



From the Desk of the Pastor

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

February is often considered the month for emphasizing romance, friendship, and Valentine gifts, and we enjoy those loving sentiments of the heart. Nurturing our relationships is very important, and I wish you lots of joy in making those connections with dear ones. The American Heart Association promotes heart health during February, so we want to be aware of taking care of our physical hearts, too. In the Christian faith, we choose to emphasize the heart of Christ this month as the season of Lent unfolds. Lent will begin on February 18, and we will hold our Ash Wednesday service that evening in our sanctuary with our friends from Central UMC.

The term *Lent* is taken from the Old English word, *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season lasts for 40 days (February 18 – April 4, not counting Sundays), which is a time inspired by Jesus’ 40-day period in the wilderness as he prayed and fasted before the start of his public ministry. Taking on the Lenten spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, Bible study, and generosity will make for a more meaningful Easter. Resources will be available to enhance your daily devotions, and our committees and teams will provide several ways of serving our community for this time of spiritual growth. Join a Sunday School class and/or the Wednesday evening Bible Study group. The Wednesday study resource is *Walking in the Wilderness*, by Beth A. Richardson.

February also is Black History Month, and we will observe that occasion by selecting hymns, prayers, and sermon themes related to great African-American leaders. Celebrate the culture and heritage by becoming familiar with remarkable leaders with Methodist connections, such as Howard Thurman, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, James Lawson, Joseph Lowery, and more. Learn about the UMC’s perspective on this history and our call to eradicate racism by visiting www.umcdiscipleship.org/black-history-month.

Let’s set our hearts on Jesus.

Blessings,
Barbara



February Lectionary

2/1/26 Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)

2/8/26 Matthew 5:13-20 (salt & light)

2/15/26 Matthew 17:1-9 (Transfiguration Sunday)

2/18/26 Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

2/22/26 Matthew 4:1-11 (Temptation in the Wilderness)

Upcoming Events

TMW Meeting

The Trinity Methodist Women will meet on Monday, February 2, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Trustees Meeting

The Trinity Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00 pm in the conference room.

Yoga for Seniors

Meetings are every Thursday. The Level 1 class takes place from 10:30 am to 11:00 am. Level 1 is done sitting in the chair and emphasizes posture and range of motion. The Level 3 class takes place from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. Level 3 includes sitting and standing, an overall stronger practice. Please consult your physician if you have a problem. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome!



Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet

Our monthly Meet & Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, February 8, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Pork tenderloin, hot rolls, white cake with buttercream icing, and pecan pie will be provided. Please bring a salad or side dish to share. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, February 16, at 5:30 pm in the conference room.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 18, Trinity and Central will once again share a combined Ash Wednesday Service. The service begins at 6:30 pm at Trinity. Rev. Melissa Smith will be preaching and the choirs will perform music together.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, February 25, at noon in the conference room.

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

Drew Griffith 2/1

Pete Butman 2/3

Lisa Reed 2/5

Amanda Smith 2/17

Cindy Rausin 2/25

YOU CAN BE PUBLISHED!

The Trinity Methodist Women are putting together an Advent Meditations Book for 2026 and your thoughts, memories, poems, or prayers can be included. There is even a prize for the first usable submission.

- Keep your submissions to between 200 and 400 words
- Include your name with your submission. A short two sentence bio would be nice
- Deadline for all articles is October 1, 2026.
- Submissions can be sent electronically to sarahyoung09@gmail.com or given personally.

Think you would like to be included but you know you're not a writer? Call Sarah Young at 865-599-9775 and your story will be recorded and transcribed. All for the cost of a cup of tea and possibly a cookie!

Check the library for a complete book from another church. You might get some great ideas. I can't wait to hear from you.

Sarah Young, Chief Scribe

Reconciling Ministries Network Becoming a Reconciling Ministry Group

The New Vision Sunday School Class is offering a short-term study on what it means to become a Reconciling Ministry Group within the United Methodist Church. A Reconciling Ministry Group makes a “commitment to ongoing collaboration and co-leadership to achieve LGBTQ+ justice and full inclusion in the life and leadership of The United Methodist Church, both in policy and in practice.” We will begin our study and discussion on Sunday, February 8 during the Sunday School time, 9:45 – 10:30 am, and will continue through February 22. **We invite any and all to join us in this short-term study.** The actual formation of a Reconciling Ministry Group comes after a process of study and discernment, so participating in the study does not imply a final commitment. This is a time to learn. You can visit Reconciling Ministries Network online to learn more, or ask Pastor Barbara or me. <https://rmnetwork.org/>

Jane Whitaker, janewhitaker45@gmail.com

February Finance Update

Trinity ended 2025 in a strong financial position, thanks to the steady generosity of our congregation. Giving for the year came in above budget, allowing us not only to meet all ministry needs but also to finish with a **year-end surplus of \$5,264**. This reflects both faithful giving and careful stewardship throughout the year.

As we moved into January, we did experience a small deficit, largely because the church was closed one Sunday due to weather. This is not unusual for early-year giving patterns, and the Finance Team will continue to monitor monthly trends as the year unfolds.

Most ministry areas remained well within their 2025 budgets, while a few—such as Worship and Mission Support—ran slightly higher than planned. These will be reviewed as we prepare for the year ahead.

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministries of Trinity United Methodist Church. Your generosity strengthens our worship, outreach, and care for the community as we begin 2026 with gratitude and confidence.

Blessings,

Mike

Trinity Methodist Women

Christmas Eve Luminaries: When our Trinity Methodist Women (TMW) chose Bridge Refugee Services to be the recipient of our Christmas Eve Luminaries offering we never in our wildest expected to receive \$807.00. Trinity your generosity is boundless. You are a most faithful, generous church.

Your donation will help the agency to continue to provide opportunities for refugees to rebuild their lives after suffering persecution. They serve about 750 clients between Knoxville and Chattanooga who have applied for protected status in the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. Bridge is also working with 500 Ukrainian nationals who came to East Tennessee during their country's war with Russia. Currently, Bridge is the only resettlement agency across 33 counties. Know your gifts will make a difference. Thank You, Trinity!!

TMW Meet on Monday, January 5th

Mike Smith, a member of Concord UMC, was our guest speaker for the day. Mike has been involved with The Society of St. Andrew for many years and he continues to participate in the coordination with their various "dropping days" at Concord UMC of the foods gleaned from our local farmers.

The Society of St. Andrew began in 1979 when two Methodist pastors from our Virginia Conference became aware that when food picked was not "perfect" enough for the grocery store it was either thrown away or left to rot! Thus began their purpose of Gleaning to End Hunger and Reduce Food Waste. The Society brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

Mike shared that Concord UMC partners with five different churches in the community who meet twice a month. They travel to 10 different locations picking up food including our UT farm which gave them approximately 10,000 lbs. of food just this year. Concord UMC maintains two beautiful gardens that also provides food for their neighbors. Over time they have created a list of groups and individuals who receive food and assistance regularly. Quite a remarkable outreach for sure!

Mike requested his \$100 honorarium be sent directly to their Nashville state office. Thank You, Mike!

Philadelphia UMC, Local Pastor, Henry Huff, is in the process of organizing local churches including Trinity UMC for the opportunity to participate in a February 20 and 21 "dropping" at our Loudon UMC. Jane Whitaker has taken the lead on this outreach for us, so stay tuned for the chance to participate too. Should be FUN!!

Save the Date of Monday, February 2, at 10:30 for our next Trinity Methodist Women meeting. ALL women are invited to join and share in a time of fellowship and good will. Climate Justice is the theme for the day. See you then!



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January 6, 2026

Trinity UMC
300 W 2nd Ave
Lenoir City, TN 37771-2431

Dear Trinity UMC,

Your Dec 17, 2025 gift of baby shower items will help moms and children start 2026 with hope and healing from trauma and substance use disorder. From Christmas gifts for each person, to gifts in kind for our facilities, and from funds for our new childcare center that will serve Susannah's Kids and the community, to operating funds for our Intensive Outpatient Program; you are part of changing lives in ways that will change the future!

A mom in our housing welcomed a healthy new baby before Christmas and groundbreaking for the new center will be the first week of January. Santa was here on December 22 and God shows up every day through you. Thank YOU!

With Gratitude,

Rebekah Fetzer
Executive Director



Missions & Outreach

Lenoir City Schools Mattress Ministry:

On Monday, January 19, Ab Brookshire and Drew Griffith delivered two twin mattress sets with sheets and throws for a 2nd grade boy and his 1st grade sister. Susan Fox, Director of our LC Schools Family Resource Center had also requested bed frames for both children because they both have asthma and need to be off the floor. Working with the Bed Store now we have purchased two frames and they will be delivered shortly. This was our 56th and 57th mattress sets for children in our community.

We have also been asked to purchase a twin XL mattress set for a Dad and a twin set for his 1st grade son. Sheets, throws and a blanket for the father have been purchased and we are now waiting for delivery to the Bed Store and then delivery to the family.

We want to thank both the Holston Foundation and Change for Children for the monies necessary to support this most beneficial outreach ministry.





GLOBAL MINISTRIES

General Board of Global Ministries

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief

December 16, 2025

6 / 838



Trinity United Methodist Church Lenoir City
PO Box 606
Lenoir City, TN 37771-0606

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“...when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.” - Jesus (Matthew 25:40 CEB)

Dear Friends in ministry,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!*

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary
General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR, and Higher Education and Ministry

Supporting

Amount: \$1,025

UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery

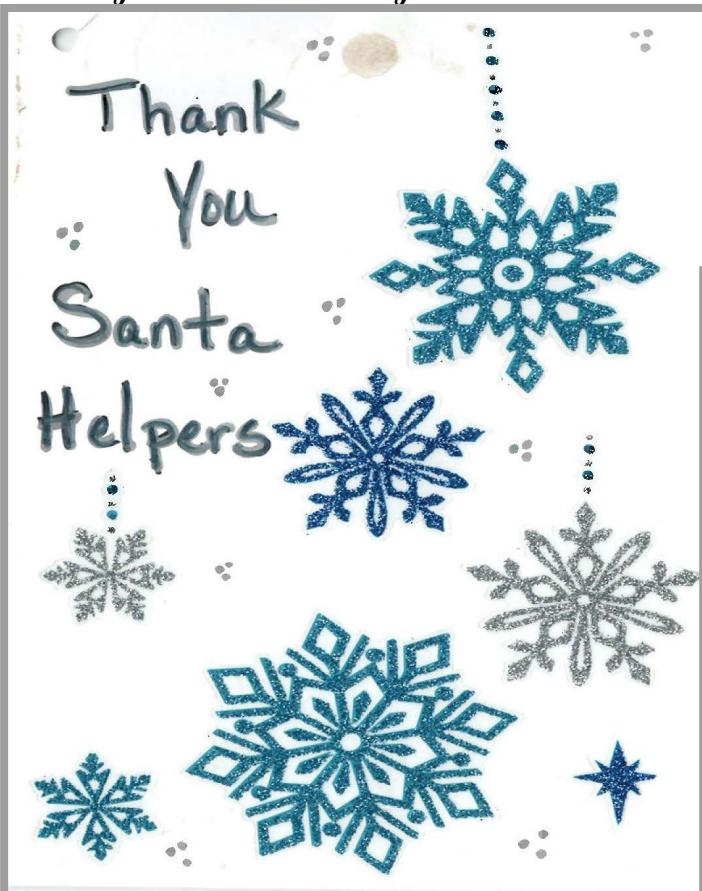
Date Received 12/05/2025

Amount: \$100

UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery

Date Received 12/05/2025

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution. Thank you for your continued support.



Dear Santa Helper,
Thank you for being
a Santa's Helper this
year! Your generosity
makes a BIG difference
and shows what the
holidays are all about—
Caring, sharing, and
giving from the heart.

Merry Christmas
LCIms Panther
Leaders

Memorials

In Memory of Jim Anderson given by Jo Alison Cortez

In Memory of Earl Lauderdale given by
Betty Edwards & Larry Hawk

In Memory of Earl Lauderdale given by Bonnie Ledbetter

In Memory of Vaugh VanWormer given by Deb Counce

Church & Society

“The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness.”

-John Wesley



Civil and Human Rights

As United Methodists, we believe that God has given us principles for how to live in a community. Central to Jesus' teachings, life, death, and resurrection is the Great Commandment: we must love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34)

“We declare that all individuals, no matter their circumstances or social standing are entitled to basic human rights and freedoms... As a church, we will work to protect these rights and freedoms within the church and to reform the structures of society to ensure that every human being can thrive.” The UMC 2025-2028 Social Principles, The Political Community, Government Responsibilities, Basic Rights and Freedoms

Much of the Bible is devoted to figuring out how to follow this commandment. Nearly all of Church history is filled with devout Christians struggling — with failures and successes — to live out this commandment. What does it mean to love God? What does it look like when we love our neighbor?

What we believe about the nature of God and the nature of humanity also informs our understanding. Scripture tells us God created humankind in God's image. What does that mean for how we treat each other?

We must take these questions seriously as followers of Christ.

We believe that in loving both God and neighbor, we must pursue God's command of justice, liberation and flourishing for all people. We must work for the civil and human rights of every person.

-from umcjustice.org

IMMIGRATION
IN THE UNITED STATES

What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)



I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matthew 25:35b)

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. (1 Corinthians 12:24b-26a)

What does the United Methodist Church say?



Regardless of legal status or nationality, we are all connected through Christ to one another. Paul reminds us that when “one part suffers, all the parts suffer” as well (1 Corinthians 12:26). The solidarity we share through Christ eliminates the boundaries and barriers which exclude and isolate. Therefore, the sojourners we are called to love are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons, and daughters; indeed, they are us. (Book of Resolution, #4271, Welcoming the Migrant to the US)

We express our utmost concern for the passage of anti-immigrant laws, which adversely affect the well being of citizens and residents of this country as they engage in providing humanitarian aid to undocumented persons in several States. (Book of Resolutions #4272, Faithfulness in Response to Critical Needs)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FATIM** Seeking **ASKE** Pursuing **PEACE**

IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES

What do the facts say?

- In 2022, 14.3% of the US population was foreign born (Pew Research Center)
- One-in-ten Black people in the U.S. are immigrants. The number of Black immigrants living in the country reached 4.6 million in 2019, up from roughly 800,000 in 1980 (Pew Research Center, 2022)
- Immigrants contribute and pay over 651 billion dollars in taxes to support and participate in the US economy (American Immigration Council)
- 43% of recently arrived family and diversity-based immigrants are college graduate— compared to 29% native born Americans
- Beyond the staggering moral costs and far-reaching trauma of separating millions of American families, the deportation of 11 million people would impoverish many American families and create enormous social costs. Mass deportation would force a nearly \$8 trillion hit to the economy over the next 14 years and jeopardize our housing market. Further, it would take 20 years, and cost U.S. taxpayers between \$400 to \$600 billion (FWD.us)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...



- **Join** a rapid response team in your area to support and learn more about opportunities for engagement, partnership, and solidarity
- **Contact** your legislator utilizing any of our Action Alerts to support legislation that protects immigrants and honors their dignity
- **Support** the Immigration Law and Justice Network through donations and volunteering

For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

Updated 2025

General Board of Church and Society
100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002
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The United Methodist Church



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion 12:00 pm Meet & Greet	2 10:30 am UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	3 11:00 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting in conference room	4 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	6	7 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
8 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	10	11 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	13	14 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	16 5:30 pm Finance Committee 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	17	18 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service with CUMC in Sanctuary	19 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	20	21 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	23 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	24	25 12:00 pm Missions & Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	27	28 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel