup of coffee with my faithful dog curled up at my feet, in a sanctuary filled with pipe organ music, at a rock and roll concert, the sounds of a baby, laughing uncontrollably around a table playing a game with family, or saying goodbye as a loved one takes their last breath. God is not limited to what we might call the reverent, solemn, occasions, rather God is present in all that has been, is, or will be. I am reminded of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's words, "Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God, but only he who sees takes off his shoes; The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

Music, not faith-based music, but the pop music that is currently playing on our airwaves and the music I grew up with can be sacramental that carries us to places we have been before and places we have never dreamed of. I think of songs like Chicago's "I've Been Searching so Long," and how it speaks deep to my heart and soul on this current journey I am on. "As my life goes on, I believe, somehow something's changed. Something deep inside, ooh a part of me. There's a strange new light in my eyes, things I've never known changing my life, changing me." I think of Joan Osborn's song, "What if God was One of Us," and how it encourages me to look beyond myself and into others to see the light and image of God in all I encounter. "If God had a name, what would it be? And would you call it to his face? If you were faced with Him in all His glory. What would you ask if you had just one question? What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us? Just a stranger on the bus, tryin' to make his way home?" I think of George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord," that speaks to me of seeking that same light of the Divine in my siblings who practice other religious traditions or no faith tradition at all. "My sweet Lord, Oh, my Lord, My sweet Lord, My sweet Lord. I really wanna be with You, I like to see You, Lord, Oh, it takes so long."

The list is far too long of the songs that take me to another place, deep inside my mind, heart, and soul, or force me to look beyond into the world, places, spaces, faces of those I meet along the journey of life and faith.

Christian Scharen, I believe, speaks to this sacramental experience of God in all there is in his chapter on “Secular Music and Sacramental Theology” in the book “Secular Music & Sacred Theology” edited by Tom Beaudoin when he writes,

*“Lady Gaga draws upon the baptismal sensibility of dying and rising, saying no to the inequality that makes some powerful and others marginal, and saying yes to a God-given equality and created goodness. Her embrace of design, costume, and dance performance lend an explicit sense of creative freedom to her call to be true to God’s creative intentions for each person. Esperanza Spalding’s intimate and passionate merger of instrument and song evokes a joining not unlike communion, become one body with musical forbears (Eddie Harris and Miles Davis), musical community in the present (Bobby McFerrin, the band, the audience) and the depth of her connection to God whose creative gifts overflow as healing and joy in the midst of it all. The word and sacrament of pop music gospel, sung and played for the sake of the gathered assembly of believers, a gathered assembly at the Grammys who despite their music industry status are nevertheless continually taken out of the moment and transported to that other place. A place where time shifts to no time and one can join in a communal experience of music with body and soul.”*

This diverse expression of the Divine presence is a worshipful experience soothing our soul, healing for our mind, body, and spirit. Seeking the Beloved Community is about knowing and experiencing God in all there is. The spark, the light, the image of the Divine in the diverse, rainbow tapestry of humankind. We find that diversity in the gathered community in so many ways, and for me I feel it so deeply in the sacrament of music. It is part of who we are, it is who we are as we walk and dance to the rhythm of the universe, the rhythm of the Divine.

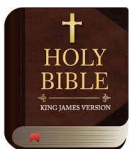
Until Next Time,  
Love One Another.  
Every. Single. Other.  
Until there are no others,  
Only One Beloved Community of All.

~ Rev. Kent

**New Hope Shelter  
Open House 4-5-24, at 3pm**

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**Mission Minute Sunday 4-14-24  
New Hope Shelter  
- Brian Bisbee, Director  
-Harlan Rittgers**



**THUMC Bible Study  
for Women  
led by Sue Swender  
THUMC Library,  
Thursdays, at 12:30pm  
Bring your Bible!**

## **BOOK CLUB**

Do you enjoy reading books? Do you enjoy discussing what you've read with a group of friends? If so, you might be interested in the Trinity Heights Book Club. For more than 10 years, a group of women have met monthly in THUMC library to share their thoughts about the book they've read. The Book Club meets at 2 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, January through May. Members take turns choosing a book and leading the discussion. If you're interested, you may contact Marian Stubbs (316-518-8830) for more information.

## *Coffee with Kent*

**Thursdays 9:30am to 10:30am-ish**

**Located at the 1887 Coffeeshop on Bethel Campus in North Newton.**

**No particular agenda other than strengthening our connection and deepening relationships. Just an informal time of conversation around the table. We will simply visit about whatever comes up or whatever anyone wants to visit about.**

**Join me for conversation, connection, and a cup of your favorite morning beverage!**

**I'll be glad you did!**



## *Thank You*

Thank you **Piecemakers Quilt Group** for all the amazing quilt and sewing projects that you provide to the community. Your beautiful work is a blessing to many. They meet each Tuesday, from 9am-2pm at THUMC if you are interested.

We appreciate and are grateful to those who volunteer with the **THUMC media team** each Sunday. This is something that everyone can do! Feel free to sign up for just one time if you like. Training will be provided. Contact Nancy Johnson for more information. Your work is a blessing to all.

Thank you to the **Missions committee** and to all who support Harvest of Love Food Drive, Safe Hope supplies, volunteering time at New Hope, and much more. Thank you!

Thank you to all who support **WOW**. Thank you Stephanie Anton, Christian Education Coordinator for all the work you have done with WOW. We appreciated the amazing meals. I hope nobody missed out on those! Stephanie had great activities and classes for the children. We look forward to the children coming and participating again.

Thank you Kay Larson for helping out in the **church office** on Thursday, March 7. We appreciated you filling in! Thank you!



# Prayer Requests

## Prayers for Celebration

## Prayers for Recently Hospitalized

## Prayers for Healing

Patricia Wheeler  
Joanne Kilgore  
Barb Stucky  
Cindy Gruver

## Prayers for Hope

Our Sister Church in Zimbabwe

## Prayers for Loss

## Prayers for Shut-ins

Lee Cannon	Duane Miles
Vere English	Ottmar Lang
Bev Gering	Shirley Long
Marge Graham	Iva Reber
Phyllis Greene	Maria Ward
Bill Kepley	Chris Wilson
Myrna Iwig	

## BIRTHDAYS

1 - Kaylene Dicken  
1 - JoAnne Wharton  
1 - Zane Wilken  
2 - Ezri Mitchell  
3 - Mason Rossiter  
6 - Brittany Dalke  
9 - Brian Boegel  
9 - Erin Mosiman  
9 - Staci Schroeder  
9 - Kendall Winter  
9 - Stephanie Winter  
10 - Payton Artaz  
11 - Patrick Call  
14 - Ann Walker  
18 - Sean Tomlinson  
19 - Deb VanDerWeg  
20 - Mike Davis  
20 - Lorraine Richards  
21 - Bennett Thurston  
23 - Amy Brown  
23 - Bev Gering  
24 - Marci Brenneman  
24 - Zander Mitchell  
25 - Ethan Tomlinson  
27 - Eugene Rossiter  
28 - Kay Dalke  
28 - Gavin Meyer  
30 - Jo Hodge  
30 - Frank Meacham

## ANNIVERSARIES

6 - Mark & Linda Lyles  
14 - Rob & Carol Koehn  
20 - Pete & Donna Goering



### Trinity Heights

#### United Methodist Church

1200 Boyd Ave. Newton, KS 67114  
Phone: 316-283-6410  
office@trinityheightsumc.org

Church office hours Monday - Thursday  
9:00-12:00 & 12:30-3:30 pm

### Program Staff

Rev. Kent Little, Senior Pastor  
Stephanie Anton, Christian Ed. Coord.  
Diane Hite, Office Manager  
Joan Wulf, Music Coordinator  
Nancy Johnson, Choir Director and  
Digital Media Coordinator

### YouTube livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewtonTrinityHeightsUMC>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/newtontrinityheights/>

### Website

<https://www.trinityheightsumc.org/>

### Giving

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YHMB/home>

Trinity Heights UMC

1200 Boyd Avenue

Newton, KS

New Worship Series

April 2024 though May 2024

Sundays 10:00am in the Sanctuary or Online

@ <https://www.youtube.com/@NewtonTrinityHeightsUMC>

11:15am in the Fellowship Hall

Embracing All in God's Love  
Sanctuary  
Community  
Renewal



2024

New Worship Series

*The Soundtrack of Our Lives;  
Faith in the Power of Music*

April 7 – Holy Humor Sunday – *Is this a Joke?*

April 14 – 60's – I Want to Hold Your Hand – The Beatles

April 21 – 70's – I Will Always Love You – Dolly Parton

April 28 – 80's – The Power of Love – Huey Lewis and the News

May 5 – 90's – The River – Garth Brooks

May 12 – 2000 - Where is the Love – The Black-Eyed Peas

May 19 – 2010's – Home – Phillip Phillips

May 26 – What Was I Made For? – Billie Eilish

APRIL

*Friendly Reminder*

7 - Holy Communion

14 - Mission Minute

20 - THUMC Respite Care Pulled Pork Fundraiser

21 - 7pm Executive Board Meeting

Welcome adults to  
**Challengers Sunday School Class.**  
Bring your coffee Sunday at 11:15am  
to the classroom near the  
north entrance. Current study is  
*Wrestling with Doubt*  
by Adam Hamilton.

**Media Team** is open to everyone.

You can do this!

Feel free to sign up *one time*.

Training will be provided.

Contact Nancy Johnson



**Newsletter Deadline**  
Wednesday, April 17  
for the May  
Newsletter



For more info:  
(620).755.3343

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# PULLED PORK Fundraiser

RSVP BY  
APRIL 15



Silent auction included!

*Dinner by Donation*

Day: April 20 Time: 5:30 Doors open  
Address: Trinity Heights UMC 1200  
Boyd Newton

4:30-5:30  
Drive-Thru

All proceeds support  
Trinity Heights Respite  
Care

