

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship "Come! Come! Everybody Worship" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" 139
Opening Prayer 6
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 18:1-11 Page 681 (O.T.)
Psalter Psalm 139 854-855

*Hymn "Where He Leads Me" 338

New Testament Reading Philemon 1-21 Page 207 (N.T.)
Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33 Page 76 (N.T.)
Sermon "Total Discipleship" 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 Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS 2129

*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response "The Lord Bless and Keep 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.

TODAYS LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God.**

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...

Patsy Zeigler	Kaye Floyd	Hilda Edwards	Kay Jordan	Jackie McNeill	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
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 ...

Attendance 08/28 SS: 10 Worship: 22

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/28 \$ 13,950.69

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

09/05 Labor Day
Office Closed
09/07 Finance Meeting, 6 p.m.
T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

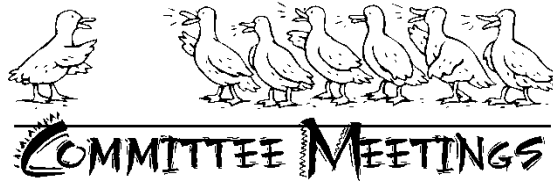
Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



Holy Communion

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777
E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



The **Finance Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, September 7**, at **6 p.m.** Members of the Finance Committee are Mary Kamoroff, Chairperson, John Jordan, Patsy Boggs, Sue Ballentine, Jo Ann Heiting, Ted Frady, Jessica Warble, Jeanette Hornsby and Marie Stiles.



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



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



The **Exercise Class** will start their Fall Classes on **Monday, September 19**. The Exercise Class meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour. They are using the **Grow Young Fitness & Balance** and the **Stretching Tape**. The class is open to everyone and will meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour.

The class meets in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like additional information on what to expect from the class contact Pam Turner.

*Epworth Children's Home
Work Day Offering
Sunday, September 11*

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Where do children go when DSS has taken them from their families because of abuse or neglect? Epworth is currently serving 354 children and families through their Residential and Independent Living programs, statewide Foster Care program, the Epworth Center for Counseling, the Early Intervention Center, and prevention services. Each of these children have found refuge in the ministry we share as United Methodists in SC.

Epworth Children's Home has been welcoming children in Christ's name for 126 years through the generous support of churches like ours! We will participate in the annual Work Day Offering on Sunday, September 11th, to benefit the children who are served by Epworth. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry.

For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit www.epworthchildrenshome.org or find them on social media.

Luke 14: 25-33

Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem. A large crowd is following him. People want to be associated with this Messiah. They want to be associated with this Messiah who heals the sick, casts out demons, raises the dead, and calms the storm. They want to be associated with this teacher who speaks with authority and challenges the Pharisees. They want to be part of this movement that includes outcasts, women, and even children.

Jesus turns and looks over the crowd. One would expect him to fire up the crowd. One might expect him to say something like, “We are going to Jerusalem and good things are going to happen.” But he doesn’t do what is expected. What he says to the crowd probably ran more people off than excited them.

Rather than encouraging the crowd, Jesus lays down three conditions necessary to be his disciple. If one cannot commit to these conditions, one cannot be a disciple of Jesus.

These conditions are not easy. One seems counter to what Jesus has been teaching. One seems confusing and one can’t help but wonder what Jesus means. The last one seems ridiculous.

The first thing Jesus says to the crowd is, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” Wait a minute! Doesn’t Jesus talk about love and an ethic based on love for neighbor? Now he is saying to hate family? He even says that to be his disciple one has to hate life. Oh, boy is that a downer.

But that is a misinterpretation of the term hate. We think of hate as a strong emotion, the antithesis of love. The Greek word, *miseo*, does not express an emotional state but is theological. *Miseo* is a term of preference, not emotion or anger. For example, I love turnip greens but I hate rutabagas. Rutabagas do not elicit a significant emotional response in me, but I prefer turnip greens (and practically anything else) over rutabagas.

What Jesus is telling the crowd is that they cannot choose family relationships over their relationship with him. To be a disciple of Jesus one must choose Jesus over anything else. This is particularly significant in the Greco-Roman world where the head of the family chose which gods the family would worship. One chooses to be a disciple of Jesus even though the family may worship Jupiter, which would cause a rift in the family,

Another choice is life. Jesus is not saying we should hate life but that we choose following him over life. For some of those early Christians, this may have meant martyrdom. For us, it means choosing to follow the way of Jesus over the way of the world. Whenever there is a conflict between the way of the world and the way of Jesus, we choose the way of Jesus. Whenever there is a relational conflict, we choose our relationship with Jesus.

Then Jesus says to the crowd if they do not carry the cross and follow him, they cannot be his disciple. This is more than just taking up the cross, but carrying the cross. One of the exercises I have to do for my shoulder is to carry a 20 lb. kettle ball in each hand across the room while keeping my shoulders engaged. This helps to strengthen the muscles and improve my posture so I won’t roll my shoulders forward. The exercise is not effective unless I carry the weights.

Likewise, we are to carry the cross. Carrying the cross is not suffering chronic illness, dysfunctional family relationships, or other difficulties. To say that one must bear their cross has become a platitude we say to those who are suffering. Carrying one's cross has nothing to do with illness and infirmity. Carrying one's cross means living the life of discipleship daily, even when living that life leads to suffering as Jesus suffered. It means we are willing to suffer as Jesus suffered. We are willing to go as far as Jesus went in obedience to the Father. He gave up his life in obedience to the Father and to be a disciple we give up our lives in obedience to the Father.

Finally, Jesus says one cannot become a disciple unless they give up their possessions. The irony in this is that probably many in the crowd following Jesus had little or no possessions. The word that the NRSV translates as give up may more accurately be translated as renounce. We renounce our need for possessions.

Also, possessions may not refer to just material possessions or money. We may also have to give up our time, our career, our energy, or our relationships. We may have to give up attitudes and beliefs that do not align with Jesus.

Being a disciple of Jesus is costly. It is not something to be taken lightly. The two parables of the builder and the king going to war, point to this. One does not begin something without being able to finish the project. A king does not go to war unless he is confident that he has the resources to defeat the enemy. If he does not think he can beat the enemy, he sues for peace.

Jesus demands total discipleship. He turned, saw the crowds and confronted them with the reality that being a disciple is not just walking down the road with him. Being a disciple of Jesus means choosing his way of life over family. It means choosing to live life according to the way of Jesus which is total obedience to the Father, even if it means death. It means giving up our dependence on possessions. It is changing to live according to his call in all aspects of life.

Jesus demands total discipleship from us. If we want a life of ease and blessing, we cannot be a disciple of Jesus. If we want to live according to Jesus in our religious life but not in other aspects of our life, we cannot be a disciple of Jesus. If we want to be a disciple of Jesus on Sunday, Wednesday, and maybe Thursday, we cannot be a disciple of Jesus.

We cannot be partial disciples of Jesus. We cannot be part-time disciples of Jesus. Being a disciple of Jesus is an all-or-nothing proposition. Let us follow Jesus in all aspects of our lives. Let us follow Jesus in every choice we make. Let us follow Jesus every day, hour, minute, and second of our lives. Let us follow Jesus in all our relationships, most importantly our relationship with him. Let us follow Jesus always and in every aspect of our lives. Let us follow Jesus and never turn back. Let us be true, total disciples of Jesus.