

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...

English Pearcy	Patsy Zeigler	Charlie Hooker	Kaye Floyd	Ruth Frady
Patsy Shuler	John Ballentine	Jimmy Grahl	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick

Shut-Ins: Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor

Family and Friends: **Keith Jordan** (*nephew of John & Kay Jordan*); **Gayle Messer** (*friend of Laurie Knapp*); **Deanne Summer** (*partner of Martha Cooke*); **Kelsey Molotsky** (*granddaughter of friend of Bob Strickland*); **Meg Sansbury**; **Mary Ann Rentz** (*stepmother of Marty Johnson*); **Mary Perry** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Chantel Griffin** (*sister of Erin Derrick*); **Russell Eubanks** (*son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Malcolm Skipper** (*grandfather of Matthew Skipper*); **Bryan Collard** (*brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis*); ; **Charlyn McNeill, Michael McNeill** (*sister & brother of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Lawrence Gilbert** (*friend of Becky Derrick*); **Bob Bohnstengel** (*spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin*); **Missy Abrams** (*stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Ross Deal** (*grandson of Mary Kamoroff*); **Nancy Wilson** (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David Turner** (*brother of Pam Turner*); **Ernie & Betsey Hendrix, Chip Mixon** (*friends of Tommy Gleaton*); **Ron & Janet Walker** (*friends of Tommy & Chris Gleaton*); **Merit Takach** (*friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **David Grandshaw** (*brother-in-law of Edwa Meek*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Gary Becton** (*friend of Mark Branham*); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (*friends of Chris Derrick*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth Frady*); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (*friends of Gale Frady*); **Bernardo Velasquez, Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Adam Lavender** (*son of Phil Lavender*)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 07/14 SS: 10 Worship: 33

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/14 \$ 1,784.54

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

07/22 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

07/23 GLIA Articles Due

07/25 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

07/26 Office Closed

Readings for July 28

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
Darlene L. Kelley
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform

“Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me.”
Psalm 51:10

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



The Trinity Ladies Group **will not meet** in **July**. There **will** be an outing on **August 10**. The plan is to go to Laura's Tea Room in Ridgeway. Reservations are for 11:30 a.m. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.

T.a.G. Group

The T.a.G. Group **will not meet** in **July and August**. They will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 4, at 7 p.m.



Sunday, July 28

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, July 28**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

Administrative and Ministry Teams Joint Meeting Sunday, July 28

The Administrative Team and Ministry Team will have a joint meeting immediately following Taste of Trinity.



Marie Stiles has provided new name tags. Please remember to wear the name tags so Pastor Darlene Kelley and her husband, Craig, can learn our names.

Also, please remember to keep them on during Time Together and Taste of Trinity. A basket will be provided for you to put them in as you leave.



A sign-up sheet for Liturgists (Lay Readers) is on the round table in the Gathering Area. The readings for the next six Sundays can be found beside it. If you would be willing to read either the Old Testament Reading or the Epistle Reading for one of those Sundays, please list your name and indicate which reading you have chosen.

July 21, 2024
Trinity UMC
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Love Heals (Part 2)

One of the good things about being a United Methodist is the confidence you can have in an educated and thoroughly examined clergy. We don't just let you show up to a meeting and put a stole around your neck. United Methodists like to poke, prod and fully examine the people they're going to send out to their churches, and it takes years and years of work to be ordained in the United Methodist Church.

Licensed pastors, deacons and elders all go through training before they are appointed to serve and then are asked to pursue continuing education training for as long as they serve. There's a great deal of accountability in our denomination, and I think that's a very good thing—though it obviously wasn't enough to keep out the likes of me!

Last weekend I was even blessed with an opportunity to be part of a mentor group, which met for the first time, with the new group of ministry candidates coming into the South Carolina Annual Conference, a small band of good and faithful folk praying hard and working hard and trying hard to discern their call to ministry. And as mentors, we are there to do our best to guide them and be a resource for them during their time of reflection and exploration.

And last weekend during our first encounter, we asked folks to talk about their call to ministry. That's even the name of the book we use, "Answering the Call", and folks serving in ministry in the United Methodist Church will be asked more than once to share their call story, and it's a privilege to hear folks share their stories. Candidates talk about the personal growth and moments of epiphany that brought them to this point.

And it makes you realize that each and every one of us has a story—a spiritual journey, full of twists and turns and ups and downs. Each human being on the planet has a story, a unique story full of laughter and pain, struggle and growth.

And in each person's story—in each spiritual journey—there are turning points: life events and milestones, tragedies, births and deaths, the unexpected storms and pleasant surprises.

As Rev. Frederick Buechner so eloquently put it: *Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.*

Every person here this morning has experienced "beautiful and terrible things". Every soul in this room has traversed a spiritual journey full of the turning points that brought them here—journeys that brought you to church, better yet—hopefully we all have journeys that bring us to God.

Think for a moment about your own journey. What are your turning points? Perhaps, you experienced drastic changes when you fell in love or became a parent. Perhaps, your world was turned upside down by the loss of someone you loved or the loss of a career or struggles with health. It's hard to get through life without some dramatic and painful turning points.

But there are spiritual turning points encompassed in small, quiet moments, as well. The whispered sighs to God on those dark nights of the soul and the sweet prayers of gratitude breathed out on the fresh dew of morning—encounters with the sacred, those blessed assurances, glimpses of God and moments of grace that can happen any time and anywhere.

I stand before you this morning because I have experienced turning points full of God's grace. I've witnessed the power of God's healing love throughout my life, and it is grace alone that brings me here today. God's grace is everywhere.

And I have seen God's grace in the most unexpected places, and at the most unlikely of times. I have seen God's grace in wretched nursing homes and smoky bars. I have seen God's grace in the face of strangers on the bus and in the face of prisoners behind bars, and I have experienced enough of my own grace to understand just a bit of what John Wesley meant when he talked of the infinite mystery of God in all things and all things in God.

By God’s grace, we are loved and by love we are transformed. As our own book of Discipline teaches, “the crucial matter in religion is steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit” (§ 102, pg.51).

Wonderful old Martin Luther wrote a great definition of faith in the mid 1500’s that may still speak to us about God’s love today. Luther says: *faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith.*

And this next bit is the famous part of Luther’s definition:

*Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures.*¹

This morning’s Gospel message reassures us that all we have to do is reach out and touch the hem of His robe and we are healed. *Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace must make us happy, joyful and bold in our relationship to God and all creatures. Faith is a living bold trust in God’s grace...*

Trusting in God’s grace, God’s mercy and God’s faithfulness will give us the confidence and security we need to be happy and bold in our faith. Because it’s not about us—it’s about God’s love for us.

And because God first loved us...we can love. Created in love, created in the image of love and able to love, we can rest on the promises of God’s abiding grace.

He had compassion for them, Mark tells us in his Gospel. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Jesus responds to the crowd with compassion. Fully human and fully divine, despite his need for rest, He prioritizes the needs of the people.

And we learn once again from watching Jesus. True love often requires sacrifice. Sometimes we have to put others’ needs before our own; sometimes we have to make compromises that we’d rather not make or commit to obligations we’d rather not fulfill—but love is active, not passive. And sometimes it takes hard work. How can we show compassionate love in our own lives? How do we model and reflect God’s love in the world?

One way or another, we are all in need of healing, so I invite you to seek God’s healing, seek the transforming love that God provides, love that we Methodists call “the crucial matter in religion”, the “steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit”.

Catch the Holy Spirit fire of love and pass it on—this world sure needs some healing!

Will you pray with me? God of grace,
Fill us with the courage to love and give us faith bold enough to share that love with others. Amen.

¹Martin Luther's Definition of Faith: An excerpt from "An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, "Luther's German Bible of 1522 by Martin Luther, 1483-1544 Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith