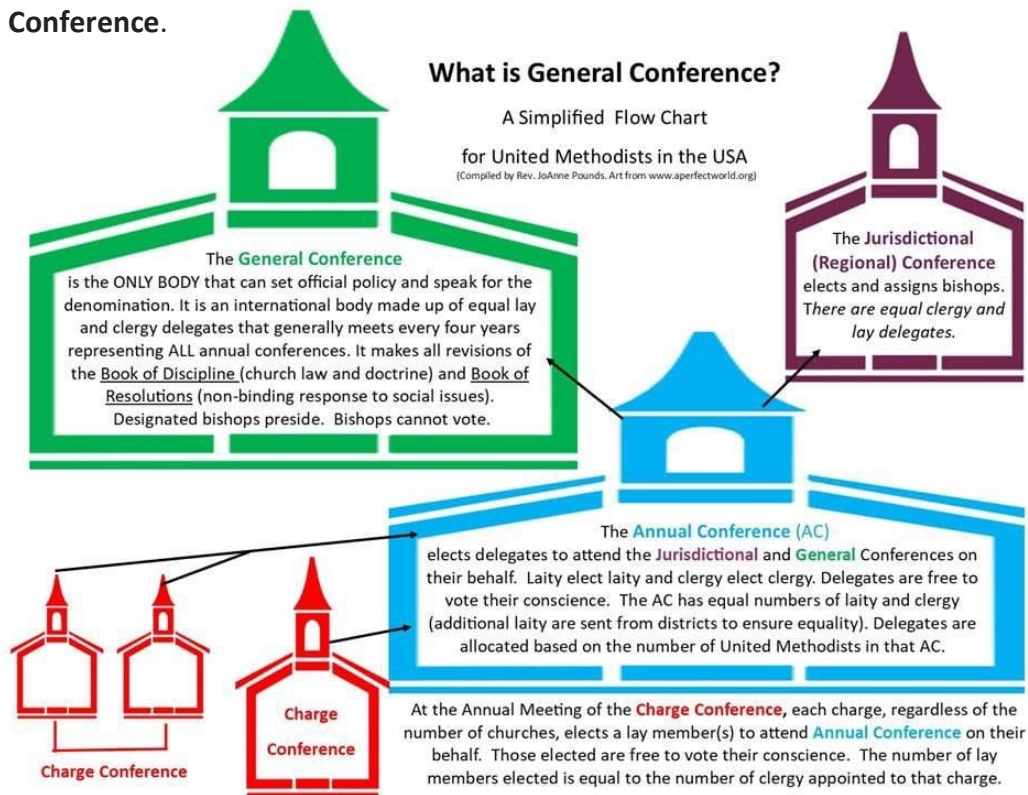


**Happy Easter! Now that we've celebrated the resurrection, let us talk about what brings everyone life: institutional organizational structures! Whoop whoop!**

Ok, I am being silly, and I hope you spend time reading the resurrection stories in the Gospels and also some of the Acts of the Apostles this season, but this month I wanted to share about structure for a couple reasons:

1. The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the only body of the church that speaks for the church, meets in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 23 to May 3. Our Trinity Brass will be playing during opening worship on April 23, so we will have a watch party as well as other opportunities for prayer for our denomination throughout those weeks.
2. Our church leadership has been looking at our own structure for going on two years now and considering making changes to streamline decision-making and free people up for mission and ministry. Structure might not be the Good News. In fact is definitely is not the Good News! It might not be interesting or exciting. But structure can help or hinder us to make disciples, and so in this newsletter I wanted to be real with you about both our denominational structure that too often leaves us a mess and our local church structure and how we can make changes.

First: **General Conference.**



The above is one of the various charts that might help visualize what the heck all this conferencing we United Methodists talk about is. I'm happy to talk about this structure with anyone interested, but I wanted to focus this first part on General Conference. This is 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 until NOW.

I have led a few evening talks about what is going on in our denomination. You may have seen articles in the paper

*continued on page 3...*

*You are invited  
to the baptism of  
Jeremiah Michael*

*Saturday April 20 at 2pm  
at Trinity UMC in Frederick*

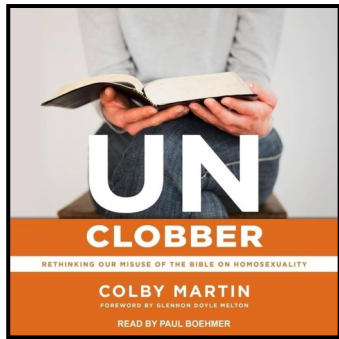
*Followed by a potluck birthday party!*

*NO GIFTS PLEASE  
Though donations in Remi's honor to  
the church or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are welcome!*

Hi all! We wanted to get this baby baptized for a while now, but juggling family schedules and auntie pastor schedules has been difficult. Because we have so many pastors involved, and multiple churches invited, we'll have to do it outside a Sunday morning worship service. I know you LOVE church, so two worship services in one weekend is right up your alley. Please come join us. And bring a dish for fellowship and celebrating Remi's 1st birthday afterwards.

**DOMINIC BECHTEL RECITAL**

Mark your calendars! Dom will be performing a recital for his music major at Hood College on Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. He would love to have us there to hear him "playing things other than choir songs." What a great way to support him and have fun together at the same time!



**UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY**

Rev. Kathy Kohl, a retired United Methodist pastor who has been worshipping with us, and Pastor Shannon will be co-leading a Bible study to help us better

understand homosexuality in the Bible on Thursdays at 7pm in room 108, starting Thursday, April 4. We will be using the book *Unclobber* by Colby Martin and encourage anyone who is interested in the subject to check out the book even if you can't make the class! We will have books available in the narthex. (Shoutout to Frederick County Public Library: both the ebook and the audiobook are available for free through the library app Hoopla.)



**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 April 7, and 14. 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!

**In This Issue...**

General Conference	1	General Conference Cont.	3-4	Monthly Calendar	6
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about it: the church has been in an ugly fight over ordination and marriage of LGBTQIA+ people in the church for decades, but in the last few General Conferences the fight has become completely unbearable. For example, our polity actually restricts people in same-sex relationships from being ordained or getting married in our churches, but, mostly because of how ugly the fight has been, most Annual Conferences, including ours the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, are ignoring the restrictive polity or have a moratorium on "defrocking" pastors in same-sex marriages or pastors who officiate same-sex weddings.

We have no idea what will happen as a result of this upcoming conference. There is legislation about more than ordination and marriage to be discussed- there are budgets and a new potential regional structure that are important, as well as many other things, but we just don't know what will happen in the two weeks of conferencing. I am always available to talk with you more about church history, structure, and polity because I am a giant nerd like that- I am having trouble keeping this newsletter short! You can also check our resources below. I share this with you to ask you to be in prayer.

Pray about, and imagine, what ways could we structure to better enable us as a denomination to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? What could we do as a denomination to share a message of grace together?

***Our own Trinity Brass will be playing during opening worship in Charlotte, North Carolina, and we will have a watch party and share the link for those of you who want to watch. We will have the labyrinth set up for prayer, and I'll have something following General Conference to let you know what happened.***

Here are other resources to find out more:

Trinity Discussions of What's Going On in the Denomination led by Me: [https://youtu.be/Av4CmxWyJcs?si=EZggOqk\\_8BK1tV1\\_](https://youtu.be/Av4CmxWyJcs?si=EZggOqk_8BK1tV1_) or <https://www.youtube.com/live/dHVL2EAnvq8?si=DCv2ubSPH-xdbfvP>

Once General Conference itself starts, Rev. Sarah Schliekert, a member of the Baltimore-Washington delegation, posts videos on Facebook that are easy to understand, fair-minded and even-keeled, and comprehensive: <https://www.facebook.com/share/JSnoLBpa726R3WH9/?mibextid=qj2Omg>

### **Secondly, Trinity UMC and a potential Simplified Board Structure...**

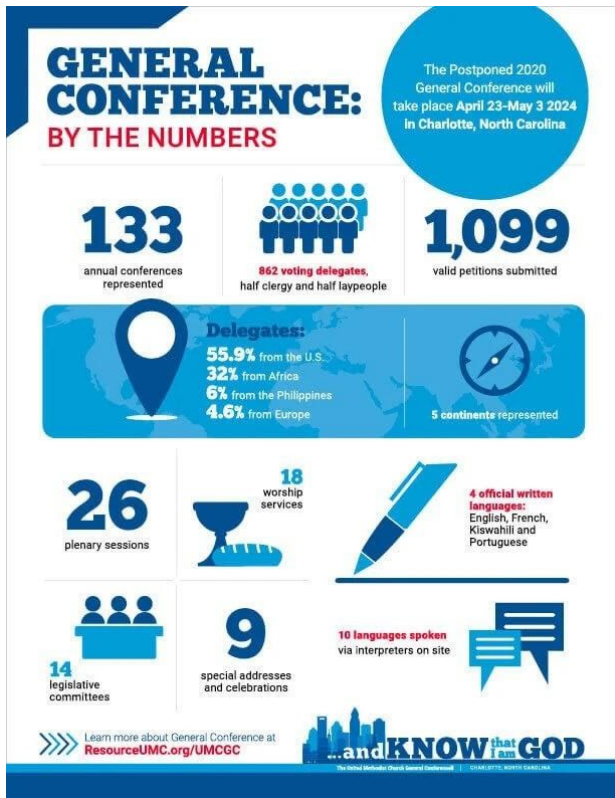
If you are an avid reader of the Cloverleaf, then you have read about General Conference and a One Board or Simplified Board Structure before. But want to be transparent and try to phrase things in new ways to help people understand! Our Church Council has met with two churches and will meet with a third as we explore moving to cut some of our committees and centralize decision-making. This new administrative structure, known as the Simplified Accountable structure, or the One Board Model.

This model moves churches from four administrative committees (trustees, finance, staff-parish relations, and church council) to one Leadership Board encapsulating all responsibilities and authority of the previous four separate administrative committees. This "Committee of Stewards" would only meet once a month, freeing up people from meetings. Church leadership experts recommend a total of 9-15 people make up the new board, and they recommend these folks serve in 3 year classes. The board is NOT self-nominating- a nominations committee still does that work. And ministry teams like the Altar Guild, Missions, and the hands-on building care part of trustees continue to exist independently. Work groups such as a budgeting group might be formed for short term projects.

#### **There are three major benefits in my view:**

1. There is literally no day of the week for us to have an evening Bible study that wouldn't either interfere with choir or a meeting once a month. When we did Disciple FastTrack last year, we would have Disciple from 6:30-8 and then one day a month Church Council would be from 8 until 9 or 9:30. That is not a sustainable schedule! And churches need to have at least one evening a week free for Bible study!
2. There are several of us on multiple committees, and we often have the same meeting over and over and over as Trustees minutes are shared at Finance, and Finance at Trustees and SPRC, and all of them are shared again at church council.

... continued on page 4



...continued from page 3

3. We need to be able to make decisions more quickly. While we do vote over email on occasion, we sometimes have situations like the hiring of a bookkeeper, for instance, in which finance has to approve candidates, SPRC has to have input, if it's a contract rather than a direct hire the Trustees have to sign it, and if it is a contract over a certain amount it must be approved in Church Council.

Structure can be a tool we use to help us deepen our own discipleship. It can help us make disciples as well! Or it can hinder us. Let us be in prayer for our own church and for our denomination that our institutions can help us live into our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

*Please know that we have not made a decision yet and that congregational approval, in the form of a Charge Conference, is needed to make any changes to our church structure. Reach out and ask questions!*

**Here are some resources to find out more:**

This is a recorded webinar featuring leadership coach Kay Kotan and Rev. Blake Bradford: [https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/new-webinar-](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/new-webinar-series-a-simple-structure-for-missional-effectiveness)

[series-a-simple-structure-for-missional-effectiveness](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/new-webinar-series-a-simple-structure-for-missional-effectiveness)

BWC Training Tuesday: One Board The Gifts of a Simplified Accountable Structure. This is a recorded webinar from The Baltimore- Washington Conference featuring the benefits of the one board model; the steps to transition from several committees to this model; the kind of leader needed for this team; the ideal size of the team; and will provide a sample agenda/structure of the meetings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MQJcIX4e5A>

Nuts and Bolts of the Single Board Model. Rev. Blair Hall from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference gave a presentation for his church explaining the one board model. His presentation slides are easy-to-follow and can help with definitions and examples: <https://www.pen-del.org/files/content/dover+district/single+board+model+webinar+7-14-20.pdf>



### EARTH DAY WORSHIP APRIL 21

Pastor Shannon's mom, Rev. Melissa McDade, will be preaching for Earth Day since she'll be in town for the baptism anyway! Rev. McDade is a retired United Methodist pastor who served northern Harford and Baltimore Counties for thirty years before retiring in 2023. She is the proud grandmother of six grandsons. She's pictured here with Pastor Shannon 12 years ago when they celebrated Pastor Shannon becoming a pastor.





*The General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 23-May 3.*

What can we do from Frederick? Join in live streaming opening worship Tuesday April 23 at 2pm in the Sanctuary since our own Trinity Brass will play during worship! We will be sure to share the links so you can watch worship if you are unavailable to watch it live.

Trinity UMC will also have our walkable labyrinth set up for prayer April 27 at noon through the evening of April 28. Adding movement to prayer is powerful, and this is a time for you to listen and pray for Trinity, for the denomination, and for yourself on your faith walk, even if you don't have the exact words to pray. It is a time to connect and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church!

If you would like to help the Trinity Brass travel down and back to Charlotte, North Carolina, to play at opening worship for the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, you can make a special offering by writing "Trinity Brass" in the memo line of a regular check or by giving online and selecting "Trinity Brass" from the dropdown menu!

### ***Stay in the Know...***

#### **TEXT TO GIVE**

For convenient giving on the go, text "GIVING" to 301-265-2895 and you will be sent a direct link to our online giving form to access right on your phone. If you have any questions, please contact Jenna at the Church office, 301-662-2895 or email [tumc@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:tumc@trinityfrederick.org).

#### **WEEKLY E-MAILS**

Trinity sends out a weekly e-mail of upcoming events. If you are currently not receiving this fantastic email but would like to, please e-mail your preferred e-mail address to the church office at [tumc@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:tumc@trinityfrederick.org).



**SAVE THE DATE...**  
**Spaghetti Dinner and**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Saturday, May 4**

Look for registration info on the website, [www.trinityfrederick.org](http://www.trinityfrederick.org), starting early April!

# Need space this summer?

**Vacation Bible School 2024 | We need you!**

*Trinity UMC is happy to announce...*

All day camp with music, lunch & VBS "Stellar"!

**July 8–July 12**

Contact Chris Kenny at [vbs@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:vbs@trinityfrederick.org)  
to volunteer!

**Registration Details coming soon...**



**(MT=Ministry Team)**  
**April 2024**  
**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 8:45 am   Grow Time "Open Door" 10:00 am   Worship Service 11:30 am   Youth Grow Time	1 7:00 pm Church Council	2 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	3 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	4 7:00 pm "Unclobber" Bible Study	5	6
7 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	8	9 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	10 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	11 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm "Unclobber" Bible Study	12	13
14	15	16 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	17 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	18 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance MT 7:00 pm "Unclobber" Bible Study	19	20 2:00 pm Remi Baptism with Birthday Party to Follow
21 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	22 11:30 am JOY Club	23 8:30 am Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Watch Party General Conference 7:00 pm Trustees MT	24 6:00 pm Chancel Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Praise Team	25 6:00 pm Monthly Virtual Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm "Unclobber" Bible Study	26	27 Prayer Labyrinth up in MPR for General Conference
28 Prayer Labyrinth up in MPR for General Conference	29 Prayer Labyrinth up in MPR for General Conference	30 8:30 am Men's Bible Study			<b>SUNDAY MUSIC SCHEDULE</b> 11:30 am   Trinity Brass 5:00 pm   Chimes, Songs & Drums 6:15 pm   Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir	

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*  
 Coordinator of Music & Arts..... *Denise Berry*  
 Organist.....*Dominic Bechtel*  
 Facilities Caretaker.....*Sandra Berry*

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*

**CHURCH LEADERS & MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS**

Co-Chairpersons, Church Council.....*Don Fine, Dick Gessner*  
 Lay Leader.....*Michele Pickens*  
 Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations MT\* ..... *Matt Stegle*  
 Chairperson, Stewardship & Finance Team.....*Wanda Osborne*  
 Treasurer.....*Gail Fitzgerald*  
 Financial Secretary..... *Sandy Wiles*  
 Chairperson, Board of Trustees.....*Guy Berry*

Missions Team.....*email tumc@trinityfrederick.org*  
*to be added to the list*  
 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*

*\* Ministry Team*



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).



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON....**  
 Monday, April 1 (Easter Monday) and Friday April 5. We will be open Tuesday, April 2-Thursday, April 4.  
*Upcoming office closing | May 27—Memorial Day.*

**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 May 2024 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of April – April 14.



The church office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9am-4pm and Fridays from 9am to 12pm with the phones 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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Frederick, MD 21701  
Permit #12

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Yard Sale to Benefit ASP Youth Mission Trip!

Saturday, May 11, 2024 8:00am - 1:00pm *Rain or shine!*



**We're Back!! It's that time of year again! Let us help you clean out those closets!**

To rent a space, please complete the form below (Note: No selling of food, drinks or guns in spaces)

Donations for the sale may be dropped off Friday, May 10 between 5:30 pm and 7:00pm

*No donations of clothing or computer equipment please.*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Each space will be approximately 15' X 15'. There are a limited number of tables available for rent at \$5 each.*

# of Spaces \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tables \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount Due:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Payment must be received  
within 48 hours of us  
receiving your registration  
to confirm your spot*

**Questions? Please contact Wendy Huff at [yardsale@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:yardsale@trinityfrederick.org)**

Trinity United Methodist Church, 705 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

*Pay online at [www.trinityfrederick.org](http://www.trinityfrederick.org)!*

Please mark if you are including your payment by:  CASH  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ please memo "yard sale"