

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 28, 2022

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
Church Musician Time Together: *Pam Turner; Jack Stevens*

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir
Centering Words 432
“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Hymn 432
“Jesu, Jesu”

Opening Prayer 895
The Lord’s Prayer

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Page 662 (O.T.)
Psalter 803
Jeremiah 2:4-13

*Hymn TFWS 2176
“Make Me a Servant”

Gospel Reading Page 75 (N.T.)
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Anthem Choir
“Sing a New Song to the Lord”

New Testament Reading Pages 216-217 (N.T.)
Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
“Life in God’s Kingdom”

Response to the Word 881
Pastoral Prayer *“The Apostles’ Creed”*

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology 95
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Hymn 557
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response Choir
“Shalom to You”

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

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...

Charles McNeill	Patsy Zeigler	Kaye Floyd	Hilda Edwards	Kay Jordan	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Lynn Martin	Marty Johnson	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Wayne Hooker	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long
Jackie McNeill	Charlie Hooker	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: **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **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); **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 coworker 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); **Bryson Raszewski** (grandson of Carline Hutton Raszewski); **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 08/21 SS: 8 Worship: 18

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/21 \$ 1,975.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee meets following Worship Service

08/29 Budgets Due

08/31 T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.



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

**JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAME YESTERDAY
AND TODAY AND FOREVER.**

H E B R E W S 1 3 : 8



1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



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.**



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

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, September 11, at 2 p.m.**

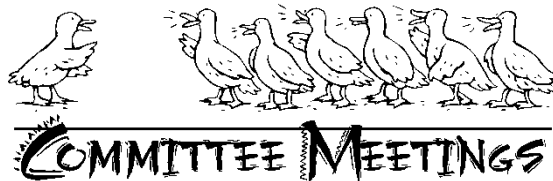
Budgets are due this **Monday, August 29.**



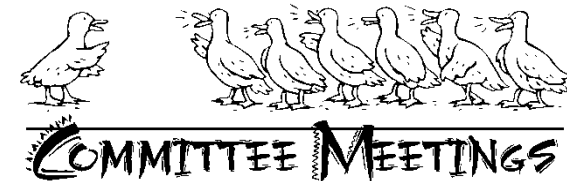
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Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

The writer of Hebrews finishes his argument. By faith, one receives an unshakable kingdom, the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom comes as one endures and remains faithful. One lives in the unshakable Kingdom of God instead of the ever-changing kingdom of the world.

Now the tenor of the epistle changes. He shifts from the abstract to the practical. He exhorts the audience to live according to the way of the Kingdom of God instead of the kingdom of the world. The church to which the epistle was written was to re-present the Kingdom of God to the world. As the church, we are to re-present the Kingdom of God to the world today. Therefore, these exhortations apply to us today.

Let mutual love continue. Rather than agape, the writer uses the term philadelphia which means love of brother or sister. Within the Kingdom of God, we are to continue to love as a family. We are a family, the family of God. We are to continue that love within the community. We are to re-present the Kingdom of God as a loving family.

This familial love of the Kingdom of God differs from the familial love of the world. The familial love of God's Kingdom is extended to those outside the Kingdom. We are to show hospitality to outsiders. By showing hospitality some have entertained angels. This is a nod to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18, Lot in Genesis 19, Gideon in Judges, and other times when angels appeared in Jewish history. Hospitality to strangers has been a command of God from the time of Exodus, "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 22: 21)"

We are to extend the love of God's family to those outsiders. We are to invite others to come into God's Kingdom and be adopted into God's family as we were. We are to invite them to participate fully in our lives and the life of the church. One of the five practices of fruitful congregations described by Bishop Robert Schnase is radical hospitality.¹ If hospitality is not extended mutual love cannot continue but by practicing hospitality the Kingdom, and the church, will grow.

Remember those who are in prison and being tortured. Remember those who are oppressed and suffering. But this exhortation goes way beyond moments of silence or "thoughts and prayers". Remember those who are in prison **as though you were in prison with them.** Remember those who are being tortured **as though you yourselves are being tortured.** We do not just remember those who are oppressed and suffering, we share their oppression and suffering.

One of my favorite quotes is from *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus is talking to Scout on the front porch and he tells her, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

We are to climb into the skin of the parent whose child is dying from malnutrition. We are to climb into the skin of the black person, walking past a memorial honoring a way of life that enslaved their ancestors. We are to walk around in the skin of the homeless person. We are to walk around in the skin of those who are oppressed and suffering, so we may walk with them in their oppression and suffering. We are to have compassion as Jesus had compassion.

¹ Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018)

My Old Testament Professor once gave us a handout that pointed out ten gifts God gave with the Ten Commandments. The gift equated with the command not to commit adultery was intimacy. There is a Holy intimacy between two people God joined together. This intimacy is emotional, spiritual, and physical. Therefore we honor marriage and the physical intimacy that is part of marriage.

The final exhortation is to remain free of the love of money or possessions. This also relates to the command not to steal. We can be content with what we have for we know God gives us what we need. The issue about money is not so much about being wealthy and having things but being content with what we have. I remember a line from a Sheryl Crow song, "It's not having what you want. It's wanting what you've got." We want what we've got and that is all we need.

Let mutual love continue by being hospitable, and extending familial love to those outside the family. Remember and suffer with those who are in prison and suffering. Honor marriage and the intimacy God gives. Be content with what we have. These really don't seem that hard on the surface, but in practice they are very difficult. They are all practices that go against the kingdom of the world.

Whereas the writer exhorts the audience to extend familial love beyond the bounds of the family, the kingdom of the world says to keep it all in the family. Sadly that attitude still permeates churches today. Let's love and nurture ourselves but let's not extend our love to those outsiders.

Have compassion and walk with those who are in prison and suffering. The kingdom of the world says, "Ignore them. They are getting what they deserve." Yes, they may be getting what the world says they deserve but is that what God says they deserve?

Hold marriage in honor and keep the marriage bed undefiled. The world, then and now, says use all you can to get ahead, even sex. If it feels good do it. If you want someone other than your spouse, go for it.

Keep free from the love of money? Yeah right. Both then and now, the rule of the world is to get all you can by any means you can and never be satisfied until you get more than the next guy. Unfortunately, you may always find someone that has something you want.

Our exhortation is to live counterculturally. We live in the unshakable kingdom that is eternal, not an earthly kingdom that is shaken and temporal. We live according to the rule of God who will never leave or forsake us, not an earthly king who is here today and gone tomorrow. We live for that which is unshakable, steadfast, and eternal. We extend the love of our family beyond the walls of the church and to all people we meet, inviting them to come and be a part of our family, God's family.