

# God's Love In Action

GLIA: the essential element, or glue,  
which connects the tissue found in the nerve centers of the body

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Trinity United Methodist Church, 1201 Mohawk Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169

Pastor: *John Jordan*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

Organist: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

Office Manager: *Jackie Eitel*

Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 M-F

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

The mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to:  
**To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

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JUNE 2020

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## *John's Jottings*

I am the church!

You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not an building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.

(We Are the Church by Richard K. Avery & Donald S. Marsh,  
UMH 558)

This is one of my favorite hymns. I love it because it reminds us that the church is not the building on Mohawk Drive (or Gunter Circle) but it is the people. It also reminds us that the church is a people that are connected, as a particular congregation and as the body of Christ throughout the world. Nor is church something we do in a particular time or place. Church is something we as followers of Jesus do all the time.

I know that for the past few months many say that churches have been closed and now are looking at reopening. But if we have closed and need to "reopen" then we have not been the church. The church is the people who follow Jesus doing the work for God's kingdom in every place and time. As Christians we are not connected just when we come together on Sunday Morning but are connected at all times even though we may be separated physically.

This pandemic has thrown most of our lives into turmoil and we seek the equilibrium of the church. But there are issues that must be addressed before we can safely come back together on Sunday morning as we all are used to. (See the article Why Church Is High Risk.) It may be a long while before we can come back to worship as we did before March 15.

But we are still the church. We can worship in alternate ways and times. We have been the church as we worship online. Even though it may not be in our best interest to come together as a congregation on Sunday mornings we can meet in small groups, 6-8, and worship together in someone's back yard following the order of worship and reading the sermon.

In fact, this would be more like the early church. People would gather in small groups in someone's home. They would sing hymns, pray, read scripture, and read a letter from one of the church leaders. It may be a specific letter, like Paul's letters to Corinthians or a circular letter or "sermon" to be read to several gatherings in an area. Hebrews, James, Ephesians and Revelation are examples.

Also, early Methodist "churches" were small groups, called classes, of 8-10 who would meet together not so much to worship (in a traditional sense) but to support and hold each other accountable in their spiritual growth and discipline.

From these examples and many others we can see that church is not limited to a particular place, time or even way of being church. In our present pandemic world, we will need to rethink church. We need to rethink what church is. We need to rethink how, when and where we may do church.

Church is not just at 11:00 a.m. Sunday at 1201 Mohawk Drive. Church is happening over the internet. Church is happening as we stop at that time to read the order of worship, scriptures and sermon. Trinity has not closed. Trinity has just done church differently. As our world and lives have changed by this pandemic so must the church. This is a time when we may be creative and develop different ways in which we may be the church. This may be a time to evaluate what we do at Trinity and pray for God's guidance so we may be the church God wants us to be.



Congratulations to **Brandon Edwards** on his graduation from Brookland Cayce High School. He is the son of Carlis and Jennifer Edwards and the grandson of Oren & Hilda Edwards. He has plans to attend Midlands Tech.

Congratulations to **Matthew Martin** on his graduation from the Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy on May 8! The formal graduation ceremony will be held Saturday, August 22, in Clinton, SC. While attending PCSP, Matt served as President of CPNP (College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists) as well as Vice President of Finance for the Student Chapter of APHA (American Pharmacist Association). He was named to the Dean's List for the Fall, 2019, and Spring, 2020, semesters. Matt was also employed as a pharmacy intern with CVS in Spartanburg and Columbia as well as Prisma Health Richland. He has accepted a position as a Pharmacy Graduate Intern with Publix and is currently in training in preparation to transition to a fulltime Pharmacist position upon licensure in South Carolina and Georgia. Matt is the son of Chuck and Lynn Martin and the grandson of Carolyn Hardee and the late George Hardee. Matt's new address is: 594 Summerlake Circle, Apt. 207, Ridgeland, SC, 29936.



**Garland Pearson**

Jim & Marie Stiles  
Tommy & Marty Johnson

**Ray Heiting**

English & Jewel Pearcy  
Jim & Marie Stiles  
Linda Maloch

**Regis Stevens**

Jan Stamps  
Tommy & Marty Johnson

**Randolph Maffett**

English & Jewel Pearcy

**Mary Lee Williams**

Linda Maloch

**Carolyn Sox**

Virginia Baird

**Amanda Snow**

Jan Stamps

**Dorothy Johnson**

Jan Stamps

**J. O. Fulmer**

Oren & Hilda Edwards

**Seth Squires**

Oren & Hilda Edwards

**Miriam Simpson**

English & Jewel Pearcy  
Oren & Hilda Edwards  
Frank & Vicky Edwards  
Jim & Marie Stiles  
Virginia Baird  
Linda Maloch  
Jan Stamps  
Anne Piercy  
Tommy & Marty Johnson  
Alfred & Mellisa Davies

**Margie Gay**

Wendell Anthony  
Mary Kamoroff  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey  
Oren & Hilda Edwards  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Howard/Sandra Hughes  
Joy SS Class  
Thomas/Patricia Robinson  
Jim & Marie Stiles  
Vernon & Linda Williams  
John & Amie Ritner  
Garry & Hazel Anthony  
Advanced Video Group  
Linda Maloch  
John & Patsy Zeigler  
George Taylor  
Betty Horton Slade/Family

**Teresa Murray**

Bonnie Ramsey  
Mary Kamoroff  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Charles & Jackie McNeill  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
English & Jewel Pearcy  
Jim & Marie Stiles  
Linda Maloch  
Tommy & Marty Johnson

A gift to Trinity was given by Jo Ann Heiting in loving memory of **Arnold Heiting**. The gift was given to be used for postage to mail Upper Rooms.



A gift to Trinity was given by **Tommy and Marty Johnson** in grateful thanks to God for their marriage as they celebrated **47 years together** on May 19th.



***Trinity Food Co-op***

The Co-op has been suspended until further notice. We are hoping to get it started back when the world finds a new normal.



### ***Why Church Is a High-Risk Activity***

**Note:** In this article I am referring to church as being the traditional 11:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The information on CoVid 19 cases in the state, county and zip code were all taken from the SCDHEC website. The information on singing was taken from a document from the Wisconsin Council of Churches which was included in the guidelines for “reopening” by the South Carolina Conference.

I write this to remind ourselves of why church is a high-risk activity in our new pandemic world and why we have to be very cautious about returning to our regular church service on Sunday Morning. Yes, this is more about the science than theology but Wesley was known to dabble in science and stressed the use of reason. Having worked in the medical field at Bryan Psychiatric Hospital and in hospice I would have to take annual training in infection control.

First, what do we know about this virus? All indications are that this is an airborne virus. This means that it is transmitted through the air from one person to another. As a person who may have or carries the virus breathes, they expel the virus through the droplets as they exhale. When a person sneezes or coughs they expel heavier droplets that fall to the ground in about six feet. However, as one breathes, they expel much smaller droplets which may hang in the air for a much longer period of time. Outdoors these droplets are dispersed by the wind but in an enclosed space they hang in the air and may be recirculated by air conditioning. So being in an enclosed area significantly increases the chances of one being exposed to the virus.

Secondly there are activities we do in church that increase the number of droplets one may expel. As you talk at a normal conversational tone and volume you expel 10x more droplets than just breathing. As we talk to each other, recite the creeds, say the prayers and responses each one of us is expelling 10x the droplets in the air. The number of droplets increase as we increase our volume of speech. As we sing, we expel 60x more droplets. Not only do we expel more, we send them further. (To test this out hold your hand to nose and as you breathe normally, move your hand away from your face until you no longer feel your breath. Then do the same thing as you talk at a normal conversational volume. Then do it as you sing. Then go wash your hands.) Needless to say the number of droplets expelled into the air is increased by the number of people breathing, talking and singing in an enclosed space.

Then there is our chance for exposure. As of yesterday, there were 10,096 confirmed cases statewide. There were 553 in Lexington county and 85 in the 29169 zip code where most of us live. Now for every confirmed case there is an estimated six more unconfirmed cases. These are people that may have exhibited symptoms but were not tested, those that may have died before testing, or may have no symptoms but still may carry the virus. When we consider that, the number of estimated cases in the zip code is an additional 510 bringing it to a total of 595 cases. This is the second highest number in the county and our zip is the smallest geographically in the county. So, the odds of us having been exposed to someone who may have or carry the virus is pretty great. These increase as we go out to dine in restaurants, go to hair salons and other situations where are in close contact in an enclosed space.

Finally, we have to consider us. The makeup of our congregation. The people that will come to Trinity Sunday at 11:00 a.m.. The majority of us fall into high risk categories meaning we would be more susceptible to catching the virus, would suffer more intense symptoms and possibly death.

I write this for us to understand why we suspended in person church and why we cannot rush into going back to church as we knew it. There is detailed considerations for making sure our physical space is safe, how we are to maintain safe distance, and when it is safe to return to church.

**NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE CURRENTLY ON OUR SHUT-IN LIST**

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Anderson, SC 29621

Sara Efron  
Jenni-Lynn  
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Carolyn Hardee  
Congaree Neighborhood, Room  
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Greenway at Still Hopes  
One Still Hopes Drive  
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Georgeann Pace  
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June Hutto  
1 Martha Franks Drive  
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Jean Raynor  
Morningside of Lexington  
218 Old Chapin Road, Room 106  
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(803) 358-9417

Shirley Padgett  
779 Hope Ferry Road  
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Claudia Sineath  
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Grover Shuler  
Wellmore  
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