



**Worship Service**  
**First Sunday after Pentecost**  
**May 26, 2024 10 am**

*“To build a body of committed Christ-followers who demonstrate His love daily.”*

**Passing of the Peace**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude (screen) & Remembering Those Who Served**

*God Bless America*

**\* Call To Worship (screen) Isaiah 55:6-9**

*One: Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
 call upon him while he is near!*

**All: Let the wicked forsake his way,  
 and the unrighteous person his thoughts,**

*One: And let him return to the LORD, so he will have mercy on him—*

**All: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon!**

*One: For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD;*

**All: For as the heavens are higher than the earth,**

**So are my ways higher than your ways,**

**and my thoughts than your thoughts!**

**\* Songs of Praise (screen)**

*Holy, Holy, Holy (H55)*

*I'll Fly Away*

**Unison Prayer (screen):**

Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith, and constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Moment of Silence before God**

**Sung Prayer for Illumination (screen)**

*Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me (2x)*

*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me*

*Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me!*

**Scripture Lessons (screen) w/ Bruce Boltz**

*Isaiah 6:1-8 & Romans 8:12-17*

*The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.*

**Mission Moment - Naaman Center**

**Sharing of Praises and Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer**

**Offering (screen)**

*Special Music "You Are So Good To Me"*

**Doxology (screen)**

**Children's Message**

*(Children 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and younger may leave for Jr. Church in Fellowship Hall.)*

**Message w/ Pastor Brian Rhea (John 3:1-8,16-17)**

*The Triune God*

**Affirmation of Faith - The Nicene Creed**

**\* Closing Song (screen)**

*This Is the Day*

**\* Dismissal with Blessing**

**\* Response (screen)**

*\* Those who are able, please stand*

**TODAY'S HELPERS IN MINISTRY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor - Brian Rhea

Secretary - Deb Shuey

Keyboardist - Caris Rhea

Worship Band Leader - Bernie Rollman

Treasurer - Kevin Dreibelbis

Sound Technician - Josiah Rhea Jr. Church - Deb Shuey

Ushering Team - Larry & Gay Kreiser Head Usher - Terry Binkley

Prayer Request - If you have a joy or concern that you would like prayer for contact the church office at 717-865-4361 or Pastor Brian at 908-499-7097

or send an email to trinitylickdale@gmail.com.

**This Week's Calendar: May 26- June 2**

**Sunday**

9 am

Sunday School for all ages

10 am

Worship Service

**Monday**

**Memorial Day**

**Tuesday**

7 pm

Trustee Committee

**Thursday**

11 am

Prayer & Communion Service

6:30 pm

Worship Team Practice

**Sunday**

9 am

Sunday School for all ages

10 am

Worship Service w/ Recognizing Graduates

***Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week***



Madison Weaver - May 27

Sue Werner - June 2

**PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**

Thursdays at 11 am in the Sanctuary. A simple service of Scripture, sharing, extended time for prayer, and gathering at the Lord's Table.

*All are welcome.*

**SUMMER CHURCH CAMP** - Start picking your Summer Church Camp Adventure. Brochures for Gretna Glen Camp are available in the lobby. The church will pay half the fee for one camp for any child/youth from Trinity who attends. Need help selecting a camp for your child, see Sheila Seaman or Pastor Brian.

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**MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET** - Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Dinner will be held in the multi. purpose room at the church and catered by Heisey's Diner. Come and share a special evening with your mother, daughter(s) and church family. Tickets see Gloria Speck or Judy Stickler.

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Caris is graduating! Everyone is invited to Caris's Open House Party. Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5 to 7 pm at the parsonage. Bring a chair. RSVP not necessary but helpful. Jan Rhea 908-499-7096.

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**BACCALAUREATE SERVICE FOR NORTHERN LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL** - Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in the high school auditorium.

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**NL UMC FOOD DISTRIBUTION** - Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm (while supplies last) in the parking lot at Jonestown UMC.

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**SCUBA VBS** July 7 to 11 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
3 years old through 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

At Scuba VBS, kids will dive into friendship with God.

Kids will explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trustworthy God—a friendship that lasts forever!

Registration paperwork is online at the church website and on the table in the lobby. If you would like to volunteer, see Gay Kreiser or Deb Shuey.

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**MAY/JUNE WISHLIST FOR NL CLOTHING CLOSET -**

- Clipboards (9 x 12)
- Quart and gallon sized zip top bags

- Children's clothing and shoes
- New socks and underwear (Specifically for August distribution):
- Boy's socks - no show or low cut
- Boy's underwear - boxer brief
- Girls's socks - no show or low cut
- Girl's underwear - hipster or bikini (no briefs)
- Bras - sports bras

Questions on the wishlist, see Sue Werner. Donation box will be in the lobby. Donations will be due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.


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**LEBANON RESCUE MISSION** - Is in need of new or gently used towels. Towels can be placed in the donation box in the lobby or dropped off at 1223 Bittner Blvd. in Lebanon. Questions see Sue Werner or Sheila Seaman.

Welcome to:

 **Trinity United Methodist Church - Lickdale**

98 Fisher Avenue  
Jonestown, PA 17038  
Rev. Brian Rhea  
(908) 499-7097 (Parsonage)  
(717) 865-4361 (Church)  
e-mail: trinitylickdale@gmail.com  
website: www.trinitylickdale.org

 Trinity United Methodist Church - Lickdale

Church office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 1 pm  
Pastor drop-in office hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 11 am to 1 pm

Eastern PA Conference ~ The United Methodist Church West District  
Rev. John Schol, Bishop  
Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, District Superintendent

**Before Worship ~ Speak to God**  
**During Worship ~ Let God Speak to You**  
**After Worship ~ Speak to Others**

**Vision Statement ~**

We believe we have been called to reveal that God is real and relevant in people's lives and in our community. We strive to do this by...

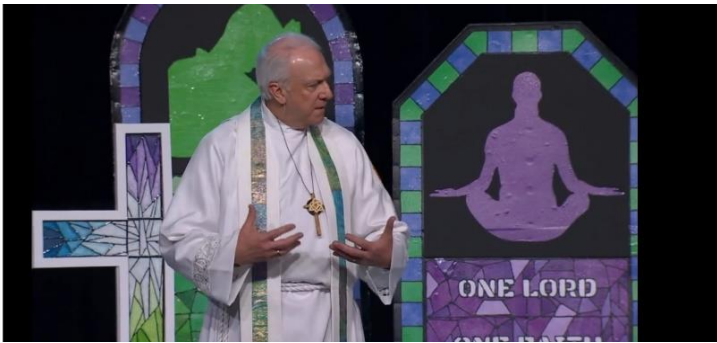
- Identifying and reaching the unsaved with the Gospel and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Offering ministries to support and strengthen the family.
- Becoming a seven day a week church that is committed to Spiritual growth through: worship, Christian education, Bible study, prayer, support, accountability, small groups and Christian fellowship.
- Continuing our caring outreach with diversity that touches our church, community, nation and world.
- Providing dynamic worship that is God-centered, Spirit-filled and Biblically based.
- Identifying the spiritual gifts of each person and employing them in ministries that match their gifts.

**Purpose Statement ~**

***To build a body of committed Christ-followers  
who demonstrate His love daily.***



**May 26, 2024**



*Bishop Thomas Bickerton preaches the opening sermon at the UMC General Conference 2020/2024. The yoga decoration on the stage of General Conference was removed after the Asian caucus complained.*

In the wake of General Conference 2020/2024, many have hailed “a new day for the UMC,” proclaiming “a new United Methodist Church” has emerged from the other side. In his opening sermon at the General Conference, Bishop Bickerton told the delegates, “You need to be prepared to get on board of a train that is moving on down the track to a new day for what it means to be the United Methodist Church,” and that those who weren’t so prepared were “in the wrong place.”

Here are some of the many changes to the denomination through the General Conference (GC):

- GC approved recommendations to divest denominational funds from Israel, an unprecedented move for Christian denominations that comes amidst rising anti-Semitism, the unspeakably evil terrorist atrocity perpetuated by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and Hamas’ ongoing imprisonment of hostages. GC also approved three other petitions finding fault with Israel, and rejected a petition expressing concern for growing trends of anti-Semitism.
- GC affirmed that abortion is a “right,” pledged “solidarity with those who seek reproductive health care,” and opposed abortion bans.
- GC maintained its rejection of abortion “as an acceptable means of birth control” and “late-term or partial-birth” abortions, but removed the theological language affirming that God has given the boundaries of human existence and that “we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the

life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child” (§161 K).

- GC also removed earlier resolutions acknowledging that some women come to regret having an abortion, and urging pastors to be prepared to counsel them.
- GC removed language that once said, “sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage” in favor of: “Human sexuality is a healthy and natural part of life that is expressed in wonderfully diverse ways from birth to death” with the UMC now “honor[ing] the diversity of choices and vocations in relation to sexuality such as celibacy, marriage, and singleness.”
- GC eliminated the definition of “immorality” chargeable offenses for clergy, “including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage” (§2702.1). GC explicitly rejected the minority report (including this definition without the qualifier “heterosexual”), even amidst discussion of a bisexual pastor celebrating his polyamory with his wife and mistress.
- GC changed the definition of marriage from “the union of one man and one woman” to “a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith [adult man and woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age] into union with one another.”
- GC allows churches to hold same-sex marriage ceremonies, although churches are not compelled to do so.
- GC allows pastors to hold same-sex marriage ceremonies, although they are not compelled to do so.
- GC removed all restrictions on candidacy, ordination, and appointment of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.”
- GC added lengthy additions to §140 “Called to Inclusiveness”: “The mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community, and the world....In the United Methodist Church inclusiveness means the full involvement and participation of all persons who seek to follow in the way of

Jesus by serving God and neighbor in all that they do...Additionally, participation and leadership opportunities shall be open to anyone, whether clergy and lay, who meets the requirements of The United Methodist Book of Discipline pertaining to membership and leadership within the Church.

- GC adds “heterosexism” as an evil the UMC is committed to removing: “Acknowledging that the Church has been divided for too long on the basis of perceived differences, we commit ourselves to the removal of every barrier that separates one from another within the body of Christ, including ableism, heterosexism, racism, sexism, misogyny, tribalism, and all other forms of xenophobia. By the power of Christ’s redeeming and sanctifying love, we commit ourselves to grow in love and understanding until all of the walls that divide us are finally cast down” (§140).
- GC required the General Board of Global Ministries to “Provide training, resources, and consultation for and with all levels of the global church to actively resist intersecting structures of white supremacy, heterosexism, sexism, patriarchy, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, colonialism and classism.”
- GC added “sexual orientation” as one of the desired marks of diversity for persons on the Judicial Council and on district, conference, and general agency bodies.
- GC removed language to “brothers and sister in Christ” in favor of “siblings in Christ.”
- GC now requires training for Pastor-Parish Relations Committees to prepare to receive LGBTQIA+ pastors.
- GC removed previous funding restrictions against advocating homosexuality, and Archives and History has already announced using apportionment dollars for a new center for LGBTQIA+ Methodist history.
- GC was requested to approve the “Our Whole Lives” sexuality curriculum, developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, which—for 4th-6th graders—includes pictures of sex acts (including between same-sex couples) and celebrates various gender identities and sexual orientations. Instead of outright

approval (or dismissal!), GC passed this request on to the Board of Discipleship.

Here are some aspects of General Conference itself that might be troublesome to people of traditional Christian faith:

- GC was opened with a rule to not use “exclusively masculine language for God.”
- GC delegates were told to introduce themselves by their race, gender identity, and age; many also cited their pronouns. Daily reports were made identifying how many male, female, and non-binary delegates had spoken.
- GC included a choir anthem, “Creator of the Intertwined,” that celebrates how in all religions “each seeks for the divine,” and encourages us to “sing each other’s songs” and “speak unfamiliar prayer.”

*So how should we respond? Here are our main options:*

1. Stay a part of the United Methodist Church by either:
  - a. Embracing the progressive agenda
  - b. “Going with the flow”
  - c. Remaining a traditional congregation, and taking EPA’s offer of a “covenant” that Trinity will not be forced to perform gay marriages or be appointed a gay pastor.
2. Leave the United Methodist Church:
  - d. Try to make a deal to keep our property
  - e. Try legal action to keep our property
  - f. Walk away from our property and start over

**Note:**

In 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America began allowing same-sex weddings and practicing gay pastors. In 2024, appointment of practicing gay pastors has become compulsory for all congregations.

In 2014, the Presbyterian Church (USA) began allowing same-sex weddings. This summer, they will vote on whether to make LGBTQIA+ affirmation compulsory.