

Trinity Times

Summer 2025



My first summer in my last parsonage I learned that it was necessary to close the sliding glass door in the kitchen before darkness fell. Once it was dark, no matter how quickly I did it, or how many interior lights I shut off first, large numbers of flying insects would enter the house in the moments between pushing aside the screen and sliding shut the glass door.

One muggy evening I was lingering at the kitchen table, engrossed in a book. It wasn't until I heard the buzzing of a half dozen dragonflies at the screen that I realized with dismay that outside was the blackness of night. The dragonflies were large and wild and beautiful with their long, thin bodies and glistening wings. The cats were mesmerized by the insects' frantic movements as they thrust themselves against the screen, seeking entrance to the well-lit kitchen. I sighed, knowing the challenge I now faced as I tried to keep the cats safely in and the dragonflies safely out, while I closed the door for the night. I shepherded the cats away from the screen, extinguished the kitchen and hallway lights, turned on the outside light to lure the dragonflies away, tapped the screen a few times to encourage them to scatter, then quickly as I could, slid the screen door to the right while pulling the glass door to the left.

But I wasn't fast enough. One reckless dragonfly squeezed through the small opening. With amazing speed, the cats pounced, and within seconds, the dragonfly was dead. The cats had followed their natural instinct, and once the insect ceased to move, they simply walked away, no longer interested.

But as I looked at that beautiful insect lying lifeless on the floor, I found myself thinking and feeling more than I would have expected at such a small event. I wondered why an irresistible urge compels insects to enter where harm or death awaits, and why we humans succumb to compulsions that bring similar deleterious results. I grieved that I had contributed to the dragonfly's premature death, and I wondered how often we unintentionally do mortal damage to others. I agonized over my failed attempt to save all the dragonflies that had been dancing so delightfully outside my door, and I considered sadly how many times we mean to do good, but fall short of what was intended. I thought how fragile is life, and too often brief, and how important it is to live every moment fully.

Maybe I was just feeling philosophical that evening. Or perhaps I was simply paying more attention than usual to the life lessons going on all around me. Whichever it was, I was inspired by the dragonfly to consider how well, how carefully, how benevolently, I live – and to try to do better.

I have not forgotten the dragonfly, nor what, in its dying, it taught me about life.

Pastor Eileen



July 6 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**
Holy Communion

Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13 **5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Amos 7:1-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 20 **6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 27 **7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

August 3 **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Hosea 11:1-1; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 10 **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Holy Communion

Scriptures: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 17 **10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 24 **11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 31 **12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Scriptures: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1: 7-14

**Trinity United Methodist Church
New York Annual Conference Report
June 22, 2025**

The 226th New York Annual Conference was held at the Hilton Stamford Hotel and Executive Meeting Center from June 6 - June 8, 2025. The theme of this year's Conference was ***Hope with Joy "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*** Romans 15:13 NRSVUE

WORSHIP AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Annual Conference opened Friday, June 6. Members of the Conference were welcomed by members of the Shinnecock Nation.

Opening worship and Holy Communion was led by Bishop Thomas J Bickerton. In his opening words, the Bishop reminded us we are called by God again and again to remember who we are and whose we are. Even in a world filled with anxiety and stress on many levels, the Holy Spirit invites us not to lay aside our fears but to wade in the water and face our fears. Are we willing to wade in the water especially in the communities where we live?

Three Superintendents from New England Annual Conference and Bishop Ernest Lyght convened with us.

In his Communion message, the Bishop reminisced about his early days in the No More Malaria campaign in Sub Saharan Africa where he learned about white privilege. He told a story about a missionary who became lost in the jungle. A local man agreed to lead him out of the jungle but instead was led even deeper into the jungle. When the missionary cried out WHERE IS THE PATH? The guide answered, I am the path! The Bishop told us there is power in words - that three words make the world a place that God meant it to be – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion! These words have now been made unacceptable and we are lost in the jungle. So, in today's world, where is our path? Where is the Hope? Where is the Joy? Jesus is the way. Jesus said, put my joy in you so your joy will be complete. God provides us one opportunity after another to get our act together and find hope with joy. There is joy, divinely given, in the midst of the jungle providing us with the opportunity to dare tell others there is a better way.

In his State of the Church Episcopal Address, Bishop Bickerton began by stating it is amazing we are still standing after the turmoil of the last decade. But every decade has its turmoil. As Roseanne Roseannadanna said – “Well, Jane, it just goes to show you, it’s always something!” Here we are – still standing! Resiliency is the reason. And the Holy Spirit fills us up with this resiliency.

He told us about the challenges of being the Bishop of two Annual Conferences – seven states and over a thousand churches. This new reality was the result of necessity but gives us an opportunity for new hope. The two Annual Conference are learning through collaboration how to bring a spark of new hope to the New Hope Episcopal area.

The Bishop spoke about a new climate in our midst – a climate inconsistent to everything we stand for as United Methodist people. But this new climate may make it easier for us to be church. Research shows there is a hunger for something deeper than Secularism. It is time for us to offer what we know best: a message of grace, hope, justice, joy and love!

The United Methodist Church has developed a new vision that focuses on three statements: Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously (find more at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/umc-resources/vision-of-the-umc>). The Bishop believes appointing clergy to Cooperative Parishes to serve communities not a single church will bring our message to communities seeking hope with joy in our chaotic climate. It is our time! We must be willing to change the old ways and embrace a new way to serve.

A Memorial Service was held for clergy, clergy spouses, widows and widowers who passed away since our last Annual Conference. It is the tradition that when a clergy member’s name is raised in remembrance, those present whose lives were touched by her/his ministry stands. I was honored to stand when Rev Fredric Jackson’s name was read.

A Celebration of Ministry was held for nineteen retiring clergy. Eight Local Pastors were licensed and three Provisional Elders and one Provisional Deacon were commissioned.

At Ordination, on June 8, the Bishop apologized for the harm done to the indigenous nations on whose land he lives and serves and our Conference lives and serves.

The Bishop asked - do you dare to dream with God today? The Bishop baptized two babies and two children and confirmed several youths. Five clergy were ordained as Elders in the United Methodist Church. In his Ordination message, as all gathered to celebrate the faith we all share, the Bishop reminded us that we are not alone. God claims every one of us. This is God's intention from the beginning of time – one of the greatest signs of hope with joy - God never gives up on humanity even when humanity "messes up.". Referring to Paul's words in Ephesian 4, the Bishop said "lead a life worthy of our calling....Ponder Paul's words - humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love, unity and peace. If we can make these words part of our lives, we can share in the immeasurable witness of God's grace in kindness through Jesus. That's what hope with joy looks like."

BUSINESS AND CORPORATE SESSIONS

Bishop Bickerton called the business session to order on Friday, June 6 and continued on Saturday, June 7. Business conducted was as follows: election of new members to Conference Boards, Commissions and Committees; Board election, Immigration Law and Justice; presentation and approval of an \$8.5M budget; reading and approval of multiple reports; presentation of multiple awards; reading of appointments; presentation of legislative reports; presentation and approval of the Consent Calendar; and approval of resolutions that came to the plenary.

During the Corporate session, the Board of Trustees presented its report which included the sale and purchase of church properties. One Trustee was elected. Members of the Conference approved the closing of the following United Methodist Churches: Jamaica: Queens Hispanic, Bushwick, Narrowsburg, and Immanuel– First Spanish. Approved the name change of Grace-Hanson UMC to Heart of Life UMC. The transfer of the property of UMC: White Plains to the New York Annual Conference was approved. And the merger of Hudson: TUMC and Philmont UMC was approved.

James Perkins, Conference Chancellor, reported there are currently four cases (down from seven) pending against various defendants in New York State courts under the Child Victims Act alleging sexual misconduct. New York Annual Conference has been named as a codefendant in these four. A number of sexual abuse claims asserted against local churches in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceeding remain.

These claims are anticipated to be resolved as part of an approved plan in bankruptcy. The United Methodist Church is contributing approximately \$30 million to a fund set aside to settle these claims. New York Annual Conference's contribution to this fund is \$770,360. NYAC will seek contributions from local churches to share in the costs of the settlement. NYAC has been named in one case filed with New York Courts under the New York Adult Survivors Act alleging sexual misconduct. There are a number of suits that have arisen out of the Discipline paragraph #2553 disaffiliation process, which ended on December 31, 2023. Those suits concern ownership of property of churches which did not follow the disaffiliation process. In one case, a Connecticut Superior Court has ruled it cannot intervene in church matter upholding the UMC 's Trust Clause. A complete Corporate report can be obtained at www.nyac.com.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS

Legislative Sections were held on June 6. The sections were: (1) Ministries of Witness - Connectional Ministries and Ministries of Nurture – Societies, Institutions and Foundations; (2) Ministries of Advocacy; (3) Leadership/Commissioning and Administration; and (4) Clergy Care and Conference Finance. Each section presented and voted on reports and petitions.

I attended Clergy Care and Conference Finance. All reports were accepted. The only petition presented was passed with 100% approval. After lengthy discussion, the group approved, retroactively, the purchase of a fleet of cars for use by the district superintendents. Some members questioned the savings projected by the Conference Treasurer. The 2024 General Conference voted to discontinue new contributions to the existing CRSP Pension Plan and established the Compass Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2026. All clergy serving 100% time will automatically be enrolled in Compass beginning Jan 1, 2026. Retired clergy will continue with the old plan. The budget was amended and referred to the plenary vote.

Important petitions approved in other Legislative Sections included - **Petition 2025 AC #101: Denouncing the Use of the Doctrine of Discovery Against the Shinnecock Nation**. This doctrine is being used by the Town of Southampton, NY in zoning matters. And **Petition 2025 AC #201: Establishing the Standing Committee on Queer Inclusion, Equity, & Celebration (SCQEIC- Pronounced "Squeak")**. Its purpose is to actively support the LGBTQIA+ laity and clergy.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At the 2020/2024 General Conference, four amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church were present and passed by a large number of the delegates. The amendments are: Regionalization, addition of UMC member protected categories, adding language that strengthens our church's commitment to racial justice, and adding Local Pastor as eligible to vote for delegates to General Conference. Each Annual Conference will vote on each amendment. Every vote counts. Approval requires a 66.67% of all votes cast. Results will be published after all Annual Conferences meet and vote on the amendments.

Regionalization

The idea behind regionalization is to create structures that allow for greater flexibility, so each region — like the U.S., Africa, or Europe — can govern and operate in ways that are more culturally relevant while still maintaining a shared core of Christian belief and mission. Now the UMC 's structure is the United States and many Central Conferences. The structure would become several Regional Conferences. All Regional Conferences would share the Constitution, doctrinal standards, the ministry of Christians and Social Principles. None of these can be changed by any regional conference, only by General Conference. A Regional Conference could publish its own regional Book of Discipline, Hymnal and Book of Worship; set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry; set requirements for membership; develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws of each country; reorganize annual conferences and districts or charge conference to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts; and work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country.

UMC Membership Protected Categories

This amendment adds “gender” and “ability” to paragraph four, article four of the United Methodist Constitution. This section is titled “Inclusiveness of the Church” and outlines the list of categories of people who cannot be denied participation or membership in the UMC. Said another way, this change means a pastor may not deny a person membership in the church because they have a disability, are female or male, married or single, young or old.

Our Commitment to Racial Justice

The new language would serve as a framework and charge for the UMC's commitment to addressing and eliminating racism in all its forms.

Voting Eligibility for Clergy Delegation

The new language clarifies the meaning of an M. Div. degree for licensed local pastors and specifies that the degree must come from a University Senate-approved theological school. There are 55 approved seminaries (15 UMC and 40 non-UMC).

If you want to learn more go to:

<https://www.nyac.com/need-to-know-constitutional-amendments>

I am honored to be your Lay Member to New York Annual Conference. I encourage you to visit www.nyac.com to become familiar with your Annual Conference. There you can find petitions and resolutions presented at Annual Conference, the 2025/2026 Appointment Book, a calendar of Events, the Conference staff, church and clergy directories and the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline.

Yours in Christ,
Patsy M Boisvert
Lay Member to Annual Conference

Trustee Corner

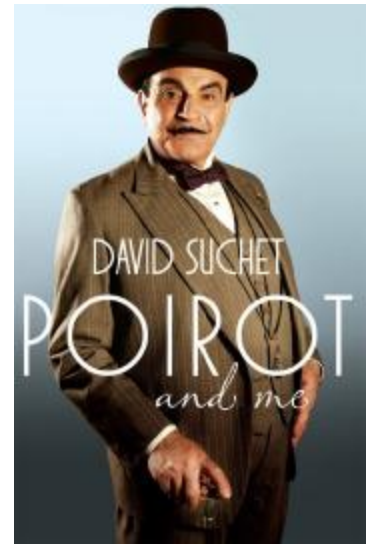
The Church work day on Sunday June 1st was very successful. We had many members working to improve the church property. Thanks to all that worked that day.

- Gardens were weeded
- The storage shed was reorganized
- Fellowship Hall windows were cleaned
- Kitchen cabinets were reorganization
- The ADA ramp railing was prepared for painting
- Work began on the new pollination garden

Previous to work day, the school play area received additional ground cover. The school children assisted in spreading the ground cover.

Book Corner by Patsy Boisvert

In the summer of 2013 David Suchet filmed his final scenes as Hercule Poirot. After 24 years in the role, he played the character in every story that Agatha Christie wrote about him (bar one, deemed unfilmable) and he bid adieu to a role and a character that have changed his life.



In *Poirot and Me*, David Suchet tells the story of how he secured the part, with the blessing of Agatha Christie's daughter, and set himself the task of presenting the most authentic Poirot that had ever been filmed.

David Suchet is uniquely placed to write the ultimate companion to one of the world's longest running television series. Peppered with anecdotes about filming, including many tales of the guest stars who have appeared over the years, the book is essential reading for Poirot fans all over the world.

Roundtable Discussions

No meetings in July or August. Meetings will resume in September.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Webpage: <https://trinityumclagrange.org>

Worship Recordings

Use this link to see the worship recordings on the Trinity YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeNePmj0UUjXh3c0aXixbVO>



Mid-Hudson

Good Neighbor Walk

This year's walk is scheduled for **July 26th at 10:00AM** and is being held at **St. John's Lutheran Church** on Wilbur Blvd in Poughkeepsie. This is a great event to raise money for the ministry of Love INC. We will have face painting, food, raffles, and gifts! Grab all the information in the links below and share with your church, your friends, your coworkers and loved ones!

[Good Neighbor Walk Flyer](#)

[Sponsor The Walk](#)

[Become A Walker](#)

We hope to see you there!



Find out more about Mid-Hudson Love INC

July & August Food Pantry

Bagging: Tuesday, July 29th at 10am in the parish hall.

Distribution: July 31st from 7-8 pm.

Bagging: Tuesday, August 26th at 10am in the parish hall.

Distribution: August 28th from 7-8 pm.

Helpers should try to be there by 6:30 pm.

If you normally take part in our food pantry distributions and will be on vacation or otherwise unable to take part, please notify Marcia Grant as soon as possible so a substitute can be found for you.

FYI: We no longer need cloth recycled bags, since people have been so generous, and because the Regional Food Bank has made large recycled bags available. As a result, we hope to discontinue the use of the smaller paper grocery bags and use only standard size 17" high paper bags (with or without handles). Many thanks for all your support. It is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks!

Marcia

Yoga

Beginner/All Levels "Align & Refine"
RajaHatha Yoga

Trinity United Methodist Church

Tuesday Class 5:30 - 6:45 pm

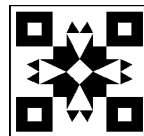
Thursday Class 6:00 - 7:15 pm

Saturday Class 9:00 - 10:15 am



*please arrive 10 minutes prior to start of class.

*class cost: \$5 (20% donated to church)



Trinity
Piecemakers

The Trinity Piecemakers will meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Meeting dates will be posted during church. Please contact Debbie Beattie at: 845-223-5584 for more information.

Adult Bible Studies

Please join us - all are welcome

Weekly Adult Bible Studies with a time of prayer and praise via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Contact Clay Beattie, 223-5584

Trinity United Methodist Church
6 South Cross Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 6 th	4 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Holy Communion</i>
July 13	5 th Sunday after Pentecost
July 20	6 th Sunday after Pentecost
July 27	7 th Sunday after Pentecost
July 29 th	Food Pantry bagging
July 31 st	Food Pantry Distribution
August 3	8 th Sunday after Pentecost
August 10	9 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Holy Communion</i>
August 17	10 th Sunday after Pentecost
August 24	11 th Sunday after Pentecost
August 26 th	Food Pantry bagging
August 28 th	Food Pantry Distribution
August 31	12 th Sunday after Pentecost

The Trinity Times

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