



From the Desk of the Pastor

“The whole body, ...as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” -Ephesians 4:16

I invite you to pray with me into the message from Ephesians 4 so that our congregation is a vital light shining for the Lord in our community. Trinity can be that vibrant light when all members contribute our gifts generously. This is the season of the Church year when pastors prepare for Charge Conference, which involves the election of officers and leaders for the coming year. Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, at Loudon UMC, and I encourage you to attend. The pastor of every UMC congregation serves as the Chair of the Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee, and every pastor serves alongside the Lay Leader and other elected members of that team. Trinity’s members of the Lay Leadership/ Nominations Committee are the pastor, the Lay Leader (Jane Whitaker), Denise Brookshire, Terri Pearce, and Melanie Robinson. Please pray for us as we present our nominations for approval by our Church Council and by the Charge Conference.

As I prepare to lead this important ministry of the church, I wish to know about your spiritual gifts, talents, experience, and willingness to serve. If you did not complete a Time & Talent Survey last year, please fill out a form for me this month. (If you completed a form in 2026, I do not need an additional one.) As Christ’s followers, we have a strong belief that the sharing of our spiritual gifts will strengthen the Church. Let’s pray in unity for the Lord to use our gifts and abilities to promote love, hope, justice, and peace, while praying also for us to reach more persons for Christ. I am grateful for your history of faithfulness, and I look forward to witnessing the Lord’s answers to our prayers for a hopeful future.

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday!
Blessings,
Barbara



September Lectionary

September 6 - *Romans 13:8-14*

September 13 - *Matthew 18:21-35*

September 20 - *Acts 2:14-21*

September 27 - *Acts 3:1-16*

Labor Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. We hope that you and your loved ones have a fun and safe holiday weekend!

Habitat Lunches

Trinity will provide lunches for Habitat for Humanity volunteers on Tuesday, September 8, and Tuesday, September 15. If you would like to contribute or deliver lunches, please contact Jane Whitaker.

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!

Trinity Echo, September 2026

Trinity United Methodist Church's Annual Rummage Sale

September 11 and 12, 2026



We have cleaned out our kitchens, kids' rooms, attics, garages, closets, jewelry boxes and craft rooms.

Gently used items will be available for purchase (incredibly low prices!) in our Fellowship Hall.

September 11 and 12

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Trinity United
Methodist Church
300 West 2nd Avenue
Lenoir City, TN**



Proceeds are donated to our local community charities.



Lay Leadership Meeting

The Lay Leadership Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 16, at 11:00 am in the conference room.

Wildflower Walk

Everyone is invited to the wildflower walk at Townsend River Walk and Arboretum on Friday, September 18. The group will meet at the church at 10:00 am, and then we'll eat lunch at a local café after the walk. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Barbara.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Monday, September 21, at 5:30 pm in the conference classroom.

Missions & Outreach Meeting

The Missions and Outreach Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 30, at noon in the conference room.

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 18, following worship in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for their annual visit! The next Meet & Greet will take place in November.

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday

09/03 Loretta Jacobsen

09/03 Greg Lovelace

09/04 Blake Reed

09/14 Carroll Logan

09/14 Daniel Sproul

09/15 Caroline Perkey

09/18 Christine Calvin

09/24 Chris Calvin

09/26 Jan Edwards

09/27 Sandra Guinn

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

A Note from the Treasurer

September Finance Update

As we enter the fall season, I want to share a brief update on Trinity's financial picture. Summer giving remained steady overall, though a few lighter Sundays put us slightly behind our monthly targets. This is common for mid-year, and we anticipate giving to strengthen as attendance increases in September.

Our year-to-date expenses continue to track well within budget, and all core ministries remain fully supported. The Finance Team is also watching a few areas where costs have risen modestly, such as utilities and program materials, to ensure we stay ahead of trends as we prepare for the 2027 budget cycle.

I also want to highlight an important project funded through our **Capital Funds**: the upcoming sealing of the sanctuary roof. This work is designed to **extend the life of the roof and protect the building for years to come**, and we are grateful for the designated gifts that make this kind of long-term stewardship possible.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to Trinity's mission. Your faithful giving sustains our worship, outreach, and care for the community as we move into a meaningful season of ministry.

In His Name,

Mike Pearce, Treasurer

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Missions & Outreach

Bridge Refugee Services “Gently Used Warm Coats and Hoodies”: Trinity has been asked to join in the collection of *Gently Used Warm Coats and Hoodies* for refugee families in our community here and in the Chattanooga area. The agency serves about 750 clients who have left their country of origin, left a second country and must be in their third or fourth country before applying for protected status in the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. With this status they are allowed to apply for legal permanent residence after one year and citizenship after five years, although this is changing under the current administration.

Their clients include Afghans who came as temporary humanitarian parolees, a status established for them in late 2021 at the end of this country’s participation in the war in Afghanistan, but the status no longer exists. They must now apply for another protected status.

Bridge also works with about 500 Ukrainian nationals who came to East Tennessee during their country’s war with Russia. Their status has also changed and the Department of Homeland Security began implementing a new \$1,000 immigration parolee fee last October of 2025. In Tennessee, Bridge is the only resettlement agency across 33 counties.

Trinity will begin collecting those *Gently Used Warm Coats and Hoodies* for parents and their children following the conclusion of our Grannies Attic Sale. At this time we expect the collection to continue through October 4. In advance, we **Thank You** for joining in another new opportunity for Trinity UMC to Love Our Neighbors.

TMW Father’s Day Recognition: We want to **Thank** all who participated in our annual TMW Father’s Day Recognition. You raised \$550 for our outside black railings and bell repair. Well, then one very generous, anonymous individual said they’d like to not only pay for those repairs but also refinish our four sanctuary doors! And do they look lovely. Thank you so very much! It all looks so fresh and wonderful!

So on Monday, August 3, at our TMW meeting we elected to now move your offering of \$550 to our Capital Expenses, Roof Sealing project. The Trustees hope to carry out the reroofing by the fall. We can hardly wait!!

Good Samaritan School Backpacks: Well, Trinity you just continue reaching out and saying “Yes, we’ll help” when there is a need. Assisting in the purchase of school backpacks for children in our community has been an on-going annual outreach, and this year your generosity raised \$640 providing the necessary grade specific items for children. It’s so important to get that good start! **THANK YOU!!**

Missions & Outreach



Battle of the Bridge Canned Food Drive: Again Trinity, your giving, your generosity amounted to 120 lbs. of canned food, along with a check for \$1,100 which means when each \$1 is converted to 5 lbs. of food, plus the 120 lbs., you gave 5,620 lbs. of food to assist families in our community who are food insecure. That deserves a **WOW** for sure and a “Thank You” for assisting and caring for so many families. Your gifts will definitely make a difference in the lives of many!

Jo,
We are always amazed at the kindness of your church members. You are always there when we reach out and we are very blessed.

We appreciate your support of the Lenoir City Schools Family Resource Center. It is our goal to increase family support by providing programming and services that encourage families to be engaged with our schools. Thank you for helping us to build lasting relationships with our students, their parents, and our community.

Susan

Church & Society: Justice



The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1061) is vital legislation that would prohibit immigration enforcement actions in spaces that provide essential services and refuge, such as houses of worship, schools, hospitals, courthouses, and other community centers. Without these protections, fear of enforcement deters individuals from seeking medical care, attending school, or practicing their faith, leading to harmful consequences for families and entire communities.

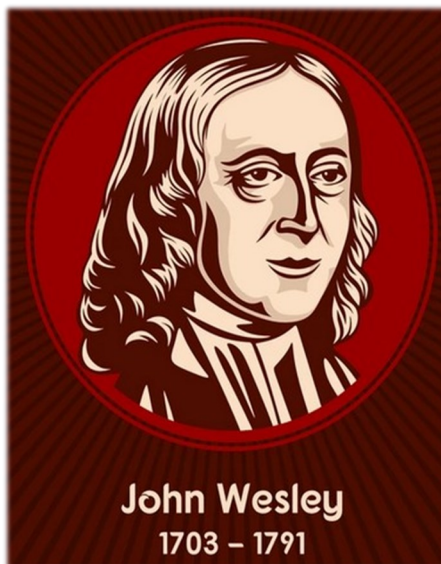
As United Methodists, we believe in the inherent dignity of every person and the sacredness of spaces that provide healing, learning, and worship. (The Social Principles, The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G)

H.R. 1061 upholds the moral and biblical call to protect the vulnerable and welcome the stranger. No one should have to choose between their safety and accessing critical services. Schools should remain places of education, churches should remain places of worship, and hospitals should remain places of healing—without the fear of immigration enforcement tearing families apart. Congress must act now to ensure that these protections become law.

***Take Action Today!** Call or email your members of Congress and urge them to support H.R. 1061, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. Tell them that protecting these spaces is a matter of justice, human dignity, and community well-being. Use your voice to advocate for policies that safeguard immigrant families*

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/take-action-2026/take-action-on-this-issue-now>

Wesley's Words



*"Now do all the good you can to
your poor
neighbors. A word spoken in
season, how good is it!"*

*Letter, 22/1/91 - Sayings and Portraits of John Wesley
by John Telford*

Message of Gratitude

Thank you, Trinity congregation, for your generous gifts supporting the stewardship of our church building and property. We offer deep gratitude to Lee Aikens, who contributed to the refinishing and painting of the sanctuary doors, the church bell, and the iron railings. We are grateful to all who have donated to the capital expenses fund for our roof repairs. We appreciate Ab Brookshire's faithful work over the summer to take care of many maintenance projects. Together, we are able to accomplish much for the house of the Lord. All of you are helping us to live into our belief in this teaching: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (II Cor. 9:8).

Thank you!

Trinity UMC Board of Trustees



Memorials

In Memory of Hazel Maples given by the Maples Family

In Memory of Joe & Libby Clark given by Barbara Clark

In Memory of Hazel Maples given by Deb Counce

Dear Friends,

Usually I blog about church matters, social issues or upcoming Conference opportunities. Today, though, I am sharing my personal reflections about the death of one who many call a national treasure.

I was in an appointive cabinet meeting when my husband Lee sent me the text. “Dolly Parton died.” I immediately texted back, “What? I’m so sad about this.” As the day wore on, it became clear that many people had a similar reaction.

Though I did not know Dolly personally, I admired much about her. I am talking about more than her musical skills, winsome persona and many talents. I have been most impressed by her generous spirit, genuine love for others, authentic Christian faith and ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

She seemed equally comfortable talking with Presidents and everyday people, those who agreed with her politically and those who did not, adults, teen-agers and children, country music stars, rock stars and everyone in-between. She was real, accessible and a positive presence to those near and far who were touched by her music and life.

And she loved her Appalachian roots, a quality that those of us living in the region especially appreciate. She reminded the world of the resilience, loyalty, creativity, work ethic, determination and courage of many Appalachians.

I am sure Dolly Parton was not perfect. (None of us are!) I am equally certain that she was a bridge-builder in a society that is often polarized, a healer in a world with lots of brokenness and a kind-hearted soul who exhibited extraordinary generosity in a variety of situations.

My initial response to Dolly Parton’s passing was sadness. However, as the news has sunk in and I’ve reflected on her life, the sadness has turned to gratitude. I am grateful for who she was and all the good she did.

And I am inspired to be a little more generous, loving and authentic as I connect with the various people who cross my path. After all our world needs more bridge-builders, healers, kind-hearted people and generous spirits.

As always, it is a joy to serve as your bishop.

Blessings,

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop
Holston and West Virginia Conferences

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00 am Prayer Group 1:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	2 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group	4 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day	5
6 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion	7 Office Closed Labor Day	8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 11:00 am Habitat Lunch Delivery 1:00 pm Piano Lessons in Chapel	9 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup Day 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00 am - 10:30 am Piano Lessons in Chapel 10:15 am Yoga for Seniors 5:30 pm Walking Group	11 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Rummage Sale	12 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Rummage Sale 9:00 am - 11:00 am Piano Lessons
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