



Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



2084 Wilson Pike · Franklin, TN 37067 · 615.794.2665
Pastor Dennis Meaker: 615.794.2665 · djmeaker@gmail.com

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What is the Season?

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² *a time to be born, and a time to die;*
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*
- ³ *a time to kill, and a time to heal;*
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;*
- ⁴ *a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*
- ⁵ *a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*
- ⁶ *a time to seek, and a time to lose;*
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*
- ⁷ *a time to tear, and a time to sew;*
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*
- ⁸ *a time to love, and a time to hate;*
- a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

I have held back writing this week's newsletter awaiting developments at General Conference. As I explained a few weeks ago, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has been meeting in Portland Oregon since May 10th. This happens every four years. They conclude this Conference on Friday. It is still unclear this Wednesday morning what will happen.

Since 1972 the United Methodist Church has struggled with questions of human sexuality. We have seen these issues play out in many other traditions over the decades, even the Roman Catholic Church. The United Methodist Church has lived with decades in tension. On one hand the Discipline of the Church affirms the sacred worth of all persons and condemns discrimination against persons based upon sexual orientation. On the other hand, the Discipline declares homosexual practice to be incompatible with historic Christian teaching, refuses to ordain "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" and prohibits United Methodist pastors from performing same sex marriages.

While talk of schism has occurred throughout the past forty years, at the General Conference in 2004 there was a proposal for an "amicable separation" put forth by a group of Churches. This proposal was defeated in favor of a resolution of unity with an agreement to continue the discussions seeking a way that we could remain a united Church despite the differences. That resolve to remain together held throughout the 2008 and

2012 General Conferences. However, the pressures caused by the opposing sides in this dispute have steadily increased.

The Council of Bishops made a renewed call for unity on Tuesday, May 17th. The Conference responded with a request that the Council return on the 18th with a proposal for how the Church could move forward to either live together or split apart. There has also been a call that the Council of Bishops exercise its authority to call a Special General Conference in 2018 to address the issue of whether we will remain united or will split. As I write this morning I do not know how the Council of Bishops has decided to respond.

I ask each of you to be in prayer for the United Methodist Church. I continue to believe that it is God's will that, above all, we continue to love and affirm one another. I believe that we are stronger and better together than apart. But I am doubtful that things can go on the way they have. I should be able to give you a more detailed report by Sunday. Peace.

New Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study is a powerful experience that can open the bible up for the participants. I would be willing to begin a new class this September if at least seven people desired to undertake the 34 week study. I could do this study on Monday or Tuesday nights between 7 and 9. If participants would prefer to meet on a week day that could also be arranged. In years past I have also taught Disciple Bible Study between 7 and 9 AM Sunday mornings. If you are interested please contact me at the Church. If you desire additional information for yourself or to give to a friend I have some explanatory booklets available.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our Thursday morning Bible Study meets between 10:00 and 11:30. Everyone is welcome to attend. It has been my practice to allow the group to decide what parts of the bible they wish to study. We have completed our study of the Gospels, including the Book of Acts and are beginning a study of Paul's Epistles. We have begun with 1st Corinthians.

Prayer Ministry

The following persons are part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

Elva Beard	Mac McAfee	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Rachel Newman	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson
Leslie Eastwood		Sam Richardson	

The members of the prayer ministry of Trinity United Methodist church covenant with one another to pray daily for:

- Those concerns on the prayer list of the Church and for healing of body and spirit for all persons listed;
- For each ministry of the church that each ministry would work to bring the Gospel to those within our community and most especially to bring the Gospel to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- For all the members of the Trinity UMC community that they be led and enabled to live as the Body of Christ;
- For our local community and all its needs, especially for those who are struggling with the burden of poverty;
- For our nation and our world that God help lead the people of the world to live in peace with God's Kingdom.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry (or if you have already spoken to me about it and were inadvertently left off the list) please let me know and I will see that you are added.

Up-Coming Sermons

May 22nd: Sermon: Can We Bear the Truth? Sometimes the truth is hard to hear. Sometimes it is hard to believe. For instance, do you believe that you need salvation? My texts are Psalm 8 and John 16:12-15

May 29th: A Different Gospel: From the beginning, people within the Church have proposed different Gospels, more comfortable Gospels. How can we identify those Gospels? My texts are Luke 7:1-10 and Galatians 1:1-12.

Worship Leader's Schedule

May 22

Erin McKibben **Liturgist**

Mike and Elaine Rohrig, **Greeters**

Sam Richardson and Tommy Cotton, **Ushers**

Announcements

Parent's Day Out:

We will be launching a Parents Night Out program in July! This program will provide a safe and fun environment for children ages 3-12 while their parents enjoy a night out. We will be looking for 6-8 volunteers to help with each of these PNO events starting in July. We are planning for PNO to occur Friday evenings from 6-9:30. We will share dates for volunteers to sign up this Sunday. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.

Our ministry for providing food and serving at **61 St. UMC will be May 28**. Volunteers are needed for this ministry. Please make Charles Wilson aware if you are able to volunteer for this important ministry.

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's VBS. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the side door. If you have questions, please contact Dawn Stevens at (615)-638-8827 or dawnstevens1961@gmail.com. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the theme and all the activity details. VBS is an exciting, fun time for all, come join in!

The **Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School class** is both learning and enjoying a series of videos, narrated by Ray Vanderlann. The videos as well as the narration take place in ancient lands described in the Old Testament. We enjoy discussion about what we are learning and the application of the lessons to our lives.

We enjoy fellowship beginning at 9:45 with our study beginning at 10:00. All are welcome to join us as we pursue Biblical truths and the application for our lives.

Birthdays in May

Tommy Cotton, Sam Richardson, Jim Winton

Happy Birthday to each of you!