

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 2022

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Choir
 Centering Words

*Hymn "How Firm a Foundation" 529

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 Page 604 (O.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 80 801-802
 *Hymn "May You Run and Not Be Weary" TFWS 2281

Gospel Reading Luke 12:49-56 Page 74 (N.T.)

New Testament Reading Hebrews 11:29 –12:2 Pages 215-216 (N.T.)
 Sermon "Surrounded!" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881
 Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
 Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
 *Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

*Hymn "Abide with Me" 700
 *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 AV Director: Marie Stiles
 Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick
 Church Musician Time Together: Ruth Frady

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 | 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 ...

In-Person Attendance 08/07 SS: 7 Worship: 24

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/07 \$ 4,620.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration
08/17 SPRC Meeting, 6 p.m.
T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.
08/19 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



**WE ARE SURROUNDED
BY SUCH A GREAT CLOUD
OF WITNESSES....**

HEBREWS 12:1

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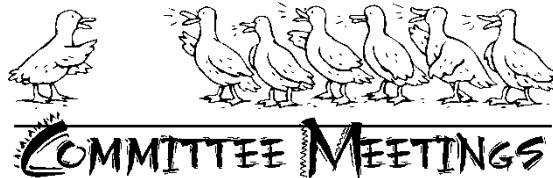
The **Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee** will meet again on **Sunday, August 21**, following the Worship Service. The members of the committee are **Chris Derrick, Pam Hook, Pam Turner, John Ballentine, Bob Strickland, Slone Taylor, Jo Ann Heiting** and **Bonnie Ramsey**.



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 this **Wednesday, August 17**, at **6 p.m.**

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



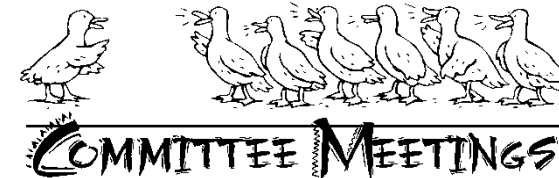
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Surrounded!

8/14/2022

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

We are surrounded! It seems that we are surrounded by evil on all sides. Look at what is going on in the world: war, mass shootings, school shootings, opioid addiction, human trafficking, racism, sexism, ageism, any other ism you can think of, divisions on top of divisions, church attendance declining and we could go on and on. We are surrounded!

Yes, we are surrounded. We are completely surrounded. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, not evil. The writer of Hebrews begins chapter 11 by defining faith and the nature of faith. The writer continues by enumerating the heroes of faith beginning with Abel and continuing through Abraham, Moses, and those we read today. These persevered in their faith in God's promises, even though they did not see the fulfillment of the promise which came through Jesus.

We are surrounded by a thick cloud of witnesses. For many years, while Ashton and her cousins were growing up, my Mother rented a cabin in Franklin NC. We would stay for a week or however long we could; tubing, hiking, shopping, exploring, playing games, and just being together. One year Kay, Ashton, the nephews, their friend, and I decided to hike up the Appalachian trail from Tellico Gap to Tellico mountain. It was one of those drizzly days where the clouds hung low. We reach the top of the mountain and climbed the observation tower, which was some 40-50 feet tall and about 25-30 feet square. The cloud that surrounded us was so thick, that we could not see the ground. We could barely see across the observation platform. Our cloud of witnesses is that thick or thicker.

Our cloud of witnesses includes those Old Testament heroes enumerated by the writer of Hebrews. It includes the apostles and those that witnessed the life and work of Jesus firsthand. It includes all those who spread the gospel- Paul, Barnabus, Aquilla, Priscilla, and the nameless others- through the Roman world, Africa, and Asia. Our cloud of witnesses includes all the heroes of the Bible who persevered in faith.

Our cloud of witnesses includes the early church fathers- Athanasius, Irenaeus, and Augustine to name a few. These established the prime doctrines of the universal church.

Our cloud of witnesses includes those who established the monastic movement- Benedict, Bernard of Clairvaux, Theresa of Avila, and Francis of Assisi. These monasteries provided most of the scholarship of the medieval period. So the great medieval scholars- Anselm, Abailard, Lombard, Ockham, and others - are in our cloud of witnesses.

Our cloud of witnesses includes the reformers Luther, Calvin, and Wesley. It includes the great preachers and evangelists, Whitfield, Fosdick, and Graham to name a few. The great theologians of our time- Tillich, Bonhoeffer, Barth, and others are included. All these great heroes of faith from the beginning to the present are in our cloud of witnesses.

All these are in our cloud of witnesses. But others are in each of our individual cloud of witnesses. Those who have influenced us by their faith. This may be our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Our cloud may include preachers, Sunday School teachers, and other church folks. There may be teachers, coaches, and mentors who were examples of faith to us. Our cloud of witnesses includes all the people in our lives who have in some way nurtured our faith.

Our cloud of witnesses is many-layered. Moving inside out may begin with those who have influenced our faith directly. Then move out to those who influenced them. We can continue throughout history exposing layer after layer of witnesses to the beginning of time.

Think about it. Everyone throughout the course of history who persevered in faith in God's promise has been a witness to our faith today. They are in this cloud that surrounds every one of us.

When we say the Apostle's Creed we are making the same affirmation of faith that Christians worldwide are making today and have made for the past two thousand years. Everyone who has said that Creed is a part of our cloud of witnesses.

That is a comfort - to know that our loved ones who have passed away remain with us in this cloud. I like to use this image at funerals. It is a comfort to know that our loved ones remain with us.

However, our cloud of witnesses is just not for our comfort. They are examples to us so that we may keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus as they kept their eyes fixed upon Jesus. They remained focused on Jesus despite hardship, persecution, ostracism, and even death. They had faith that they would receive God's promise of reconciliation and restoration.

Not only are they examples of faith, but they also encourage us in our faith. Kay and I have done a few races with Ashton and Charlie. (Note I said done, not run. We usually walk.) At points throughout the course, there are people who make sure you stay on the course and encourage you. You may be barely putting one foot in front of the other but they are yelling, "You are doing great!" When you hear that you pick up your pace a little bit.

You may ask, "How can people from the past encourage me now?"

My race to become an ordained elder has been long and fraught with obstacles from the beginning. After my first meeting with the District Committee of Ministry to become a certified candidate, I was told I would receive a letter with the committee's decision in about a week. About a week later I received a letter stating I was not certified as a candidate for ministry but could reapply later. No explanation was given just three sentences.

I was devastated! I began questioning my call. My mentor, Dickie Knight, was as surprised as I was. My mind went into some bad places. It was one of the darkest times in my life.

One day, in my despair, I went to a desk we have which was built by my great-great-uncle for my grandmother in 1927. On the desk was this Bible which belonged to my uncle who had just passed away. Uncle Alfred was a United Methodist Pastor in South Georgia for over 40 years. I do not know why I did this but I flipped open the Bible and my eyes fell on this verse. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."

I did not go any further for at that moment I felt Uncle Alfred with me. I also felt my father and brother, my grandparents, Kay's Dad, uncles, aunts, Sunday school teachers, and even Uncle Joe Bell, who made the desk, with me. All were saying, don't stop. This is a minor setback. Keep going, persevere.

Knowing I was surrounded by that cloud of witnesses, I could overcome the obstacles that confronted me through this process. With our cloud of witnesses, we all may persevere, knowing we are not alone.

It may seem we are surrounded by evil, but we are surrounded by a much thicker cloud of witnesses. With that cloud, we can overcome all evil we may face. We may run the race God has set before us with perseverance, with our eyes set upon Jesus. We may be strengthened and receive the promise God has for us.