

“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 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: **Al Dekle** (friend of Beverly Shull); **Lauren & Leah Grace Edwards** (granddaughter & great-granddaughter of Hilda Edwards); **Andrea Johnson** (former member); **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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 05/14 SS: 14 Worship: 43

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/14 \$ 1,737.10

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

05/24 T.a.G., 7 p.m.
GLIA Articles Due

Please Note: Exercise Class will not meet again until Monday, June 5th.

Readings for May 28

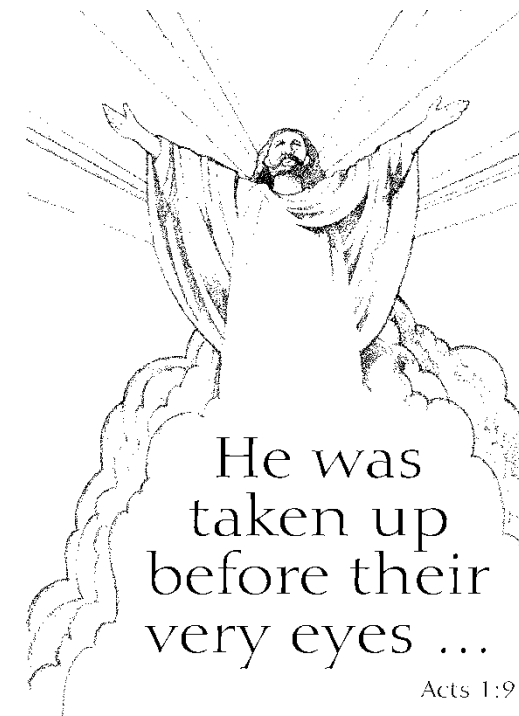
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:1-13, 24-35
1 Corinthians 12:3b-113
John 7:37-39



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



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**Graduate Recognition Sunday
Sunday, May 28**

Please join us on May 28 as we celebrate our Graduates. A special Time Together will be held in their honor. Please contact Ruth Frady if you are graduating this year.



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Acts 1: 6-14

The resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples for forty days of preparation. He instructed the disciples about the Kingdom of God. He ordered them to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the promise of the Father, and they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.

Now Jesus and the disciples came together on Mt. Olivet. The disciples asked Jesus if this was the time when he would restore Israel. Would the coming of the Holy Spirit mark the miraculous restoration of Israel? Is this the time the host of heaven comes and destroys the evil empires? Jesus was the resurrected Messiah after all. The disciples believed Jesus, the Messiah, would lead a mighty army and restore Israel so God's people would come together in God's city.

Jesus told them it is not for them to know the time or season this will take place. What will happen is they will receive the power to be Jesus' witnesses by the giving of the Holy Spirit. They will be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Jesus told them Israel will be restored by them being his witnesses, not a heavenly army.

After Jesus told them, he was lifted in a cloud and taken out of their sight. He had been preparing the disciples for this moment. He would no longer be with them in body, but they would receive the Holy Spirit. They continued to gaze up into the sky, watching Jesus go away.

While the disciples gazed into heaven, two men appeared. They told the disciples Jesus would come again. The disciples quit looking up and turned their gaze down to the world below. They came down the mountain to do what Jesus told them.

Many of us have had mountaintop experiences when we felt Jesus right here with us. We felt his presence and his love. We may have experienced deep emotion. A sense of peace and calm may have come over us. Perhaps, our hearts were strangely warmed like John Wesley at Aldersgate. Whatever our experience, we knew Jesus was with us.

But that deep emotion may diminish. We don't feel calm and peaceful. Our hearts become cold. We may feel Jesus is fading, going away from us. So, we keep gazing up, trying to see Jesus, waiting for him to come back.

The two men told the disciples to quit looking up. They would not see Jesus if they kept looking up. The disciples were to come down off the mountain and do as Jesus commanded. They came down off the mountain, went back to the upper room, and waited. A few days later, they received the Holy Spirit and through the Spirit, they knew Jesus remained with them. They were enabled to be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

After our mountaintop experiences, we may need to quit looking up and look down to find Jesus. An old Rabbi was once asked why so few people were finding God. He replied that people are not willing to look that low. Jesus was born in a stable, and God is especially concerned for the poorest, the lowliest, the lost, and the neglected.¹

When we look down, we see the needs of our neighbors. We respond by meeting the needs of our neighbor as Jesus commanded. We are Jesus' witnesses to the world today. When we engage in ministry with the least, we see Jesus in them and they see Jesus in us. We see Jesus when we look down.

But if we keep looking down, we become overwhelmed by the needs in the world with much poverty and homelessness. Some people must choose either life-giving medication or food. There is so much illness, depression, addiction, and suicide. Violence is so rampant. Every day, normal places- the grocery store, school, concerts, clubs, and even places of worship- have become scenes of violence. We feel like Sisyphus, rolling a boulder up a hill only to have it roll back down. As we look down, we can lose sight of Jesus.

We can lose sight of Jesus looking up. We can lose sight of Jesus looking down. How are we supposed to keep sight of Jesus if we lose him looking both up and down?

We keep Jesus in our sight when we maintain a balance of looking up and looking down. We see Jesus by looking up in prayer, Bible study, worship, the sacraments, meditation, fasting, and other acts of piety, both individually and communally. We see Jesus as we serve to meet the needs of our neighbors. We see Jesus in the eyes of the poor, the grieving, the sick, the prisoner, and the broken. We see Jesus in our acts of mercy.

When we look up or down too much, we lose sight of Jesus. When we spend time on our acts of piety and neglect our acts of mercy, we lose sight of Jesus because we fail to keep the command to love our neighbor. When we spend too much time in our acts of mercy and neglect our acts of piety, we lose sight of Jesus because we fail to keep the command to love God.

When we are involved in our acts of mercy and begin to feel that our cup is empty, we need to stop. We need to look up to God in piety, letting God refill us with the life-giving waters of the Spirit. An empty cup is no good for someone thirsty. We look up to the fount of every blessing. We look up receiving renewal and refreshment.

When we stay in our acts of piety but feel we are getting no closer to God, we need to stop. We need to look down to see the needs of our neighbors. We need to stretch our hands down in service with the least of these, so we may see Jesus in their faces.

We can always see Jesus when we look up and down. We see Jesus when looking up to God to refill our cups and looking down to empty ourselves in service to others. As we maintain this balance, looking up when we need to look up and down when we need to look down, we can always see Jesus.

¹ From *Liberation of Life* by Harvey and Lois Seifert, In *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and other Servants*, Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck, (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1983), 181.