

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir
 Centering Words "Spirit Song"

*Hymn 127
 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Page 798 (O.T.)
 Hosea 11:1-11
 Psalter 830-831
 Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43
 *Hymn 413
 "A Charge to Keep I Have"

New Testament Reading Page 191 (N.T.)
 Colossians 3:1-11

Anthem Choir
 "We Worship As One"
 Gospel Reading Page 73 (N.T.)
 Luke 12:13-21
 Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
 "The Consequences of Greed"

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: Mary Louise 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 in loving memory of **Chuck** on his 67th birthday August 2, by **his family**.

“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	Wayne Hooker	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long
Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Charlie Hooker			

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

Family and Friends: **Merit Takach** (*friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson*); **Frankie Hendrix** (*cousin of Billy Pearson*); **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*); **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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 07/24 SS: 11 Worship: 33

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/24 \$ 4,914.19

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

08/03 Class Meeting, 7 p.m.
08/05 Office Closed

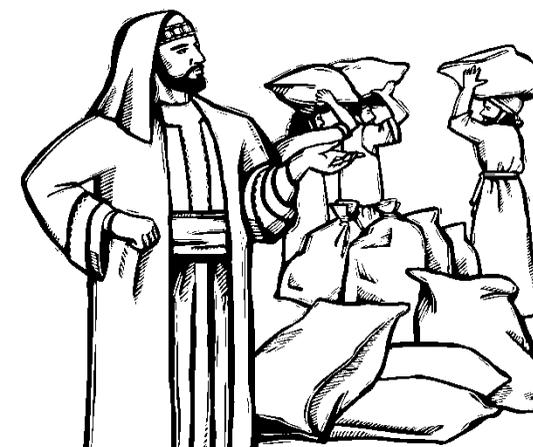


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
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



Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.

Luke 12:15, NIV

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ADULT Sunday School

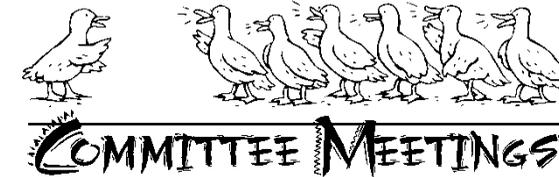


We will finish our study of the Acts of the Apostles on Sunday, July 24. Beginning July 31st, our class will begin sharing and examining favorite Bible verses from the members of the class that deal with specific Christian virtues or that teach us how to deal with certain issues in life. In the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13:13, where Paul instructs us to abide by faith, hope and love, on July 31st, class members are encouraged to bring to class their favorite verse or verses that promote faith. The following Sunday, class members will bring their favorite verses promoting hope, and then the Sunday after that, members are to bring their favorite verses promoting love.

You can bring a single verse each time or a handful of them. It is up to you! You can also share any experiences that you have had in which the verses that you share with the class have edified you. After we share our verses on love, I will then, for the next several Sundays, take suggestions from the class as to what kind of verses we want to share and study. For example, one class member may suggest that we share our favorite verses that teach us how to deal with sorrow, while another class member may suggest bringing to class verses that promote forgiveness. I think that this will be both a fun and edifying time for the class! It will give us the opportunity to share verses from the Bible that have made an impact on us. It will also help us to see the connectedness of the Bible, since instead of focusing on one book of the Bible, we will be sharing pieces of Scripture from throughout the Bible.

Sincerely,
Tom Geddens

We recently renamed our Wesley Class Meeting to **T.a.G.** group. **T.a.G.** means **Transformation and Growth**. This more accurately reflects the purpose of the group which is to transform our lives and grow closer to the love of God and neighbor. If you would like to be part of a group to help transform your life and help you grow closer in the love of God and neighbor, contact Pastor John by calling the church office. We hope to get more T.a.G. groups going in the coming months.



We are entering the new season of the United Methodist Church - Charge Conference Season. I will find out when our charge conference will be held at the Clergy Start Up meeting August 2. The committees need to schedule meetings in order to prepare. Please schedule ASAP so we can get ahead of the game, particularly if we have an early charge conference.



The **Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee** will meet **Sunday, August 7**, following the Worship Service. The members of the committee are **Chris Derrick, Pam Hook, Pam Turner, John Ballentine, Bob Strickland, Slone Taylor, Jo Ann Heiting and Bonnie Ramsey**.

Luke 12: 13-21

This parable is a no-brainer; it is about greed. A man receives an abundant crop. His harvest is so great that he cannot store it all. His barns are not big enough. He decides to build bigger barns and take some time off. He can kick back, relax, and not work so hard for a few years.

Then God says to him, “This night your life is being demanded of you. Who is going to get all your abundant blessings I have given you” (my paraphrase). The man chose to hold onto his blessings but they did him no good.

Making and saving as much money as you can is not greed. Wesley says to make all you can and save all you can. The man may have worked very hard to make this abundant crop. He may have been a very good religious man, so God blessed him with an abundant crop. Not using the blessings God has given for God’s purposes is greed. Greed is holding onto what God has given us.

Though we tend to think of greed in terms of material wealth, we can be greedy with other things. We are greedy if we do not use the gifts and talents God gave us for God’s purpose. Imagine if Beethoven had kept all his musical compositions to himself and never performed them. We would not have that great hymn, *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*. Or if Charles Wesley stuck all his poems in a filing cabinet. Or if George Beverly Shea only sang *How Great Thou Art* in the shower? We would not know and enjoy all that they gave because they were greedy with their talents.

We may also be greedy with our time. We say that we don’t have time to serve God, but we have time to watch television, go to ball games or play pickleball. We may say we don’t have time to spend with our children much less mentoring a child when that is the most valuable thing we have to give. Now, I am not saying watching television, going to ball games, or playing pickleball is bad, but when we let those things take our time away from what God is calling us to do that is greed.

Greed leads to self-centeredness. We focus on ourselves. The man in the parable says to himself, “Self, let’s build bigger barns.” He doesn’t ask anyone else. He sees his abundance. He failed to see how God meant for him to use his blessing of an overabundant harvest. He failed to see the needs of those around him.

Greed makes us self-centered. We become concerned only about what we can get for ourselves. We become focused on our rights without considering the rights of others and our responsibility to others. Greed leads to self-centeredness and eats away at our compassion for others.

Greed leads to self-sufficiency. We believe we can take care of ourselves and don’t need anyone else. We believe we can make it through life on our own. We don’t need anybody else, including God.

Greed causes breaks in relationships. At the beginning of the passage, someone from the crowd asks Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance. Regardless of who was right, Jesus tells him to take care against all kinds of greed for one’s life does not consist of the abundance of possessions. I think Jesus observed that the relationship between the person and his brother was broken over the inheritance. The desire for the family inheritance led to a rift between family members.

We probably all know of a family who had some conflict over an inheritance. Cousin Sarah Jane got grandma's teapot and it was promised to me. We never speak to Cousin Sarah Jane again. Families go to court contesting wills and only the lawyers win. The man who builds bigger barns and hoards resources his neighbors need becomes a target for resentment and ostracism. The rifts in most relationships may well be related to greed.

Most of all, greed leads to what has been called practical atheism.¹ The man in the parable may have been a good religious man. He may have believed in God. He may have gone to Synagogue every week and made all the required sacrifices. He may have made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for all the festivals. However, when it came to managing his life, dealing with possessions, and planning for the future he lived as if there was no God.² He did not rely on God in the everyday matters of life, he relied on himself. He was an atheist in the way he lived his life and made decisions without God.

We become practical atheists when we live our lives without God. We do not let God be our guide and involve God in the everyday mundane decisions in our lives, including how we are to use our money, gifts, and talents. We are practical atheists as we rely on ourselves and not God.

How do we combat greed? How can we avoid slipping into self-centeredness, self-sufficiency, broken relationships, and practical atheism?

The first and most obvious way is to be generous. Be generous with our money, talents, time, and other resources. We must remember that all that we have was given to us by God to be used for God's purpose. We give our money, time, talents, and other resources to benefit others. We must remember that God gives us what we need and everything above what we need is to be given. Wesley's third point is to give all that you can.

We must do what we can to heal broken relationships. We recognize our need for relationships. Jesus is telling the man who asked him about the inheritance that his relationship with his brother is more important than any possessions. We must let go of anything that interferes with our relationships, particularly our relationship with God.

Most of all we must remember that we can only rely on God. We can only rely on God to give us what is good. We let our faith in God direct our lives. We let God tell us how we are to use our money, time, talents, gifts, and resources. We let God be our guide in every aspect of our lives, even the ordinary, practical matters of our lives.

Rely on God. Heal relationships. Be generous. This is how we combat greed. By using what we are given for God's purpose.

1 R. Allen Culpepper, "The Gospel of Luke, In *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Vol.IX. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996) 257.

2 Ibid