

From the Desk of the Pastor



Dear Trinity family,

I have included an announcement sent out by Holston Conference for our Echo. Please pray for our Elected Delegates as they serve this year at the General Conference.

In Christ,

Pastor Linda

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is the top legislative body of the denomination, responsible for making decisions on behalf of the entire United Methodist community. It convenes every four years as a forum for delegates to set the policies for the work of the church, to adopt the worldwide denominational budget, and to strengthen the mission by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

During the General Conference, delegates address a wide range of issues including local church administration, social justice, and organizational structure. Important decisions, such as revisions to the Book of Discipline (the denomination's rulebook) are made during these gatherings. The conference is designed to be a representative assembly, with delegates elected from annual conferences, across the globe, based on the number of members in each area.

While the General Conference provides a platform for collective decision-making, it is also a place where differing opinions within the denomination may be discussed. Debates on a variety of theological and social issues have been prominent in recent years.

Overall, the General Conference plays a crucial role in shaping the direction and identity of The United Methodist Church, fostering unity, and addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the denomination on a global scale.

The last, full, regular session of General Conference was in 2016. There was a special called General Conference held in 2019, and then the 2020 General Conference was postponed, due to Covid-19, but will now be held on April 23 – May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

As we move toward the convening of the 2020 General Conference in 2024, the Holston Invitation Team is working with our delegation to help us prepare for what's to come.

Trinity Echo, April 2024

Here are some of the things you can expect to see in the new year:

A comprehensive website within holston.org dedicated to the General Conference.

- Updates on legislation that will be voted upon. (It is important to note that proposed legislation published prior to General Conference (GC) may not be the same legislation finally voted upon at GC. Legislation can be amended, eliminated, substituted, or merged with other pieces of legislation.)*
- Explanations of how delegations are chosen and how the voting process works.*
- Weekly prayers leading up to General Conference.*
- Answers to questions surrounding disaffiliation. (Note: On October 28, 2022, the Invitation Team worked with the Holston Conference Trustees on a resolution that allows a gracious, fair, and non-punitive separation process for local churches at least through December 31, 2024 if the language in the Book of Discipline surrounding human sexuality changes in a way that causes a local church to believe it is untenable to continue as United Methodist, and the General Conference does not provide a new separation process. **See below for the complete resolution.**)*

There are always many questions and speculations that arise during a General Conference year. We implore you to double check things you hear before taking them as fact. We will do our best to keep up-to-date information on Holston.org, and we invite you to send any question you may have to delegation@holston.org. We also want to suggest checking out the official [General Conference website](#) for the latest information.

Blessings,
Holston Conference [Invitation Team](#)

Disaffiliation Resolution

***WHEREAS**, the 2019 called General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted ¶ 2553 of the Book of Discipline to allow congregations to disaffiliate gracefully from the denomination for reasons of conscience related to human sexuality by December 31, 2023; and*

***WHEREAS**, ¶2553 became effective as of the adjournment of the session of the 2019 General Conference as declared by the Judicial Council on November 1, 2019 in Decision 1385;*

***WHEREAS**, when ¶2553 enacted, the 2020 General Conference was scheduled to begin approximately a year after it became effective, but the 2020 General Conference was postponed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently scheduled to begin in May of 2024; and*

WHEREAS, if the 2020 General Conference had been held in 2020 or even in 2022 as the date to which it was first postponed, congregations would have been allowed time after the 2020 General Conference to understand fully any disciplinary changes and to discern whether to disaffiliate based on proposed legislation adopted by the 2020 General Conference; and

WHEREAS, Since the 2020 General Conference was postponed and General Conference will not convene until after ¶2553's sunset provision of December 31, 2023, discerning congregations face the burden of a deadline without the benefit of additional insight into legislation that may be adopted by the General Conference in 2024 concerning the future direction of The United Methodist Church or possible additional legislative pathways for separation of local churches; and

WHEREAS, the Holston Conference trustees empathize with congregations who feel rushed to make a decision by the known process described in ¶2553 rather than risking that legislation adopted by the 2024 General Conference might be less gracious;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Holston Conference resolves that if there are changes made at the 2024 General Conference related to human sexuality that cause our local churches to believe it is untenable to continue as United Methodist churches, the Holston Conference and its trustees commit – within the parameters of the Book of Discipline - to seek a gracious, fair and non-punitive separation process for such local churches at least through December 31, 2024;

***IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Holston Conference resolves to continue working to advance legislation that provides such a gracious, fair, and non-punitive separation process to be considered at the next session of the General Conference and to work collaboratively with other annual conferences to build consensus concerning proposed legislation that would fulfill the aspirations of this Resolution.*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Upcoming Events

United Methodist Women

The Trinity UMW will meet on Monday, April 1st, at 10:30 am at STAR (Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding) located at 11800 US-11 East, Lenoir City, TN 37772.

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.

One Heart Community Closet

The One Heart Community Closet will open on Saturday, April 6th, 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) 986-8741 or jane Whitaker45@gmail.com.

Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 5:30 pm in the New Visions classroom.

Board of Trustees

The Trinity UMC Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, April 9th, at 6:00 pm in the New Visions classroom.

Upcoming Events

Choir Rehearsal

There will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, April 10th. Please enjoy the night off!

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Gen. William Lenoir Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on Saturday, 13th, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Meet & Greet

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, April 14th, following worship. Please bring a side dish or salad to share. Everyone is welcome!

Historical Society of Loudon County Meeting

The Historical Society of Loudon County will meet on Sunday, April 21st, at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, April 24th, at noon in the conference room.

Celebrating Our Graduates

We plan to honor our graduates at our May Meet and Greet. If you have a relative that has graduated please send a picture and a short bio to the office. Please include the relationship to church member, where they have graduated and what their future plans are. We will have a display to honor our graduates in May.

Did You Know?

Did you know that from our first video-recorded service on March 29, 2020 (recorded solely on Jane's phone) through the most recent to date March 17, 2024 (using a 'bit' more advanced techniques!) that TUMC has uploaded **254** videos to YouTube?

This total is comprised of **218** services (including some special services) and **36** music videos.

The entire collection may be viewed at and selecting the "Videos" tab.
<https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityUMC-LenoirCity>

Under the "Playlists" tab is a playlist of the 36 music videos we recorded while not in-house during the pandemic.

*“For now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.”
-Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

April Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

April 2	Walter Hines
April 3	Melanie Robinson
April 8	Mike Pearce
April 10	Emma Calvin
April 10	Cindy Ogle
April 16	Flo Valentino
April 21	Jo Lynn Blomquist
April 22	Mitch Ledbetter
April 29	David Lee

Treats Await in the Library

I'm sure ninety percent of you know where our church library is, but just so you don't miss it, here are directions that don't involve a GPS or password. When you come in the side door of the church instead of going left into the sanctuary wander straight down the hall and enter the door on your right. Just follow the donation baskets for missions.

Enter a pleasant, peaceful room containing books for hours of pleasure. A sign out sheet is on the table in the middle of the room. Everyone is welcome to borrow a book. Now look around and choose an enjoyable book. Not sure what to read? Ask Joel Bonnan who is a regular reader. Interested in history? Ask Matt Brookshire who is a history buff. Deb Brown knows her way around the shelves and can suggest a good novel.

Some books are right off the best seller list. Others will help you plan a Sunday School lesson or a devotion. There is even one scholarly book written by our own Patsy Hammontree that will tell you all about Elvis Presley. You might find a cookbook with a great recipe for our next Meet and Greet. Having a little one for a visit? There is a diverse collection of children's books.

Come on in and sit a spell. Walter's left the light on for you!

Sarah Young, Book Worm

A Note from the Treasurer

Join Our Offering Count Team!

Dear Church Family,

We're seeking dedicated volunteers to join our offering count team. If you have a heart for financial stewardship and can spare a little time after services, we'd love your help. Training provided. Contact Michael Pearce at (865) 657-6165. Thank you for considering!

Blessings,

Michael Pearce

Memorials

In Memory of Denim Beeler given by Deborah Counce

In Memory of Dimple Browder given by Harvey & Sylvia Sproul

In Memory of Patsy Hammontree given by Ralph & Theresa Carnathan

In Memory of Patsy Hammontree given by Deborah Counce

In Memory of Patsy Hammontree given by Joe Spence

In Memory of Patsy Hammontree given by Harvey & Sylvia Sproul

In Memory of Patsy Hammontree given by Mary Beth Trout

In Memory of Ruth Ann Kelley given by Joe Spence

In Memory of Bob Stogner given by Jack Hammontree



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Trinity UMW will have our April 1st meeting at STAR Ranch. The meeting take place in the meeting area to the left of the door after entering the building at 10:30 am.

- Please consider thinking ahead to the May meeting when we will take casserole type dishes to Wesley house for the Grannies.

Below please see the invitation extended to us by Central United Methodist.

Central United Women in Faith and Central Funseekers (the group for members age 60+) are having a Spring Salad Luncheon on Thursday, April 18, at 12:15 pm in the Worship Center at Central UMC. The guest speakers will be from Isaiah 117 House and we are inviting all members from Central and Trinity to join us. Please bring any type of salad (meat salad, pasta salad, fruit or vegetable salad or sandwiches or a dessert to share--something from the grocery store deli works just fine!). Optional donation for Isaiah 117 House--newborn diapers, sheets for pack n play, infant clothes.

Wesley House Food Pantry Donations Collected by the UMW
March 2024

Vienna Sausage	94 cans
Peanut Butter	30 jars
Tuna	54 cans



Missions & Outreach

UMCOR Sunday Offering: Thank you Trinity again for your generous gift of \$675 to help underwrite the administrative costs of our United Methodist Committee on Relief. Those monies ensure that individuals around the world will receive assistance in their time of need, and that 100% of any contributions we give this year will go directly to that need.

Sports Equipment for Wesley House Youth Program: We have sent a check of \$550 to Wesley House for the purchase of sports equipment to be used for the children participating in their afterschool program. We thank you all for continuing to assist our children and youth in programs of support. This will make a difference!

Wesley House After School Snacks: And thank you too for so quickly and generously participating in a new outreach for the children at Wesley House by purchasing snacks for their afternoon eats. Mike and Terri drop off the snacks on their monthly trek to Wesley House. Thank You All!!

Wesley House After School Snacks Collected by Outreach March 2024

Cheese Crackers	2 packages of 6
Applesauce	3 packages of 6 cups
Fruit Snacks	100 pouches
Rice Crispy Treats	40 individual wrapped treats
Potato Chips	84 individual snack bags
Raisins	2 packages of 6
NutriGrain Bars	8 boxes of 8

April 2024

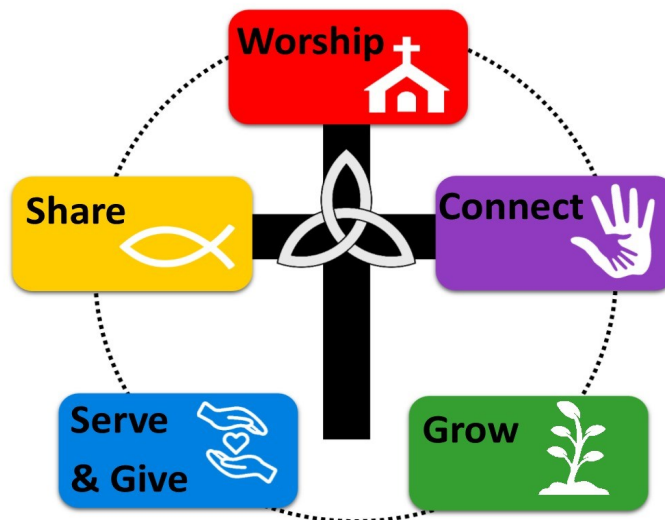


<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 10:30 am UMW meeting at STAR	2	3 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	5	6 10:00 am - Noon One Heart Community Closet
7 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion	8 5:30 pm Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting in New Visions Classroom	9 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting in New Visions Classroom	10	11 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	12	13 9:00 am DAR Meeting in Fellowship Hall
14 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 Meet & Greet	15	16	17 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall 12:15 pm Salad Luncheon at Central UMC	19	20
21 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Historical Society of Loudon County Meeting	22	23	24 12:00 pm Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	26	27 2:30 Fellowship Hall reserved for Baby Shower
28 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	29	30				



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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