

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

Gathering
Welcome
Announcements and Prayer

Prelude Laurie Knapp
(Prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

*Call to Worship
God is with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hands
to receive God’s blessing.
Open wide your arms
to receive another as a child of God.
Lift up your voice
And sing God’s praise!

*Opening Hymn “O Worship the King” (vs. 1-3) 73

*Opening Prayer
Healing God,
You bring forth life from death, joy from sorrow, blessing out of despair. You meet us behind closed doors and closed hearts. You never forget our names. Help us to be a beacon of light, touch our souls and chase away our blues, for we pray in the name of the One who conquered sin and death, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Litany of the Beatitudes Insert

*Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed” 881

*Gloria Patri 70
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.

Passing of the Peace: *Let us greet one another with love and peace.*

“Let the Children Come!” Patsy Boggs
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)

Anthem Choir

Scripture Lessons Micah 6:1-8 Page 819 (O.T.)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Page 157 (N.T.)

*Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-12 Pages 9-10 (N.T.)

Sermon Blessings Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

*Hymn of Invitation “What Does the Lord Require” (vs. 1-3) 441

Prayer of Confession 890
The Lord’s Prayer
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 Laurie Knapp
*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 “Let Us Break Bread Together” 618

*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
Pianist: Laurie Knapp AV Assistants: Chris Derrick; Erin Derrick
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.**

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

Marie Stiles	Marilyn Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Rhett Hook	Libby Strickland	Christopher McCroskey
John Ballentine	Diane Muszynski	Ray Frady	Latson Lewis	English Percy	Jeanette Hornsby
Hannah Glanz	Hilda Edwards	Fran Laska	Kaye Floyd	Jan Stamps	

Shut-Ins: Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch

Family and Friends: **Donna Eidson** (*former Trinity pastor*); **Ghent Brewer** (*brother-in-law of Jeanette Hornsby*); **Kim & Sandra Meetze** (*friends of Martha Cooke*); **Dave Griffin** (*husband of Chantel Griffen*); **Matt Imel** (*husband of Holley Gleaton Imel*); **Cayla Watters** (*friend of Karen Carter*); **Tommy Stokes** (*nephew of Joyce Robinson*); **Kati Flowers** (*mother of friend of Blake Kamoroff*); **Berry Cochran** (*son-in-law of Charlyn McNeill*); **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*); **Colby Martin** (*son of Donna Muszynski*); **Lynne Powell** (*friend of the Ballentines and Branhams*); **Bryan Collard** (*brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis*); ; **Michael McNeill** (*brother of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Linda Allen, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd, Gwen Scott, Dana Ammer** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **Nancy Wilson** (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David & Kristen Turner** (*brother and sister-in-law 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 01/25 SS: N/A Worship: N/A

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/25 \$ N/A

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

02/02 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/04 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

02/05 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/06 Office Closed

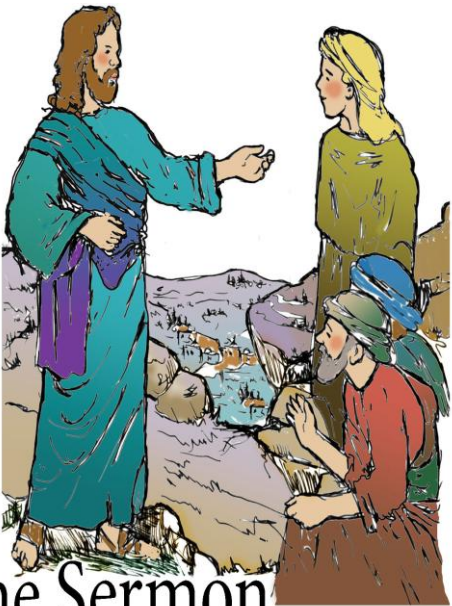


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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***



The Sermon on the Mount

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Souper Bowl Sunday



Sunday, February 8

On **Sunday, February 8**, the children and youth will be collecting donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. All monies collected will go to a local charity. Please give generously to help those less fortunate.



**Grieving with God
Tuesday, February 10**

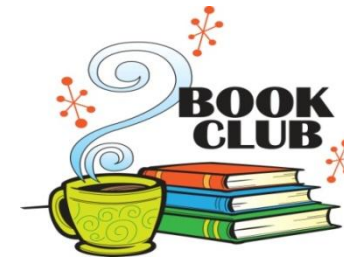
All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us on Tuesday, February 10, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, will facilitate the discussion.



SHROVE TUESDAY

**Pancakes to Ashes
Tuesday night, February 17
6 p.m.**

Join us for pancakes in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, February 17. After we enjoy our pancakes and the sun sets, we will join together in prayer and begin our Lenten celebration with an imposition of the ashes. Everyone is welcome. We may need some cooks & kitchen volunteers!



**Book Club Dinner
Friday, February 20
6:00 p.m.**

Join us for an opportunity to share a meal and time together as we discuss Father Richard Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ*. Our Book Club gatherings have been a great opportunity to grow personally and as a community. A meal will be provided, and we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. All you have to bring is an open mind and an open heart. Bring a friend and join us—even if all you've read is the title. What happens at Book Club stays at Book Club, and we hope to see you there!



**Columbia Community Concert Band's Winter Concert
February 22 at 4:00 PM
Airport High School Auditorium**

You're invited to join us for the sweet sounds of the CCCB as we present our winter concert on Sunday, February 22, at 4 PM in the Auditorium at Airport High School, 1315 Boston Avenue in West Columbia. From a special arrangement of Amazing Grace to the songs of Neil Diamond, the theme music from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, the rousing Sousa marches and so much more, there's music for everyone. We hope to see you there!

The Trinity UMC
February 1, 2026
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Blessings

A Presbyterian minister, who served a church in my home state of Maryland, started translating Scripture into modern language for his congregation and that translation won a Gold Medallion Book Award and is called *The Message*. The minister is Rev. Eugene Peterson, and he gives us this:

(Matthew 5:1-12 The Message)

You're Blessed

5 ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

3 “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

4 “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

6 “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

7 “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

8 “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

10 “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

11-12 “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even! —for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know

that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

from *The Message*...Thanks be to God for the Word of God.

In Matthew's Gospel, we climb the mount; in Luke's Gospel, we hear a Sermon on the Plain. No matter the topography, you may be surprised by the blessings Jesus bestows.

It may be difficult to imagine yourself blessed when you're at the end of your rope or experiencing loss or persecution, but that's just what Jesus does, he turns things upside down.

And Jesus shakes things up throughout his ministry. He hangs out with the least among us, talks to a woman at the well when men didn't do that sort of thing... He even invites a tax collector to dinner and saves a known prostitute from death with the simple phrase.... *you without sin, cast the first stone.*

Jesus isn't worried about what those in power think. He's not worried about what the neighbors think, or how they will react when he reaches out to the lepers. While we like to tame him and create him in our own image...truth is, Jesus preached and practiced radical love, so that the heartbroken and the hurting and the ones at the bottom of the pile were lifted up and healed.

And Jesus reminds us to get our heads and our hearts right...then we may see Christ in the face of the stranger.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Moving from what Wesley thought of as prevenient grace to justifying grace, we hunger and thirst for righteousness. We realize our own sin, have a good look at ourselves, and confess our humanity and fear and brokenness to God, then we can better understand the brokenness in our brothers and sisters. Then with the help of God's grace, we may long to do good, to please God.

And as we love our neighbor as ourselves, we move toward perfection, sanctifying grace, loving even our enemies, knowing that we will never be perfect, but thanking God and praising God for grace, thirsting for righteousness, as the prophet Micah reminds us: *what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Soon we will be entering the season of Lent, a season crying out for a clean heart, a season full of reflection and repentance. And in just a few moments, our celebration of the Great Thanksgiving, the Eucharist, the celebration of Holy Communion...the sacrament gives us an opportunity to confess our sins, forgive ourselves and one another and start fresh, walking forward in God's grace. Asking ourselves along the way, "what does the Lord require".

What blessings cover me today?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

What blessings cover me today? What blessings cover you?

Our trusty, commentary, The New Interpreter’s Bible, explains: *In the main, the beatitudes use two verbs: are and will. Each beatitude begins in the present tense—“blessed are”—and moves to the future tense---“for they will...”*

The present tense indicates that the beatitudes are expressions of what is already true about the Christian community. Of course, not every member of every congregation can claim to be meek, merciful and pure in heart, but the beatitudes are addressed, not initially to the individuals, but to the whole faith community.

Among every authentic Christian congregation can be found persons of meekness, ministers of mercy, and workers for peace. Their presence and activity among us is a sign of God’s blessing and a call to all of us to conform our common life more and more to these kingdom values. ...

The future tense of the beatitudes resists all notions that Christianity is a “philosophy of life” designed to make people successful and calm today, in the present moment.

Christianity, the New Interpreter’s concludes: is not a scheme to reduce stress, lose weight, advance one’s career, or preserve one from illness. Christian faith, instead, is a way of living based on the firm and sure hope that meekness is the way of God, that righteousness and peace will finally prevail, and that God’s future will be a time of mercy and not cruelty. So, blessed are those who live this life now, even when such a life seems foolish, for they will, in the end, be vindicated by God.¹

And that is a blessing indeed.

Pray with me:

God of Blessings and Possibilities,

Fill us with peace and a thirst for righteousness. Bless us in ways that heal us and teach us, that we might be your people and do your work in the world. Help us, O’ God of grace, to love ourselves and one another, to forgive, and to grow in spirit, that we might be a blessing to our community and a witness to your love. Amen.

¹ The New Interpreter’s Bible, Volume VIII, pages 176-180.