

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 6, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "Fill My Cup, Lord" Choir
Greeting

*Hymn "Be Thou My Vision" 451
Opening Prayer

(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Reading Romans 9:1-5 Page 150 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 17:1-7, 15 749

*Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" 496

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:13-21 Page 20 (N.T.)

Old Testament Reading Genesis 32:22-31 Pages 29-30 (O.T.)

Sermon "No Challenge, No Change" Rev. John D. Jordan

*Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881

*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine" Choir

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Prayer

*Hymn "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" 351

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" 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: John D. Jordan

Time Together: Jack Stevens, Pam Turner

Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey

AV Director: Marie Stiles

Church Musician

AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

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 lovingly remember **Tommy Johnson** on what would have been his 84th birthday August 4, by **Marty Johnson**.

“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 Jack Stevens

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

Family and Friends: **Bob Bohnstengel** (spouse of Jo Ann Heiting’s cousin); **Judy Spence** (former member); **Anne Piercy** (former member); **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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 07/30 SS: 15 Worship: 36

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/30 \$ 2,445.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

08/07 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

08/09 SPRC Meeting, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.

08/10 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

08/11 Office Closed

Readings for August 13

Genesis 37:1-4. 12-28

Psalms 105:1-11

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33



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



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**Wednesday, August 9
6 p.m.**

The Staff-Parish Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 9, at 6 p.m. The members of the committee are Tom Geddens, Chairperson, Daphne Branham, Becky Derrick, Brandon Jones, Ruth Frady, Chris Derrick and Jeff Portwood.



**Tuesday, August 15
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, August 15, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



**Sunday, August 20
4 p.m.**

As a summer surprise, we will once again be showing a movie in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 20, at 4 pm. Join us as we watch the inspiring movie *Jesus Revolution*, which is based on the autobiographical book of the same name co-written by Greg Laurie. The film follows Laurie, Christian hippie Lonnie Frisbee, and pastor Chuck Smith as they take part in a counterculture movement in the 1970s that becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. Gale Frady and friends will be preparing delicious food for you to enjoy as you watch the movie. We look forward to seeing you and your family on August 20th at 4 p.m.!



Sunday, August 27

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, August 27. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!

I work out fairly regularly at MUV Fitness by Hobby Lobby. The staff's T-shirts often have encouraging sayings on the back. One of these sayings is, "If it does not challenge you, it will not change you."

In that context, the message is that to get in shape you have to challenge yourself. You have to challenge yourself to do another set of exercises, increase the resistance on the machines, and pump the weight up. You have to push a little harder in classes. If you do not challenge yourself to work harder each time, your body will not change. Of course, the beginning point is challenging yourself to go to the gym.

We may apply this slogan to other areas of our lives. We can apply this slogan to our minds. Change usually leads to growth. So, I am not necessarily talking about changing your mind but growing mentally. Puzzles and games have been shown to increase cognitive functioning as we age. Reading about anything is necessary for learning. Ashton gave me a cap that says, Fight Evil, Read Books. The more knowledge we have, the better we can discern and fight evil. We gain knowledge for ourselves rather than just accepting the word of the TV pundits. We change and grow intellectually by challenging ourselves to learn and keep our minds sharp.

In the story from Genesis (32:22-31), Jacob was challenged. He was returning to Canaan to face his brother, Esau. He reached the Jabbok River. He sent his family and servants across the river. He was alone when he suddenly found himself in a wrestling match. He was challenged by a man, later revealed to be God. The wrestling match went on all night; neither gained the upper hand. As the day was breaking, the man struck Jacob in the hip socket. But Jacob did not let go until the man blessed him.

Jacob met God's challenge. Jacob wrestled with God all night. The text does not declare a clear winner. Jacob was changed. His name was changed from Jacob, which may mean "he deceives," to Israel, which may mean "God strives." God challenged Jacob, and he accepted God's challenge. Jacob was wounded but was changed.

God challenges us. Throughout the Bible, God challenges people: Moses, Gideon, David, Elijah, and the prophets. Jesus challenges the disciples, Scribes, and Pharisees. The Epistle writers, Paul, James, Peter, and John, challenge their readers. God challenges us to answer his call and to gain a better understanding.

God may challenge us to do something different in our lives. In this month's Epworth reporter, one story tells of a couple who felt called to be foster parents. God may call us to a new career. I am a case in point. God may call us to go somewhere else. This month's Advocate has a story of a clergy couple called to be missionaries to Hungary. God challenged each of these people to do something different in their lives. They changed their lives.

God may challenge our beliefs. This challenge may come in hearing a different perspective about a Bible passage. We all read the Bible through the lens of our experience and tradition. Hearing a different perspective may challenge our beliefs.

God may challenge our beliefs through scientific discovery. The Church pushed back against many scientific discoveries because they challenged the Church's view of the cosmos. We no longer consider the mentally ill to be "demon-possessed" because research has shown that a chemical imbalance in the brain is the cause. New scientific research may be one way God challenges us.

When we accept God's challenge and wrestle with God, we are changed. Our understanding of God may change. Twenty years ago, my understanding was God wanted to save my soul and for me to have a relationship with God. Now I understand that God has saved me for a purpose: to participate in the restoration of creation. Twenty years ago, I would have said the most important thing is God saves us from sin. Now I understand that the most important thing is God saves us for divine purposes. Our change may not be that our minds and beliefs are changed, but our beliefs are strengthened.

God challenges us to change and grow. If we do not accept and ignore God's challenge, we do not grow. My Christian History professor told the story of a young person who left Seminary because of her class. This person held the image of the early church as described in Acts 4:43-47, where everyone shared their possessions and lived in harmony. The idea of controversies in the early Church was something they could not accept. This person could not accept this challenge to their long-held belief. We do not change and grow if we do not accept God's challenge.

We may accept the challenge to change our bodies and grow healthier. We may accept the challenge to grow intellectually and sharpen our minds. We accept God's challenge to wrestle spiritually so we may change and grow in our understanding and relationship with God. Let us accept God's challenge and wrestle with God, so we may grow closer to God.