

The Circuit Writer

A monthly newsletter of
Tryon United Methodist Church

Website: www.tryonumc.org
Phone: 828 850 0718



October-November 2023

What really matters?

One of the things my dad and I used to do together was watch television. Some of the shows we liked were The Andy Griffith Show, The Waltons, Emergency, and Sanford & Son. WKRP in Cincinnati and M*A*S*H were two of our all-time favorites. All of The Three Stooges and Little Rascals shows made us laugh (they still do make me laugh). And then there were Saturday morning cartoons. There's nothing like watching Bugs Bunny with your dad. It's even better when he laughs as much as you do.

I was watching a rerun of a M*A*S*H episode recently. That show went off the air in 1983. Forty years later, it's still classic television. One of the characters on that show that I pay attention to more now is one who was not a main character. He wasn't in every storyline. It wasn't until later years that he had more of a part in the stories and interactions with the other characters. That character I've come to appreciate is Father Mulcahey, the chaplain for the 4077th.

Father Francis Mulcahey was a genuinely good, kind, and thoughtful man and a dedicated minister. He cared about the staff and the people they took care of. He attended to the wounded in the ways he could and learned how to do things to assist the medical staff that were not likely things he would have ever been taught in seminary. He extended his care to the Korean families and the children of a nearby orphanage, offering whatever extra assistance he could muster up and share. Sometimes he was perplexed by the shenanigans of the personnel. Other times he understood them quite well. He tried his best to be a thoughtful and calm presence in chaotic, precarious, and dangerous circumstances.

I was watching an episode recently in which Father Mulcahey finds that he has placed his need to impress a visiting cardinal from the Catholic church above his call to serve others and to serve God. He becomes furious with the camp personnel when they fail to behave well in front of the cardinal. But, while berating one of the doctors for their seeming lack of concern, he learns that the doctor has just had to tell one of their patients that he has leukemia, which in the early 1950's was an incurable cancer. Father Mulcahey apologizes for his lack of understanding and compassion, and goes to the patient, sitting with and talking with him throughout the night. He realizes how foolish he had been, how wrong he had been to care about things that didn't really matter when faced with the harsh reality of a young man's certain death.

As a pastor, I know quite well how easy it is to be distracted by stuff and chores and all the things that vie for my attention and take time and energy--things that don't always deserve those precious resources. And I am grateful when someone or something reminds me when I need to take a step back, re-assess, and re-focus. I need to ask myself the question: what truly matters?

What truly matters? It's a good question to keep close at hand, I think. But I don't think the answer is much more complicated than living and loving as Jesus taught us to.

God, help us to keep that in mind when we come face-to-face with the question of what truly matters.

I wish you peace. Pastor Lynnette



Eliza Hiley wishes you a Happy Autumn!

October is Staff Appreciation Month

The first of October brings with it signs that Autumn has arrived. After a very HOT Summer we can now begin to enjoy cooler weather, the beautiful array of colors that will fill our mountains skyline, and the busy holidays ahead.

October also brings with it Staff Appreciation Month. It is a special time set aside for you to send notes and cards of appreciation to Pastor Lynnette and Pam McNeil. It is a perfect opportunity to express your thanks to them for all they do, not just on Sundays, but each and every day as they work to make Tryon UMC the best it can be.

On behalf of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee we thank Pastor Lynnette and Pam for their dedication to the church and its members. We love you!

Staff/Parish Relations Committee--Pat Patrick, chair. Members: Judy Banks, Gordon Davidson, Charlotte Holly, Jim Holly, Mike Justiss and Debby Wallace



Another Exciting Partnership

Tryon United Methodist Church and Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity have expressed interest in engaging in a new partnership to provide one of our church's comfort shawls to each family as they move into a Habitat for Humanity built home. Pastor Lynnette recently met with Paula Aguilero-Johnson, Habitat's outreach & faith based specialist. One of our church's goal statements says, "As a church body, we will respond to the needs of our neighbors as we are gifted to do." The love that this joint opportunity offers is yet another path for our congregation to be a true reflection of the kind of love Jesus was talking about.

Pastor Lynnette and Jane Armstrong will deliver twelve shawls to Paula over the next few weeks. Pastor Lynnette and Jane will design a preprinted note card with words of grace and hope for Habitat families. Paula will let Pastor Lynnette know when the shawl supply runs low so more shawls can be made and ready for future families. One additional shawl will be donated to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore where it will be raffled off with proceeds going to Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity. Accompanying the shawl will be a display sign with information about our comfort shawl ministry as part of Tryon UMC's partnership with Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity.

Tryon UMC comfort shawl ministry welcomes all people, inside and outside the walls of our church, to participate regardless of skill level. Our church is an amazing place to make lifelong connections with people as part of the fabric of discipleship.



Daylight Savings

Time Ends

November 5, 2023.

Remember to set your clocks
back before bedtime
Saturday.

All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023

We will use this time of worship to honor and remember the saints who have come before us.

In addition to reading the names of church members who have died this past year, we invite you to share the names of those dear to you who have died this past year whom you would like for us to remember during the service.

Please submit those names to Pastor Lynnette by Tuesday, October 31st, 2023 so they can be printed in our November 5th bulletin.

Worship Offerings for October

✝ **October 1--World Communion Sunday**

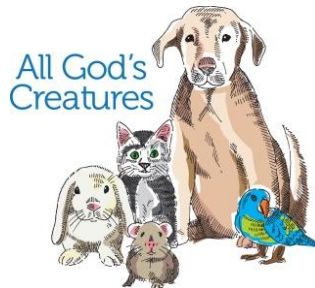
✝ **October 8--Blessing of the Animals**

✝ **October 15--Laity Sunday and**

Special Offering for the Wollin Family

✝ **October 22--Children's Sabbath**

✝ **October 29--Reformation Sunday**



Blessing of the Animals Sunday. October 8, 2023.

During worship we will offer a blessing for the lives of the animals that are and have been part of our lives over the years. You are invited to bring a picture of your animals to place on the altar rails. Please also plan to bring dog and cat food, treats, and other items we can donate to the Foothills Humane Society in Polk County. **We will collect items through October 31st.**

Laity Sunday and Special Offering for the Wollin Family. October 15, 2023. Worship will focus on the ways our church members serve Tryon UMC and our community. We will have a special offering that Sunday that will be sent to the Wollin Family, the missionaries we are helping to support in Albania. Please plan to participate in this offering to help us meet our commitment for 2023.



**Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 19, 2023. 4:00 p.m.**

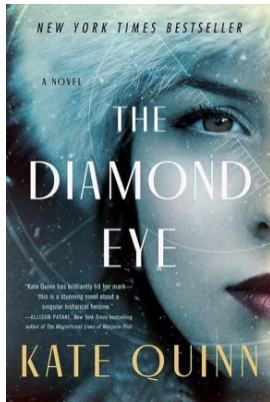
Tryon United Methodist Church

Tryon United Methodist Church will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service this year. We invite you to join us for this time of worship with our neighbors. The service will be led by pastors of the Tryon Ministerial Association. (Check the bulletins in November for more information.)

Before we worship together at the Community Thanksgiving Service, let's break bread together! You are invited to a Potluck Thanksgiving Lunch will be offered at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish to share. The church will provide meat, desserts, and drinks.

The Page Turners

We now meet the third Monday of the month at 12:00 noon.



The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn

Monday, October 16, 2023

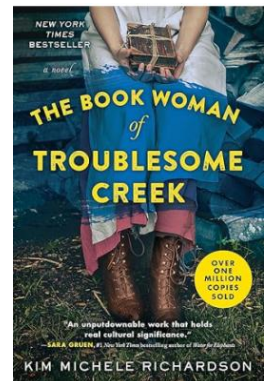
With **The Diamond Eye**, Kate Quinn returns to the fertile storytelling terrain of World War II for a tale inspired by the extraordinary life of Russian sniper Lyudmila “Mila” Pavlichenko, known as “Lady Death.” Mila becomes a mother at 15; six years later, amid an impending divorce, she promises her son that she’ll teach him to shoot. In between working on her dissertation at Kiev University and raising Alexei, she finds that she’s brilliant with a rifle. When the Nazis invade the Soviet Union, her elite skill becomes a key asset in the Red Army’s fight to defend the motherland. Mila sets off for war and marches into her own legend.

In each of her novels, Quinn displays an innate awareness of how history can be warped by time and power. In **The Diamond Eye**, we don’t just follow Mila’s journey into war; we see her actions in sharp contrast to what the Soviet government will later say she’s done. Mila’s perceptions of events are shown in relief to those of the men around her, and even to the perceptions of the American public, thanks to a 1942 press tour hosted by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. That press tour forms the novel’s narrative spine, unfolding in sections that alternate with Mila’s larger wartime odyssey. This structure steadily ratchets up the suspense as it becomes clear that Mila is not as welcome in the U.S. as she was led to believe.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Monday, November 13, 2023 12:00 p.m.

The Page Turners will meet on in the Comfort Shaw room to discuss the bestselling historical fiction novel from Kim Michele Richardson. This is a novel following Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves. The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scrap for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt’s Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome’s got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. Cussy’s not only a book woman, however, she’s also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy’s family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she’s going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman’s belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.



Come join us as we delve into life in the Kentucky mountains and mines.

Fall 2023 Blue Ridge District Charge Conference for Tryon UMC.

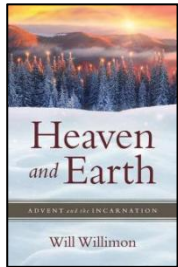
Sunday, October 8, 2023. 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by Hope United Methodist Church in Flat Rock, North Carolina

We will gather with friends from Hope, Balfour, Edneyville, First UMC Hendersonville, Fruitland, Moore’s Grove, and Saluda to participate in the approval of budgets, leadership rosters, and other district business. All are invited to attend.

Moving toward Christmas

Advent Bible Study Begins on Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 9:45 a.m.



The first Sunday of Advent this year is not until December 3rd, but we will begin a new Sunday morning study one Sunday earlier as we begin the new liturgical year and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Our study will be based on Will Willimon's book *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*.

Decorating for Advent and Christmas, November 26, 2023

You are invited to help decorate the church as we prepare for the holidays. All are welcomed to stay and help out. Lunch will be served in the Prayer Shawl Room before we begin. Everything that needs to be placed will be prepared and ready to go that Sunday. We will work till about 2:30 p.m. that afternoon.

Tryon Halloween Stroll October 31, 2023

This year, Tryon UMC will have a booth on Trade Street to hand out treat bags and enjoy time with our neighbors on Halloween. Here's how you can be part of the fun!

Contribute individually wrapped candies that will go in treat bags. (Try to avoid candies with nuts). Leave candy on the table outside the office.

We will be putting together 500 treat bags for children. If you can help make those bags, come help us on Monday, October 30th at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If you can help pass out candy on October 31st let Pastor Lynnette know. (Details on time and place will be provided later in October).

Thanks to Jennifer Monterisi for helping to organize this event.

Church Quarterly Meeting Update

We held our quarterly meeting September 24th. Thanks to all who brought a dish to share and for those who served lunch. We kept the meeting short, but covered some important business.

- We reviewed the 2024 budget that was approved by the Leadership Team at their September 11th meeting. The budget for next year is set at \$192,887. It is a very realistic budget, reflecting what operating costs are projected to be for the coming year. That budget will be submitted at our Charge Conference October 8th. If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact Pastor Lynnette.
- A subcommittee of the Leadership Team has been working with Gasperson Realty to enter into a partnership to lease some of the church's underused spaces. Several months of conversations and exploration of best/practical uses brought the Leadership Team to a decision to pursue renting some of our spaces. Contracts should be signed in October and Gasperson will begin marketing those spaces to find potential long-term tenants. We will keep you updated as tenants are found and spaces are used.
- We went over some of the events planned in coming months for the church. Look for information on these in your weekly announcements and in our newsletters.

The Donnithorne Family in Kenya

...serving as medical missionaries at Tenwek Hospital in western Kenya

Nancy Hiley's nephew, Jeff Donnithorne, promised to share his accounts of their missionary experience, and we have promised in turn to pray for them faithfully as they seek God's will in this unfamiliar setting. If you would like to follow the family on the internet, go to **the-donnithorne-family.epistle.org**. Here are some excerpt from Jeff's latest missive.

We've finished our first full week at Tenwek, and we're grateful for the loving community and the important work to be done in this beautiful place. Katherine begins her work at the hospital tomorrow (Monday), so this upcoming week will inaugurate the new normal.... Please pray for Katherine's health, as she's been fighting travel-induced congestion and coughing for over 2 weeks now.



This past week, many of our first impressions congealed into patterns... our fellow missionaries continued to be wonderfully hospitable, kind, and helpful. The kids expanded and deepened their friendship network, enjoying more outside freedom, with more layers of mud and grime to show for it.



...shopping here is a mosaic, with separate boutique vendors meeting varied needs. This week, our grocery shopping included eggs from a lady at a stall near our house,, fresh milk and homemade ugali corn chips from Eunice, fruits and vegetables from a Wednesday market near the hospital, a grocery store order placed on WhatsApp to be picked up by a fellow missionary, and items from 4-5 different shops or market stalls in Bomet (left). Soon, we'll be placing our first meat delivery order with a Nairobi butcher, whose trucks make deliveries here monthly.

Yesterday, we joined some other missionary families for a hike across the river, along some local roads, to a natural spring. Surrounded by lush green hillsides, patchworked with tea and maize fields, we quickly found ourselves a spectacle for local Kenyan children. Like a snowball rolling downhill, our traveling party grew ever larger, swarmed by local boys eager to try on sunglasses, ask for our watches, touch blonde hair, or experiment with English.



Soon, two herders and 3 cows stumbled down the hill to join the motley congregants at the spring, adding their own fragrant bulk to our party. While this was a hike like no other for us, the only thing the Kenyan men, boys, herders, and cows likely found novel was the rowdy arrival of a dozen wazungu (white people) at their spring!

We're so grateful for your prayers, encouragement, notes, and support. Thank you for holding the ropes!

Calendar

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
1 Communion 11:00-Worship	2 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	3	4 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells Pat Hart	5 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	6 10:00-Qi Gong Marie Vehorn	7
8 11:00-Worship 2:00-Charge Conference	9 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	10 10:00-Comfort Shawl	11 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells Bob Palmer	12 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	13 10:00-Qi Gong	14
15 Laity Sunday 11:00-Worship Marcia Burrus Bob Montgomery	16 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	17	18 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells Tom Kell	19 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	20 10:00-Qi Gong Thomas Kell/ Jeanna Steele	21
22 11:00-Worship	23 10:00-Qi Gong 12:00-Page Turners 5:30-AA mtg Amy Coull Richard & Holly McKee	24 10:00-Comfort Shawl	25 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	26 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	27 10:00-Qi Gong	28
29 Reformation Sunday 11:00-Worship	30 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	31				

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
			1	2	3 10:00-Qi Gong	4
5 All Saints Sunday Communion 11:00-Worship <i>Daylight Savings</i> <i>time ends</i>	6 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	7	8 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	9 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	10 10:00-Qi Gong Carol McCall	11
12 11:00-Worship	13 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	14 10:00- Comfort Shawl	15 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	16 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	17 10:00-Qi Gong Sparrow C.	18
19 11:00-Worship 12:15 Potluck Thanksgiving lunch 4:00 Community Thanksgiving/TUMC	20 10:00-Qi Gong 12:00-Page Tuners 5:30-AA mtg	21	22 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 10:00-Qi Gong	25 Mark Dacey
26 9:45-Advent Bible Study 11:00-Worship 12:15-Lunch and decorate Sanctuary	27 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	28 10:00- Comfort Shawl	29 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	30 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Charlotte Holly		