



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

Patsy Zeigler    Becky Derrick    Cristen Hipp    Dale Wells    Patsy Shuler    Christopher McCroskey  
Jimmy Grahl    Latson Lewis    Steve Aiello    Kaye Floyd    John Ballentine    Dan Greshel  
Jack Stevens

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

**Family and Friends:** **Lauren Edwards** (*granddaughter of Hilda Edwards*); **Andrea Johnson, Gary Spence** (*former members*); **Gloria Erd** (*friend of Lynn Martin*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Beverly Lipscomb** (*sister-in-law of John Jordan*); **Ross Deal** (*grandson of Mary Kamoroff*); **David Williamson, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Dawkins** (*friends 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*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Stacy Coggins** (*daughter of Steve Aiello*); **Dan & Leslie White** (*brother & sister-in-law of Steve White*); **Mary Ann Rentz** (*stepmother of Marty Johnson*); **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*); **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, Lynn Presley** (*wives of coworkers of Kathy White*); **Teddy Derrick** (*uncle of Arvan Derrick*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth 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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

In-Person Attendance 04/09 SS: 11      Worship: 62

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 04/09 \$ 3,183.10

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Upcoming Events**

**TODAY** Birthday Celebration

**04/17** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**04/18** Grief Support Group, 11 a.m.

**04/19** T.a.G., 7 p.m.

**04/20** Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

**Readings for April 23**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



**Ministers**

**Pastor**

**Resident Bishop**

**District Superintendent**

**The Congregation**

**John D. Jordan**

**Jonathan Holston**

**Rev. Fran M. Elrod**

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

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



*"Receive the Holy Spirit."*  
John 20:22

1201 Mohawk Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)

Website: [www.trinityumcwc.org](http://www.trinityumcwc.org)



**Tuesday, April 18  
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, April 18, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



**Sunday, April 23**

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, April 23. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



***COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND'S SPRING CONCERT  
APRIL 30, 2023, 4:00 PM  
AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM***

As we conclude our 42<sup>nd</sup> season, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us through your attendance at our concerts. It means so very much to our group and to me personally that you take time out of your busy schedule to hear us perform. The music for this concert is listed on the flyer located on the round table in the Gathering Area. I'd also like to especially thank Chris Derrick who graciously agreed to drive the church bus for our last three concerts. He has a prior commitment and won't be able to drive the bus to this concert, and I know everyone will miss having him as their chauffeur. We'll strike up the band at 4 pm on Sunday, April 30, and we hope to see you there!



Centering Prayer is a form of prayer to increase awareness of God's presence. It involves opening one's heart and mind to God's presence, deepening one's relationship with God, and freeing one from attachments that prevent this relationship. To learn more and practice Centering Prayer, join John Tuesday, May 2, at 11:00 a.m. or Wednesday, May 3, at 5:45 p.m.



**Jewel's Pink House & Second Time Around Sale  
May 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Mary Percy Russell has offered to the church all of Jewel's Pink House inventory to sell for the benefit of God's Helping Hands. The committee (Kay Jordan, Patsy Boggs, Sue Ballentine & Marie Stiles) met with Mary and discussed the logistics as well as an idea of holding a tea party in conjunction with the sale in memory of Jewel and her talent of hospitality.

If you wish to participate by donating a finger food item, assisting with set-up on **Friday, May 5 (not May 4 as previously listed)**, passing out flyers to your neighbors to advertise the event or helping serve refreshments on May 6, please contact Kay Jordan (803-315-0673) and let her know how you are willing to help. (Finger foods needed are cheese straws, peanuts, and small servings of desserts.)

## “Receive the Holy Spirit”

(Read John 20: 19-31)

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Let us pray: Dear God, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. Oh, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

This will be my third time preaching on the Gospel lesson that we just heard. This scene from John’s Gospel normally falls on the Lectionary the Sunday following Easter, and Pastor John normally takes some time off following Easter, which explains why John 20: 19-31 appears to be my “go-to” Gospel lesson on the few occasions that I am in the pulpit!

But I’m not complaining! I believe that this scene from the Gospel of John is so rich in themes that there are a number of subjects that are pertinent to our Christian faith that we can delve into. The first time that I preached on John 20: 19-31, we focused on what the apostle Thomas said to Jesus in John 20:28: “My Lord and My God!” The second time that I preached on this scene from John’s Gospel, we studied what Jesus said in response to Thomas in John 20:29: “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

For this third time around, however, I want us to back up to the scene where Jesus appeared to all of His apostles but Thomas and what He said to them in John 20: 22 after He breathed the Breath of Life on them: “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

If you believe in Jesus Christ, then the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you.

Earlier in John’s Gospel, during the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples in John 14:16-17: “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

You have heard it said many times before that our God is a Triune God. That means that God exists as three Persons of The Holy Trinity: God our Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God. For the majority of my Christian journey, whenever I have prayed or reflected on spiritual things, I have focused my thoughts and feelings on our Heavenly Father and on Jesus Christ, but I admit that for most of my Christian journey, I have given the Holy Spirit short shrift, I am afraid. It seems as though for most of my life, the only times that I would think about the Holy Spirit was when I heard Him mentioned in church or read His name in the Bible. But in my private thoughts, very seldom would I reflect upon the Holy Spirit.

Then, sometime ago, I began to think about the Holy Spirit more, and so sometimes during my prayers, I would say something like, “God, please send Your Holy Spirit,” or, “God, fill my heart with the Holy Spirit.”

But the more that I listened to Christian writers and preachers talk about the Holy Spirit and the more that I read the Bible, I soon realized that if you believe in Jesus Christ, then you have already received the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that He dwells with you and will be in you!

So, if you have accepted Jesus into your heart, then it’s a done deal! The Holy Spirit is already there inside you and working within you! What you need to do is acknowledge that and take advantage of that precious gift.

I now sometimes say in my prayers, “God, I know that Your Holy Spirit is working inside of me,” or, “Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit dwells in me, giving me counsel, comfort and courage.”

In other words, when I mention the Holy Spirit in my prayers now, I’m acknowledging that He is already there inside me, at work in me, enabling me. When I pray now, it is to thank God for His Spirit and to remind myself that I have that gift, that power, already inside me.

When I read John 14:16 earlier, you heard Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as the Helper. I was reading from the New King James Version. But different versions of the Bible use different names for the Holy Spirit in that same verse. And I love every one of them because I believe that they all aptly describe the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, helping us to move forward when we feel as though we can’t go on. Some versions call Him the Comforter. He comforts us when it feels as though anxiety is about to overwhelm us. The Holy Spirit is also called the Counselor. The Spirit counsels us when we are confused and frustrated. The Holy Spirit is also called the Advocate. The Spirit rises to our defense when we feel besieged by whatever the world throws at us.

When I pray now and acknowledge the Holy Spirit’s presence inside me, I feel stronger, calmer and more patient during stressful moments.

If you want to read a brilliant devotion on the Holy Spirit, I strongly recommend the March 2 devotion in the March and April Edition of the Upper Room. A Christian from Nigeria by the name of Maudlyn O. Adeleke (And I’m sure that I messed up pronouncing his last name and maybe his first name, too!) made some amazing points about the Holy Spirit. He described how he had taken the entrance exam for some type of school (he didn’t say what type), and that he had failed the first time. He was now studying for the entrance exam for a second time and he was heavy-laden with worry, wondering if he was going to be disappointed again. He said that he prayed to God that the Holy Spirit would sit beside him and calm him. He said that he immediately knew that the Spirit was there helping him.

And I love what he wrote about the Holy Spirit, because I believe that his words are so brilliant and so spot-on: “If we fail to recognize the Spirit dwelling with us and in us, we miss out on the comfort and company that we have on our journey. Jesus explains that we can know and have a relationship with the Spirit. We do this through recognition of the Spirit’s presence, along with consistent communication and fellowship. When we maintain our connection to the Spirit, we are better able to follow the Spirit’s leading and power in our lives. It is a great joy to know the One (and he capitalizes the “O” in “One” to let you know Who he is talking about) who dwells within us.”

Amen, Brother Adeleke!

Now, when I was preparing this sermon, I was hoping to touch upon John 20:23, too, when Jesus told His disciples, right after He told them to receive the Holy Spirit: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But as I was writing this sermon, it soon became apparent to me that time was not going to permit that. But that’s okay: We’ll just pick it up again at the same time next year! Like I said at the beginning: This scene from the Gospel of John is so rich in themes that you can write a handful of sermons on these verses and not cover the same subject twice!

I therefore want to close by reminding you that if you believe in Jesus Christ then the Holy Spirit is already dwelling within you. Our Christian faith is not a two-for-one deal- it’s a three-for-one deal! To get to the Father, you must believe in His Son. And when you believe in His Son, you receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is there to comfort, counsel, encourage and empower. Acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit will strengthen your Christian walk. I am not saying that you should make this a part of your every prayer, but I do believe that you should make giving thanks to God for His Holy Spirit a part of your prayer life. If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Personal Savior, then don’t ask God to give you the Holy Spirit. Instead say, “God, Your Holy Spirit resides in me, strengthening me and reassuring me. Thank You for the Holy Spirit.”

In Jesus Christ’s Holy Name, Amen!