



## From the Desk of the Pastor

Our prayer team has begun a breakthrough prayer ministry:

*Gracious God,  
breakthrough our personal lives, and the life of this congregation, and  
whatever holds us back for living fully into our lives with you!*

We are at the threshold level of our breakthrough prayer ministry. In other words, we do not even know where to begin or what to ask God for in our future ministries at Trinity. First it is important to be open to surrender to what God has new in store for us. To bring new life sometimes there has to be a death. Before the resurrection, Jesus had to be crucified. In those three days before the resurrection, all seemed hopeless and fearful. For God to do what God wants in our lives and our church we must be willing to surrender and allow God to shake things up.

In planning and thinking about our Advent Study, I always struggle. I usually order at least three books and read them to see if they speak to my life, because if they don't move me they probably won't move you either. I am excited about the book I found for Advent 2024, "Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation" by Will Willimon. I want to share with you the synopsis of the book.

"Watch out. God is on the way. It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

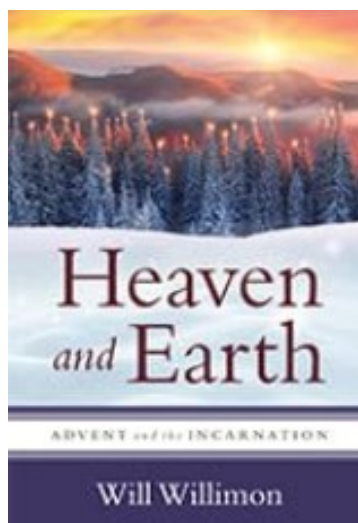
In Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.”

Chapter One of the book begins with “Meanwhile”, using Mark 13:24-27, 32-37) which is an apocalyptic text with God shaking up the world we live in – “the whole cosmos shaken.” Sometimes we have to let go of our securities to experience God among us. Willimon says in chapter one, “God is about more than mere healing, moral renovation, or a helpful spiritual nudge for individuals. God’s intentions are not less than cosmic: heaven and earth shaken, darkened sun and moon and stars falling from the sky” (p. 6). “God keeps working with the world, bringing something out of nothing, light out of darkness, and form out of chaos, birthing a new you out of the old” (p. 9).

Come and see how God is shaking us up and forming us into new creations with the descension of God’s son Jesus. How is God being incarnate in each of our lives and the life of our church and the life of the world? I hope you will join us for the earth-shaking Advent Study. We will begin this study on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am during Advent. I will offer it also on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm if we have enough folks interested in the night Advent Study. Please let me, Pastor Linda Bass or Sarah Jane know in the office if you are interested so we can get the books ordered before the class begins.

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Linda*





# Upcoming Events

## 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, October 5th, from 10:00 am to noon. The community closet will be open on the first Saturday of each month during winter. The ministry will be accepting donations of coats, sweaters, and warm bedding. They are especially in need of men's clothing.

A volunteer host is needed for each month, to be present and welcome visitors. A sign-up list will be provided, or contact Jane Whitaker if you want more information. (865) 603-8741 or [jane Whitaker45@gmail.com](mailto:jane Whitaker45@gmail.com).

## United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on Monday, October 7th, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall to discuss distributing the money raised from the rummage sale.

*Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:32*





## Upcoming Events

### Grief Support Group

In an effort to continually serve the community, Caris Healthcare is hosting a grief support group for those who may be experiencing grief and loss. Of course this is open to those who have lost loved ones, but will be appropriate for those grieving loss of employment, pets, and other significant losses. We hope this will provide emotional support as well as positive coping skills. We have been given meeting space at:

Trinity United Methodist Church at  
300 W. 2nd Avenue, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

The plan for the group would be to meet at 10:00 am to 11:30 am on Mondays beginning this month. The group will follow the basic patterns of *Understanding Your Grief* by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., of The Center for Loss and Transition. This material covers 13 weeks. (The group is limited to 10 participants and we need at least 6 to make the group viable.) Please call Caris Healthcare, Lenoir City, at 865-988-8034 to secure a space. Ask for Chaplain David Lovett. (There will be a brief assessment to ensure each person is appropriate for the group.)

### Board of Trustees Meeting

The Trinity Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:00 pm in the conference room.



### Daughters of the American Revolution

The Gen. William Lenoir Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on Saturday, October 12th, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

### Meet & Greet

Trinity's monthly Meet & Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, October 13th, in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Pork chops, cinnamon apples, and yellow cake with caramel icing will be provided. Please bring a salad or side dish to share. Everyone is welcome to attend!

### Meet & Greet Program

Please join Gina Kinkaid at our Meet & Greet on October 13th, immediately following our church service. Based on her own experience personally, as well as with friends and family, Gina began working with others to navigate the complex world of Medicare. It's so confusing! This will be an educational program to share the basics of Medicare, and expected Medicare changes for 2025. Do you have questions about Medicare? Gina can help you with the basics. Many of you may know Gina since she grew up here at Trinity, and is June & Larry Kinkaid's oldest daughter. Bring your questions while enjoying this time of fellowship with each other. See you on the 13th!



## Upcoming Events

### Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, October 14th, at 5:30 pm in the New Visions classroom.

### Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 16th, at 5:00 pm in the conference room.

### Historical Society Meeting

The Historical Society of Loudon County will meet on Sunday, October 20th, at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Joseph Blanco will give a presentation on "The Tellico Blockhouse." Everyone is welcome to attend!

### Energizers

The Energizers will host a game of Bingo and a potluck lunch on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.  
Everyone is welcome to attend!

### Girl Scouts Trunk or Treat

The Girl Scouts will host a Trunk or Treat in the Trinity parking lot on Saturday, October 26th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



# Upcoming Events

## Missions & Outreach Meeting

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

## New Ministry

Are you struggling with understanding your insurance benefits? Have you received a medical bill, either up front or after services that you may not think you owe? I am here to help! Knowing your plan benefits is the first step towards figuring out if your statement is right or wrong. I have worked in this field for 25+ years and have had multiple conversations with insurance companies on the patients behalf towards claim payment, among other responsibilities in that realm. The medical and dental insurance world is a bit confusing for sure! Looking forward to helping out to the best of my ability!

In His service,  
Regina Carl



# October Birthdays



## Happy Birthday!

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Harvey Sproul       | October 8  |
| Sol Thomas          | October 8  |
| Dale Jacobsen       | October 13 |
| Scarlett Hamilton   | October 15 |
| Caroline Brookshire | October 16 |
| Jim Campbell        | October 17 |
| Jack Hammontree     | October 19 |
| Pam Kirkpatrick     | October 25 |
| Pat Miller          | October 28 |



# Meditation Moment

At each Leadership Council meeting, Bob Bruer, Administrative Council Chair, leads a “Meditation Moment” devotion. Since Bob is also on the Breakthrough Prayer Team, we wanted to share this with congregation.

**No one has ever seen God.** These are the words of Gospel writer, John, as he introduces Jesus to his readers in the first chapel of the Gospel. John goes on to say: *It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.* Read John’s Gospel story. John believes that Jesus had seen God. And throughout his Gospel story, John shows Jesus showing what God really looks like. And that look is quite different than the one being found by many of John’s early readers in their study of their Bible (our Old Testament). And that look is quite different than the one being found by many modern day readers in their study of their Bibles, regardless of translation, readers from all denominations.

Jesus showed us the face of a compassionate God – a face of love, mercy, and grace. Jesus showed us the very face of God – a God who loves each person as if they were the only person to love, and who loves every person as He loves each. Every last one. No exceptions. No person excluded.

Each of the Gospel writers had their own audience in mind and their own way of telling their Gospel story. Therefore, we can gain new insights from each one. All of the Gospel writers picture Jesus spending a lot of time in prayer, praying in all kinds of situations. Prayer it seems, must have been central to Jesus’ life. Gospel writer Luke had an interesting way of showing us the impact on Jesus’ disciples of being with Jesus every day and seeing the important place he gave to prayer in his life. In chapter 11 of his Gospel, Luke tells it this way: *He (Jesus) was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him “Lord, teach us to pray...He said to them, “When you pray say...”* And he gave The Prayer, a little shorter, but very similar to the prayer the Church found placed it in Church liturgy, and we say it

in Matthew's Gospel, called it the Model Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, together in our worship each Sunday. Jesus' disciples, after seeing him, over and over again, praying, were moved to say to him, ***"Lord, teach us to pray."***

Gospel writer Luke wrote a sequel to his Gospel. The early Church titled it The Acts of the Apostles and included it in our Bible. In both, the last few words of his Gospel, and the first few words of The Acts, Luke tells his story of Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Acts account gives some details not in the Gospel account that I expect Luke felt were important for his interests in writing Acts. Luke writes, with Jesus speaking: ***"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth."*** When he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said ***"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"*** Luke continues: ***Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying...Luke then enters the names of the eleven disciples...All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. I think it is almost certain that the early readers of this story in Acts were reminded of another story of great importance to them from their history. It is the story of another ascension into heaven by one of their ancestors, Elijah. (We can find that story in chapter 2 of 2 Kings in our Bibles.) It is more than an ascension story. It is the story of the transfer of the mantle of responsibility to be God's prophet. Transferring from Elijah to Elisha. Those early readers of Luke's story would recognize this. I think Luke wanted his readers to recognize that his Acts story also included another transfer of a mantle of responsibility. A transfer continuing Jesus' mission on earth, transferring it from Jesus to his disciples to the Church, then from one generation of the Church to***

the next. By the time Luke wrote this, the transfer may been moving to the second generation of the Church. Almost 2,000 years later, that generational transfer still occurs. The world should be able to see the Face of God, what God really looks like, by looking at the Christian Church. Wow! What a responsibility!

I also see in Luke's story above the skeleton of an outline for what we are trying to initiate into a movement involving the entire church in the idea, or focus, that has been called Breakthrough Prayer. First, we, our Church, are standing together looking up toward heaven, to the Giver of Life. Then we come together in our room, our sanctuary, devoting ourselves to prayer. As a church, we pray in unison, not praying the same words, not praying at the same time, but as a church, praying in unison. We ask God to show us the things we need to be doing. We ask God to show us how to do these things. We ask God to help us do these things. And we follow God's leading, not our own.

The Gospels show that in many of his encounters with people, Jesus included an invitation: ***"Follow me."*** It seems to me that during the entirety of his earthly ministry, Jesus' time was spent with his disciples and other followers that were drawn to him, his teaching, his advice, his encouragement, his admonishment, all these things meant for their good, could be wrapped up in ***"Follow me."*** That continues to be his call to us today, to the Church, to the world, ***"Follow Me."***

***Our Father in Heaven, we praise your holy name. We want to follow you. We want to do the things that please you. As individuals, as a committee, as a Church, please show us and help us understand what you would want us to do. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, please show us how to go about doing the things you would have us to do, and help us to do those things. Amen.***



## Memorials

*In Memory of Pat Cate given by Jack Hammontree*

*In Memory of Pat Miller given by Jack Hammontree*

*In Memory of Pat Miller given by Bonnie Ledbetter*

*In Memory of Jim Sasser given by Jack Hammontree*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Olivia & Warren Clark*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Jo Alison Cortez*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Jean Griffith*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Jack Hammontree*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Bonnie Ledbetter*

*In Memory of Sylvia Sproul given by Ann & Bob Maroney*

*In Memory of Margaret VanWormer given by Olivia & Warren Clark*

*In Memory of Margaret VanWormer given by Ann & Bob Maroney*





United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

What a Wonderful Grannie's Attic Sale we had!! At our last report UMW has collected \$4,000!!! Just amazing.

And Trinity we want to say Thank You and to let you know how much we appreciate all the effort, time, thoughts and prayers that lead to such a successful weekend.

And we can't forget ALL the fellas and gals that joined us throughout the days/weeks in prep time, set-up, unpacking, hanging clothes, setting up jewelry, setting up every specific special room, pricing, baking, working the sale days and then the task of taking it all back down until we do it all again next year. Whew!!

And another special thanks to Melanie Robinson, who daily brought either yummy donuts or sausage biscuits for us to enjoy as we worked and then made pinto beans and cornbread for our Friday lunch and pimento cheese sandwiches for Saturday! And can't forget Denny Van Wormer's delicious chili for our Friday lunch too. It was a perfect addition. Thank you, guys!

Thank you too to our cashiers Sandra and Jane who kept track of all the transactions. Well, done!!

And our final Standing Ovation goes to both Terri and Mike for their many hours planning, organizing, ordering necessary supplies and products that made our sale so much more efficient before the sale actually began and who over the past few years have put in place such a complete plan that each year as we roll out for the next year it becomes easier and easier!! Take a bow! You both deserve It!!



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



And in September UMW purchased eight (8) Hygiene Kits, five female and three male for our Lenoir City Schools Family Resource Center. We dedicated them Sunday, September 22nd.

Unfortunately, they have had two house fires and two homeless families. Because this was a more immediate need than usual our United Methodist Women stepped in and donated some additional funds to support this request. Ann Maroney and Walter Hines again served as our "expert" shoppers. Susan Fox, Director, of our LC Schools Family Resource Center said, Thank You for our quick response. As we pray for our church please say a prayer for these families too.





| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday   |
|---|--|---------|---|--|--------|--|
|   |  | 1       | 2<br>6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  | 3<br>10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall                                    | 4      | 5<br>10:00 am - Noon One Heart Community Closet                                  |
| 6<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Worship  | 7<br>10:30 am UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall<br>6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting                                      | 8       | 9<br>6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  | 10<br>10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall<br>11:00 am Dolan-Flagler Wedding | 11     | 12<br>9:00 am DAR Meeting in Fellowship Hall                                     |
| 13<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion<br>12:00 pm Meet & Greet | 14<br>5:30 pm Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting in New Visions classroom<br>6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting | 15      | 16<br>6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal   | 17<br>10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall                                   | 18     | 19   |
| 20<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Worship<br>3:00 pm Historical Society Meeting     | 21<br>6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting  | 22      | 23<br>11:00 am Energizers Bingo & Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall<br>6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 24<br>10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall                                   | 25     | 26<br>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Girl Scouts will host Trunk or Treat in TUMC parking lot |
| 27<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Worship   | 28<br>6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting  | 29      | 30<br>12:00 pm Missions & Outreach Meeting<br>6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal                         | 31<br>10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall                                   |        |  |