

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

Patsy Zeigler	Hilda Edwards	Becky Derrick	Dale Wells	Patsy Shuler	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Jackie McNeill	Latson Lewis	Steve Aiello	Kaye Floyd	John Ballentine

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Linda Maloch; Melton Martin; Georgeann Pace; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

Family and Friends: **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **Laura Horlbeck** (niece of English Pearcy); **Andrew Jordan** (nephew of John Jordan); **Beverly Lipscomb** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Jimmy Dawkins** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David Turner** (brother of Pam Turner); **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); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Hayley Beaudoin** (niece of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **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); **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); **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); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends 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 01/01 SS: 9 Worship: 21

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/01 \$ 941.10

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration
01/09 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
01/11 T.a.G., 7 p.m.
01/12 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	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



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

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

ADULT *Sunday School*

The Adult Sunday School Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Plan to join them as a new class starts on learning to pray effectively led by Marty Johnson. On January 8 they will have an introductory discussion of prayer in scripture and on January 15 will start an eight session study from *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick with Travis Agnew. The books will be provided.

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2023 are now available in the Gathering Area. If you would like to use offering envelopes, and do not see your name on those in the Gathering Area, please contact the Church Office.



The 2023 Flower Calendar is now on the bulletin board beside the Church Office. If you would like to provide flowers or give a gift in honor or memory of someone in lieu of flowers for one of the Sundays in 2023, just place your name by the date or call the Church Office and I will record it for you.

If you would like to provide flowers, there are several options. Sightler's Florist will provide a seasonal arrangement for \$53.50. Special orders will cost more. Lynn Martin can place the order for those flowers. Jarrett's Jungle can also deliver flowers if you wish to contact them. You can also provide flowers that you have arranged or from other sources, but you would need to bring them to the church or arrange for them to be delivered.

ADULT *Sunday School*

The Adult Sunday School Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Plan to join them as a new class starts on learning to pray effectively led by Marty Johnson. On January 8 they will have an introductory discussion of prayer in scripture and on January 15 will start an eight session study from *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick with Travis Agnew. The books will be provided.

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2023 are now available in the Gathering Area. If you would like to use offering envelopes, and do not see your name on those in the Gathering Area, please contact the Church Office.



The 2023 Flower Calendar is now on the bulletin board beside the Church Office. If you would like to provide flowers or give a gift in honor or memory of someone in lieu of flowers for one of the Sundays in 2023, just place your name by the date or call the Church Office and I will record it for you.

If you would like to provide flowers, there are several options. Sightler's Florist will provide a seasonal arrangement for \$53.50. Special orders will cost more. Lynn Martin can place the order for those flowers. Jarrett's Jungle can also deliver flowers if you wish to contact them. You can also provide flowers that you have arranged or from other sources, but you would need to bring them to the church or arrange for them to be delivered.

Baptism is...

1/8/2023

Matthew 3: 13-17

Baptism of the Lord

What is baptism? From a secular perspective, most people would say that baptism is an initiation rite for church membership. Baptism is like the rites to join the Masons or a fraternity. This perspective of baptism is not wrong. Baptism is a rite of membership but more on that later.

Most Christians say baptism is the washing away of the guilt of sin. Baptism cleanses us from the taint of our sin. It is a sign of our repentance and turning from sin. This perspective of baptism leads to the question, why would Jesus need to be baptized? If Jesus was without sin, he had no sin to wash away. We see this in John's response to Jesus coming to be baptized.

Jesus told John, "it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." "To fulfill all righteousness," what is that supposed to mean? We usually think of righteousness as being or doing right. In this case, righteousness refers to that which is appointed by God to be acknowledged and obeyed by humans. Baptism is appointed by God through Jesus' baptism. Jesus fulfills this appointment by acknowledging that this act is what the father wants and obeying the Father. Jesus knew and obeyed the will of the Father.

Baptism is more than an initiation rite into church membership. Baptism is more than the washing away of our sins. Baptism is entering into a covenant with God through Jesus Christ. In this covenant God pours out prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace upon us. God pours out his grace that makes us aware of sin and the need for grace. God pours out his grace that lifts us out of sin and aligns our will with God's. God pours out his grace that gives us new life, eternal life that begins here and now.

In Jesus' baptism, God identifies Jesus as the divine Son. By our baptism, we are identified as God's daughter and son. Baptism is a sign of God's claim on us. Please hear me now: God's claim on us occurs at birth, not at the point of baptism. Therefore it is appropriate to baptize infants and children.

Baptism is a sign of our adoption into God's family. Baptism is a sign of our membership into the church, the body of Christ. We do not become members of the United Methodist Church or Trinity UMC, but the universal church. Therefore, it is not necessary to be baptized to join the United Methodist Church if one has already been baptized because one is already a member of the church.

Another reason we do not rebaptize is that baptism is not our action. God is the one acting. In the passage, it is God who willed Jesus to be baptized. God is the one who sends the Spirit to Jesus. God is the one who identifies Jesus as the divine Son. Neither Jesus nor John are the ones whose will it was to be baptized, it was God. The baptism of Jesus is the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. It is the revelation of God's work to redeem the world.

Likewise, our baptism is the revealing of God working in us and the world today. Baptism is the sign of God working in our lives to redeem us and the world. Like the sign that says "Men Working," baptism is the sign that says, "God working."

Baptism is the sign of God working to bring us into a covenantal relationship with God. In this covenantal relationship, God imparts prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. By grace, we are adopted into God's family. By grace, we are given new life, aligned with the life of Christ. We enter into union with Christ to do God's work in the world today. In the early church and many cultures, the person being baptized was given new clothes representing their new life. This new life does not end with the death of the physical body but continues for eternity in God's presence.

This is God's part of the covenant but what is our part? Is our part of the baptismal covenant simply to sit back and receive God's salvation and eternal life?

The answer is no. We do not sit back and receive God's salvation and eternal life. God's grace is not given just for our salvation but to enable us to respond to God's grace. We respond to the gift of God's grace by fulfilling all righteousness. We do this by acknowledging what God has appointed us to do and obeying by doing what is appointed for us to do. Our obedience is living our lives the way God wants and doing what God wants each of us to do for the Divine Kingdom. Baptism is a sign of our response to God's grace.

In a few minutes, we will reaffirm the baptismal covenant. We will remind ourselves of the vows we took at our baptism: to reject and resist evil forces, to confess Jesus as our Savior, put our trust in him, and to be faithful members of the Church and Christ's representatives in the world. We will profess our faith through the ancient baptismal creed. We will remember our baptism and be thankful for the love of God revealed by this sign.