

***Sixth Sunday after Pentecost***  
**July 17, 2022**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir  
 Centering Words "Spirit Song"

\*Hymn 103  
*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

Opening Prayer  
 The Lord's Prayer 895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Page 810-811 (O.T.)  
 Amos 8:1-12

Psalter 804  
 Psalm 82

\*Hymn 349  
*"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"*

New Testament Reading Page 190 (N.T.)  
 Colossians 1:15-28

Gospel Reading Page 71 (N.T.)  
 Luke 10:38-42

Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan  
*"Finding Balance"*

**Response to the Word** 881  
*"The Apostles' Creed"*

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey

\*Doxology 95  
*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

\*Hymn 399  
*"Take My Life, and Let It Be"*

\*Dismissal With Benediction

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

May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever,  
 Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
 Lift up your eyes and see God's face and God's grace forever,  
 May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

\*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

\*The Congregation May Stand

***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor: *John D. Jordan*      AV Director: *Marie Stiles*  
 Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey*      AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*  
 Church Musician      Time Together: *Joyce Robinson*

**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...**

Jim Stiles	Lynn Martin	Marty Johnson	Patsy Zeigler	Kay Jordan	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Hilda Edwards	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long
Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Charlie Hooker			

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** **Howard Stephens** (former church member); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Cindy Bassett, Alva Humphries** (friends of Marty Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Bob Bryant** (brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Beverly Jordan** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Earle Watson** (father of friend 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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

**In-Person Attendance 07/10 SS: 7          Worship: 22**

**OUR GIFTS ...**

**General Fund 07/10 \$ 1,001.38**

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Upcoming Events**

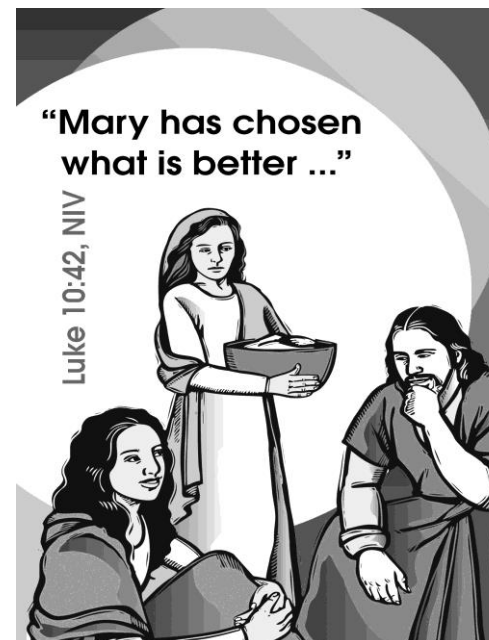
**07/20**    Class Meeting, 7 p.m.  
**07/21**    GLIA Articles Due  
**07/23**    Office Closed



<b>Ministers</b>	<b>The Congregation</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>John D. Jordan</b>
<b>Resident Bishop</b>	<b>Jonathan Holston</b>
<b>District Superintendent</b>	<b>Rev. Fran M. Elrod</b>

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

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



**1201 Mohawk Drive  
 West Columbia, SC 29169  
 Telephone: 803.794.7777  
 E-mail: [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)  
 Website: [www.trinityumcwc.org](http://www.trinityumcwc.org)**

Luke 10: 38-42

This story of Martha and Mary strikes at our sensibilities and those of the early hearers of the Gospel. Jesus and the disciples are invited to the home of Martha and Mary. Martha is preparing the meal. She is anxious because she wants to get it right. She is busy mixing, kneading, and shaping the dough for the bread. She asks herself, “Do I have enough oil and flour? How many pitas do I make? Do I need more fruit and vegetables? Is there enough meat?”

Meanwhile, her sister Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus with the men, a scandalous place for her to be. Martha comes in from the kitchen hot and sweaty, with her clothes covered with flour, and tells Jesus to tell Mary to help her.

Martha was doing what social convention, both then and in some circles now, said she should be doing. Women should be in the kitchen preparing to feed the men. Mary, on the other hand, was being a bad girl. So one would expect Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help her sister in the kitchen.

However, Jesus admonishes Martha! He says Mary has chosen the better part! WHAT!!! Jesus’ admonition of Martha is surprising, not only because of social convention but also in light of the story this passage follows, The Good Samaritan.

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught that one shows their love for their neighbor through acts of mercy and therefore inherits eternal life. Preparing a meal for travelers is an act of mercy in my book. Why does Jesus admonish Martha?

Notice that Jesus admonishes Martha because she is worried and distracted by many things. Some commentators suggest that Martha was preparing an elaborate meal when a simple one would suffice. Whether or not that is the case I don’t know and truthfully is not that relevant in my opinion. Jesus admonishes Martha because she is letting all her concerns about getting the meal right and following social conventions keep her from listening to what he was saying. Mary chose the better part because she was focusing on Jesus.

In our Wesley Class Meeting we have all confessed that there are times when we let the clutter in our lives keep us from focusing on Jesus. We get busy with picking up the grandchildren, work, yardwork, neighbors, job interviews, doctor appointments, etc. We worry about safety in schools, the pandemic, church attendance decreasing, climate change, gas prices, etc. We get so busy doing and worrying about stuff that we don’t take time to focus on Jesus. There is just too much to do. Yet, it is necessary for us to take time to focus on Jesus. Even with all the “important” things we must do, we must take time to focus on Jesus. Helmut Thielicke pointed out that Martin Luther prayed four hours each day, not despite his busy life but because only so could he accomplish his gigantic labors.<sup>1</sup> Luther could accomplish all he did because he took time to pray, to focus on Jesus.

By placing this story of Martha and Mary right after the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke is sending an important message. To inherit eternal life, one must act on their love for neighbor. We also need to focus on Jesus so we can see the needs of our neighbors and know how **God** wants us to respond to that need. We focus on Jesus so we can know how God wants us, individually and as a church, to participate with God in restoring creation.

In football, the coach signals in a play. The players look to the sideline and listen for the quarterback who calls out the play. Each player knows their assignment. The linemen know what direction to block the opponent. The receivers know what route they are to run. The running back knows where to run. The quarterback knows who is supposed to get the ball. When every player knows and carries out their assignment, the play is successful and gains yardage. If a player is not focused on the coach and quarterback so they hear their assignment, the play will lose yardage or worse. All eleven players must focus on the coach and quarterback to receive the correct signal and run the same play.

Similarly, we focus on and listen to Jesus so we will know what God wants us to do in the restoration of creation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Elton Trueblood, *A New Man for Our Time*. In *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants* by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck, (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1983) 108.

We focus on and listen to Jesus in many ways; prayer is the most obvious. We also focus on Jesus through Bible Study, individual and communal. We focus on Jesus through daily devotionals and religious readings. We focus on Jesus through regular attendance at worship. We focus on Jesus through fasting and other spiritual disciplines. We focus on Jesus by meeting with fellow Christians to support each other in our spiritual journey. These are what Wesley refers to as acts of piety.

We respond to the needs of our neighbors by our acts of mercy and working toward justice for all God's people. This may include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, writing your congressperson on some issue, signing petitions, and attending school board and city council meetings, just to name a few. These are what Wesley refers to as acts of mercy.

So we gain eternal life by showing our love by acting from our love to show mercy to our neighbor. But we also focus on Jesus to receive instructions about how to show mercy to our neighbor. Which is more important?

By placing this story of Martha and Mary in conjunction with the story of the Good Samaritan the writer of the Gospel seems to be saying both are important. Both acts of mercy and acts of piety are important in inheriting eternal life. Acts of piety lead us to focus on Jesus so we perceive what God is calling us to do to show mercy to our neighbor.

The writer also seems to be saying that there needs to be a balance between our acts of piety and acts of mercy. There is a time to be a Good Samaritan and there is a time to be Mary. We must strive to maintain a balance between our acts of mercy and acts of piety. If we focus only on acts of mercy we will be like football players running all over the field without a planned play. If we focus only on acts of piety nothing happens. This was one of Wesley's reasons for breaking with the Moravians.

If we attend too much to acts of mercy, we lose that which grounds us and is the root of our lives which is our relationship with God. If we attend too much to our acts of piety we do not demonstrate love for our neighbor and risk losing eternal life. But as we maintain a balance in our lives between mercy and piety we maintain our relationship with God and love for our neighbor. Our acts of mercy are rooted in our love for God and desire to obey God as we attend to our acts of piety and focus on Jesus.

Then we can truly inherit eternal life for our acts of love for our neighbor are rooted in our relationship with God. We focus on Jesus so we truly love our neighbor.