

God's Love In Action

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

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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JULY 2020

John's Jottings

Complacency and Fatalism

Most of us are probably very weary of CoVid19. We probably all want Corona to just pack up and go home. The numbers are mind numbing. In this month alone the number of cases in the state and in our county have doubled. Even in our zip code (29169) the numbers have doubled from June 1. And these are just confirmed cases. For every confirmed case DEHEC estimates that there are six more unconfirmed cases. As I write this, six hundred fifty-three people have lost their lives to this virus in South Carolina, 42 in Lexington county. I am weary of looking at these numbers each day.

As we see and are bombarded each day with these numbers on the various news outlets, there seem to be two attitudes that people are falling into. Both of these attitudes are extremely dangerous in these times. They are both attitudes that are not Christian. These attitudes are complacency and fatalism.

As we live with this virus, we may easily become complacent. We long for things to go "back to normal." So we go out to eat, go back to the gym, get together with friends without thinking, "Is this safe?" We forget to put on our face coverings when we make that quick dash to the store for a few things. We become lax in keeping our social distancing. We shake hands with people or give hugs because that's what we do. We pull our chairs close together. We become complacent.

Complacency is often an indicator of a lessening of discipline. An army is more vulnerable to attack when the discipline of the guards become lax. We become more susceptible to temptations when we become complacent in our spiritual disciplines, getting lax in our Bible reading, prayers, devotional and worship. Complacency leaves a door open for Satan to enter and turn us from God. Likewise, complacency in these times may allow a door for this virus to enter into us. While Satan may want us to get sick and die, God wants us to remain healthy and live. So, we must remain vigilant and follow the recommendations of our public health officials to go out only when essential, wear face coverings, and maintain a six-foot distance from others.

Fatalism is the attitude of well if it is my time and God wills for me to go by this disease then there is nothing I can do. If it is God's will then it is God's will. So, we don't bother with precautions. We don't heed the warnings of our public health officials because it really doesn't matter since if I am supposed to get it I will.

This really flies in the face of God. This make the very erroneous assumption that God has picked your time and means of dying. A God that is abounding in steadfast love does not pick a time for one to die, especially prematurely. God's desire is for us all to live to an old age. God gives us the people with knowledge and skill to learn about this virus and help us to know how to keep ourselves well and alive, which is what God wants.

Satan wants us to be fatalistic and turn from what God is telling us to do to stay well and alive. Satan wants us to think this is what God has in store for me. Satan wants us to be complacent so he can work his way to turn us from God. Satan wants us to forget to do the things we need to do to stop the spread of this disease.

Almost all of us are praying for a miracle and that this virus will go away. This miracle will not happen if we fall into complacency and fatalism. It will not happen if we just say it is God's will and do nothing. (Of course, this is not God's will). It will not happen if become complacent and become lax in our social distancing. But we can make this miracle happen by maintaining our discipline, keeping our distance from others, wearing masks whenever we go out, avoiding large gatherings, particularly in enclosed spaces, and following other recommendations from our public health professionals.

This is not a political issue. This is a public health issue. By following the advice and warnings of our public health officials who have the God given knowledge and skills to combat this disease, we can make corona pack up and go away.

Shalom,
Pastor John

Random Observations:

I notice that Grecian Gardens is not open for dine in even though they can. However, you can get the same food from them as a takeout. There is no difference in the food, you just can't eat it in their dining room. You do not get the experience of dining in but the food is the same. During this time, you may not get the same experience of "church" by not coming into the building, but the same message is available in print and online. It may not be quite as gratifying but it may still satisfy your spiritual hunger.

Wearing a mask is an act of selfless love in that while a mask may not protect me from you, it does protect you from me. Taking the attitude that the mask does not protect me so I am not going to wear one is very selfish. But taking the attitude that I want to protect others from me because I could be carrying this virus, is selfless love. It is not about my protection but all of our protection.



Garland Pearson

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Regis Stevens

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Mary Lee Williams

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Amanda Snow

Ben & Debbie Whetstone
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Dennis Johnson

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Miriam Simpson

Chuck & Lynn Martin
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Marian Risinger

Bonnie Ramsey
Mary Kamoroff
Jo Ann Heiting
Linda Maloch
Ray & Gale Frady
Oren & Hilda Edwards
English & Jewel Percy
Dolph & Jeanene Varner
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
George Taylor
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd
Marty Johnson
John & Patsy Zeigler

Teresa Murray

Chuck & Lynn Martin
Grover & Patsy Shuler

Randolph Maffett

Grover & Patsy Shuler

Carolyn Sox

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Dorothy Johnson

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Janet Bennett

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Margie Gay

English & Jewel Percy
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Jonathan Brookins

Oren & Hilda Edwards

Marjorie Mills

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Jerry Trantham

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Charles Rentz

Ray & Gale Frady

Jim Baughman

Ray & Gale Frady



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

To **Tom and Marilyn Lloyd** on the death of her sister-in-law, **Janet Bennet**, on April 28, 2020, in Michigan.

To the family of **Marian Risinger** on her death on June 9, 2020.

To **Marty Johnson and family** on the death of her husband, **Tommy Johnson**, on Monday, June 29, 2020,



Tom and I want to thank Trinity for the lovely plant to celebrate his 86th Birthday on May 22. Gale and Ruth Frady came with a singing Birthday Card and the plant. They were prepared for coronavirus protection with masked faces to with him well and sing "Happy Birthday". Thank you for the joyful memory!

Tom and Marilyn Lloyd



Matthew Skipper made the President's List for the Spring Semester at Francis Marion University. His girlfriend, **Carlie Fusco**, was also named to the President's list. Congratulation to them both!



COVID-19 Update

Dear Trinity Family,

I know that you may be tired of getting these updates. I am tired of giving them but this pandemic is part of our present reality. We want to know when we can get back to normal activities like going to church.

In one of my first updates I mentioned that I had participated in a teleconference for faith leaders with Dr. Linda Bell, the state epidemiologist. At that time, she recommended that churches not reopen until there has been a two-week downward trend in new cases. At that time, I mentioned that our reopening would be driven by data. Unfortunately, the numbers of new cases statewide, Lexington county and our zip code (29169) have not gone down but rather have been going up dramatically, more than doubling in all three areas since June 1.

On Friday, June 19, DHEC held another teleconference for faith leaders with Dr. Bell. She reiterated that the main issue regarding transmission, as it relates to in-person worship, is the duration of contact. Any time longer than 15 minutes increases the chance of transmission. While social distancing and wearing masks lessen the chance of transmission, the longer duration of contact increases the chance of transmission even with masks and social distancing.

Regarding the illness itself, she stated that even though it has some of the same symptoms as the flu, it acts differently from the flu because it also attacks other organs- heart, liver, kidneys, brain. It can affect the whole bodily system which makes it more dangerous than the flu. One other unusual symptom is a loss of taste and/or smell. The length of time from infection until a person develops symptoms may be as long as 14 days. During this time they may transmit the virus to others. So, a person may be spreading the virus to others without realizing it until it is too late.

During the question and answer period, the question was asked if we should still wait for a two-week downward trend in new cases. Dr. Bell's response was an emphatic yes. We should wait until there is a two-week downward trend in new cases before we can safely reopen, even keeping social distancing and wearing masks.

While the worship committee has developed protocols for safely restarting in-person worship which will be sent to church council for approval, we have not established a date for restarting. We want to see a two-week downward trend in new cases. Hopefully this will occur in the next few weeks.

In order to slow down the progression of this virus there are a few simple measures we all can take. Avoid crowds in enclosed spaces. Make only trips that are essential. Wear a face covering whenever you go out. Keep social distancing, a minimum of 6 feet between others. If we all would do these simple acts, we can slow down the spread of this disease and be able to return to in-person worship more quickly.

Shalom,

Pastor John