

Blessing of the Animals
October 6, 2024

A Blessing of the Animals witnesses to God's love, care, and concern for Creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. The Blessing is generally celebrated during October or on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. (Adapted from the UM BOW #708)

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Greetings, Announcements & Prayer

*Call To Worship
God of Creation, we gather together with all your creatures,
We gather to praise your name,
We gather to ask your blessing,
We gather to celebrate your creation,
We gather to ask for your peace,
We gather together to praise the Lord!

*Opening Hymn *"Let All Things Now Living"* Insert

*Opening Prayer
Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless our earth, our animals and our people. By the power of your love, enable us to live according to your plan. May we praise you always for your beauty and abundance in Creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi for All Created Things Insert

Anthem *"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"* Choir

Scripture Lesson Genesis 9:8-17 Pages 7-8 (O.T.)

A Message from Our Friends from Palmetto Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 11:6-9 Page 610 (O.T.)

A Few Words from the Pastor Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

*Hymn *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"* Rhett Hook, Guitar

Prayer of Confession Insert

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Blessing of the Animals
Bless, O Lord, this creature, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for its being.

Concluding Prayer Insert

*Closing Hymn *"Halle, Halle, Halleluja"* TFWS 2026
Halle, Halle, Halleluja! Halle, Halle, Halleluja! Halle, Halle, Halleluja! Halleluja! Halleluja!

*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response *"May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You"* Choir

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Darlene L. Kelley AV Director: Marie Stiles
Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick
Liturgist: Bob Strickland Time Together: Pam Turner; Jack Stevens

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

Today's Lovely Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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

Hilda Edwards Patsy Zeigler Jo Ann Heiting Charlie Hooker Kaye Floyd Ruth Frady
Patsy Shuler English Pearcy Latson Lewis Becky Derrick Jimmy Grahl

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

Family and Friends: **Sonya & Wayne Dooley** (daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Robinson); **Family of Rocky Brumbaugh** (father-in-law of Joshua Ballentine); **Lynne Powell** (friend of the Ballentines and Branhams); **Bobby Johnson** (friend of Billy Pearson); **Rev. Donna Eidson** (former pastor of Trinity); **Ima Thibodeaux** (friend of Christopher McCroskey); **Keith Jordan** (nephew of John & Kay Jordan); **Deanne Summer** (partner of Martha Cooke); **Kelsey Molotsky** (granddaughter of friend of Bob Strickland); **Meg Sansbury**; **Mary Perry** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Chantel & Dave Griffin** (sister and brother-in-law of Erin Derrick); **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); **Chuck Hardee** (cousin of Lynn Martin); **Bruce Beatty, 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); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **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); **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 09/29 SS: N/A Worship: N/A

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/29 \$ N/A

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

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

10/08 Grieving with God

10/09 Choir, 6 p.m.

T.a.G., 7 p.m.

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

10/11 Office Closed



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The wolf will live with the
lamb, the leopard will
lie down with the goat,... and
a little child will lead them.



Isaiah 11:6

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**Grieving with God
Tuesday, October 8**

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us each second Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room of the church. We are using the book "Good Grief" by Granger E. Westberg. Copies are available each session and in the church office. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, facilitates discussion.



The Trinity Ladies Group will meet at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1 at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday, October 19**. They will be meeting on the third Saturday of each month. For November, they will again meet at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1.

Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.



Sunday, October 27

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, October 27**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

Please Note: The Ministry Team will meet immediately following Taste of Trinity.



**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, at 4 P.M.**

The Columbia Community Concert Band opens its 44TH concert season on Sunday, October 27, at 4 p.m. in the Auditorium at Airport High School. Selections for this concert include a wide range of music: The Cry of the Last Unicorn, Rolling Thunder March, theme from the hit movie, *Top Gun*, and On A Hymnsong of Philip Bliss (aka It Is Well With My Soul).

Chris Derrick has once again volunteered to drive the Trinity bus if we have enough people sign up. The sign-up sheet will be on the Round Table in the Gathering Area. The bus will leave the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 p.m. So, join us for Taste of Trinity and conclude the afternoon with an enjoyable concert. As always, thank you so much for your support!



**Thursday, October 31
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

Join us on Halloween from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on our Gunter Circle parking lot to celebrate our children, our church and our community with Trunk or Treat. We've got 50 candy bags with stickers that say "Trinity UMC" on the side, ready to fix and fill. We'll need some willing bag stuffers at Taste of Trinity on Sunday, October 27th. Candy will be provided for our Trinity bags through a recent donation.

We'll decorate the side of our church bus and have a table out front to attract some attention. You can decorate your car, bring your lawn chair and your treats and join in the fun! Sundown will be at 6:30 that evening, so you may want to bring a flashlight or lantern too.

Invite your friends and neighbors, and all your favorite ghouls and join us on Halloween! It will be booooootiful!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Join me in prayer. For animals of every kind, especially those here today, their habitats and health, that they may continue bright and beautiful, teaching us of your wisdom and grace; **Hear us, Giver of life.**

That all animals be accorded care and respect, especially those we use for food or work, lest we offend against you, their Maker; **Hear us, Giver of life.**

For people who provide animals with sanctuary, for those who rescue and care for animals, and for veterinarians and farmers, for purveyors of animal supplies, and for all who care for their own companion animals and those of others; **Hear us, Giver of life.**

That more and more people may recognize that the protection and nurture of living things is a sacred and joyous trust; and for the protection of all your creatures, O God of love, that any that are abused or hurt or suffering might be touched by your eternal grace. **Hear us, Giver of life.**

For animal companions everywhere and for animals who live in the wild, that we may see reflected in them your goodness and love and be grateful for their creation; **Hear us, Giver of life. Amen.**

Hymn: Let All Things Now Living #2208

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Amen.

Words: Katherine K. Davis
Music: *Ash Grove*



PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
FOR ALL CREATED THINGS

As we celebrate our blessing of the animals, we may think of St. Francis of Assisi. Let us recall his prayer for all created things: **O most high, omnipotent, good Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing.**

For our brother the sun, who is our day and who brings us the light, who is fair, and radiant with a very great splendor, praised be our Lord. **For our sister the moon, and for the stars, which you have set clear and lovely in heaven; praised be our Lord.**

For our brother the wind, and for air and clouds, calms and all weather; praised be our Lord. **For our sister water, who serves us and is humble and precious and chaste; praised be our Lord.**

For our brother fire, by whom you light up the night, and who is fair and merry, and very mighty and strong; praised be our Lord. **For our mother the earth, who sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth various fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass; praised be our Lord.**

For all those who pardon one another for your love's sake, and who bear weakness and tribulation; praised be our Lord. **Blessed are they who peaceably shall endure, walking by your most holy will; for you, O Most High, shall give them a crown. Praise and bless the Lord and give thanks unto God and serve God with great humility. Amen.**



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, how wonderful are the works of your hands. They fill our senses with the abundance of your love. And yet, at times, we live disconnected from the earth and the creatures you made for our enjoyment. Forgive us for our ungrateful selfishness. Restore our wonder in you and in your handiwork that we might live with love for all: our neighbors, our home, and our companions the animals.

Help us to respect ourselves, one another and all your creation that we might be your people and do your will, and help us to be your hands and hearts in this world, working always to end pain and suffering and to restore justice and harmony. These things we pray in your holy name. Amen.

(Silent prayer.)

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: We are saved by grace through faith. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!**