

# From the Desk of the Pastor



During this Lenten Season it is my prayer that your hearts will be filled with God's goodness, grace, forgiveness and love. This is such a beautiful season of the year, a time for us to look at our lives closely, not for shame or guilt, but for transformation. I read **Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett's blog** that can also be found on Holston.org, about the four actions of repentance and it touched my heart. I hope it will touch your heart as well.

*Lent consists of the 40 days immediately prior to Easter, excluding Sundays. Though Lent was originally a period of fasting and preparation for the baptism of new believers, this significant season of the year has evolved into a time of penance for all Christ-followers. So, as we begin Lent today, I am highlighting repentance.*

*Repentance sounds like a deeply theological word that is daunting, distant, and discouraging. In reality, though, it is a common and uncomplicated practice! Today, I will name 4 actions that lead to repentance.*

## *Action 1: Recognition*

*Repentance begins with us recognizing that we are going in the wrong direction. This is what the prophet Isaiah is talking about when calling the people to "loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free." (Isaiah 58:6) We can apply this to our social structures. The psalmist personalizes the need to repent when he writes in Psalm 51 "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." (Psalm 51:3)*

*Where in your life are you going in the wrong direction? During this Lenten season, will you join me in identifying those areas of life where we need to change direction in order to walk more fully in Jesus' way?*

## *Action 2: Sorrowful Confession*

*Repentance is about more than recognizing that we are off track. It continues as we experience sorrow for hurting God and others and confess our sin, asking God's forgiveness. The prophet Joel states this beautifully when he says, "Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." (Joel 2:12)*

*Where in your life do you feel deep sorrow for hurting another person and/or disappointing God? Will you join me in seeking God's forgiveness for our wrong attitudes, words, and actions?*

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## Action 3: Forgiving Others

*Jesus teaches the disciples to pray. Halfway into the prayer, Jesus says to God, “And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 9:12) So, repentance requires that **we** forgive those who have hurt **us**. True repentance does not allow us to hang onto grudges and ill feelings to others. Forgiving those who have caused us pain is not about earning God’s love and grace. Rather it is in response to all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Is there someone in your life you need to forgive for hurting you or a loved one? Are you harboring resentment toward a person or group of people whose actions or attitudes have made your life harder? Though forgiving others is not always fast or easy, Christ-followers strive to forgive as Jesus forgives us.*

## Action 4: Change Direction

*In his sermon “Salvation by Faith,” John Wesley speaks of repentance as an act of faith that leads to conversion. (Sermon 1: “Salvation by Faith,” III.4) This means that we change direction so that we are walking God’s pathway.*

*And in the process, we are transformed. This is what II Corinthians 5:20b-21 describes. “. . . we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” As we repent, we change more and more into the likeness of Christ. And we grow in our capacity to walk in the right direction.*

*How do you sense God is leading you to change direction? What will it require of you? What is the next step for you to take in turning around?*

*May this Lenten journey from the wilderness to the cross transform our lives, give us new direction and turn our hearts and lives back toward our God of infinite mercy!*

In Christ’s love,

**Pastor Linda**

# Upcoming Events



## One Heart



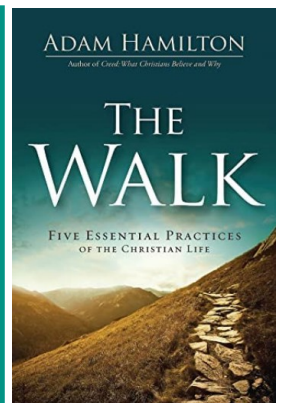
One Heart will continue to receive donations of winter clothing (in all sizes) for new families in our community. The community closet will be open 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 4th.

## UMW Meeting

The women of Trinity UMW will meet on Monday, March 6th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

## Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Linda's Lenten Bible study will continue on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. The study follows the book *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton.



## Yoga for Seniors

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

# Upcoming Events



## Meet and Greet

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, March 12th, in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The meat and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a salad to share. Everyone is welcome!

## Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, March 13th, at 5:30 pm.

## Daughters of the American Revolution

The General William Lenoir Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on Saturday, March 18th, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

## Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts will host their annual international festival to celebrate World Thinking Day on Saturday, March 25th, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Girl Scouts USA is a member of WAGGGS - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Each troop chooses a different member country to present and they learn all about life and Girl Scouting in those countries, taste food from each country, and each troop also presents a short song/dance/skit from that country.

# March Birthdays



## Happy Birthday!

Carla Wiggins	March 2
Terri Pearce	March 8
Jeran Stinnett	March 8
JoAnn Laughlin	March 13
Jody Qualls	March 14
Wanda Queener	March 15
Louis Dotson	March 16
Connor Pippin	March 19
Phil Reed	March 25
Harriet Williams	March 25
Perry Reed	March 26
Angie Hicks	March 28
Denise Brookshire	March 29

# Church News



## Trinity Treasurer's Report February 28, 2023

A Trinity 2023 Budget of \$213,085 has now been approved. Giving in January and February 2023 was strong, and we are on pace to allow us to meet the budget. We adopted a policy at the last Finance Committee meeting to pay our conference and district tithes on a monthly basis. Thanks to your generous giving we will be able to keep our commitments.

### **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.**

Because some annual bills such as taxes, insurance, service contracts, etc. are paid in January and February, the budget/expenses are skewed until mid-year.

You may donate by Check **mailed to:**

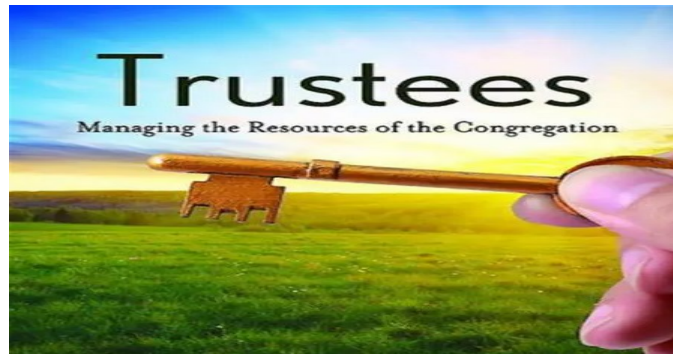
Trinity UMC

P.O. Box 606

Lenoir City, TN 37771

Check or cash **dropped in the slot to the right of the office door on C Street.**

Automatic Bank Transfer – please contact the office at 865-986-2325.



The Trustees have been active and here are the Trustee accomplishments over the past six months:

- One of the two AC compressors in the sanctuary 15 ton unit was replaced.
- The water heater in the janitorial closet began leaking and this was replaced. The water heater feeds the bathroom sinks, janitorial sink and children's room sink.
- We held a work day in October to demo the rotted carport on the rental property and clean up the over grown fence rows.
- We had the large pecan tree on the rental property cut down and removed. This tree was a potential hazard to the church building and rental property. We are also in the process of getting the large maple tree on the rental property cut down. The maple tree is rotten in the middle as can be seen by the sizable hole in the trunk.
- The kitchen hood vent fan had seized and the fan motor has been replaced.
- The door from the pastor's office to the fellowship hall has been removed and the wall closed up.
- We are in the process of installing a garbage disposal in the kitchen with this expected to be complete in the very near future.
- We are currently working through the bid process to select a company to seal the entry points into the attic over the sanctuary and rid this space of the squirrel infestation.
- We are also working to obtain bids to remedy the water intrusion problem along the front of the building between the building and the ramp. Once this problem is remedied, we will begin repair work on the walls inside along the front of the building.
- We plan to begin work to repair the ceiling in the New Vision Sunday school classroom.
- We held a work day in February to clean out the storage area of the attic where years of old unusable items had accumulated and have now been hauled off.

Trustee Chair, Allen Bass

# A Special Thank You



Thanks to Ab Brookshire, Joey Brookshire, and Walter Hines for placing the beautiful cross of Tennessee marble in the flower bed. The cross was purchased with donations given to Trinity in memory of June Kinkaid, Frances Keebler, and descendants of Major William Ballard Lenoir whose family founded Trinity in 1867.



## Memorials

*In Memory of Gilbert Hartsell given by Jack Hammontree*



# United Methodist Women



In honor of Valentine's Day, the Trinity UMW made valentines for the residents of River Oaks. The valentines were hand delivered to each resident, along with candy and a quick visit with those that were available. The recipients of the valentines were touched that someone thought of them and it gave us the warmth of giving someone a smile and brightening their day.

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. The UMW will host the 25 Wesley House Grannies for lunch and Bingo. The UMW members will provide the prizes for Bingo. You may start bringing items now, storing them downstairs in the last room, aka the Christmas Room, on the bookshelves. Items to purchase for this event include:

- Toilet paper
- Bar soap
- Dish soap
- Talcum powder
- Toothpaste
- Denture cream
- Laundry detergent
- Kleenex

And yes, these items seem odd for Bingo prizes. We are so blessed...What seems normal things for us to have at home are hard for them to purchase. It's quite sad that someone would be so happy to receive such everyday items to us. So please be generous and let's plan on sending everyone home that day with overflowing shopping bags.

Our next meeting of the UMW will be Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will once again write cards with personal messages of encouragement and God's love. This month they will be hand delivered to "our kids" in Africa by Libby Dearing when she travels there later this month.





## *Lenoir City Children Say Thank You to Trinity!*



Trinity dedicated our twelve Hygiene Kits for children in our Lenoir City Schools on Sunday, February 12th. These kits will be given to homeless children and children from displaced families. Their parents will also be able to use these items too.

Our Santa's Helper Family Says Thank You to Trinity!

from:  
Ariana

Something special  
for you at Christmas...  
because you're  
appreciated all year!

I so appreciate your  
gesture of sending me  
this lovely gift. Thank  
you so much for your  
generosity, I know you  
spent your time picking  
out the perfect gift  
for me and I feel  
blessed. This thank you  
note does not do  
any justice for the  
beautiful gift you give  
me "God bless you"

Dear Santa helper

Thank you so much for my  
gifts. My favorite one was the  
mini bands and the scooter  
and all the other gifts. Thank  
you so much and Merry Christmas  
and good bless you

-Marilyn

Dear Santa helper

Thank you so much  
for the gifts. I enjoyed  
all of them mostly  
the shoes. Thank you so  
much and Merry  
Christmas,  
Dear Christian

From:  
Ashley


Something special  
for you at Christmas...  
because you're  
appreciated all year!

I want to take a  
moment and let you know  
how much you are appreciated  
you are a true angel to me  
and I'm more grateful to  
you than words can  
express. I thank you for  
your kindness and  
for being the wonderful  
amazing person you are

God bless you

Dear Santa helper, thank you very  
much for the Christmas gifts like  
the Jersey and the Soccer cleats.  
Have a wonderful Christmas and  
God bless you.

Dear Jordan



Thank you for your support of our families and  
schools! We hope that you have a wonderful  
holiday season with your family and friends.

may

Janet Lenoir City Schools Swan  
Family Resource Center Stacey

# March 2023

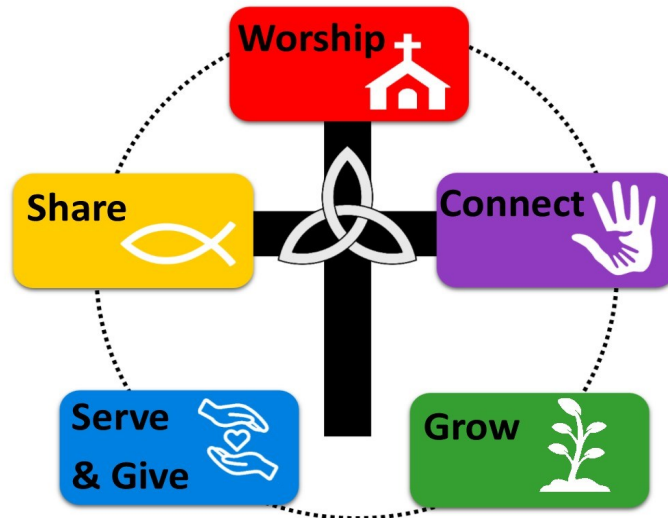


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Ministers' Convocation in Pigeon Forge, TN  6 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm One Heart Community Closet
<b>5</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship & Holy Communion	<b>6</b> 10:30 am UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>8</b> 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 pm Meet & Greet Luncheon	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm Admin & Finance Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>15</b> 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	 St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> 9:30 am - 1 pm DAR Meeting in Fellowship Hall
<b>19</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship UMCOR Sunday	 First Day of Spring!	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>22</b> 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00 pm Girl Scouts Festival in Fellowship Hall
<b>26</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study	<b>29</b> 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors	<b>31</b>	



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Disciples making Disciples  
to share the LOVE of Jesus Christ  
with our community  
and the world.



**Our Mission:**

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Discipleship Keys: Worship, Connect, Grow, Serve, Share**