

From the Desk of the Pastor



It just seems like yesterday that I was beginning my first day at Trinity. I began July 1st four years ago, it was my birthday. Sandra Guinn bought beautiful flowers for the my new office and most of the church called me and wished me a happy birthday. What a great welcome for a new pastor! Trinity has been a good appointment! Serving a church is never easy, not because of the work, but because relationships are always complicated. We all come from different points of view.

I was listening to the vows at the Annual Conference tonight in the Ordination Service. The ordinands are asked, “Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God’s Holy Word?” Some of that loyalty is easier than others. When we are loyal to the Book of Discipline, clergy tend to make church members upset. And yet, the relationships are the best part of being a pastor. As pastors we get invited into people’s lives in very intimate ways. It is truly Holy Ground to be invited into your life! We get attached and it is always difficult to leave. There are so many good memories, so much laughter, and even the difficult times are valuable because they teach us how to rely on God to become better followers of Jesus. I do thank my God for you and your service together these past four years. When we are ordained as United Methodist Clergy, we are ordained for life. We can retire and I am looking forward to working toward better health and more time with family, but we are never finished, our job as pastors never stops. I’m not sure what the future holds, but God knows the plans God has for Allen and I (paraphrasing the prophet Jeremiah).

Trinity Echo, June 2025

It has been difficult, but Allen and I have enjoyed working on the rental house. We both have always loved making things new again. Transformation and seeing that happen before our eyes. We have realized just how old we are in doing it, but still it has been fun! I know you have felt neglected in the process, but we wanted to help get the house back in shape before we left as a gift to the church. Ab and Phil, Drew, Rick and Dave helped too. The ladies, with Deb's leadership have helped with cleaning windows and cleaning the house after the tenants moved out. It's fun to work together to see a project come together, especially while being faithful to God. Faithfulness is a reward within itself. Sometimes a project like the rental house is good for the soul, because one can see immediate results, whereas sometimes in the church progress comes slowly. Life is short, it is good to make something better along the way. You do this every Sunday when the music brings joy to our hearts. You do so when you serve others in need. You do so when you support the budget so the church can continue to thrive. It is and will always be God's church. Serve it well, giving your very best and surrendering to God's grace, mercy, love and forgiveness. Be bold, passionate and faithful disciples. Thank you for the short four years that God called us to serve alongside you. But remember it is never our church or our ministry, it all belongs to God. We are only entrusted with the ministry for a short time to hopefully make it a little better along the way with God's help. As John Wesley said as he was dying, "Best of all, God is with us." God's presence is the most beautiful precious gift we can ever receive or ever give. And that is all I had to give you when I came to Trinity and that is what I leave with you as I go, "Best of all, God is with us!" What more can a person ask for?

In Christ,

Pastor Linda

Upcoming Events



Board of Trustees

The Trinity UMC Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6:00 pm in the New Visions class room.

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, June 7th, from 10:00 am to noon. The ministry will be accepting donations of men's clothing and shoes, women's shoes, children's clothing, and snacks. They are also in need of prayers for the families visiting the closet. Please contact Jane Whitaker if you would like more information. (865) 986-8741 or jane Whitaker45@gmail.com.

Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will not meet during the month of June.

Upcoming Events



Father's Day Meet & Greet

Our monthly Meet and Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, June 15th, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate Father's Day and Pastor Linda's retirement. The meal will be catered and the menu will feature meatloaf, creamed potatoes, corn pudding, steamed broccoli, hot rolls, and white cake with buttercream icing. Everyone is welcome!

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday, June 19th, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Guest Speakers at Trinity

On Sunday, June 22nd, Trinity will welcome Raquel Leal as our special guest speaker during worship. Dr. Tyler Forrest from Tennessee Wesleyan University will provide our message on Sunday, June 29th.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will not meet during the month of June.

June Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

June 6	Sarah Young
June 10	Debbie Maples
June 14	Maggie Bruer
June 15	Bonnie Ledbetter
June 19	Bill Whitaker
June 26	Tashia Brookshire
June 28	JOHN WESLEY
June 29	Janie Tiller

A Note From the Treasurer

Don't let your offerings take a vacation!

Ahhh, summer! A time to relax and grab much-needed R & R. Vacations and weekend getaways may keep you away from church, but our church is still bustling with activity. The bills never take a summer holiday.

It's enormously helpful to the church's balance sheet if your gifts, tithes, and offerings continue to come in regularly, even if you are away. Here are some ideas for staying current:

Pay in advance: Plan ahead by offering more in the weeks in advance of your time away from church.

Make it up: When you return, give a little more in the weeks that follow.

Use banking bill pay: Most online banking services will write and send checks for you. Just plug in the church address, the amount of the gift and how often you want it

Give monthly or quarterly: Sometimes it's hard to anticipate how many Sundays you'll be away from church. Planning your gift, tithe or offering for monthly or quarterly can keep you current.

Of course, these methods are beneficial not only for the summer months, but also for the whole year through. Those who embrace giving as a spiritual discipline often find that their lives of faith are enriched and their sense of joy and fulfillment is deepened.

Choosing a regular giving strategy can help you to discover the joys of generosity.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Trinity UM Women Celebrate our Fathers

Our UM Women again this year are offering you the opportunity to make a \$5 donation in Memory or Honor of a Father or Fathers of your choice. Aaron Solomon from Wesley House Community Center is requesting to see if any of their ministry partners could sponsor a summer lunch for the students attending their program. They feed approximately 100 students a day and remember their program too has lost their government funding for food assistance. We would like to sponsor their June 25th special Papa Johns Pizza lunch. On Father's Day, June 15th the names of those honored will be listed in our bulletin. We will participate both Sunday, June 1st and Sunday, June 8th and We Thank you for Caring!

Our Trinity UM Women will go dark for both the months of June and July, BUT we will meet again on Monday, August 4th at 10:30 in our Fellowship Hall to begin the planning for our Annual Grannie's Attic sale in September. Come join us then for fellowship and good times together.

THANK YOU for your generosity for your Mom honorariums and memorials on this year's Mother's Day. Trinity Methodist Women were able to send \$385 to the Susannah's House moms! That money goes a long way to fund living expenses those women incur. Thank you so much!



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



A Mission Field Close To Home

Holston Conference Advance #015
PO Box 657, Sneedville, TN 37869

Receipt of Charitable Donation

Date: 01.09.2025

- Cash donation in the amount of: \$120.00
- Donation of goods:

Donation Received From: Atten to: Trinity United Methodist Women In Faith
Address: PO Box 606, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Thank you for your gift of \$120.00 to Jubilee Project, Inc., a 501(c) (3) organization. Your gift will support the ministries of Jubilee Project, enabling Jubilee to fulfill the mission of "...helping the people of Hancock County, TN, meet their spiritual, economic, social, and physical needs." Your support allows Jubilee to continue to provide food, home repair, clean and safe water, and meeting times for families, women, and youth.

Thank you for partnering with us in mission. We appreciate your support in so many different ways. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

In Christ,

Wonderful to be with you all. As my first stop as Jubilee director, you will all always be special to me! God Bless you all and all your efforts.

Jubilee Project, Inc

Lamy J. Falloff

Have Question? Please contact us at: Tel: 423-733-4195 Email: jubileeprojectsneedville@gmail.com

Missions & Outreach



THANK YOU again Trinity for your generosity in supplying 21 Food Buckets for our Holston Conference Hands-On Mission project that goes this year to support the children at the Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe. We thank Phil Reed who once again packed up his truck and transported those buckets for delivery to Annual Conference, June 1st - 4th.

Missions & Outreach



Missions & Outreach

2025 Holston Conference Mission Offering

Last month Trinity was asked to give generously so our conference could move forward in new beginnings with our neighbors here in Holston by assisting in the continuing recovery for folks affected by Hurricane Helene as well as our neighbors in Zimbabwe and boy did you ever! You gave \$1,110 to help others in need. So Wonderful! Thank you. Thank You!

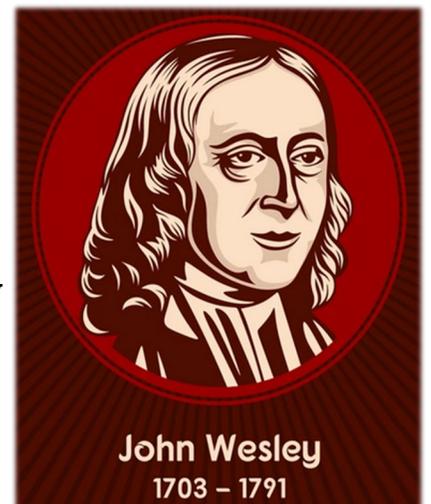
Change for Children

Thank you for all the spare change you dropped into our “Change for Children” jar. Those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters added up to \$228 to be presented at Annual Conference this year. These collections go toward funding the Change for Children grants to local churches in support of ministries and outreach for children. We have been the recipient of this grant more than once to support our summer programs and mattress ministry.

Wesley's Words

Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every one use his own judgment, since everyone must give an account of himself to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution

John Wesley (1826). *The Works of the Rev. John Wesley* . . . p. 421.





Missions & Outreach

Church members among dead in Congo floods

By Philippe Kituka Lolonga

May 16, 2025 | FIZI, Congo (UM News)

United Methodists are among the hundreds of people affected by the devastating floods and mudslides that have killed at least 110 people and destroyed hundreds of homes in eastern Congo.

Five United Methodists are among the dead. The local Bethsaida United Methodist Church — with a congregation of more than 300 — was swept away by water and mud.

“This is a tragic loss for our community,” said the Rev. Mashimango Munsangwa Elias, the Bethsaida congregation’s pastor.

Among the United Methodists who lost their lives in the floods and mudslides were four children aged 3 to 7 from two United Methodist families and 76-year-old Catherine Mazobela. The pastor said Mazobela was one of the pioneers who worked to establish The United Methodist Church in the area.

The floods took place in the village of Kasaba on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in the Fizi territory of South Kivu, eastern Congo. Fizi is home to the United Methodist district of the same name in the Kivu Annual Conference, East Congo Episcopal Area.

In addition to washing away Bethsaida Church, the floods left “250 houses destroyed, 30 people injured including some United Methodists, many agricultural fields ravaged,” said the Rev. Rigobert Mtaka, Fizi District superintendent.

He added that the flooding has resulted in “significant losses of material goods of United Methodist faithful left homeless and exposed to the weather.”

Mtaka said the catastrophe began on the night of May 8–9 when torrential rains of rare intensity caused the Kasaba River to overflow its banks.

According to local media, the rains caused flash flooding and triggered a devastating landslide — leaving behind a scene of desolation and mourning. A number of residents were startled awake as the onslaught swept away their homes.

Mtaka said the destruction of Bethsaida United Methodist Church has left behind only mud and the faithful scattered in neighboring villages, where they are surviving in precarious conditions.

The disaster has brought more trouble to a region already marked by insecurity.

“In addition to those displaced by the disaster, we have those displaced by the war in the Haut Plateau, where the rebels continue to advance despite international calls for a ceasefire,” Mtaka said.

Aimerance Bishonde, a survivor of the floods, says she gives thanks to God for her life but worries that relocating could put her family in the middle of armed conflict.

“My husband and I fled with our five children without taking anything,” she said. “Today, we are sleeping under the stars, and starvation is threatening our lives. We are afraid to go any further because of the insecurity in the area.”

Faced with this humanitarian crisis, East Congo Area Bishop Gabriel Unda calls for an urgent mobilization to rescue the victims.

“These families no longer have any shelter or food,” the bishop said. “It is imperative to act quickly to come to their aid.”

Trinity Echo, June 2025

Unda offered his sincere condolences to the families affected by this disaster. He urged the local health authorities to work preventively in anticipation of an imminent health crisis.

Unda also pleaded with the various parties to the conflict not to hinder the movement of humanitarians and organizations and people of good will who could bring aid to the victims.

The Council of Bishops, which includes Unda, also [recently released a letter calling for peace in Congo](#).

“Jesus reminds us that the very nature of Christian discipleship is the call to peace,” the bishops wrote. “As he once said, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God,’ [Matthew 5:9](#).”

Kituka Lolonga is communicator for the Kivu Annual Conference.



Children and adults cross a mud-filled street in Kasaba, Congo, where flooding has killed at least 110 people, including five United Methodists, and destroyed hundreds of homes. A local United Methodist church was destroyed by floodwaters, affecting some 300 United Methodists. Photo courtesy of the Ecclesiastical District of Fizi.

June 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion	2	3 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting in New Visions classroom	4 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	6	7 10:00 am - Noon One Heart Community Closet
8 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9	10	11 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	13	14
15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Meet & Greet Luncheon Father's Day	16	17	18 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Juneteenth Church Office Closed	20	21
22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	23	24	25 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall	27	28
29 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	30					