

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" 710
Opening Prayer 6
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Pages 600-601 (O.T.)
Psalter Psalm 50 783-784

*Hymn "Through It All" 507

Gospel Reading Luke 12:32-40 Page 73 (N.T.)
New Testament Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Pages 214-215 (N.T.)
Sermon "What Is Faith?" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7
Pastoral Prayer

Invitation 7
Confession and Pardon 8
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory "I Will Remember You" Choir
Jo Ann Heiting & Dan Greshel, Soloists

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

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "Give to the Winds Thy Fears" 129

*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response "Shalom to You" Choir

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

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

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.

*A gift to Trinity is given to the **Glory of God** and in loving memory of her husband, **Tommy**, on his birthday August 4th, by **Marty Johnson**.*

“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	Kaye Floyd	Pam Turner	

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

Family and Friends: **Ron Walker** (friend of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); **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 ...

Attendance 07/31 SS: 10 Worship: 27

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/31 \$ 1,150.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee following Worship

08/10 T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

08/12 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



HOLY COMMUNION

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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



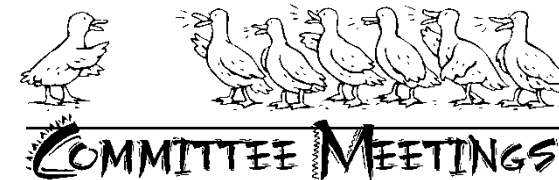
The **Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee** will meet **today** following the Worship Service. The members of the committee are **Chris Derrick, Pam Hook, Pam Turner, John Ballentine, Bob Strickland, Slone Taylor, Jo Ann Heiting** and **Bonnie Ramsey**.



Charge Conference will be held on **Tuesday, September 20**, at **7:30 p.m.**

Church Council is now scheduled to meet on **Sunday, September 11**, at **2 p.m.**

Budgets will be due on **Monday, August 29**.



SPRC will meet on **Wednesday, August 17**, at **6 p.m.**

The **Finance Committee** is tentatively scheduled to meet on **Wednesday, September 7**, at **6 p.m.**

Hebrews 1:1-3, 8-16

Faith is the basic tenet of Christianity. We say that we live by faith. We are justified by faith. We define faith as belief and trust in God through Jesus Christ.

The writer of Hebrews takes faith a bit further than just that basic definition. The writer gives not so much of a definition of faith but the nature of faith. The nature of faith orients us to the future. Faith orients us to the eschatological future that believers have.

How does faith orient us to the future? Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for.” However, assurance does not capture the full meaning of Greek. The Greek word, *hypostasis*, is rarely used. It has been translated as assurance, being sure, substance, putting full confidence in, giving substance to, and reality of. All these may be partial translations but the full translation may be something to the effect of “Faith is the assurance and confidence in the reality of the substance of things we hope for.” The substance of the things we hope for is God. We have confidence that the things we hope for comes from God and are our reality.

Faith orients us to the things we hope for. Faith establishes the reality of all that we hope for and is promised to us by God even though we may not see that reality in this life.

Faith is “the conviction of things not seen.” Again we run into one of those words we rarely find in Greek with *elegchos*. It has been translated as conviction, certainty, evidence, and proof. To me, it is the reality of the unseen. Just because we do not see something does not make it not real.

In John Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, there is a scene where the main characters, Owen and Johnny, are playing basketball in the courtyard of the Catholic Church. At the opposite end of the courtyard is a statue of the Virgin Mary. As darkness begins to fall, Johnny begins to want to go home but Owen insists they continue playing. Finally, it becomes so dark they can barely see the goal, much less to the other side of the courtyard. Owen points to the other side of the courtyard and says, “Do you see her?”

Johnny looks to the other side of the courtyard and replies, “No”.

Owen asks, “Is she there, do you know the lady is there?”

Johnny answers, “Yes, she is a statue and can’t move.”

“That is faith,” exclaims Owen. “Even though you cannot see her, you know she is there.”

By faith, we can “see” that which is unseen. I find it interesting that both the Hebrew and Greek words for spirit can also be the word for wind. We cannot see the wind nor can we see the Spirit. We can see evidence of the wind: the trees bending, the yellow clouds of pollen in the spring, and fallen branches in the yard, to name a few. We can feel the wind on our skin, but we cannot see the wind.

Likewise, we can see the evidence of the Spirit. We can feel changes in our hearts and minds. We see changes in the attitudes and actions of others. We feel the nudges from God to act or change. We can feel and sense the Spirit, but we cannot see the Spirit. We feel and sense the Spirit through the lens of faith. The more we “see” the unseen Spirit through faith, the stronger our faith becomes and we “see” the Spirit more clearly. We see what has been promised more clearly.

The writer then uses the example of the Hebrew heroes of faith. Today we focused on Abraham. Abraham was old, nearly 90. His wife Sarah was not much younger. They had passed childbearing years, but God told Abraham to go to a land God would give him and he would become the father of many nations. Against all logic, but by faith, Abraham and Sarah went. We know the rest of the story.

One thing about the story of Abraham and Sarah, they never settled in the land promised to them. They remained aliens in the land. It was many generations later that the land became a nation.

This past week 60 Minutes ran a story on Badiucan, a Chinese dissident artist. Badiucan’s art mocks the present Chinese government. He became a dissident after first hearing about the Tiananmen Square protest. The story had interviews with some of the Tiananmen Square protesters. Badiucan and the other protesters hope for China to become a democratic society one day. They continue to protest; telling their stories, so future generations will know the truth and their dream of a democratic China will become a reality.

It seemed that Abraham did not receive the promise God gave him. The thing he hoped. Yet he kept going. By faith, Abraham kept going. The Chinese dissidents will probably never see their hope for a democratic China but they keep telling their stories. Though not explicitly stated, the Chinese dissidents have faith that their stories will be heard.

If Abraham did not receive the promise of land and a nation, why should we have faith? What good is faith if we are not going to receive what God promises us?

By faith, Abraham was able to “see” that which was unseen. He had confidence in the reality that God would keep the promise, for keeping promises is an act of love which is the substance of God. Abraham was able to see the city God had prepared for him and his descendants; a city not of this world but a heavenly city. The promise Abraham saw and hoped for was not a homeland but a place in God’s home.

That is the promise we hope for, that we will have a place in God’s home. Abraham sojourned as an alien in the land in which his descendants settled, but he looked to the home God promised. Likewise, we sojourn as aliens in this world but live by faith according to the promise of God. We live focused on the promised Kingdom of God, both in the present and future, not on the kingdoms of the world.

By faith, we can set our sights on the future promise of living eternally in God’s kingdom. By faith, we can live our lives according to the rule of God’s Kingdom. As we strive to live by faith in God’s promise, we see God’s promise more clearly and our faith increases. We live by faith, seeing the unseen, and having confidence in the reality of God’s promise of a place in God’s home.