

Trinity Tempo

June 2024



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The United Methodist's first General Conference after church disaffiliations and the institution of the Global Methodist Church concluded on May 3, 2024. Many people have been keeping an eye on this conference to see if there will be any changes to our denomination. There have been a few. Following is a summary of some of the changes as well as a letter from our Bishop.

Because of the current structure of the UMC, United States-centric concerns have held priority over the General Conference agenda for the past forty years. The General Conference sought to give the Central Conferences and the United States UMC equal rights to amend parts of *The Book of Discipline* without the need for a General Conference to better serve their region(s). For this legislation to pass, all conferences get to vote on it in 2025 and it must pass with a two-thirds majority.

The language barring LGBTQ+ from ordination and marriage has been removed from *The Book of Discipline*. This amendment will allow pastors to perform same-sex weddings and allow churches to host them. However, there is also language that allows the trustees of a church to write their own policy pertaining to same-sex weddings happening in the building.

The denomination's social principles have been revised. When I receive a copy of these principles, I will make them available to anyone who is interested in reading them.

There have been other changes to *The Book of Discipline*. The ones I have listed seem to be those that could affect the local church. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like a further conversation please reach out to me at any time at jjudy79@gmail.com or 724-594-4073. We will also be holding an informational meeting and a question-and-answer time after church on June 30 immediately following worship. You are welcome to stay as long as you feel you need to and leave when you are ready.

I will be hosting a Bible study, soon, that helps us understand what it means to be United Methodist and what sets us apart from other denominations. I understand this is a difficult time for some and a joyful time for others. My continued prayer is that the Lord continues to bind us together in service to Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. I praise and thank God for each of you and I hold you in my prayers. **(continued on page 4)**

PTL,

Pastor Justin Judy

Trinity Happenings

Graduates

BY JANE POGUE

Trinity United Methodist Church is proud to recognize three members of our church who will be graduating this month.

First, we have our high school graduate, **Michael Booher**. Michael graduated from Hempfield High School where he had vocational training in Collision and Autobody Repair. He was offered four jobs and accepted a position with Westinghouse at the Waltz Mill nuclear site.

Michael loves to tinker with quads and motors, so it is certainly fitting that he continues working in a field that he loves. He is supported by a very loving family that is also involved with our church. His grandparents are Lou and the late JoAnn

Booher. His parents are Mike and Lynn Booher, and his sister is Carmella.

Michael also has loving, supportive cousins affiliated with our church: Drew, Brandon, Gavin, Rylie, Haidynn, John, and—his favorite cousin—Cindy! Michael may God bless you as you take the next steps in your journey.

Our second graduate is **Drake Clausner**. Drake's parents are Jessica and Brent Clausner, and they spend most of their time going to the many activities that Brent is in! He loves Scouts, bowling (his team came in second place), and theater among other hobbies. He just performed in the production of *The Reluctant Dragon* at The Theatre Factory Kidworks. You can see why his parents are so proud! Drake will be leaving 5th grade at Trafford Elementary and moving to 6th grade at Trafford Middle School. Best of luck, Drake, and have a wonderful summer!

Our third graduate is **Damian Kitchen**. His parents are Ashley and Mike Kitchen, and he has two sisters: Anna and Rosalie. Damian's mom told us that he loves to play with cars and video games and dress up like superheroes which keeps everyone busy! Damian will leave the Norwin Head Start Program and move to the Kindergarten Program at H.W. Good Elementary School in Herminie (Yough School District). Lots of new adventures ahead for you, Damian!

Join us Sunday, June 2, as we celebrate our graduates!



Strawberry Festival

BY BEVERLY PIPER

Trinity's Strawberry Festival will be held Friday, June 21 from 4:30-7 p.m. Get ready for delicious cake, fresh strawberries, and ice cream as well as a selection of sandwiches, sides, and beverages to complete your meal.

Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of June and may also be purchased at the door. Take-out will be available. We will need people to help set up, serve, and clean up. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. We look forward to seeing you there!

Blanket Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated in Blanket Sunday during May. Your generous donations have totaled \$230 so far. That equals 23 blankets to be distributed to people in need through this Church World Service program.

Altar Flowers

Many dates remain open on the 2024 Altar Flowers Calendar. To reserve dates, fill in the calendar in the vestibule or, email or write to the church office and include the date, the name of the person, group, etc. being honored or remembered. The cost is \$20 per vase or \$40 for the pair of vases. Available dates:

June 23, 30

July 21

August 4

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 3, 10, 24

December 1, 8, 22, 29

Payment is due on the reserved date(s) and can be made by cash, check or the online giving platform. Contact the church office if you have any questions.



Honoring Our Fathers!

BY JANE POGUE

We will be honoring our wonderful fathers on Sunday, June 16, 2024, in the sanctuary during the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Again, we have special gifts for our special fathers to show them how much they mean to us.

I offer these gifts to all the men in memory of my father, Bob Pogue. Enjoy your special treat and thank you for all you do. May God bless you.

Mats for the Homeless

In the May issue of *Trinity Tempo*, Pastor Justin wrote about a ministry that provides mats to the homeless of Pittsburgh. Trinity's board has decided to move forward with the program (taking over from Manor First) and will be making these mats.

Each mat contains hundreds of plastic bags. A collection bin will be placed in the back of the sanctuary for bag donations: grocery, department store, and any other plastic bags can be used to make the plarn (plastic yarn used to crochet the bags). Please collect unused bags from home and place them in this bin.

People will be needed to prepare the bags to make the plarn. People will also be needed to turn the plarn into mats. Thank you for your support of the new TUMC ministry.

Pastor's Letter

(continued from front cover)

This next section is a few words from our bishop.

Siblings in Christ,

After years of intensive and prayerful debate, the General Conference delegates from all over the world voted to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. This change allows churches and clergy to operate according to their conscience, without consequence.

There are some important things about this decision that I want you to know. First, pastors have always decided who they will marry. This is based on several factors including the couples' preparation for the marriage covenant. This has not



Photo by [Lori Rapati](#)

changed. Pastors will continue to decide who they will marry. No one will force a pastor to officiate a marriage ceremony for any couple.

Second, churches will continue to determine what weddings are held in their church buildings. This is the decision of the local church's Board of Trustees. Further, the desires of all clergy and congregations in this matter are to be honored and not judged by others.

Specifically, the change will include new language in ¶ 419.12 *The Book of Discipline* that states:

13. The superintendent shall not penalize any clergy from performing, or refraining from performing, a same-sex marriage service.

14. The superintendent shall neither require any local church to hold or prohibit a local church from holding a same-sex marriage service on property owned by a local church.

We know that different people have different opinions on these matters and the diversity of perspectives needs to be respected.

The delegates of the General Conference also voted to remove prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending a gay or lesbian person for ordination. Gay persons may enter the process to become candidates for ministry, and if approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, can now be licensed, commissioned, and ordained.

Please be assured that the Bishop and Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure we have the best match possible when making appointments.

We want everyone to have a VITAL ministry, not a ministry defined by conflict. We have always worked to place all pastors in appointments where they will be accepted and will be able to work in partnership with the laity to further the mission of Jesus Christ. Our commitment to the local church and the mission of Christ has not changed. Your district superintendent will continue to be your primary contact on appointment related issues.

These recent decisions at the General Conference, reinforce the primacy of God's love in our lives and the world, and add complexity to our life together as United Methodists.

I realize this General Conference decision may bring about various emotions and reactions within our congregations and the broader denomination. There will no doubt be some who are disheartened

and pained by this decision as well as some who welcome it. As we collaborate and work together, I feel sure that we can navigate the complexity and respect one another.

The removal of the language around human sexuality returns us to *The Book of Discipline* that we have had from the founding of the church in 1784 until 1972 when the General Conference first added the restrictive measures into *The Book of Discipline*.

As United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania, we remain committed to upholding our Wesleyan values of love, grace, and inclusivity. While we may not all agree on every issue, we are called to continue embodying the love of Christ in our interactions with one another. I invite you to strive to maintain a spirit of unity. Our unity is in Christ and therefore, it is more important than ever to engage in respectful dialogue, compassionate listening, and prayerful practice with one another.

The church is the only institution that exists for those who are not yet a part of it. It exists so others can come to know Christ. It exists to make disciples. Our communion table is open, and so are our hearts. We have important work to do — together. Without fear, and with the joy of the Lord, let's get to the work Jesus calls us to do. Let us be people who share the transforming power of Christ with the world.

Peace and blessings,

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Joys & Concerns

Please keep Trinity family, friends and neighbors in your prayers.

Pray for

Patty Aubele
Regis Aubele (Patty's brother-in-law)
Mary Ann Casper
Sandy Chiappetta
Bryce Dulemba
Mark Graw (John Graw's brother)
Taryn Kline (Jeanne Ruccio's sister-in-law)
Harry and Marge Little
Family of Tom Puckey
Vicki Stokes
Bill and Joan Vowler
Faryn Wolff and family (Ashley Kitchen's friends)

Also take a moment and give thanks for those friends and family who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month.

Birthdays

2 Nick Mallik
3 Josh Ruccio, Nate Ruccio
4 Michael Cromer
8 Kevin Beam
9 Tim Johnson
16 Crystal Loutsenhizer
17 Jerry Breakey
20 Sandy Chiappetta
22 Dana Venturo
24 Heather Conlogue, Stephanie Jones
26 Ronda Powell
27 Ed Aubele
30 Judy Mason, Lily Venturo

Anniversaries

18 Steve and Lori Dorko
20 Justin and Stephanie Judy
21 Jay and Vicki Stokes
24 Kevin and Megan Beam
27 George and Julie Silowash

June

Altar Flowers

2 Larry and Becky Mallik
9 Matthew Knopf
Lou Booher
16 Susan Gibson and Sandy Yamamoto
23 open
30 open



June

Bible Journaling is on hiatus until September. If you would like to know more about the process and purpose behind Bible journaling, speak with Patty Aubele.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
26 11:15 a.m. Worship Trinity Sunday <i>Peace with Justice</i> <i>Sunday (offering)</i>	27 Memorial Day (church office closed)	28	29 6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	30	31	1
2 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship/ Communion/Graduate Recognition Sunday	3 1 p.m. Senior Friends	4	5 6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6	7	8
9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship	10 1 p.m. Senior Friends	11 7:30 p.m. Ad-Council	12	13	14	15
16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship Father's Day	17 1 p.m. Senior Friends Tempo Deadline	18	19 6 p.m. Women's Bible Study June-teenth	20	21 4:30-7 p.m. Strawberry Festival	22
23 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship	24 1 p.m. Senior Friends	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. General Conference Q&A	1 1 p.m. Senior Friends	2	3 6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	4 Independence Day (church office closed)	5	6



Tempo Deadline

Articles for the July issue of the newsletter are due in the church office by Monday, June 17, 2024.



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Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet every other Wednesday evening during the summer. Meeting time remains the same, 6 p.m. Meeting dates are June 5 and 19; July 3, 17, and 31; August 14 and 28.

Summer Reading

BY PATTY AUBELE

The Summer Reading program starts at the Trafford Public Library on June 5 at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Adventure Awaits at the Trafford Library."

In addition to summer reading, the library staff planned a magic show scheduled for June 14 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Please register your child by calling the library at (412) 372-5115 or stop in and fill out a registration form. See you there!