

## *From the Desk of the Pastor*

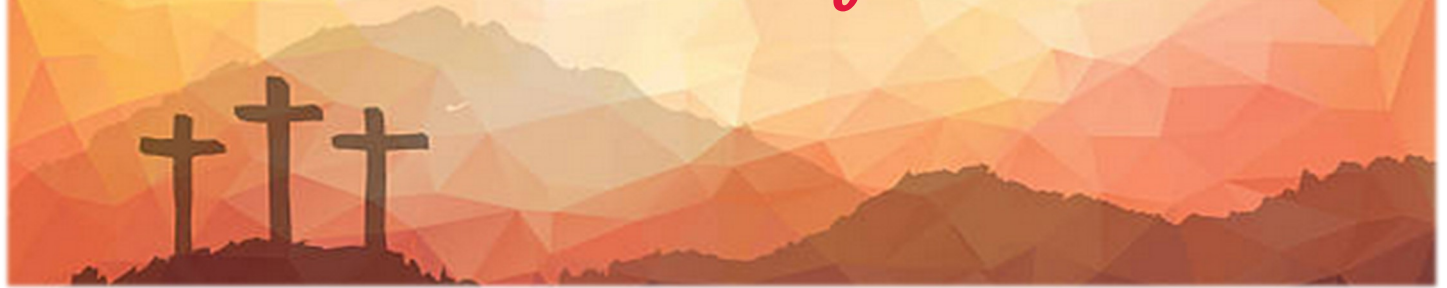


I want to share with you the United Methodist Stance on how we treat school children who are Immigrants. This was written by the Holston Church and Society Committee. As United Methodist we are called to “love our neighbors as ourselves” as Jesus told us and we believe we stand up for social justice. We have a responsibility to make a difference.

### ***Holston Church and Society Committee Statement in Opposition to TN Bills***

*Every child living in Tennessee should have the opportunity to enroll in public education. All children are made in God’s image and are of sacred worth and value. Yet, children in our United Methodist Holston Conference churches and communities, who are living in Tennessee, may soon be denied public education, if proposed bills (House bill 793/ Senate Bill 836) are passed. Education of all children is affirmed by Scripture which calls us to “train children in the way they should go” (Proverbs 22:6). This legislation is not just discriminatory, but it also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment as explained in the United States Supreme Court decision, Plyler v. Doe (1982), which recognized that public education should be available to all children, regardless of immigration status. The Supreme Court affirmed that public education “has a fundamental role in maintaining the fabric of our society” and “provides the basic tools by which individuals might lead economically productive lives to the benefit of us all.” We stand with the members of our community that are being targeted by this legislation, because we understand that “if one member suffers, all suffer together ...” (1Corinthians 12: 26a).*

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Children living in Tennessee in our United Methodist Holston Conference are in no way responsible for their immigration status, and schools serve as a means for education, socialization, and job skill training. "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were once aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Lev. 19:33-34)." As United Methodists, in accordance with our Social Principles, we are called to oppose all laws and policies that attempt to dehumanize displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees (United Methodist Church Council of Bishops December 18, 2024, Pastoral Letter; Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G.). We in the United Methodist Holston Conference stand with our immigrant neighbors to strongly oppose this legislation.

In Christ,  
Pastor Linda



# **CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**



### *Lenten Bible Study*

Pastor Linda's Lenten Bible study will continue on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. The study will follow the book *LUKE: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. The last day of the study will be Tuesday, April 15th.

### *Yoga for Seniors*

Trinity's Yoga for Seniors class will continue on Thursdays at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge to participate, and everyone is welcome! If you have a medical condition, please consult your physician before taking the class.

### *One Heart Community Closet*

The One Heart Community Closet will open on Saturday, April 5th, from 10:00 am to noon. The ministry will be accepting donations of men's clothing and shoes, women's shoes, children's clothing, and snacks. They are also in need of prayers for the families visiting the closet. Please contact Jane Whitaker if you would like more information.  
(865) 986-8741 or [janewhitaker45@gmail.com](mailto:janewhitaker45@gmail.com).

### *UMW Meeting*

Come join us Monday, April 7th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation from Jane Whitaker on "Creation Care."  
All are welcome!!

## *Upcoming Events for Holy Week*

### *Pancakes & Palm Fronds*

Trinity will host a churchwide Palm Sunday pancake breakfast on April 13th, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge, but a love offering will be taken.

### *Good Friday Service*

Trinity's Good Friday service will take place on April 18th, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

### *Church Office Closed*

The church office will be closed on Friday, April 18th, in observance of Good Friday.

### *Easter Sunrise Service*

Trinity will join the First Church of God and the Maranatha Church of the Harvest on Sunday, April 20th, at 7:00 am for an Easter sunrise service at Lenoir City Park at 6707 City Park Drive Lenoir City, TN 37771. A light breakfast will be served.

### *Traditional Easter Service*

Celebrate Easter at Trinity! Our Easter service will take place on Sunday, April 20th, at 11:00 am in Sanctuary.

### *Meet & Greet*

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Easter Sunday, April 20th, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered. Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green peas, deviled eggs, baked pineapple casserole, hot rolls, and yellow cake with cream cheese icing will be provided. Everyone is welcome!





### *Board of Trustees*

The Trinity UMC Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:00 pm in the New Visions class room.

### *Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting*

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, April 21st, at 5:30 pm in the New Visions classroom.

### *Missions & Outreach Meeting*

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, April 30th, at noon in the conference room.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then they remembered his words.

Luke 24:1-8



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## *April Birthdays*

<i>April 1</i>	<i>Billy Robinson</i>
<i>April 2</i>	<i>Walter Hines</i>
<i>April 3</i>	<i>Melanie Robinson</i>
<i>April 8</i>	<i>Mike Pearce</i>
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Emma Calvin</i>
<i>April 16</i>	<i>Flo Valentino</i>
<i>April 19</i>	<i>Caroline Robinson</i>
<i>April 21</i>	<i>Jo Lynn Blomquist</i>



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Come join us Monday, April 7th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation from Jane Whitaker on “Creation Care.” All are welcome!! *“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.”* (United Methodist Social Principles, 160.)

We will also be taking a love offering to replace the tree at the front of the church. Come join us and share in fellowship with one another. It’ll be a good day!



“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.”

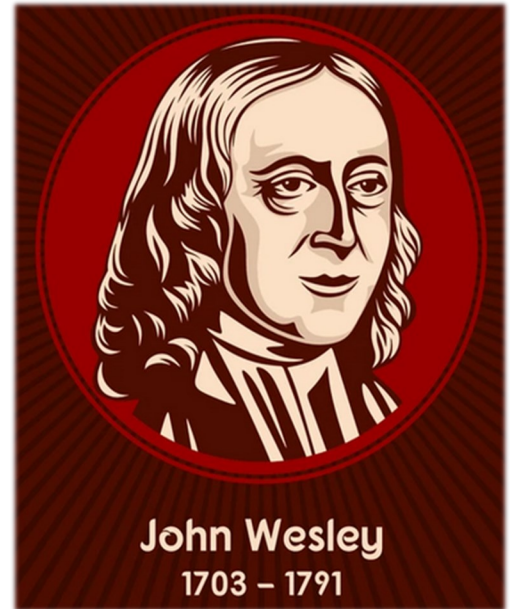
Job 12:7-10

## Wesley's Words

John Wesley to slaveholders in America:

“Be you a man, not a wolf, a devourer of the human species! Be merciful, that you may obtain mercy! And this equally concerns every gentleman that has an estate in our American plantations; yea, all slave-holders, of whatever rank and degree; seeing men-buyers are exactly on a level with men-stealers. . . You know [slaves] are procured by a deliberate series of more complicated villany (of fraud, robbery, and murder) than was ever practised either by Mahometans or Pagans; in particular, by murders, of all kinds; by the blood of the innocent poured upon the ground like water. . . O, whatever it costs, put a stop to its cry before it be too late: Instantly, at any price, were it the half of your goods, deliver thyself from blood-guiltiness! Thy hands, thy bed, thy furniture, thy house, thy lands, are at present stained with blood. Surely it is enough; accumulate no more guilt; spill no more the blood of the innocent! Do not hire another to shed blood; do not pay him for doing it! Whether you are a Christian or no, show yourself a man! Be not more savage than a lion or a bear!

... If, therefore, you have any regard to justice, (to say nothing of mercy, nor the revealed law of God,) render unto all their due. Give liberty to whom liberty is due, that is, to every child of man, to every partaker of human nature. Let none serve you but by his own act and deed, by his own voluntary choice. Away with all whips, all chains, all compulsion! Be gentle toward all men; and see that you invariably do unto every one as you would he should do unto you.”



Wesley, John 1774. *Thoughts Upon Slavery*. Printed in London 1774. Printed in Philadelphia in 1778 and sold by Joseph Crukshank. Found online at [https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000091/000000/000001/restricted/2002\\_09\\_10/wesley/thoughtsuponslavery.html](https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000091/000000/000001/restricted/2002_09_10/wesley/thoughtsuponslavery.html)





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b> 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 am - Noon One Heart Community Closet
<b>6</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion 5th Sunday of Lent	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting in New Visions classroom	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am DAR Meeting in Fellowship Hall
<b>13</b> 8:00 am - 10:00 am Pancake Breakfast 11:00 am Worship Palm Sunday	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>18</b> Good Friday Church office closed	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 7:00 am Sunrise Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Easter Luncheon Easter Sunday	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting in New Visions classroom	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:00 pm Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal			