

## From the Desk of the Pastor



May is an exciting time for United Methodist congregations, and I hope you can participate in the various programs and ministries Trinity offers: recognition of graduates, Mother's Day, Festival of the Christian Home, Ascension Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Memorial Day, and Trinity Sunday. In Holston Conference congregations, all churches are busily preparing donations for "Missions Month." Trinity has a long history of supporting the Annual Conference mission projects, and we are strengthening our support this year. Our "Hands-on" Mission project is to supply health kits for our missionaries and the children they serve in and near Monrovia, Liberia. Our monetary offering is in support of two projects: Kenya UMC's Ripples of Hope and the UMC's Theological Education Fund for Africa, Europe, and The Philippines. We've been collecting coins all year for the Change for Children offering in support of grants. Thank you for being so generous!

I'm planning to offer a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings in May to study the Scripture selections from the lectionary, and we will do so with guidance from one of Dr. Howard Thurman's spiritual classics, *Disciplines of the Spirit*. The Scripture lessons for our Sunday worship and the Wednesday studies will connect to enhance our understanding of growing spiritually through the joyful holy days of the Easter season, Ascension Day (May 14), Pentecost (May 24), and Trinity Sunday (May 31). The Thurman resource will be provided, so no purchase is necessary. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Holston Annual Conference (AC) will be held May 31 – June 3 at Lake Junaluska, NC. I will be joined by Jo Lynn Blomquist, Trinity's Lay Member of AC. Jane Whitaker and Deb Counce also are attending as At-large Members of AC from the Smoky Mountain District. The worship services and business sessions will be available for live-streaming on Holston's Website, and the AC theme for the year is "Loving Boldy Together." We covet your prayers for God's Spirit to inspire and motivate our work for the upbuilding of Christ's holy Church.

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Blessings,  
Barbara

## Upcoming Events



### May Lectionary

May 3 - *I Peter 2:2-10*

May 10 - *John 14:15-21*

May 17 - *Luke 24:44-53*

May 24 - *Acts 2:1-21*—*Pentecost Sunday*

May 31 - *Matthew 28:16-20* - *Trinity Sunday*

### Spring Cleanup Day

Please join us on Saturday, May 2, for the churchyard spring cleanup and planting. We will meet outside the church at 9:30 am. Dress comfortably, and don't forget your garden tools. It is a good idea to bring a bottle of water, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat with a brim.

### One Heart Community Closet

The One Heart Community Closet will open on Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 am to noon. Please contact Jane Whitaker if you would like more information. (865) 986-8741 or [jane Whitaker45@gmail.com](mailto:jane Whitaker45@gmail.com).

### Meet & Greet

Our monthly Meet & Greet luncheon will take place on Sunday, May 3, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Baked ham, hot rolls, and cake will be provided. Please bring a side dish or salad to share. We will celebrate our graduates! Everyone is welcome to attend. Invite a friend!

## Upcoming Events



### 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!

### Daughters of the American Revolution

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

### Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Monday, May 11, at 6:00 pm in the conference room.

### TUMC Scholarship Applications

Trinity UMC has been pleased to provide college scholarships for students over many years. The deadline for applying for Fall 2026 is quickly approaching, and we need all applications to be submitted by May 14. Please see Bonnie Ledbetter for more information. The committee appreciates all gifts that have been made over many years to support our young people!

### Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. We hope everyone has a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend!

## Upcoming Events



### Missions & Outreach Meeting

Missions & Outreach will meet on Wednesday, May 27, at noon in the conference room.

### Trinity Methodist Women

Come join us Friday, May 29, when our Trinity Methodist Women welcome our Wesley House Seniors for lunch and Bingo.

Gondolier's will cater our lunch of baked spaghetti, salad, and breadsticks. We will supply the drinks and if some would like to bring a dessert to share, baked or bought just fine, that would be great. Steve will again be our joke slinging Bingo host, and as you remember we will supply the winning gifts for the Seniors.

Each Senior can win twice. We usually have 25 people who join us. Please bring as you are able the following Bingo prizes: toilet paper, Kleenex, small packages too, laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels and any other item I've forgotten that you think would be helpful too. Thank You!! It's always a very Fun day so hope you can join us and share in fellowship with one another.

### Congregational Photo

If you would like to take part in our upcoming congregational photo, please plan to stay briefly after church on Sunday, May 31, for a group photo. We'd love for everyone to be included!

# May Birthdays



## Happy Birthday!

May 1	Charlie Ledbetter
May 5	Anne Williams
May 8	John Brookshire
May 9	Wilma Bickers
May 13	Susan Brown
May 16	Nancy Beaty
May 22	Sue Jane Hartsook

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:13



# Trinity Methodist Women

## TMW Mother's Day Recognition

As we Honor and Remember our Mothers this year the monies raised will be given to support our own *Trinity Lenoir City Schools Mattress Ministry*. This outreach which began in October 2016 has always and continually been funded by various Holston Conference grants and by three grants from our Holston Conference Foundation and we heartily say THANK YOU so very much for their faithfulness to this most unique, but equally vital ministry. To this date, Trinity has provided twin mattress sets with sheets and throws to 65 children in our community. How wonderful to have ones own bed to climb into each night after the long, fun day of learning and playing with friends and family.

The \$3,000 grant received this year has already been utilized and currently monies from our Missions & Outreach designated funds continue to support this ministry. Because of the continuing high cost of a twin set we have moved to purchasing a memory foam mattress and platform bed frame. Our aim is by reducing the price of the twin set, but maintaining quality and comfort, we provide a quality product for our families.

On Sunday, May 3, we will have a bulletin insert with the form to complete and then place in the offering envelope. On May 10, the names of those honored will be listed in our bulletin insert. Thank You for caring for our children in our community.

## A Note From the Treasurer

### **\*\*A Tax-Smart Way to Give: Qualified Charitable Distributions\*\***

**\*From the Treasurer\***

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional IRA, there is a giving strategy worth knowing about — the **\*\*Qualified Charitable Distribution\*\***, or QCD.

A QCD allows you to transfer money directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity like our church — up to **\*\*\$105,000 per year\*\*** — completely tax-free. The gift counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you are 73 or older, but it never passes through your taxable income. That means you get the full benefit of the gift without needing to itemize deductions on your taxes.

For many retirees, this is actually a *\*better\** option than writing a personal check, because the standard deduction often makes charitable giving on a tax return less impactful. With a QCD, the tax benefit is built right in.

**\*\*A few things to keep in mind:\*\***

- The transfer must go *\*directly\** from your IRA custodian to the church — you cannot withdraw the funds yourself first.
- QCDs can only come from traditional IRAs (not 401(k)s or 403(b)s directly).
- Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional to see if this strategy is right for your situation.

If you would like our church's mailing address or tax identification number to share with your IRA custodian, don't hesitate to reach out to me. It's a privilege to help our congregation give generously and wisely.

-Mike Pearce, Treasurer



## Missions and Outreach

### **Mission Offering**

Our mission offering this year is twofold, giving you the opportunity to make a multiplied impact through a single act of generosity.

The offering will be shared between **Ripples of Faith: Kenya Mission Project**, led by Rev. Robert Kariuki, and the **2026 Endowment for Theological Education Fund**, which supports the education and equipping of pastors in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

In Kenya, lives are being transformed as local leaders are equipped, communities are served, and the church continues to grow through faithful, grassroots mission. At the same time, the Endowment for Theological Education Fund helps invest in future pastors and leaders by expanding access to theological education where it is deeply needed.

Together, these efforts allow us to join in what God is doing, both in meeting needs today and in raising up leaders for tomorrow.

### **HEALTH KITS: Holston Annual Conference Mission Project**

Thank You, Trinity! We have collected Health Kits for our mission agencies in Monrovia, Liberia, and your offering for our children in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, will continue the funding of their food sources. We will dedicate these gifts on Sunday, May 3.

*Trinity Echo, May 2026*

**TCAP Snack Donations:** When a new outreach arises Trinity also rises to meet the request and you did so again in flying, generous colors by providing an abundance of “healthy” snacks and small bottles of water for our Lenoir City Schools Intermediate/Middle School children as they participated in the mandated yearly TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program). We know those snacks hit the spot adding refreshment and made the task just a little bit easier. Thank You!!!



**Lenoir City Schools Mattress Ministry:** On April 13, Trinity delivered a memory foam twin mattress and metal frame along with sheets and a blanket to a first grade boy in our community. Our 63rd delivery. This ministry began in October of 2016 and has always been funded by various grants from our Holston Conference until now. The \$3,000 grant received this year has already been utilized and currently monies from our Missions/Outreach designated funds continue to support this ministry which we view as most vital for our local children. As always we say Thank You to Ab Brookshire for making it happen!!

## Church & Society



*(From left) Bishop Werner Philipp, local preacher István Pásztor from Hungary, Bishop Stefan Zürcher and Bishop Knut Refsdal stand under a Ukrainian flag at Nevytske Castle, north of Uzhhorod, during their visit to Ukraine on March 26–30. The bishops’ trip was intended as a sign of solidarity and a reminder to people in Ukraine that they have not been forgotten. Photo courtesy of EmK-Öffentlichkeitsarbeit Germany, UM News.*

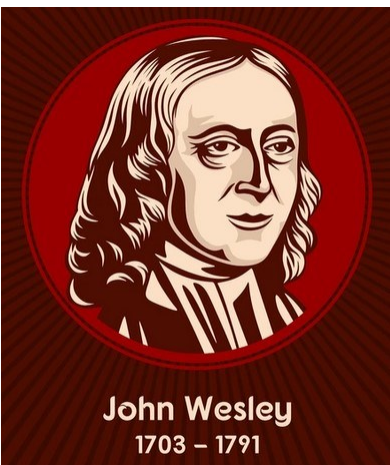
### United Methodist Bishops Encounter Hope in Ukraine

By Michael Löffler and Sigmar Friedrich  
April 13, 2026 | LVIV, Ukraine (UM News)

Bishop Stefan Zucher, Bishop Werner Philipp and Bishop Knut Refsdal traveled to western Ukraine to visit United Methodist congregations and meet people who have been living in war for years. While United Methodist churches across Europe have supported Ukraine since the beginning of the war in 2022 — through humanitarian aid, prayer and hosting refugees — this journey was about presence. Traveling with Ukraine and Moldova District Superintendent the Rev. Oleg Starodubets and his wife, the Rev. Dr. Yulia Starodubets, the bishops visited ministries in Uzhhorod and Lviv. Their purpose was to stand alongside United Methodist congregations and those displaced by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and to make one message unmistakably clear: You are not alone, you have not been forgotten. Very few of the refugees had previous contact with a church — certainly not with The United Methodist Church — but Zürcher said one of the residents told him that they experience that United Methodists walk alongside them. “One Lviv woman said, ‘The fact that the Methodists are here and giving us this opportunity to stay is, for me, proof that God exists,’” Zürcher added.

Trinity Echo, May 2026

In Uzhhorod, a city in Transcarpathia near the European Union border and about 270 kilometers southwest of Lviv, the effects of the war are visible everywhere. But with the population rise, new forms of community have emerged. One such place is the United Methodist-run youth center known as Lighthouse. Here, young people from across Ukraine gather, many carrying trauma and uncertainty, but also resilience. The bishops saw how vital such spaces are — places where trust can grow, where young people can talk, laugh and rediscover a sense of normality. In Uzhhorod and the surrounding area, the church runs two shelters for internally displaced people. As the bishops returned home, they carried with them a renewed responsibility to keep telling these stories, to continue support and to remind the wider church in Europe that Ukraine's Methodist communities are still there — faithful, wounded and hopeful. // Learn more about the ministries of the UMC in Ukraine by following this site: [www.umnews.com](http://www.umnews.com).



### Wesley's Words

*"We should be  
rigorous in judging ourselves and  
gracious in judging others."*

### Memorials

*In Memory of Allen & Itha Fine given by Janie Tiller*

*In Memory of Donald Perkey given by Barbara Clark*

*In Memory of Perry Reed given by Bonnie Ledbetter*

*In Memory of Mary Jane Raymer given by Wilma Bickers*

*In Memory of Mary Jane Raymer given by Bonnie Ledbetter*

*In Memory of Larry & Susan Rollins given by Jo Alison Cortez*

*In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Becky Chanas*

*In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Linda Christensen*

*In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Jo Alison Cortez*

*In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Samuel Lee*

*In Memory of Sol Thomas given by Ann & Bob Maroney*

*In Memory of Barbara, Lizz, and Thomas Tiller given by Janie Tiller*

## Notes of Gratitude

*Dear Barbara and Church,*

*On behalf of our entire school, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredibly generous donation of drinks and snacks during our testing week. Your kindness and support made a meaningful difference for our students.*

*Because of your generosity, we were able to provide our kids with not just refreshments, but encouragement during an important and often stressful time. The smiles on their faces said it all, it truly lifted their spirits and helped them feel cared for and supported.*

*We are so grateful to have a community partner like you who invests in our students in such a thoughtful way. Your contribution went far beyond snacks, it showed our children that they are valued and that people in their community are cheering them on.*

*Thank you again for your generosity and for making a positive impact on our students' experience.*

*With sincere appreciation,  
April Shubert*

*Dear Trinity Family,*

*On behalf of our family, we would like to thank everyone for the amazing outpouring of love you've shown us. We're so grateful to the church for hosting Dad's visitation and funeral service. Walter's prelude of "Going Home" and Marilyn's solo of "Majesty" touched all of our hearts. Having the AV team film the service was a true blessing, enabling our family members in North Carolina to be able to see the service.*

*Pastor Barbara's message and spiritual guidance during this difficult time were a great comfort. We were so touched to have Robert deliver his eulogy for Dad. And the delicious lunch provided by the church allowed us to spend time with family and friends in a lovely setting.*

*So many people have reached out to express their love for Dad, share memories, and to let us know we're in their prayers. For all these many acts of kindness, we are extremely grateful.*

*Mike and Mark Thomas*

# Notes of Gratitude



**BRIDGE**  
REFUGEE SERVICES, INC.  
DIGNITY • HOPE • OPPORTUNITY

## Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.

4420 Whittle Springs Road | Suite A, Knoxville, TN 37917

Ph: 865.540.1311 [njones@bridgerefugees.org](mailto:njones@bridgerefugees.org)

4791-A Hal Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416

Ph: 423.954.1911 Fax: 423.945.9499



April 9, 2026

Trinity United Methodist Church  
300 West Second Avenue  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Dear Friends,

Thank you again for your returning investment of \$807.00 on January 10, 2026. You are making a difference and saving lives of refugees coming to East Tennessee—just like the sweet children here, who came to Knoxville with their mother from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Each year Bridge Refugee Services continues to advance its mission of preserving the **Dignity, Hope, and Opportunity** of our refugees. We are here to help them rebuild their lives after persecution – to offer them the skills and open the doors for them to become productive, contributing members in their new homes. Since Bridge’s founding in 1982, we have resettled thousands of refugees in Knoxville and Chattanooga, enriching our neighborhoods and touching our lives in untold ways.

*The future of resettlement is uncertain.* Thank you again for choosing to stand with our cause!

Sincerely Yours,

Noah McBrayer Jones

Executive Director | [njones@bridgerefugees.org](mailto:njones@bridgerefugees.org)

# May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons
3 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion  12:00 pm Meet & Greet	4 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	5 11:00 am Prayer Group	6 6:00 pm Bible Study  6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7: 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel  10:15 am Yoga for Seniors in Fellowship Hall  5:30 pm Walking Group	8	9 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons  9:00 am DAR Meeting in Fellowship Hall
10 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Mother's Day	11 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting  6:00 pm Church Council	12	13 6:00 pm Bible Study  6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons  10:15 am Yoga for Seniors  5:30 pm Walking Group  <b>Scholarship Applications Due</b>	15	16 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons
17 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship  3:00 pm Piano Recital	18 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	19	20 6:00 pm Bible Study  6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons  10:15 am Yoga for Seniors  5:30 pm Walking Group	22	23 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons
24 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship	25 Office Closed Memorial Day	26	27 12:00 pm Outreach Meeting  6:00 pm Bible Study  6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons  10:15 am Yoga for Seniors  5:30 pm Walking Group	29 11:30 am Bingo & Luncheon for Wesley House Seniors	30 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons
31 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship						