

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 11, 2022

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir
 Centering Words "Come! Come! Everybody Worship"

*Hymn TFWS 2158
"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Pages 665-666 (O.T.)
 Psalter 746-747
 *Hymn 394
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
"Something Beautiful"

New Testament Reading Page 198 (N.T.)
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Anthem Choir
"Sing a New Song to the Lord"

Gospel Reading Page 76 (N.T.)
 Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
Luke 15:1-10
"God Rejoices!"

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 357
"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response Choir
"The Lord Bless and Keep You"

*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.

A GIFT TO TRINITY IS GIVEN to the *Glory of God* and in loving memory of *Arnold Heiting's 92nd Heavenly Birthday on September 14th, by his Annie.*

“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

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 09/04 SS: 6 Worship: 21

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/04 \$ 6,455.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Church Council, 2 p.m.
09/14 T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

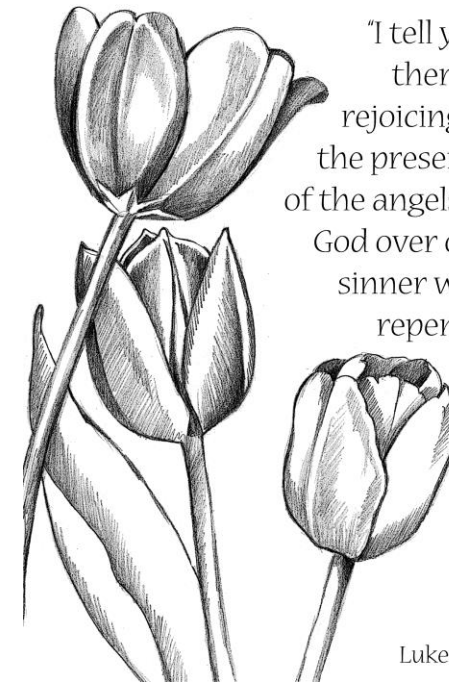


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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



"I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10

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Church Council will meet today 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 is open to everyone and 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 meets in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like additional information on what to expect from the class contact Pam Turner.



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God Rejoices!

9/11/2022

Luke 15: 1-10

I lost my car keys after Charles McNeill's service, not once but twice. I was making sure all the doors were locked. I pulled the church keys out of my pocket but my car keys were not there. I looked around the halls but no keys. I went back into my office and they were on my desk chair.

After everyone left, I reached into my pocket and no car keys. I searched everywhere. I looked through all the halls. I looked back in my office. I even went into Jackie's office. I went through the drawers in the kitchen. Finally, I remembered I had taken the portable microphone up to the sound room after finding the keys the first time. So, I went up to the sound room and the keys were with the microphone.

I was so happy when I found the keys. I didn't want to call Kay to bring me the other set of keys. It was too hot to walk home, especially wearing a suit. I did my happy dance and held on tightly to those keys until I got in the car. I celebrated because my lost keys were found.

These two parables Jesus told the Pharisees and scribes were about things that were lost. They focused on searching for the lost and celebrating that the lost were found.

Tax collectors and "sinners" were coming to hear Jesus. Tax collectors probably referred to toll collectors who paid for the right to collect tolls. After paying for the right to collect tolls, the collector could charge however much he wanted. Needless to say, this led to much abuse and corruption. These toll collectors were despised by all. In the eyes of the Pharisees, sinners were not just those who broke moral laws but also those who did not maintain ritual purity as they did.

The Pharisees and scribes saw these tax collectors and "sinners" coming to hear Jesus. Jesus welcomed them. Jesus ate with them. Jesus showed them hospitality. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." The unsaid thought might be, "He cannot be a Man of God if he welcomes people like these."

Jesus told them three parables. These first two, the lost sheep and the lost coin, underscored that there are the lost that need to be found, and the response when the lost are found. The third parable elaborated on this theme and different responses to being found.

Today we will examine the first two.

In the first parable, a shepherd has 100 sheep. He realizes that one of his sheep is missing. He leaves the 99 and goes to look for the missing sheep. (I know many wonder how could he leave the 99 out there in the wilderness and go look for one sheep. In the wilderness, there are many caves, some of which were hewn out of sandstone rock. Shepherds would herd the sheep into these caves at night and place some obstacle over the mouth of the cave. The shepherd would have herded the 99 into one of these caves, and then gone to search for the one missing.) The shepherd searches for the missing sheep until he finds it. When he finds it, he puts it on his shoulders and carries it back to the 99. He calls to his fellow shepherds and neighbors to come and celebrate with him for he found his lost sheep. The assumption is that they do come and celebrate.

Jesus then said that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent. You see the 99 righteous people were safe, just as the 99 sheep were safe. But the one sinner, like the one sheep, was in danger of losing their life.

In the second parable, a woman has ten coins. She loses one. Since her house has no windows, she lights a lamp. She sweeps the dirt floor over and over until she finally sees the glint of the coin in the lamplight. When she finds the coin, she calls her friends and neighbors to come and rejoice with her and again we assume they do.

Again Jesus said that there will be rejoicing in the presence of angels when one sinner repents. The coin was extremely valuable to the woman. It represented 10% of her life's savings and to lose that much would be disastrous for her. Likewise, all people are valuable to God, and the loss of one is disastrous to God.

In both these parables, the shepherd and the woman searched diligently until they found what was lost. They did not stop after a while and say, "oh well." The shepherd looked everywhere. He looked over every little outcropping. He looked in every little cave and crevice. He did not stop looking until he found his sheep.

The woman got as much light as she could in the house. She swept the floor, every nook, and cranny, over and over until she found her coin. Neither the shepherd nor the woman stopped searching until they found what was lost.

God does not stop searching until the lost is found. God continually searches for every lost soul that is out there no matter how big a sinner that soul is. Notice something here in these parables; neither the lost sheep nor the coin repents. The lost sheep does not cry out to the shepherd saying, "I'm lost come save me." The lost coin does not cry out, "I'm in the corner, come get me." When the shepherd and the woman realized they had lost something, they started searching. God continually and diligently searches for the lost, even if they do not realize they are lost. God is searching to find all us lost souls, especially when we do not realize we are lost.

God does not search for the lost because they merit being found. Neither the sheep nor the coin did anything to merit being found. God searches until the lost are found because of God's mercy. God's desire is for all to be found and brought into the flock.

When a lost soul is found, when one realizes that they are surrounded by God's grace and need to repent, God rejoices! God celebrates! God puts that lost soul on the shoulders and carries it back to the flock. God calls all the angels in heaven to celebrate that a lost soul has been found.

We are to be the shepherd and the woman in the world today. There are people out there who are lost and need to be found. We do not do this by knocking on doors and asking, "Are you lost?" Many may reply, "No, but I think you lost your mind."

We seek the lost by being cognizant of those in need in our communities. It may be by befriending that new family that moved in down the street, especially if they are different from us. We live lives of mercy and compassion, demonstrating the love of God to all people. We invite people to come and join our community of faith.

We welcome the lost. To any that enter our doors, we welcome them. We welcome them no matter their race, economic status, social status, or whatever human category gets put on people. We welcome them as what they are, children of God. We welcome them, for God has been looking for them and this is the place they can find God. We must remember that we once were lost but now are found. We must remember to show mercy and compassion as God is merciful and compassionate.

We celebrate! We celebrate any who comes into our church. We celebrate members who are here every week. We celebrate those who come for the first time. We celebrate for we are all souls who have been lost and have now been found. We celebrate those of you participating with us online and hope you join us in person. We celebrate the lost who are found because God celebrates. And it is so wonderful when God celebrates.