

From the Desk of the Pastor

“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” I Peter 4:10

My heart is filled with gratitude for your wonderful hospitality during my first month at Trinity. Thank you for sharing Christ’s love with my family and me. I’d especially like to thank all of the faithful servants who worked very hard to renovate my new home. I enjoy living close to the church so I can befriend our neighbors and learn more about our community.

During my first month, I asked you to complete a “Getting to Know You” form. Thanks to all who have participated so far! You still have time to share that information. As Charge Conference season approaches, I’d like to ask you to consider completing another form for me. The pastor of every UMC congregation serves as the Chair of the Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee, and every pastor serves alongside the Lay Leader and other elected members of that team. As I prepare to lead this important ministry of the church, I wish to know about your spiritual gifts, talents, experience, and willingness to serve. I will have a Time & Talent Survey available soon for everyone to share with me.

As Christ’s followers, we have a strong belief that the sharing of our spiritual gifts will strengthen the Church. An inspirational message is recorded in Romans 4: “The whole body, ...as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Let’s pray in unity for the Lord to use our gifts and abilities to promote love, hope, justice, and peace, while praying also for us to reach more persons for Christ. I see evidence of your history of faithfulness, and I look forward to witnessing the Lord’s answers to our prayers for a hopeful future. I look forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Blessings,
Barbara

Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, August 3rd, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Lasagna, garlic knots, pecan pie, ice cream, and an assortment of cookies from Ham & Goody's will be provided. Please bring a festive summer side dish or salad to share. Everyone is welcome!

United Methodist Women

The Trinity UMW will meet on Monday, August 4th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin planning for our annual Grannie's Attic Sale to be held on Friday, September 5th, and Saturday, September 6th. All ladies are welcome to join us on the 4th as Terri will share some new ideas for our sale and share our working dates as we set up and prepare for the sale. Bring your calendars, please. Looking forward to getting back together again and joining in fellowship and friendship. See you then!

Cookies & Conversations

We hope you will join Pastor Barbara for "Cookies & Conversations" on Monday, August 4th, at 2:00 pm in Tellico Village or Wednesday, August 6th, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings are an opportunity for Pastor Barbara to get to know the congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Back to School

As the children return to our local schools, we pray that they have a safe and happy school year!

Choir Rehearsal

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 6th, at 6:00 pm.

Yoga for Seniors

Trinity is offering a Yoga for Seniors class 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.

Save the Date

Calling ALL available fellas to help set up the Grannie's Attic racks on Monday, August 11th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We do so appreciate your assistance. Thank You!

Admin. Council & Finance Committee

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will meet during the month of August.



Upcoming Events

Staff Meeting

Pastor Barbara will hold our monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm in the New Visions classroom.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, August 27th, at noon in the conference room.

Walking Group

Interested in forming a walking group? Some folks are interested in promoting good health while enjoying Christian fellowship. See Pastor Barbara for details.

UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery

If you wish to participate in the world-wide effort to relieve hunger and suffering in the Middle East and Gaza, please consider making a donation to UMCOR. Write your check (or mark your cash offering envelope) to Trinity UMC with "Gaza Relief" on the notation line.

On the first Sunday of this collection, Trinity has already generously donated \$1,330.00! Thank you for helping during this critical time. Learn more about UMCOR's efforts at their website: www.umcor.org.

Upcoming Events



Sale Dates: September 5th and 6th, 2025

Now accepting your gently used items for the upcoming sale. Pre-sorting like-items and clothing sizes at home is much appreciated.



Clean clothing
Kitchen items and glassware
Home décor
Linens
Toys / Games
Shoes / Purses
Jewelry

Small appliances (working)
Holiday décor
Tools
Sports equipment
Craft supplies
Furniture



Electronics.
Books
Broken, moldy, stained or incomplete items



The last day to bring your items to the church is September 1st

Thank you for supporting our Women's mission work!

July Financial Update

Stewardship in Action

We are grateful for the continued generosity of our congregation during July. Offerings received this month helped us meet our essential expenses and support our outreach programs.

As we reflect on our financial journey through July, it is evident that the dedication and generosity of our congregation continue to make a meaningful impact. Consistent support from members has enabled us not only to meet our commitments but also to strengthen the foundation for ongoing and future ministry. We are pleased to share that *all* apportionments are current, further demonstrating our faithfulness in stewardship and responsibility.

Year-to-date, total giving to the budget stands at \$126,737, while budgeted expenses are \$121,837, resulting in a budget *surplus* of \$4,900. Thank you for faithfully investing in our church's mission and ministries.

Blessings,

Mike Pearce, Treasurer

Memorials

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Ralph Carnathan

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Deb Counce

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Judy Hester

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Bonnie Ledbetter

*In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by the Lenoir City High School
Class of 1959*

In Memory of Victor John Przysiezny by Rev. Barbara Clark

In Memory of Victor John Przysiezny by Bonnie Ledbetter

Missions & Outreach

THANK YOU, GENEROUS TRINITY!

This year you have given \$927 for the purchase of Lenoir City Schools Backpacks to be distributed by Good Samaritan to the children in our community!!! WOW!



Trinity United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 606
Lenoir City, TN 37771

7/25/2025

Dear Friend,

Thank you for being a partner as we serve our Loudon County community facing difficult life situations and choices. Your gift allows us to be there in these critical times of need with assistance of food, utility payments, rent/pharmacy needs and much needed dental care. You make all the difference in the lives of our clients and their families. Food for their cabinets, A/C for their homes and many other items that we often take for granted. Working together, we make a difference in the lives of so many.

Our Sincere Thanks,


Misty Parker
Executive Director

*Thank you for
your generosity!*

Donation: \$927.00

****Notice: No goods or services were provided in return for this gift. Please retain a copy of this receipt for tax purposes****

The specific program we supported was their LC School Backpacks, but as you see Good Samaritan meets so many more needs in our community! Thank you, Good Samaritan!

Church & Society



A Faith Based Perspective on Poverty in Zimbabwe

By: Tafadzwa Chikawa

Growing up in Mutare, Zimbabwe, I came to understand poverty not as a distant concept but as an everyday struggle experienced by people I knew and served. As a youth leader in the United Methodist Church's King David Circuit, I was raised in a community that emphasized faith in action. Through this foundation, I was shaped by our church's consistent outreach work, particularly to Gwese Circuit, a rural United Methodist congregation in Mutare Rural District.

In Gwese, the reality of poverty is pervasive. Food insecurity, limited access to education, early marriages, and chronic under-development are common. During our church mission visits, we delivered food parcels, school materials, and spiritual support. We listened to mothers struggling to feed their children and met students forced to drop out due to school fees. These visits were more than acts of charity they became for me a profound call to justice, rooted in faith.

According to the 2022 Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), Manicaland Province has one of Zimbabwe's highest poverty rates, exceeding 70%. "The 2023–24 El Niño drought devastated harvests, leading to a 66% reduction in maize production and placing over one million people in Manicaland in need of food assistance," the Manica Post 2024, Zimbabwe Newspaper.

In rural areas like Gwese, families depend on subsistence agriculture and have no safety nets when crops fail. Hunger, malnutrition, and educational disruption follow. The situation is particularly dire for children and youth. According to Youth Village Zimbabwe, a youth information portal, Manicaland recorded over 13,000 teenage pregnancies and 161 cases of child marriage, many driven by economic desperation in 2024.

“With the cost of living rising and the food poverty line increasing, access to school and healthcare has become unaffordable for many,” NewsDay Zimbabwe, 2024.

As a church, we are called to respond. The United Methodist Social Principles affirm that “As a church, we recognize the importance of creating just, equitable, and sustainable economies that benefit all members of society, especially marginalized and vulnerable peoples.” The United Methodist 2025 –2028 Social Principles, The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, A., Globalization

These principles remind us that poverty is not simply a development issue—it is a matter of justice and discipleship.

The United Methodist Church has taken steps to address these challenges. Locally, circuits such as King David UMC have offered scholarships, food aid, and mentoring programs to youth in rural areas like Gwese. Regionally, Africa University, a UMC institution in Mutare, continues to train leaders in agriculture, education, and health, creating capacity for long-term change.

Globally, United Methodist Agencies like the General Board of Church & Society and UMCOR have supported relief and development work in Zimbabwe. Yet, the scale of the crisis requires deeper, sustained action.

The recent reduction of USAID funding to Zimbabwe has worsened poverty in rural communities like Gwese, where international aid has historically filled critical service gaps. In areas already reeling from

drought and economic instability, this funding cut has deepened hunger and placed even more pressure on overstretched local churches and community groups.

From my perspective, in order for the Church to help address poverty, it must expand its role in three ways:

- **First**, it must invest in sustainable rural development, including drought-resilient agriculture, small-scale irrigation, and food cooperatives.
- **Second**, it should strengthen education and scholarship programs, prioritizing rural girls at risk of early marriage.
- **Third**, the Church must engage in policy advocacy, ensuring that rural voices like those in Gwese are represented in development planning and national budget consultations.

The story of Gwese is not only about hardship, it is about resilience. It is about faith communities stepping in where institutions have failed. As someone formed in this context and now serving at the General Board of Church & Society, I believe our Church has both the theological mandate and the institutional capacity to respond. Poverty in Gwese is a call to act not out of charity alone, but out of justice rooted in the Gospel. In the work of peace and justice, faith and advocacy are not separate they are one.



Tafadzwa Chikawa, is a recent graduate of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe (June 2025) earning a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Social Work.

Growing up in Mutare, he learned early on the value of community. At Hartzell High School, Tafadzwa served as Vice President of the Leo Club, leading donation drives for orphanages and senior homes. Through his involvement with King David United Methodist Church in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference, he held various leadership roles in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, including Secretary and Vice President.

Serving in the Ethnic Young Adult Internship Program at the General Board of Church and Society, Tafadzwa is planning to grow as a communicator, advocate, and servant leader, creating meaningful change in both the church and society.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion 12:00 pm Meet & Greet Luncheon	4 10:30 am UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm Cookies & Conversation in Tellico Village	5	6 5:00 pm Cookies & Conversation in 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	8	9
10 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	11 10:00 am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup Day	12	13 10:00 am - 12:00pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 5:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	15 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day	16
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