

The Circuit Rider

OSWEGO TRINITY UNITED METHODIST

Volume 41 Issue 8

August 2026



August Calendar



2 Freewill Dinner at 4:30pm
7-8 Festival at Christ the Good
Shepherd
12 Worship meeting at 1pm
Trustee meeting at 6:30pm

17 Bright and Cheerful at noon
19 SPRC meeting at 11am
N.O.W. meeting at 6:30pm
AA group meets on Friday evening

Choir rehearsals are 7pm on Thursdays. All are welcome!

Chancel Servants for August

Altar Guild: Brenda Holliday and Marge Zeller

Communion Steward: Sheila Buske



Needed...Food for our Neighbors



The Human Concerns food pantry is in need of non-perishable food items, especially tuna, peanut butter, and boxed mac and cheese. Just bring your items to church, and they will be delivered. Thanks!!



Upcoming Nu2U Sale



Hi folks! Please start saving items and baking for our next Nu2U and Bake Sale, which will be held **September 11th, 12th, and 19th**. As always, we need many helpers to set up and to help at the sale. More information will be in the September newsletter ☺.

New T-shirt Orders

We will be taking another round of orders for UMC t-shirts and sweatshirts over the next two weeks. Sign-up sheets will be available after church on the **first two Sundays in August**, or you may send your request by email to Sheila, at sheilabuske@twcnj.rr.com.



Bright and Cheerful



We will meet on the 17th at noon to enjoy lunch and fellowship, as we write cards to our friends of Trinity. We would love to have more people join this wonderful ministry! ☺



Secret Siblings



Please remember your 'Siblings' with daily prayers, monthly cards, and a small birthday gift!

Birthdays:

1	Judith Lake, Willow-Su Knapp	18	Steve Eddy
2	Mark Garlock	22	Martha Lyon
11	Dave Wadleigh	26	Adam Pittenger,
12	Margaret Butler		Gail Draper
17	Jean Heagerty	31	Allison Heft



If you would like other new dates added,

please just send an email to the church office. 😊😊😊

Daily Prayers 🙏

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Condolences to Kathaleen and family on the death of her sister, Doraine Holmes;
and also to Mark Garlock and the Cummins Family on the tragic motorcycle death of 17-year-old Dalton Cummins.

Parishioners, Friends, and Family:

Those with health concerns: Billy Pierce; Angel Simmons; Mary Seaton; Mark Powell; Brenda Holliday; Carrie Simmons; Nancy Wadleigh (pneumonia); Dave Wadleigh; Lori Gibson; Mary Seaton's brothers; Rebecca's sister Leah; and Rebecca's mother Donna; Mark Garlock's father-in-law Bob; Lisa Langlois' brother David Stout and his family; Wuxin Shen; Nancy Sawyer and family; Gail's sister Donna; Those in assisted living: Bea Holliday; Betty Holliday; Ann Rockower; Judy Lake; Valerie Palmer; Gail Draper; Zeke Seymour. Please pray for all those who are homeless; all caregivers; and the health and safety of our families and friends.

A joy for the birth of Angel's new cousin, Adaline, on July 24th.

Community and World Concerns:

Please pray for democracy, the end of senseless wars, and leaders to be merciful everywhere. Eighteen U.S. service members have been killed this year in the Iran war, and over 3,500 Iranians have lost their lives so far. Please pray also for those living in fear, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as in our country, and prayers for those affected by storms and natural disasters around the world. Prayers for all those doing God's work in the world; an end to racism, and the coming of world peace! Prayers for Pastor Ruth in her ministry. Also, please pray for "Haven of Hope", as they reach out to the homeless in our neighborhood.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

A Letter from Our Bishop

"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..." — Ephesians 4:2-3

Dear siblings in Christ,

In recent months, I have watched with deep concern as some of our congregations have faced significant moments of conflict and disruption during worship and other gatherings. The situations differ, but the pattern is familiar: disagreements that move from faithful conversation into public confrontation.

We have seen worship interrupted by challenges to pastoral leadership—including one moment when a congregant insisted Scripture does not support women in ministry, even as we celebrate seventy years of women’s ordination in The United Methodist Church.

We have also seen tensions in faith formation and leadership meetings escalate into repeated disruptions—moments where confrontations and accusations replaced dialogue and grace. These moments are painful, not only for those involved, but for entire congregations who come seeking worship, formation, community, and the presence of Christ.

Worship is sacred space. It is where we experience the living God in community, hear the Word proclaimed, receive the sacraments, and remember who we are as part of the body of Christ. No one should leave worship remembering an argument more vividly than the presence of Jesus Christ. No one should leave a Bible study feeling wounded by the very people they trust with their questions of faith. No one should leave a leadership meeting carrying hurt from words or actions that do not reflect who we are as followers of Christ and United Methodists.

Scripture reminds us that *“a gentle answer turns away wrath”* (Proverbs 15:1) and calls us to *“pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding”* (Romans 14:19). And Jesus gave us a clear, grace filled pathway for navigating conflict in Matthew 18: go first to one another privately, then—if needed—with trusted witnesses, and only, when necessary, involve the wider community through the proper channels. This is not a cookie-cutter formula; it is a posture that protects dignity, honors relationships, and keeps reconciliation at the center.

Healthy faith communities make room for difficult, honest questions, faithful discernment, and grace-filled accountability—but those conversations must be grounded in humility, respect, and a willingness to treat one another as beloved children of God. We cannot allow our churches to mirror the hostility and division that is taking over our society. The Church must offer a different witness.

Jesus calls us to love boldly, not only when it is easy, but especially when it is hard. Love does not avoid difficult conversations; love transforms how we have them. Love remembers the dignity of the person before us. Love looks for understanding before accusations. Love stays open to the possibility that the Holy Spirit is moving beyond our own certainty.

This letter is not a call to another debate. It is a call to discipleship—to the discipline of prayer, often forgotten or dismissed when conflict takes center stage, yet it is still the very practice that steadies us and reorients us toward Christ. It is a call to reflection. It is a call to live the way of Jesus amid conflict. If we respond to conflict the same way the world does, we reduce our witness to the world’s brokenness instead of the hope of God’s Reign.

So, before we speak, may we listen. Before we condemn, may we seek understanding. Before we assume we know the Spirit’s movement, may we ask where the Spirit is leading—and treat our siblings as we ourselves hope to be treated.

I invite every congregation in the Susquehanna and Upper New York Area to pray for peace, compassion, and reconciliation. Pray for pastors and lay leaders walking through challenging seasons. Clergy are human too, bearing unseen pressures and personal burdens that affect how they lead. Even amid disagreement or the weight of expectations no one can fully meet, they continue looking to serve Christ and the church with faithfulness and integrity.

Pray for those who feel unheard or uncertain. Pray for those carrying anger or fear. Pray that our churches may be places where Christ’s love is more visible than the divisions of our society.

To our pastors and lay leaders: thank you. Week after week, you proclaim the Gospel, care for your communities, and lead with courage and grace. And to all of us: let us be ambassadors of reconciliation and peace. In a world where anger is amplified and cruelty is rewarded; the Church is called to offer a different witness.

We do not rise by shouting louder, colluding against those we disagree with, or tearing one another down. We rise by loving boldly—the way of Jesus.

May we be a people who reflect the heart of Christ—joyful in service, courageous in leadership, and always loving boldly.

A Pastoral Prayer

Gracious and loving God, in times of conflict and disruption, draw us back to the heart of Christ. Teach us to listen with humility, speak with grace, and seek understanding before judgment.

Where there is anger, plant compassion. Where there is hurt, bring healing. Where there is division, guide us toward reconciliation and peace.

Strengthen our pastors, lay leaders, staff, and congregations with courage, wisdom, patience, and love. Help us become communities where all are treated with dignity and Christ's presence is made visible through our actions.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our teacher, and our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Together in the journey,

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

The United Methodist Church Serving the Susquehanna and Upper New York Episcopal Area



Pastor's Page

Christian Soldiers, August is Here!

July marked the start of our 2nd year of ministry, and the month of August promises to be a time for growth and soul seeking, as we study details about wearing the FULL Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Lessons will include:

Sunday, August 2nd "King Jesus' Knights" Romans 5:19

Sunday, August 9th "Eveready Bunny-Like" 1st Peter 3:15

Sunday, August 16th "Jesus, Our Hiding Place" Psalm 121

Sunday, August 23rd "Protecting My Head" Psalm 23:5

Sunday, August 30th "Two Edge Sword" Hebrews 4:12

Holy Communion services for Morningstar Nursing Home residents:

1 pm to 2 pm at the Fellowship room by the Lobby.

Join us, Wednesday, August 5th and Wednesday, September 2nd.

As a reminder, Every FIRST SUNDAY of the month Dan and I bring the Communion elements to people in Nursing Homes and/or homebound. Please, let us know if you would like a visit and know that you are in our hearts and prayers! May we continue "Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before!" (UMH # 575)

Blessings, *Pastor Ruth Warner*

DEI [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] removed from church, satire

Posting captured from FaceBook

After hearing for months that DEI was destroying America, I was thrilled to hear someone had finally done something about it.

A church just outside town proudly advertised: "100% DEI FREE." Well, praise the Lord! I had to see this for myself. I put on my Sunday best, clipped on my hat and gloves, and polished my pearls for the special occasion. I took an anxiety pill and drove to where the flashy billboard told me to go. As I pulled into the parking lot, I noticed the handicap parking spaces were gone. A smiling deacon said, "We covered them up last week." "Why?" "We realized reserved parking was giving certain

people advantages over everyone else.” Makes sense. No special treatment. So far so good. Didn’t need that anyway. The wheelchair ramp? Gone. Apparently ramps are accommodations, and accommodations are suspicious. If the Apostle Paul could limp around the Roman Empire, surely Grandma can crawl up four concrete steps, amiright?!?! Inside, there weren’t any greeters. “We used to welcome visitors,” one elder explained, “but we discovered that’s intentionally making newcomers feel like they belong.” Sounded dangerously inclusive. Gasp! Can’t have any of that, oh heaven’s no! I didn’t need a friendly face to welcome me in anyway. I had my pearls after all! The children’s ministry had also been eliminated. “We don’t separate lessons by age anymore.” “Why not?” “That’s targeted instruction.” The nursery? Gone. “Parents should just figure it out.” Well, I don’t have littles so no sweat off my back. Whew! So far I’m loving the changes! The sensory room? Locked. The hearing devices? Thrown away. Large-print hymnals? Too accommodating. Spanish translation? Absolutely not!! With TWO exclamation points!! “We’re all equal here.” I noticed everyone saying “equal” while making life harder for exactly the people Jesus kept stopping for. Then I saw the mission board. Every missionary photo had been removed. “What’s going on?” “We realized traveling to other cultures and intentionally including people from every tribe, tongue, and nation looked an awful lot like global DEI.” That tracked. Jesus did say, “Go into all the world...” Apparently they interpreted that as: “...unless they’re different.” Coffee hour had changed, too. No fellowship meal. No visitors’ table. No casseroles for grieving families. No meal train for the new mom. No rides for the elderly. No food pantry. No coat drive. No benevolence fund. “We were accidentally helping people with different needs.” Wouldn’t want that! The choir looked...different. Actually, it looked exactly the same. Turns out they’d removed anyone who couldn’t sing in perfect four-part harmony. “Inclusion lowers standards.” Bold strategy for a religion founded by fishermen. Reverend Tea finally stood to preach. His sermon title: “Jesus Didn’t Care About DEI.” Interesting. Because my Bible keeps interrupting that sermon. {Shhhhhh, I kept telling it.} “Love your neighbor.” ...Interrupting again. “Welcome the stranger.” ...There it goes. Like a reminder on my phone that I can’t turn off. “Let the little children come.” Still talking. Grrr! “There is neither Jew nor Greek...” Um, somebody should really unplug this Bible. Turn off the WiFi! Then, just as the invitation began...The sanctuary doors flew open. Jesus walked in! What??? Jesus. Can I get an AMEN?!? He looked around. No children. No disabled people. No immigrants. No widows. No poor people. No outsiders. No sinners. No tax collectors. No Samaritans. No Gentiles. No one society had pushed aside. He looked confused. “This doesn’t look familiar.” The pastor smiled proudly. “We removed DEI” as he popped his 70s collar. Jesus asked, “You mean...you stopped making room for people?” “We stopped giving people special treatment.” Jesus nodded slowly. “So...which of My miracles should I have skipped?” The blind man? The lame man? The woman who’d been bleeding for twelve years? The lepers? The deaf man? The child? The foreign woman? The Roman centurion? The Samaritan? “Help me understand,” Jesus continued. “Exactly who was I supposed to ignore so I could avoid looking too inclusive?” Silence. One man finally raised his hand. But Lord...DEI.” Jesus looked at him. “I fed five thousand people who couldn’t repay Me.” “I washed feet. I touched lepers. I defended women. I praised foreigners. I invited children. I ate with sinners. I built My Church with people society had already counted out.” He paused. “If that’s your definition of DEI...then you’ve been arguing with Me this whole time.” The room became very quiet. I slipped out before the offering. As I walked to my car, I passed dozens of “churches.” Every one of them had handicap parking. Nurseries. Missionaries. Food pantries. Children’s ministries. Prayer chains. Recovery groups. Grief ministries. Youth groups. Homebound visitation. Special-needs volunteers. Greeters. Visitor cards. Benevolence funds. Scholarships for camp. Meals for the sick. Translation services. Accessible entrances. In other words... Churches have been practicing what many people now mock as “DEI” for about two thousand years. They’ve just always called it something else. The Gospel. Satirically speaking (or maybe not). ~Sandra Valentine

June 2026 Current Expense Report

Staff Salaries & Benefits \$4,262.24

(This includes cash paid; plus Trinity's portion of SS & Medicare taxes, & some insurances)

Program Expenses \$75.07

(This includes Cash used to further our mission as a worshipping community)

Operations Expenses \$1,657.37

(This includes all utilities, multi-peril insurance, office supplies, and copier maintenance)

Conference Billing \$1,070.18

(This includes shared ministry and retiree premiums)

Total June Expenditures \$7,064.86

Prepared 06/20/26 by Lisa Bartholomew

Reflects June 30 Paychecks

Administrative Council Meeting July 15, 2026

Present: Marge Zeller, Sheila Buske, Pam Hill, Mike Lund, Connie LeBoeuf.

Excused: Diana McKenna, LaDonna Tucker, Lisa Bartholomew.

Marge opened the meeting with scripture (Jer 5:26-29) and prayer at 6:31pm. The minutes from May 20th were reviewed. Connie moved to accept, approved.

The Current Expense report through June 30th was presented:

Income:

••Received for budget: \$34,379.00
••Local mission: \$1,418.00
••Conference mission: \$6,408.00
••Total income: \$42,205.00
••Checking acct. balance: \$29,883.46

Expenses:

••Personnel: \$26,203.45
••Program: \$414.05
••Operations: \$11,823.28
••Conference: \$6,421.08
••Total expenses: \$44,861.86

Sheila reported that the National Grid bill was over \$1,000 this month. Why has it gone up so much? She will ask Lisa.

There are 2 savings accounts (9681 for \$100, and 0017 for \$1621.82) that can be closed. We will discuss it at the next finance meeting. Pam moved to accept, approved.

Mike presented the Trustee treasurer report through June 30th:

••Trustee income: \$2,674.00	••Total income: \$2,699.00
••Restoration income: \$0.00	••Total expenses: \$39,732.00
••Memorials: \$25.00	••Balance of all accounts: \$100.873.40

Mike closed the previous Restoration CD and opened a new CD account at much higher interest. Sheila moved to accept, approved.

Trustee Report

Mike and Mark turned on the outside water and fan, and installed the AC. The attic fan should be left on until fall.

Mike sprayed and sealed a carpenter bee hole above the main entrance. Pam showed him 2 holes above the upper Utica St. entrance. Mike will take care of those too.

The cement floor in Abrams Hall was poured on Monday, and will be sealed when it is set. Mike has offered to purchase and install baseboards in the main hall. The bathroom work has been completed.

Excess cement was left on the grass at the back of the parking area. Dave will remove it and replace dirt.

Mike reported that the stair walls near the basement entrance are bowing outward. The rail on the upper entrance steps is loose.

Pam contacted Mr. Getman to survey the north boundary, and to place a marker near the street.

Nurture

There have been no children for church school. Discipleship prayers continue to be sent twice weekly, Bible King is meeting weekly at church while Burger King is being renovated, and Bright and Cheerful meets monthly for lunch and cards.

The “get to know you” luncheon on June 13th was enjoyed by 14 Fulton 1st and Trinity folk, with Canale's food and N.O.W. brainstorming.

Outreach

The June Freewill dinner of hot dogs and salads served 10 guests and 6 workers. The August dinner will serve hamburgers and potato salad.

\$1,535.00 was collected for the Peace with Justice Conference special offering. Bishop Hector thanked the NE Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church for giving the most in the whole country!

The next Nu2U sale will be September 11th and 12th from 9-3, and 19th from 9-1, with a bake sale both weekends. A date will be set soon for the winterwear giveaway.

Witness

The signboard presently says “Peace be with you” and will change soon to another “Jesus says....” saying.

Our May 23rd Tshirt breakfast at Maria's was attended by 8 people, and 7 people enjoyed ice cream at Bev's on July 11th.

The Worship Committee met on May 27th and June 24th, and will meet on July 29th. Kathy will be away on the 26th. Sheila will play CDs for the hymns.

Finance

Meeting will be October 7th at 1pm.

SPPRC

The committee met on June 10th. Pastor Ruth has begun monthly communion services at Morningstar. She would like to hold neighborhood prayer walks and have a Wednesday prayer tent in the parking area, and maybe revive the Visiting Shepherds.

She will be on a ‘Journeys of Paul’ cruise from September 11-23. Marge has agreed to lead the services.

Next meeting will be August 19th at 11:30am.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you cards for Kathy Flaherty will be filled out on July 26th, when she will be away. We will honor Mike Familo in August.

Marge would like to lead a book study, possibly on Adam Hamilton's book, “The Message of Jesus”, starting on September 14th.

Bishop Hector proposed 10 questions for discussion that we will look at during our N.O.W. meeting on August 19th.

Next meeting is September 16th at 6:30. Marge closed in prayer at 7:28pm.



Trinity United Methodist Church
45 East Utica Street
Oswego, NY 13126



2026

Worship and Church School: 11:00 a.m. Sundays
315-343-1715

***“Know the Love of God, Grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ, and
Go into the World With the Power of the Holy Spirit.”***

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