

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 6, 2025

Gathering Welcome Announcements and Prayer		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
(Prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)		
*Call to Worship Give thanks to God who turns sorrow into joy and death into new life! Praise God who makes all things new! Sing praises to God who is slow to anger but gives favor for a lifetime! Shout praises to God who turns our mourning into dancing! Give thanks to our God of steadfast love and mercy! Praise God who makes all things! Praise God who calls us to new life in Christ!		
*Opening Hymn	“We, Thy People, Praise Thee”	67
*Opening Prayer God of All Nations, We desire for our lives what you desire for us: freedom, peace, joy, gentleness, self-control, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray that your Spirit may work within us today and through the week: guiding us, teaching us, challenging us. Help us to live by the Spirit, and help us to use our freedom for the coming of your kingdom. Amen.		
*Psalter Reading	Psalms 30	762-763
*Affirmation of Faith	“The Apostles’ Creed”	881
*Gloria Patri Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.		70
Passing of the Peace:	Let us greet one another with love and peace.	
“Let the Children Come!”	(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)	
*Gospel Lesson	Luke 10:1-20	Pages 69-70 (N.T.)
Scripture Lessons	2 Kings 5:1-14 Galatians 6:1-16	Page 331 (O.T.) Page 180-181 (N.T.)

Homily	Three Simple Rules	Rev. Darlene L. Kelley
*Hymn	“This Is My Song”	437
Prayer of Confession The Lord’s Prayer		890
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings Offertory	“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?”	Choir
*Doxology		95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen		
Celebration of The Great Thanksgiving		13
*Closing Hymn	“Come, Share the Lord”	TFWS 2269
*Benediction *Benediction Response	“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”	Choir & Congregation

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor::	Rev. Darlene L. Kelley	AV Director:	Marie Stiles
Music Director:	Christopher A. McCroskey	AV Assistants:	Chris Derrick; Candice Garvin
		Time Together:	Jack Stevens; Pam Turner

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.

TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Ransom Laughead** by **Trinity**.

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

Patsy Shuler	Marilyn Lloyd	Tom Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Libby Strickland	Christopher McCroskey
Rhett Hook	Diane Muszynski	Ray Frady	Latson Lewis	English Percy	Hannah Glanz
John Ballentine	Jeanette Hornsby	Kaye Floyd			

Shut-Ins: Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor

Family and Friends: **Jim Lewis** (*father of Mark Lewis*); **Christina Lindemuth** (*daughter of Karen Carter*); **James Leonard** (*previous coworker of Mark Lewis*); **Kathleen Varnadore** (*Ted & Ruth Frady's neighbor*); **Paul Frenzel** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Sissy Henry** (*former member of Trinity*); **Keith James, Jay Clark** (*friends of Darlene Kelley*); **Sean & Tucker Smith** (*cousins of Darlene Kelley*); **Sonny Hardee** (*brother of Lynn Martin*); **Colby Martin** (*son of Donna Muszynski*); **Lynne Powell** (*friend of the Ballentines and Branhams*); **Malcolm Skipper** (*grandfather of Matthew Skipper*); **Bryan Collard** (*brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis*); ; **Michael McNeill** (*brother of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Missy Abrams** (*stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Chuck Hardee** (*cousin of Lynn Martin*); **Bruce Beatty, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Nancy Wilson** (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David Turner** (*brother of Pam Turner*); **Chip Mixon** (*friend of Tommy Gleaton*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Monnie Tiller** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth Frady*); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (*friends of Gale Frady*); **Janet Beck** (*friend 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 06/29 SS: 13 Worship: 66

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 06/29 \$ 3,496.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Ministry Team Meeting following Worship

Communion and Worship at The Pines, 2 p.m.

07/08 Grieving with God, 11 a.m.

07/09 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

07/11 Office Closed



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

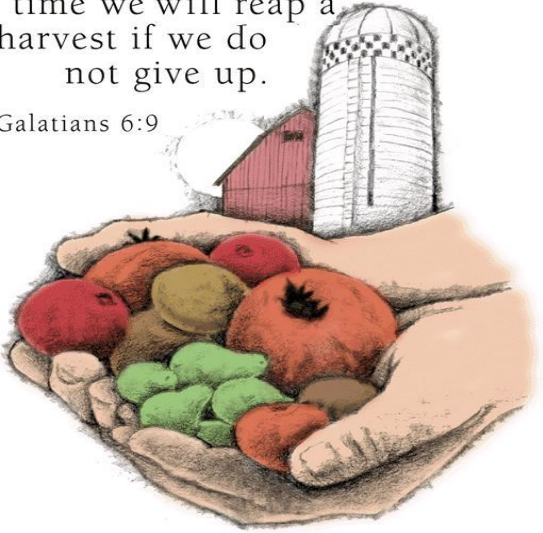
The Congregation
Darlene L. Kelley
Leonard Fairley
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

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

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

Let us not become weary in
doing good, for at the proper
time we will reap a
harvest if we do
not give up.

Galatians 6:9



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We will continue our ministry to **The Pines** on **Sunday, July 6, at 2 p.m.** as we join them for a short worship and communion service. We will also host a **Watermelon Party** for the residents on **Saturday, July 19, at 2 p.m.**



Grieving with God
Tuesday, July 8
11 a.m.

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 8, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, will facilitate the discussion.



Friday, July 18
6 p.m.

Join us on July 18 at 6 p.m. as we meet to share a meal and discuss our second summer selection, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, by Katherine Boo. We had a wonderful time at our June book club meeting, so plan now to join us in July. A meal will be provided, so please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area. to help us get a head count. If you need a copy of the book, let Darlene know.



Join us Friday, July 25th - Saturday, July 26th from 5:00pm to 7:30 p.m. and then Sunday, July 27th, for the closing of VBS during our Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

We are asking the congregation to wear their Best Western wear to church!! As we say YEE-HAW and Celebrate God's Greatest Gift together during worship!

STAY TUNED for more details....

If you wish to volunteer and missed the planning meeting, no worries, please reach out to Erin Derrick at church on Sunday or feel free to text/call 803-467-3484.

Trinity UMC
July 6, 2025
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Three Simple Rules

Last week the new appointments began in SC. In New York this week the pastors will make their way to their new churches. All the annual conferences are done, and it feels like the beginning of a New Year for United Methodists all over the country.

The ordination service is one of the highlights of Annual Conference. It's always exciting and joyful and a little intense watching the Bishop lay his hands on the tops of the ordinands' heads. I can still hear Bishop Park commanding us to "take thou authority".

"Do no harm. Do all the good you can, and stay in love with God", he admonished. Bishop Park was reciting John Wesley's three simple rules.

Do no harm. Do all the good you can. Stay in love with God. These rules are general, but they will help you live a life that's pleasing to God. They are a general way of steering you in the right direction, of helping a soul obey God's commandments, avoid sin, resist temptation and avoid returning evil for evil. When we honor God, we love God and when we love God, we want to please God.

So, first of all, we want to do no harm in the world. We want to embrace the Golden Rule and not take it for granted but truly do unto others as we'd have them do unto us. And there may be lots of ways for us to avoid doing harm.

Recently, when I was talking to an old friend on the phone, she corrected me when I called myself an idiot for forgetting something. I just said it casually, like we all do here or there..."whoops, I'm an idiot." And my friend said, "don't talk to my friend that way." And I was touched by it, but also learned something. We can quite easily do harm to ourselves without even realizing it. How to you talk to yourself? How do you treat yourself?

Do no harm. Sounds like an easy thing to remember. But it may at times be harder than we think. And it may be more complicated once we start following how our money is spent, and what we invest in individually and as a nation. What do we pay attention to? What do we avoid? Do no harm may be harder to live by than its simplicity suggests.

Doing good may be easier to handle. The Book of Discipline tells us that *we are doing good by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all men: to their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.*¹

After the old language becomes understandable, it bears quite a resemblance to the Gospel. Do no harm. Do all the good you can.

What good can you do today? What good can we do as a community? As people of faith? As a church? And it is true that when we work together we can do more good in the world, in our own community.

This morning, the lectionary gives us a lesson from Galatians. It's one of Paul's most cherished letters, and you can see easily from this morning's passage that this is a letter, a letter written to a specific community, a specific group of churches that Paul has founded and is nurturing, but they are also a community in crisis.

A group of Jewish-Christian missionaries have come into the predominately gentile community of Galatia and told them they have to be circumcised to follow Christ, and so an internal conflict over beliefs is brewing. The New Interpreter's Bible commentary tells us that Galatians *is the fountainhead for all subsequent Christian theological reflection about justification by faith, the cross, the power of the Spirit, and the meaning of Christian freedom.*²

And with that freedom comes responsibility.

We are to reprove one another, helping one another stay the course and keep on the straight and narrow. Our reading from Galatians this morning echoes the cry: *My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.*

Perhaps, there is a balance here between *casting the first stone* and *restoring one another with gentleness*. Both Galatians and the *Book of Discipline* make it plain: we are our brother's keepers. So, we do good when we help one another do the right thing.

And Galatians continues: *do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.* There's a double incentive for doing the right thing—we're going to reap what we sow.

Folks prescribing to Eastern theologies will relate to this expression. *You reap what you sow* because *karma is a boomerang*. When you store your treasures on earth and invest in the flesh, you reap corruption. *But if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*

¹ Book of Discipline, Paragraph 103, pg. 73
² New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. XI, page 184

And the *Book of Discipline* tells us that we are *doing good: By running with patience the race which is set before {us} denying {ourselves} and taking up the cross daily...* What does it mean to you to take up the Cross? What does a life of discipleship look like to you? Is your life a witness for Christ?

We want to please God because we love God, and when you love someone—you want to please him. Remember the Gospel scene when a lawyer in the crowd confronts Jesus?

Reading from Matthew's Gospel, (Matt. 22: 34-40): *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:*

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

We do good when we love God with all our hearts and minds and souls and when we love our neighbors as ourselves. It sounds pretty simple: Love God and love one another. Indeed, we are a faith community because we are people who are in relationship with God and one another. It sounds simple, but it is often difficult for us to do. Sometimes it's hard to know if your behavior is harmful. Often it feels exhausting to do all the good you can. And so we pray, and we confess and we try again tomorrow. We learn and we help one another and we pray some more.

As we gather together today and celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, God's promise to us, our covenant with God, and the gift of God's grace, as we come together before God and ask for healing, healing for ourselves, healing for one another and our world, let's pray for love. Let's remember that we gather because of love. Because of love, we have been given the gift of new life, and the promise of abundant and eternal life. *For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only Son...*

And when we love God with all our hearts and souls and minds, when we love one another, we avoid harm; we do all the good we can and we stay in love with God. Amen.

Let us pray:

God of love and mercy,

We all stand in need of your grace and forgiveness. Help us to know ourselves that we might truly confess our sins, forgive ourselves and one another and find new life through Jesus Christ. Amen.