

***Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***  
**July 16, 2023**

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>"Blessed Assurance"</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>"O Spirit of the Living God"</i>	539
Opening Prayer		
The Lord's Prayer		895
<b>Proclamation of the Word</b>		
Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Genesis 25:19-34	Pages 21-22 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 25	756-757
*Hymn	<i>"Spirit of the Living God"</i>	393
Gospel Reading	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Pages 18-19 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>"As the Deer"</i>	Choir
Epistle Reading	Romans 8:1-11	Page 149 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>"Life or Death Thinking"</i>	Rev. John Jordan
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>"The Apostles' Creed"</i>	881
*Gloria Patri	<i>"Glory Be to the Father"</i>	70
Pastoral Prayer		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"</i>	420
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>"May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You"</i>	Choir
	May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever, Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see God's face and God's grace forever, May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.	
*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
	*The Congregation May Stand	

***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</i>
Church Musician		Time Together:	<i>Joyce Robinson</i> <i>Slone Taylor</i>

**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.

**TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS** are given in honor and celebration of my beloved sister, **Darla Mullaney**, on her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday today and to God be the glory for his love for each of us, by **Bonnie Ramsey**.

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

Patsy Zeigler    Becky Derrick    Carlis Edwards    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:** **Louis Jordan** (brother of John Jordan); **Judy Spence** (former member); **Anne Piercy** (former member); **Paul Lagatore** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Kathleen Braun** (sister of Mark Lewis); **Lauren & Leah Grace Edwards** (granddaughter & great-granddaughter of Hilda Edwards); **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); **Nancy Wilson** (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); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Paula Milhouse** (friend of Marty Johnson); **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); **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**, **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); **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 07/09 SS: 11      Worship: 29**

**OUR GIFTS ...**

**General Fund 07/09 \$ 3,746.10**

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Upcoming Events**

**TODAY** Finance Meeting following Worship

**07/17** Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

**07/18** Grief Support Group, 11 a.m.

**07/19** T.a.G., 7 p.m.

**07/20** Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

GLIA Articles Due

**07/21** Office Closed

**Readings for July 23**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



<b>Ministers</b>	<b>The Congregation</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>John D. Jordan</b>
<b>Resident Bishop</b>	<b>Jonathan Holston</b>
<b>District Superintendent</b>	<b>Rev. Fran M. Elrod</b>

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

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



**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)**

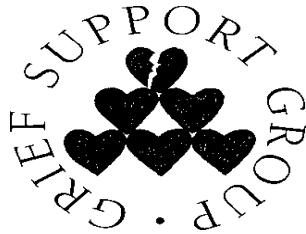


**Today Following Worship**

The Finance Committee will have a brief meeting immediately following the Worship Service today. The members of the committee are: Bonnie Ramsey, Chairperson, John Jordan, Patsy Boggs, Sue Ballentine, Jo Ann Heiting, Ted Frady and Marie Stiles.



The Church Council will meet on July 23 immediately following a Taste of Trinity.



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

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



Interested in finding out more and joining a T.a.G group? Contact Pastor John. We are trying to start another group to meet during the day. This group focuses on growing our spiritual lives and helping each other go on to perfection.

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Some people have expressed a desire to learn about the United Methodist Church: its history, doctrine, and polity. I am working on a study with a particular focus on Wesleyan theology. Look out for further information.



**Sunday, July 23**

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

Romans 8:1-11

A young man died suddenly as he was getting his life together after struggling with substance abuse. Because of his addiction, many people think he wasted his life. This worldly thinking condemns a person according to their outward behaviors. This thinking leads to death.

During the funeral, his sister read parts of Romans 8. The passage begins, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” The phrase “in Christ Jesus” may also be translated as “by means of Christ Jesus.” In other words, Christ Jesus does not condemn for that was not his purpose. Remember John 3:17, “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved.” Christ’s purpose was to save the world from sin and death.

If Christ is to save the world from sin and death, we must first understand sin. Sin is not about moral and ethical conduct. Sin as conduct is viewing it through the world’s lens, the flesh in Paul’s terms. If sin was just about conduct, then the law would have been sufficient, and Christ would be unnecessary. The law would let us know what behaviors are or are not permissible.

If sin is not about our conduct, then what is sin? Sin is the state of being separated from God due to the rejection of God’s grace and goodness. Paul began his argument by noting that sin came into the world through Adam. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. They were given all of God’s goodness. They were free to eat from all trees in the garden, except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. After eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Eve began to judge good and evil. Before eating, they only knew God’s goodness. Now they distorted God’s goodness.

Remember, Adam and Eve were created in the perfect image of God. The end of the creation stories reads, “And the man and his wife were both naked, and they were not ashamed (Genesis 2:25).” But after eating the fruit, “they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. (Genesis 3:7)” They went from being naked and unashamed to being ashamed of their nakedness. They judged the perfect image of God, in which they were created, as something to be ashamed of. They rejected God’s gracious goodness and therefore were separated from God. The perfect image of God in humans was corrupted by sin. The relationship with God was broken.

The loving Creator did not want to be separated from the beloved creatures. The corrupted creatures could not be in the holy presence of God. God needed to devise a means to restore the image of God in humanity and the relationship between God and humankind.

To restore humanity, God gave the law, the Torah, to Moses on Mt Sinai. God gave instructions on how to live in relationship with God and others. But the law became corrupted by humans, weakened by the flesh. Rather than saving humanity, the law became a means of condemnation. The law defined sins but was unable to save humanity from sin.

So God sent the divinely begotten Son into the world. Jesus was fully human, meaning that he was in the uncorrupted image of God. Jesus took the world's rejection of God's grace and goodness. The uncorrupted image of God took the world's corruption and abuse. Jesus took the world's condemnation which was nailed to the cross. God condemned sin in the flesh of Jesus, so the law offered could be given to those led by the Spirit.<sup>1</sup> This is the result of divine grace so humankind can walk according to the Spirit, not the flesh.

Thus we are justified. The corruption of sin is removed. God is restoring the divine image in humankind so we can live according to the law of the Spirit. In Wesley's theology, we begin the process of sanctification. There becomes a different guide in the way in which we live and interpret the law.

The actual Greek of verse 5 reads, "For those who are according to the flesh think the thoughts of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit are of the Spirit." This verse is not about two different ways of thinking but two different ways of being.

Those who are of the flesh, which Paul uses to mean the world, exist according to the world. They think the way the world thinks. They see God's law in the way the world sees the law, as a means of condemnation and death. They see good and evil but tend to focus on evil.

Those who are according to the Spirit exist with the Spirit. The Spirit of God is given and received. The Spirit dwells within the one who is of the Spirit. They see through the lens of God's grace and goodness. They see the law as God's instructions for life, not condemnation.

Existing according to the world ends in death. Thinking the way the world thinks is to continue to be corrupted and reject God's life-giving grace. That which is corrupted cannot enter into God's presence.

Existing according to the Spirit leads to life and peace. We have the Spirit of the one who defeated death and rose from the dead dwelling within us. The body that is corrupted by sin does not die but is restored through death to the perfect image of God. It was through death Christ restored the image of God in humankind.

This is our salvation, to reject the way the world thinks. We reject the thinking of God's law as a code of laws that condemns and leads to death. We receive the gift of God's grace and guidance which leads to life and peace. To live, we exist according to the Spirit of Christ that dwells within us and follow the guidance of God's instructions. As we exist in this life according to the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead, we will be given life through the same Spirit.

Thinking according to the flesh sees a young man who may have wasted his life. Thinking according to the Spirit sees a young man who gave so much to his family and friends even as he struggled with his addictions and he was restored to God.

We can live according to the way of the world that leads to death, or according to the Spirit that leads to life. Let us receive the gift of God's Spirit to be in the perfect image of God and eternal life.

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<sup>1</sup> N.T. Wright, "The Letter to the Romans" In *The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. X*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002) 578.