

From the Desk of the Pastor



“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!” -II Corinthians 5:17

I'm very happy to experience my first Holy Week and Easter season with you! With the appearance of the springtime flowers and budding trees, we see anew the wonder of God's plan of bringing forth new life from the cold of winter. We witness this miracle in our faith, as well, with the Easter message of God's victory over death. By our Creator's gift of renewal and redemption, we are aware of his love for all of the world: in the beauty of sunlight, the unfolding of blossoms, the singing of birds, and even in the joy of all people of faith. Such love our Lord has for us and for creation!

One of the enduring aspects of this season is the hope our faith offers us through the joys, sorrows, and challenges of daily living. The fullness of Jesus' life serves as the revelation of God's plan of salvation for the world, and we have the privilege of witnessing the ongoing gift of his victory over evil and death. We find greater meaning in Easter by prayerfully reading the Scripture appointed for the days of Holy Week. This is our way of walking spiritually with Jesus through his final experiences on the way to the cross. Maundy Thursday's reading is John 13:1-17, 31b-35. Good Friday's gospel lesson is John 18:1-19:42. The reading for Holy Saturday is Matthew 27:57-66. We will rejoice to hear the Gospel story on Easter morning together!

During the season of Eastertide, April 5 – May 24, let's live intentionally as Easter people. I will emphasize this theme in our Sunday worship services, our programs, and our ministries. Let's honor the Lord by living out his glorious promises with our acts of love, justice, and grace. Thank you for the many ways you reflect Christ's love!

I wish you a meaningful and joyous Easter!

Blessings,
Barbara

From the Desk of the Pastor



April Lectionary

April 5 - Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 - John 20:19-31

April 19 - Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - John 10:1-10



Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to welcome our newest members, Loretta Jacobsen and Debra Simmons, who joined on March 29. The Lord continues to bless our church family!

Holy Week



Maundy Thursday

Trinity's Maundy Thursday service will take place on April 2 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday

The Sanctuary will be open on April 3 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm for the Good Friday prayer vigil. The church office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Flower Cross

Please remember to bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to adorn the cross at the bottom of the outside steps to the sanctuary.

Easter

Our Easter service will take place on Sunday, April 5, at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary with festive music for the occasion. Children are invited to stay through the first hymn and will then be dismissed to take part in an egg hunt with church volunteers.

Meet & Greet

The Meet & Greet luncheon will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered. Baked ham, peas and carrots, scalloped potatoes, baked apples, hot rolls, deviled eggs, marinated vegetable salad, pineapple casserole, Easter Bunny cake, and pecan pie will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Please invite your friends and family to join us in our Easter celebration!

Upcoming Events



One Heart Community Closet

The One Heart Community Closet will be open on Saturday, April 4, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

TMW Meeting

The Trinity Methodist Women will meet on Monday, April 6, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Yoga for Seniors

Meetings are every Thursday. The Level 1 class takes place from 10:30 am to 11:00 am. The Level 3 class takes place from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. Please consult your physician if you have a problem. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome!

New Sunday School Series

You are invited to join the New Vision Class for a 6-7 week study designed to help us explore the new vision statement of the United Methodist Church: *Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously*. The study is written by Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez. We will begin on April 12 with a video sermon by Bishop Burgos-Nunez presented at last year's Holston Annual Conference. For more information or to download the series go to: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/miracle-sunday-worship-study-resources#small-group-resources>. Contact Jane Whitaker, janewhitaker45@gmail.com, for more information.

Upcoming Events



Energizers Lunch and Bingo



Please join us for lunch, followed by Bingo on Wednesday, April 15, at 11:00 am. A big sandwich will be provided. Bring chips, a dessert, or beverage to share. If you have questions, see Terri or Mike Pearce. Everyone is welcome!

Scholarship Committee Meeting

The Scholarship Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 15, at 5:00 pm in the New Vision classroom.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, April 29, at noon in the conference room.

TUMC Choir

The Trinity choir is a wonderful group that enjoys getting together to sing. We really like sharing music that we hope will be meaningful to our friends in the congregation. If you have an interest in joining us to rehearse on Wednesday evenings to see if you'd like to perform with us on Sundays, please call Warren at 865-705-8014. We love having new folks in the choir loft!

Items of Note



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.

Memorials

In Memory of Brenda Hatcher given by Wilma Bickers

In Memory of Brenda Hatcher given by Jo Alison Cortez

In Memory of Brenda Hatcher given by Mike & Terri Pearce

In Memory of Brenda Hatcher given by Joe Spence

In Memory of Donald Perkey given by Bonnie Ledbetter

In Memory of Larry Rollins given by Bonnie Ledbetter

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Kris Allen

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Olivia & Warren Clark

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Joseph Construction

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Bonnie Ledbetter

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Mike & Terri Pearce

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Caroline Perkey

In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Phil & Lisa Reed

April Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

April 1	Billy Robinson
April 2	Walter Hines
April 3	Melanie Robinson
April 8	Mike Pearce
April 10	Emma Calvin
April 16	Flo Valentino
April 19	Caroline Robinson
April 21	Jo Lynn Blomquist
April 22	Mitch Ledbetter
April 29	David Lee

A Note from the Treasurer

Did you know...

In addition to our regular tithes, our church has opportunities to give “over and above” through designated funds that support specific needs within our church family. These gifts help us care for one another in practical ways—often behind the scenes.

Areas that could benefit from additional support include:

Care & Hospitality

- Mattress Ministry
- Congregational Care (funeral meals, flowers, and meals)
- Meet & Greet

Ministry & Outreach

- Missions
- Energizers
- Upper Room
- Music Reserve (Guest musicians, Choir music, etc.)
- Marketing

Facilities & Operations

- Utilities
- Building Maintenance and Supplies
- Office Supplies (including stamps)
- Building Security (Fire Detection, CO2 Monitoring, etc.)
- Telecommunications (Internet, phone, website)

These funds help provide comfort, create welcoming spaces, support families in times of need, and keep our church running smoothly. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a meaningful difference.

As you prayerfully consider your giving, we invite you to think about how you might contribute “over and above” your tithe. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support.

Michael Pearce



Trinity Methodist Women

You're invited to join our Trinity Methodist Women on Monday, April 6, yes that is the day following Easter, at 10:30 am to share in a presentation combining a little bit of Creation Care, Environmental Justice and Earth Day. Jo Alison Cortez will be the presenter. ALL women and their friends are always invited to join in a time of fellowship and community. It's a good time and hope you can join us then.

Wesley House Donations February 2026

Tuna - 31 cans
Vienna Sausage - 102 cans
Peanut Butter - 10 large jars, 9 small jars
Canned chicken - 12 cans
Dry Rice / Beans - 11 lbs.
Girl Scout Cookies - 3 boxes
Misc. Canned goods - 13
Cereal - 4 boxes
2 bags misc. candy
1 Ziplock bag of nutrition pouches
2 cases of new grocery bags

Thank you for recycling your grocery bags. They are VERY MUCH appreciated at Wesley House!

Missions & Outreach

Lenoir City Middle School Snacks for TCAP Testing: Trinity has been asked to join with others in a new Outreach for our Lenoir City Middle School students this April.

The students will be participating in the yearly TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program, mandated yearly for grades 3 -8) testing for one week and the administration is requesting donations of individually wrapped snacks and/or small bottles of water. Especially for many students, bringing snacks from home is not an option, and don't we all remember how some refreshment or a small bite can give us a lift under that stress!

We will collect snack items and small bottles of water on both Sunday, April 12, and Sunday April 19. Some suggestions for a "healthy" snack might be granola bars, nuts, peanut butter crackers or cheese and crackers that could hit the spot! We will have Marked Baskets located in the Education Hallway for your convenience.

Thank You for considering this new Mission Outreach to assist our young folk!

Lenoir City Schools Mattress Ministry: On March 17, Trinity delivered twin mattress sets to two families. First we delivered sets with sheets and blankets to a 17yr old girl and her father. Then we delivered one set to a 4yr old boy. These were our first deliveries using a twin memory foam mattress and platform bed frame. Our hope is by reducing the price of the twin sets but continuing to provide a quality product for our families, Trinity will be able to continue to be involved in this ministry to our community. It is such a vital one! We have now delivered 62 sets. And we never forget to say Thank You to both Ab Brookshire and Drew Griffith who make it all possible!!

UMCOR Sunday, March 15: Well you did it again Trinity, you outdid last years amazing generosity and on-going support for the continued work of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) by donating \$1,426.20 for the administrative efforts of those who work tirelessly in our names to open the doors for more people to find help, experience relief, and discover hope through long-term recovery. Your donation ensured that every dollar given to disaster response goes directly to communities in need. Thank You again, Trinity!!

Church & Society



Wesleyan Leadership: Lead Courageously

By Heather Hahn

Faced with an ever-changing and challenging world, United Methodists should remember that God has not left them with a spirit of fear.

Angela Pupino, student ministries coordinator at National United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., offered this reminder as part of [a March 21 webinar](#) on what it means for the church to “lead courageously.”

“I think one of the most powerful ways that the church can respond to [the division](#), [the war](#), [violence](#), any of [the concerning things](#) that are going on in our world, is not living and not leading in a spirit of fear,” Pupino said.

“There’s a lot of insecurity in our denomination right now — [just because of some of the realities that we are entering into](#), the new cultural realities. And Christ-centered leadership is not anxious. It is not fearful. It is brave.”

Pupino was among the panelists in the last of the three webinars [discussing the denomination’s vision statement](#). The online discussions are part of the preparation for [the Leadership Gathering that the United Methodist Council of Bishops has planned for Oct. 20-24 in Calgary in Alberta, Canada](#).

The renewed vision of The United Methodist Church, [after a painful season of church disaffiliations](#), is to form “disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”

Previous webinars focused on [how “love boldly” fits with the Wesleyan understanding of theology](#) and [how “serve joyfully” fits with the Wesleyan understanding of mission](#).

The March 21 webinar focused on how the third pillar of the denomination's vision — “lead courageously” — fits with the Wesleyan understanding of ecclesiology. That's a big, fancy word for the study of church life.

In practical terms, the leaders' discussion focused on how The United Methodist Church can create space for its members to go without fear wherever the Holy Spirit leads.

Part of what makes The United Methodist Church distinctive is its connection — the network that binds together United Methodist leaders and congregations across continents in a shared covenant of support and accountability.

In his ministry, Dave Uriel Angelo Rombaoa said he has seen the importance of the connection but also its limitations. He is the national youth fellowship president in the Philippines and youth co-chair of the denomination's newly created [Young People's Connectional Network](#). He also is the connectional conversations chair for [the Connectional Table](#), a leadership body that coordinates ministry across the denomination.

“The Spirit works through connectionalism, forming leaders in community, but also beyond it, especially when systems become slow to respond or struggle to include emerging voices,” he said. “I've seen young leaders step up in moments where formal structures were not enough, during disasters, in digital spaces and in grassroots ministries.

“Courageous leadership, then, is knowing how to remain rooted in the connection,” he added, “while also being open to where the Spirit is moving ahead of it.”

Pupino, a student at Wesley Theological Seminary, said she is learning that a certain amount of conformity to institutional norms can be healthy. After all, as a candidate for ordained elder, she is seeking to follow traditions that John Wesley himself first established for his preachers.

“But our history is also full of leaders who pushed against areas of institutional stagnation,” she said. “And I wonder if courage also means teaching each other to discern the places where the Holy Spirit is calling us to take a stand or challenge a narrative or cycle.”

Later in the discussion, she added that she is learning that all leadership carries risk.

“Even bad or cowardly leadership is risky,” she said. “Saying ‘yes’ to everyone or allowing injustice also risks serious consequences. God’s call, Christ’s model and the Holy Spirit’s movement will show us the right way to lead.”

Rombaoa also urged United Methodists not just to think of ordained or highly visible figures in talking about courageous leadership.

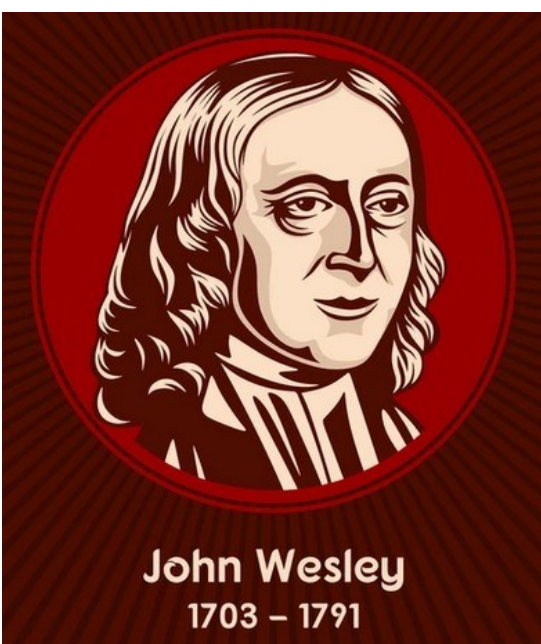
“In the Philippines, I’ve seen young people lead ministries, respond to crises and build communities of faith in ways that are deeply courageous, even without recognition. If we do not name these stories, we unintentionally shape a narrow vision of who leadership is for,” he said.

Courage is not always loud or visible, he said. Instead, its characteristics often include faithful, consistent everyday service.

“If we are not listening to voices at the margins, we may be missing where the Spirit is already at work,” he said.

Stephanie Henry, a United Methodist leader from the Pacific Northwest Conference, concluded the webinar with prayer. Henry, alongside Horizon Conference Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., is co-convenor of the design team organizing the Leadership Gathering.

“May we be emboldened to love, be joyful and to lead as your Spirit leads us,” she prayed. “In your Son’s holy name, we pray. Amen.”



Wesley's Words

“God grant that I may never live to be useless!”

John Wesley, How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Prayer Vigil Church office closed	4 Clothes Closet 10:00—noon Piano Lessons
5 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Meet & Greet Easter Sunday	6 10:30 am TMW Meeting Pastor Barbara's Vacation Week	7	8 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group	10	11 Piano Lessons
12 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	13 TCAP School Snack Collection begins.	14	15 11:00 pm Energizers Bingo & Lunch 5:00 pm Scholarship Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group	17	18 Piano Lessons
19 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	20	21	22 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group	24 Wildflower Walk at Oak Ridge/UT Arboretum 10:00 am	25 Piano Lessons
26 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	27	28	29 12:00 pm Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group		