

**Happy**



**Thanksgiving**

### **WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?**

I have had a few folks asking about what's going on in the denomination around ordination and officiating marriage of LGBTQIA+ persons. At the end of September our Bishop held a town hall about it (if you missed it, you can check it out in resources below). There was also just an article in the Frederick News Post in October, called "United Methodists are breaking up in a slow-motion schism." But you have heard me say very little about it, other than having a meeting back in the spring (which you can find on our Youtube page and in the resources below) and mentioning the bishop's town hall.

That's because nothing has changed.

The only body of the denomination that can speak for the denomination is General Conference- not the pastors, not the bishops, but the elected delegates (1/2 clergy and 1/2 laity) from Annual and Central Conferences around the world. They met in 2019 and, because of the pandemic, will not meet again in 2024.

Now, in 2019, General Conference *\*did\** vote to become more restrictive on ordaining and officiating marriage of LGBTQIA+ persons. However, even though the General

Conference speaks for the denomination, we have a series of checks and balances based on the structure of the United States government. We have an executive branch (the Council of Bishops) and judicial branch (Judicial Council) in addition to the legislative (General Conference). The Judicial Council ruled much of what happened at General Conference as unconstitutional (I can give you specifics if you ask), and it was such an ugly experience (for instance, there was voting fraud- in the church!), that most bishops including our own have put a moratorium on prosecuting clergy over the ordination and officiating marriage of LGBTQIA+ persons.

So we spent all that money on General Conference- and all that angst and all that hope- and nothing really happened except everyone got more hurt and more frustrated. Some churches- both those who want to celebrate LGBTQIA+ persons fully in the life of the church and those who want to be more restrictive- decided that this debate is untenable and they want to disaffiliate from the denomination. If they didn't decide that immediately, they have continued to discern as it seems the next General Conference is too far away and too much trust has been lost that things will change.

In May, a caucus group within the denomination formed a

splinter denomination that would not welcome LGBTQIA+ persons in leadership or celebrate their marriages. That has made a little more noise for those who want to leave The United Methodist Church (called disaffiliating). However, you have not heard me talk about it because nothing has changed. Leaving this denomination for that one, even though it was formed by former United Methodists, is the same process as it would be for us to leave to become an independent congregational church or to join another denomination like the Episcopalians.

There is a huge financial burden to disaffiliating because we are in relationship with churches across the world, and we have a responsibility to care for retired clergy (you have to pay a certain amount into pensions to leave) and continue our mission and ministry (you have to pay a certain amount of mission shares to leave- which doesn't just pay for conference staff but also goes to organizations like UMCOR and Africa University and scholarships for college students). We also do not own our building (even though some of you remember paying for it) because our denomination has a trust clause, so we also owe the conference a percentage of what our property is worth. It is like a divorce. We are responsible to our denomination, even when we don't agree or don't get along. Churches might still decide to leave, and might need to for their own health and the health of the denomination, but it is not an easy process because we are responsible to the denomination that formed us.

Christians from the very beginning, as we see in Acts, didn't agree with one another on theological issues. Sometimes, like in the case of requiring circumcision or not, they holy conferenced until they came to a single decision to not require that Christians follow Jewish laws in Acts 15. But sometimes, theological differences like over whether or not to eat meat sacrificed to idols in 1 Corinthians 8 came down to individual community decisions based on what best helps people to love God. My prayer is that our denomination and our own congregation here at Trinity can be more like the Acts Church, seeking consensus and being conscious of how best to bring others to

Jesus, instead of our partisan U.S. Congress, unwilling to work together.

But if you are interested in disaffiliation, I will resource you and let you know the process, but I will not be involved myself. I know it has become increasingly difficult, but I minister best (not just pastor- but minister as we all do by virtue of our baptism) with people who don't agree with me, who will challenge me. I think we all minister better that way. I want to be in a church that feeds the hungry and lets people know Jesus loves them. I think we can still do that under the umbrella of The United Methodist Church, but if you disagree, I want you to be able to explore and understand for yourself.

People have been asking me what will happen in 2024, and I have no idea. I don't know if we will get to vote as a congregation on ordination and marriage as we thought we might do before General Conference 2019 actually happened. This is what I do know: we don't have to wait for the denomination or go through a process of disaffiliation to decide who we are. We never have had to. We can let go of all of this institutional anxiety and instead hold onto our purpose to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's what we do in Grow Time on Sunday mornings and our weekly men's, women's, and youth studies, diving deeper into Scripture and praying for one another. It's what we do with Operation Christmas Child and VBS, planting seeds of faith for God to give the growth. It's what we do serving the families in the Religious Coalition or on mission trips, putting our love in action. My prayer is no matter what happens or doesn't happen within the denomination that we keep holding onto that love and learning and serving.

I also see a lot of good in our denomination, even when I am frustrated by our Book of Discipline. I will write more on why I am a United Methodist for another newsletter, but this month I wanted to address disaffiliation and invite you to reach out anytime you want to talk more about what is happening in The United Methodist Church.

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**For more information:**

Bishop's Town Hall: <https://youtu.be/VayeZQI3RGY>

Wespath (the old board of pensions and health benefits): <https://www.wespath.org/about-wespath/wayforwardwespathfaq>

My discussion on church structure and how we got here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Av4CmxWyJcs>

**FILL IT FULL OF FOOD!**

The Missions Ministry Team is asking you to fill the bin marked “food bank” located in the collection center in the Narthex full of food to help feed hungry Frederick families on Sunday November 13 & 20. The collected food will be delivered to the Frederick Food Bank for distribution to hungry people in Frederick. Each week, bring food to help fill it and watch as it grows!

**EASY TITHE IS NOW LIVE!**

Go to: [www.trinityfrederick.org/giving](http://www.trinityfrederick.org/giving) to make your donation. If you still have recurring payments through PayPal, please switch them off.

You can give 5 easy ways: credit card, debit card, ACH, Google Pay and soon to be available, PayPal. Online givers have the option to make a one time payment or recurring payments as well as the option to make the payment with or without signing up for Easy Tithe.

Please reach out to Jenna at [tumc@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:tumc@trinityfrederick.org) or by calling the office 301-662-2895. I certainly hope you find this new system easy and more beneficial with more options for your online giving. Also, the option to call in and make a donation over the phone is available. Please keep in mind, you can continue to make donations via check or cash if you wish not to use the online giving system.



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11,  
IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY**

We will re-open on Monday, November 15. Have a safe and peaceful holiday, remembering those brave men and women who have served.

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 & 25 IN  
OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING**

We will re-open on Monday, November 28. Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving, praising the Lord for all He has given this season.



**Operation Christmas Child**  
**Annual Shoebox Packing Party**  
**Sunday, November 6, 2022**  
**11:30 am**

This Christmas season we are once again hosting a packing party to benefit Operation Christmas Child! We are hoping to fill hundreds of shoeboxes with gifts for children around the world, providing not only a gift, but an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

On **November 6th**, we will gather in the multi-purpose room for this annual Trinity event. We will provide a light lunch before packing boxes. Individuals, families and small groups are invited to enjoy a time of service and fellowship while providing hope and help to children all over the world!

*If you have questions, please contact Laura Welker:*  
[yardwelk@aol.com](mailto:yardwelk@aol.com)  
 or 301 788-0048



***ALL of us are called to share the Good News of the Gospel!***

*Sending a shoe box is one way we can share the love of Jesus Christ with a child.*

**Sunday, November 6**

*Packing Party at 11:30am in the Multipurpose Room*

**Sunday, November 13**

*Bring your gift-filled shoebox to church for the shoebox blessing*

**November 14-21**

*National Collection Week (more info below)*



Trinity is a Drop Off location for Frederick and Carroll Counties. *We need volunteers to help collect, count, and cartonize shoe boxes as people from the area drop off their shoe box gifts. Check the welcome table or call Laura Welker to sign up for a time that suits your schedule.*

**Drop Off Location Hours:**

Mon, Nov. 14: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Mon, Nov. 14: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Tue, Nov. 15: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Tue, Nov. 15: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Wed, Nov. 16 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Wed, Nov. 16: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Thu, Nov. 17: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Thu, Nov. 17: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Fri, Nov. 18 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Fri, Nov. 18: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Sat, Nov. 19: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Sun, Nov. 20: 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 Mon, Nov. 21: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**2022 HOLIDAY HOPE TREE**

With your help, the Missions Team provides tidings of joy with Christmas gifts to residents and clients of Community Living each year with the Holiday Hope Tree. The tree will be up and ready on **Sunday, November 13**. We need your support to make this a Merry Christmas for these people!



**Participating in the Holiday Hope Tree program is easy:**

- Select an ornament from the tree and complete the sign-up sheet located next to the tree.
- Purchase the gift, wrap it & tape the ornament to the outside of the gift.
- Place it under the tree in the Narthex **NO LATER than Sunday, DEC. 4.**

*You can also help make this year a holiday of hope and joy for the residents by your participation at the Community Living Christmas Party here at Trinity on Sunday, December 11 where the gifts will be distributed.*

## Charitable Giving

In addition to the giving of a monetary gift, there are many ways you can support the ministries and missions of Trinity United Methodist Church. There are many opportunities for charitable giving. This list is just some examples for you and your family to consider.

1. Gift of your time and talents: God has given each of us talents and the church often has a need for those skills. You can help the Church with your skills, such as plumbing, HVAC, electrical, gardening, fixing appliances or lawnmowers, painting, computers, lighting, sewing, etc. Let the Church know how you would like to help by putting a business card or note in the offering plate or calling/e-mailing the church office. Many ministry teams could benefit from your skills and talents.
2. Gift of appreciated property: Some of us have appreciated stock, bonds, real estate or collectibles. The property must have been owned at least one year. You get a charitable deduction for the average market value as of the date of the gift and you do not have to pay capital gains because you gifted the property rather than the cash.
3. Stock in a privately held company: Does your closely held company wish to buy back some of its stock? Your shares could be donated to the church and the company would buy the stock from the church. The church receives the proceeds of the sale and you avoid recognizing capital gains. You also get a charitable deduction based on the appraised value of the stock.
4. Sale of depreciated stock: Do you have a stock that has gone down in value and it doesn't look like it will be going up anytime soon? Consider selling the stock and give the proceeds as a monetary gift. Not only will you get the charitable deduction, you will also be able to claim a loss on your tax return, subject to limitations.
5. Life Insurance: An easy and direct form of planned giving is through a new life insurance policy. You make Trinity the beneficiary and owner of the policy. The premiums are tax-deductible and policies can be paid up within a few years. Do you have an existing life insurance policy? If you transfer the ownership of the policy to the church and make the church the beneficiary, you will receive a charitable deduction in the amount of the cash surrender value at the time of transfer. Any additional premiums paid would be tax deductible.
6. Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity: Do you have investments but you need an income stream from the dividends or interest to pay your bills? You can set up a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity. The trust or annuity will pay you until your death with the remainder going to the church after death.
7. Charitable lead Trusts: Do you have investments and desire to leave your estate to your heirs? There are charitable lead trusts that can be set up where the first 15 - 20 years the annual payments go to the church, and, afterwards, the remaining funds revert to your heirs.
8. Your Will: Do you have investments but you want to make sure you have enough to take care of you through your retirement years? Consider including the church in the provisions of your will.

***As Jesus said "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8)***

If you want to talk more about these and other charitable giving options, please contact **Gail Fitzgerald at 301-305-2481** or to donate to the Endowment-Sustaining Fund contact the **Community Foundation of Frederick County at 301-695-7660 or CFO@frederickcountygives.org.**

(MT=Ministry Team) (OCC=Operation Christmas Child)						
November 2022 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	2 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	3 6:00 pm Missions MT	4	5
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 8:45 am - Grow Time "Open Door" 10:00 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Youth Grow Time						
6 11:30 am OCC Packing Party	7 6:30 pm Disciple   Fast Track 8:00 pm Church Council	8 Election Day 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	9 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	11 Veteran's Day Church Office Closed	12
13 12:00 pm OCC National Collection Week Set-up 6:30 pm Youth Group	14	15	16	17	18	19
OCC National Collection Week						
	6:30 pm Disciple   Fast Track	8:30 am Men's Bible Study	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance Meeting		
20 6:30 pm Youth Group	21 OCC National Collection Week	22	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	25 Church Office Closed	26
		8:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees MT				
27 6:30 pm Youth Group	28	29 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	30	<b>SUNDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE</b> 5:00 pm - Youth Choir 5:00 pm - Wesley Choir 5:00 pm - Trinity Brass 6:30 pm - Handbell Choir		<b>WEDNESDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE</b> 6:00 pm - Chancel Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Team

All baptized and confirmed Christians are the ministers of the church.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Senior Pastor.....Shannon Sullivan  
Minister of Visitation.....John Morrill  
Director of Program Ministries.....Heather Throckmorton  
Director of Youth Ministries.....Wendy Huff  
Administrative Assistant.....Jenna Cintron  
Director of Community Engagement.....Curtis Osborne  
Bookkeeper.....Rosemary Bolino  
Coordinator of Music & Arts.....Denise Berry  
Organist.....Dominic Bechtel

Director, Chancel Choir.....Valerie Wittkamper  
Director, Youth Choir.....Denise Berry  
Director, Trinity Brass.....Matt Stegle  
Director, Jacob's Ladder Praise Band .....Jim Chamblee  
Director, Audio/Visual/Media Ministries .....Guy Berry  
Audio/Visual/Media Ministries technicians.....Jim Clark  
Trevor Forman  
Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center.....Diane Younkins  
Pam Hewetson

**CHURCH LEADERS & MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS**

Co-Chairpersons, Church Council.....Don Fine, Dick Gessner  
Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations MT\*.....TBD  
Lay Members, Annual Conference.....Laura Welker  
Chairperson, Stewardship & Finance Team.....Wanda Osborne  
Treasurer.....Bob Kripowicz  
Financial Secretary.....Sandy Wiles  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees.....Guy Berry  
Chairperson, Missions Team.....Kay Etzler  
Chairperson, Women's MT .....TBD

Co-Chairpersons, Altar Guild.....Sue Rowland  
Pamela Lesperance  
Chairperson, Member Care & Nurture MT.....Don Hott  
Chairperson, Fellowship & Hospitality MT.....Dick Gessner  
TPCC (Counseling Center) MT.....Dee Demich  
Chairperson, Children's MT.....TBD  
Chairperson, Youth MT.....TBD  
Chairperson, Church & Society MT.....Dorothy Granberry  
\* Ministry Team



Sign up for our

**e-NEWSLETTER**

We are trying to be better stewards of the church's resources and are offering an electronic version of the monthly newsletter for those interested. If you would like to receive an electronic version instead of a paper copy, please e-mail the church office at [tumc@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:tumc@trinityfrederick.org).



Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 6 at 2am. Set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Please submit your information or article for the monthly Newsletter in one of the following ways :

- mail or deliver to the church office
- email to [TUMC@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:TUMC@trinityfrederick.org).

Information for the December 2022 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of November – November 13.



The church office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9am-4pm and Friday from 9am-12pm, with the phone being available until 4pm.

Your pastor is here for you:  
Rev. Shannon Sullivan  
(off on Fridays):

301-662-2895 (work)  
410-937-8835 (cell)

[seniorpastor@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:seniorpastor@trinityfrederick.org)





Trinity United Methodist Church  
703 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

301-662-2895  
tumc@trinityfrederick.org  
www.trinityfrederick.org

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Permit #12

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Cookie Walk 2022\*

Saturday, December 10  
Order Pick-up 9am - 11am

**\*Pre-orders Only**

*Start warming your ovens. We need elves to bake yummy and delicious Christmas cookies. We need help on Friday evening for setting up and on Saturday to assist with the sale. Invite friends and neighbors to come buy our cookies!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

calling all BAKING elves



**BAKE:**  I will bake approximately \_\_\_\_\_ dozen cookies.

*Cookies should be delivered to the Multipurpose Room on Friday, 12/9 between 4-7 pm. On delivery, please indicate the type of cookies, your name, and if they contain nuts (relating to allergies).*

**HELP:**  Set-up on Friday evening, December 9 starting at 4pm.

Serve on Saturday morning, December 10 starting at 8:15 am.

**BUY:**  I would like to pre-order:

\_\_\_\_\_ small platters at \$20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ large platters at \$32.00 each

*Questions? Contact Jenna at tumc@trinityfrederick.org or 301-662-2895.*