

From the Desk of the Pastor

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

-Psalm 119:105

The new school year has begun, and I'm feeling ready to start some groups for our Christian and spiritual education this month. As Christians and as United Methodists, we want to grow in our understanding of scripture and how the sacred text informs our lives in the world. I'm planning to offer Bible Study on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., and our first meeting will be held September 10. I'd also like to offer a class on Sunday mornings for persons who might be new to our church or to the UMC. This short-term group, "What Does It Mean to Be United Methodist," will meet in the Parlor on September 7, 14, and 21, at 9:45 a.m. This discussion group is open to anyone who is considering official membership with our congregation. I'll bring the doughnuts!

September is also the month when pastors and church leaders are very busy with the work of preparing for Charge Conference. That means the Lay Leadership Committee (a.k.a., Nominations) will begin meeting to pray, discern, and make recommendations for the panels of officers and leaders in 2026. I'll review your "Time & Talent Surveys" to learn about your gifts and interests in servant leadership, and you still have time to share your information with me.

Being together in worship is a very meaningful experience, and we learn from holy scripture through the music, message, prayers, and fellowship. I hope you can be with us each Sunday to learn more about God's holy word. The lectionary we follow on Sunday mornings for worship helps us to explore Jesus' life and ministry within the structure of the Church Year. Please pray for our Sunday School classes, study groups, and worship services to be effective and enlightening.

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Blessings,

Barbara

September Lectionary

September 7 - Jeremiah 18:1-11

September 14 - Luke 15:1-10

September 21 - Luke 16:1-13

September 28 - I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19



Upcoming Events



Sale Dates: September 5th and 6th, 2025

Now accepting your gently used items for the upcoming sale. Pre-sorting like-items and clothing sizes at home is much appreciated.



Clean clothing

Kitchen items and glassware

Home décor

Linens

Toys / Games

Shoes / Purses

Jewelry

Small appliances (working)

Holiday décor

Tools

Sports equipment

Craft supplies

Furniture



Electronics.

Books

Broken, moldy, stained or incomplete items



The last day to bring your items to the church is September 1st

Thank you for supporting our Women's mission work!



Upcoming Events

Labor Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1st, in honor of Labor Day. We hope that you and your loved ones have a fun and safe holiday weekend!

Walking Group

Catherine Marvin is interested in forming a walking group for any interested health enthusiasts. Please see Catherine or Pastor Barbara to learn more details. Two locations we're considering are the Town Creek Greenway and Lenoir City Park's lakeside area.

Altar Flowers

We have several dates open for altar flowers. Altar flowers are a meaningful way to glorify God and offer tangible expressions of gratitude or remembrance. Whether in honor of a loved one, celebration of a special occasion or simply an act of worship, your gift of flowers is a simple yet profound way to share in the life of the church and bring joy to others.

Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, September 15th, at 5:30 pm in the New Visions classroom.

Lay Leadership Meeting

The Lay Leadership Committee will meet on Tuesday, September, 9th, at 1:00 pm in the New Visions classroom.



Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet

Trinity will not host a Meet & Greet luncheon during the month of September or October. Please remember to mark your calendars! There will be a catered lunch for the Dearings on Sunday, October 19th, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for their annual visit! ! The next Meet & Greet will take place on Sunday, November 2nd.

Smoky Mountain District Conference

District Conference will take place on Sunday, September 21st, at 3:00 pm at First UMC Sevierville. All Administrative Council members have voting privileges at District Conference and all church members are welcome to attend. Our new District Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy Cross will preside over the conference and our time of worship.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

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

Congratulations

Charlie & Madison Ledbetter, son and daughter in law of Lee Aikens, are expecting their first child, a boy, in February 2026! The baby boy will also be the great great nephew of Bonnie Ledbetter!



Upcoming Events

Helping Habitat for Humanity in Loudon County

Tuesday lunches for Habitat volunteers are still being prepared and served, long after our Methodist Build for Loudon County Habitat on 1st Avenue was completed. When the work moved to Hope Haven in Loudon, a faithful group of Trinity volunteers continued making lunches on Tuesday. Now we prepare “sack lunches” (although no actual sacks are involved) and deliver them to the work site.

Sandwiches, chips, fruit, dessert and soft drinks are provided each week. I won't name all those faithful who participate in this ministry, because the some folks chip in occasionally and some are faithful most every week. If you want to participate in this simple ministry to our neighbors, you can volunteer to help prepare or deliver the lunches or you can donate to our Habitat lunch fund to pay for the items that are not donated. If you like other hands-on work, you can also volunteer for the construction crew or work at the ReStore.

Contact Jane Whitaker (865-603-8741) for more information about volunteering or make you donation to Trinity UMC, Habitat lunches. You can also check out <https://loudoncountyhabitat.org/>

Memorials

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Camden Bridge Homeowners Assoc.

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Jo Alison Cortez

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Ann & Bob Maroney

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Barbara Montgomery & Flo Valentino

In Memory of Jack Hammontree given by Joe Spence

In Memory of Jack Hammontree by Toni Swaner

In Memory of Sylvia Sproul by Daniel & Carla Sproul

In Memory of Maxine Whistler by Bonnie Ledbetter



Happy Birthday!

09/03 Loretta Jacobsen

09/03 Brenda Logan

09/04 Blake Reed

09/14 Carroll Logan

09/14 Daniel Sproul

09/15 Caroline Perkey

09/16 Connie Smith

09/18 Christine Calvin

09/24 Chris Calvin

09/26 Jan Edwards

09/27 Sandra Guinn

How to find Trinity online:

WEBSITE

<https://trinityumc-lenoircity.org/>

- general information
- coming events
- online version of the Echo Newsletter (under “NEWS”)
- giving opportunities
- music videos (under “MORE -> MUSIC”)
- most recent service videos

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityUMC-LenoirCity>

- every uploaded service and special dating to March 29, 2020 (select the “Videos” tab)
- special music playlist (select the “Playlists” tab)
- Pastor Barbara’s Friday devotional (if you use Facebook, you can also follow her or Trinity as a friend)

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLenoirCity/>

<https://www.facebook.com/barbara.clark.16547>

INSTAGRAM

[https://www.instagram.com/trinity_umc_lenoircity?](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_umc_lenoircity?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==)

[igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_umc_lenoircity?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==) or open Instagram and search for trinity_umc_lenoir_city

We also have a presence on the NextDoor app as “Trinity United Methodist Church Lenoir City, TN.”

Financial Update: September From the Treasurer's Desk

Dear Church Family,

Steady Giving and Ongoing Support

Throughout the past month, our congregation has continued to show generous support through steady giving. This consistent generosity has enabled us to meet our regular expenses and continue supporting local ministries, ensuring that we remain actively engaged in our community outreach efforts.

Upcoming Needs for Fall

As we transition into the fall season, we anticipate an increase in utility costs and recognize the need for some essential building maintenance. If you are able, we invite you to consider making an extra contribution to help us address these upcoming expenses. Please remember that every gift, regardless of its size, makes a meaningful difference and is deeply appreciated.

Ways to Give

For those who prefer electronic giving, our online donation portal is available on the church website, offering a convenient way to contribute. Additionally, you may set up recurring gifts or choose to give in person during Sunday worship services using the QR code provided in the bulletin.

Questions and Special Contributions

If you have any questions regarding your giving or would like to discuss a special contribution, please feel free to reach out to me directly. I am always available to assist and answer any concerns you may have.

Gratitude and Impact

Thank you once again for your continued faithfulness and generosity. Together, we are making a positive impact within our community and extending our reach beyond.

With gratitude,

Mike Pearce

Treasurer



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

August was a very busy and most productive month for the women of Trinity UMW as we first planned our hours and workdays for the month and then began the setup for our Grandma's Attic sale on Friday, September 5th, and Saturday, September 6th. Our hours each day are 9am to 2pm. UMW members need to arrive for the sale at 8:15 am on Friday and Saturday. Come join us and bring a friend or two. You may just find that "treasure" also.

We thank ALL the ladies who came out each scheduled day to make sense out of all the donated items needed for a successful sale and we also want to say "Thank You" to the Fellas who set up the clothing racks and all the necessary tables required to hold our treasures. We couldn't have done it without you!!

At our October meeting the members will decide which organizations will receive proceeds from the Grandma's Attic sale.

We look forward to seeing you at the Sale!!





Missions & Outreach

UMCOR Gaza Relief

Trinity has donated \$2,355 to UMCOR as part of the world-wide effort to relieve hunger and suffering in the Middle East and Gaza! Thank You for your generosity during this critical time. You can learn more about UMCOR's efforts at their website: www.umcor.org

"The genius of UMCOR's strategy is that by assigning survivors a trained disaster case manager, volunteer coordinator, and construction coordinator, we can tackle projects too overwhelming for most disaster response groups. WE HELP CREATE ORDER OUT OF CHAOS."

–Rev. Scott Parrish, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator for the North Georgia Conference

Early Response to Catastrophic Flooding in Central Texas

Because of the ongoing support of Trinity and many other Methodists, UMCOR provided immediate relief to families and communities suffering from the devastating loss of life and property. And thanks to a recent Rio Texas Annual Conference solidarity grant, UMCOR continues to provide ongoing humanitarian assistance like debris removal and distribution of relief supplies and more. Please continue to pray for all those impacted by this tragic disaster.

Missions & Outreach

Battle of the Bridge Canned Food Drive:

Trinity again and again you are so giving when asked to support a ministry to help others. Well, your generosity amounted to 45 lbs. of canned food, along with a check for \$1,136.66 which means when each \$1 is converted to 5 lbs. of food, plus the 45 lbs., you gave 5,728.30 lbs. WOW! Thank You too for assisting and caring for so many families in our community who are food insecure. Your gift and those of many others will definitely make a difference in the lives of so any people!



Students and faculty from Lenoir City High School celebrate as they win the annual Good Samaritan Food Drive competition in 2024.

Missions & Outreach

Bishops: Ukrainians Need Church's Presence

By Jim Patterson

Key points:

- *The war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been ongoing for more than three years.*
- *Newly elected Bishop Knut Refsdal is leading the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference, which includes Ukraine, after the retirement of Bishop Christian Alsted from active episcopacy.*
- *United Methodists continue to do what they can to boost morale and get food, clothing, medical care and other support to those who need it.*

There are heartbreaking stories happening every day in Ukraine. Bishop Christian Alsted has his share.

Alsted, who recently retired as bishop of the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference, which includes Ukraine, tells of a father and daughter fleeing Kharkiv — dad on a train and daughter on a bus.

"While they were talking, the bus was hit by an attack of Russian soldiers," Alsted said. "She literally died while she was on the phone with him. ...It has been really, really bad, and continues to be really, really bad."

Russian troops invaded neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Many have fled the country since then, and United Methodists have helped by providing shelter and getting food, clothing, medical care and other help to the victims of the war.

"The first two years of the war, people were more optimistic and more patriotic," said the Rev. Yulia Starodubets, who is living with refugees at Under the Castle, a United Methodist mission center near Kam'yanytsya, Ukraine, while doing what she can to help. "Nowadays, people get tired and, of course, soldiers get tired. ... We are not so optimistic nowadays."

Starodubets and her husband, the Rev. Oleg Starodubets, were serving The United Methodist Church in Kyiv when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Thousands have been sheltered through United Methodist efforts to date, she said. She said there are about 40 people — mostly women, children and seniors — who are staying at Under the Castle, which was purchased through a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief in March 2024.

“We provide a free stay and food two times a day. ... We have people still from the regions which are occupied or where (there) is active war actions going on or from places where people are under the shellings,” she said.

Starodubets said the goal is to transform Under the Castle into a rehabilitation center for war-related trauma.

Protestant churches, including The United Methodist Church, have played “a very important role in caring for people,” Alsted said.

“Helping people to get out, get them on trains, on buses, helping people move out of the war zones to places where they could be safe,” he said.

“I would say the most important thing has been to be present, to talk to people, try to encourage, try to bring some hope,” he said. “I listen to their stories.”

Being present reassures victims of the war that the church has not forgotten them, Alsted said.

Bishop Knut Refsdal, who was elected in April and assigned to lead the Nordic-Baltic-Ukraine Episcopal Area, tried to visit in June but it didn’t work out schedule-wise. Now he hopes to make his first visit to Ukraine in August.

Refsdal recently met with pastors via Zoom.

“Many of them are getting really tired of this situation, and it challenges their faith, their spirit and so on,” he said

“At that time, they will have a pastor’s gathering, to express solidarity, a witness of the global church caring for them,” he said.

“They have a tradition as a Christian country, so it was important for them to put trust in God and to pray and to get together as a church,” he said. “They cling to it, and they realize they need the church and the fellowship that the church can provide.”

A Russian victory is unthinkable to Ukrainians, Alsted said.

“In talking with church leaders, one of the things they are saying is that they know what it is like to live under Soviet rule,” he said. “And if Russia wins the war, the very close ties between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian government will make life impossible for all other churches.”

If Ukraine prevails, there will be the need for “missionaries, doctors, nurses and people who have experience working with persons suffering from (post-traumatic

stress syndrome), which is a very high percentage of the population,” he said.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief continues to work with partners in the region to support relief and recovery projects in Ukraine. UMCOR recently announced two new grants worth more than \$1.5 million. One of the grants will go toward building new housing in Kremenchuk and providing support for Roma people in Uzhhorod. The second will be used in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts for repairing shelters and improving accessibility for disabled persons, the elderly and veterans in public places, housing and transportation.

Alsted plans to continue to be in ministry with the people of Ukraine and said he will work at least another four years until full retirement.

“I’m going to work half time with developing young missional leaders in Denmark and Norway, and then I will serve as pastor in a local church on the island Bornholm (in Denmark) and do my best, together with the leadership there, to develop a church and be a strong witness in that community.

“But none of that will prevent me from continuing to support Ukraine, rather the opposite,” Alsted said.

As Refsdal prepares for his first trip to Ukraine, he is aiming to be “a voice representing the international church and international society, supporting them in this situation, helping them to cope with the situation.”

“I think they appreciate being a part of a global church, a wider community and, in a way, I become a symbol of that,” he said. “Maybe the most important part is to just dare to go there and to be there and to listen to what they tell when they describe their situation.

“That is maybe the most important, I think.”



Displaced Ukrainians staying at Under the Castle near Kam'yanytsya, Ukraine, eat a meal together during Christmas of 2024. About 40 people are staying at the United Methodist mission center, which was purchased through a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Photo by the Rev. Yulia Starodubets, courtesy of Global Ministries.

Church & Society



Food Insecurity is a Matter of Justice

Church and Society Intern Tafadzwa Chikawa, recent graduate of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, offers his second article in a three part series on social justice concerns in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Food insecurity remains one of the most urgent and heart-breaking challenges facing the rural communities of Mutare. In communities like Zimunya, Odzi, and Marange, families are grappling with climate shocks, deepening poverty, and the harsh reality of reduced international aid.



A farmer in southwestern Zimbabwe, stands in the middle of his dried up crop field amid a devastating May, 2024 drought that impacted all of Zimbabwe. Photo Credit Associated Press

In May 2024, smallholder farmers in my region of Mutare faced devastating crop failures due to prolonged drought conditions. Maize and sorghum, the backbone of many rural diets, withered in the fields, forcing many families into the lean season earlier than usual with little or no reserves (Zimbabwe Meteorological Services Department, 2024).

Without the buffer provided by programs like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Food for Peace initiative, these communities are now largely left to fend for themselves. School feeding programs and women-led farming cooperatives, once vibrant with activity and hope, are struggling to survive.

“Food systems that are ecologically sustainable, locally oriented, and equitably distributed are urgent priorities. We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food.” (United Methodist Church Social Principles, Community of All Creation, Creation Stewardship, C., Food Justice)

Leaning into Our Faith, There is Hope on the Horizon Protecting small-scale farmers, promoting equitable food access, and empowering rural communities to grow their own food is part of the solution for food security in Zimbabwe. Although recent cuts in international funding threaten this vision, I have witnessed the incredible resilience and compassion from local United Methodist Churches here in Mutare rural.

At congregations in Marange, Zimunya, and Nyanyadzi, members have stepped up by creating grassroots feeding schemes and reviving the traditional Zunde Ramambo model, where communal fields are cultivated together and the produce is shared with the most vulnerable.

Additionally, church-run agricultural workshops have taken on a critical role in promoting conservation farming and climate-resilient crops such as millet, cowpeas, and sorghum. These initiatives are not offering short-term relief but are laying the foundation for long-term food sovereignty.

Our churches have also partnered with local schools to establish nutrition gardens, helping children access fresh vegetables while learning sustainable farming skills. This is what faith in action looks like transforming lives

through compassion, education, and empowerment.

As a member of King David UMC and an intern with the General Board of Church and Society, I believe that the UMC has both the capacity and the moral responsibility to respond to this crisis. The Church must use its voice to advocate for increased national investment in rural food programs and to explore alternative funding mechanisms to fill the gap left by USAID.

The General Board of Church and Society, working with partner organizations, can advocate for international policies and influence United Nations resolutions that uphold food justice initiatives and protect the rights of rural communities across the world.

Food justice in Mutare rural is not just a matter of charity it is about restoring dignity, securing human rights, and fulfilling our Gospel call to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:35–40, NRSV).

The situation is serious, but not hopeless. With united efforts from the Church locally, nationally, and globally we can help build a food system that ensures that every family in Mutare rural has access to nourishing food and the tools to grow it with dignity. I share this message as someone who lives the reality daily and believes deeply in the transformative power of faith, justice, and community.



Tafadzwa Chikawa, is a recent graduate of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe (June 2025) earning a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Social Work.

Growing up in Mutare, he learned early on the value of community. At Hartzell High School, Tafadzwa served as Vice President of the Leo Club, leading donation drives for orphanages and senior homes. Through his involvement with King David United Methodist Church in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference, he held various leadership roles in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, including Secretary and Vice President.

Serving in the Ethnic Young Adult Internship Program at the General Board of Church and Society, Tafadzwa is planning to grow as a communicator, advocate, and servant leader, creating meaningful change in both the church and society.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office closed in observance of Labor Day holiday	2 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	3 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel	5 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Rummage Sale	6 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Rummage Sale 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
7 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion	8 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	9 1:00 pm Lay Leadership Meeting in New Visions Classroom 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	10 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel	12	13 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
14 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	15 5:30 pm Admin. Council & Finance Committee Meeting in New Visions classroom 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	16 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	17 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel	19	20 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
21 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	22 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	23 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	24 12:00 pm Missions & Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel	26	27 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons in Chapel
28 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	29 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	30 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel				