

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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AUGUST 2020

John's Jottings

2020 - A Year of Sabbath?

One of the commandments that God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai was the Sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). This concept of Sabbath was expanded to the Sabbath year. "For six years you shall sow your land and gather its yield but in the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow..." (Exodus 23: 10-11a). This was to let the land rest and replenish and to let the poor and the wild animals have a place to gather food.

On the farm, every few years, we would let a field lie fallow, not planting anything in that field. This allowed the land to rest and for organic matter to decompose, giving the land the nutrients needed to grow crops. The land needed to rest and nourish in order to increase its yield.

One of the things I often hear, particularly in smaller churches, is "I am tired." People have, in some cases, been doing the same thing for the church for many years. Or they have been on one committee after another. Or they have organized the same event every year since no one can remember. And we are tired. Church may feel like a merry-go-round of activities that we just keep doing year after year and we can't seem to get off. We can't seem to stop.

That may be the benefit of this year of 2020, this year where we have halted all our church activities due to the pandemic. While it has been painful to stop our activities such as Wonderful Wednesdays, Summer Splash, VBS, Ice Cream Social, Fall Festival and others, this may be a time for us to evaluate the benefit of these activities, particularly in regard to our mission statement *to make disciples by inspiring, nurturing, connecting in order to transform*. It may be a time to evaluate if we have the resources to continue these activities.

This may also be a time to consider other ways in which we may reach new people. The first word of the Great Commission is Go! Are there ways we can go out to reach new people and connect with our community? Are there other ways we may make disciples, such as increasing the number of ongoing small group activities- Bible Studies, accountability groups, shared interest groups - ways in which we may bring in and connect with people who may not be ready to come into a worship setting?

This may be a time for us to rethink church. Church is not a building. Church is not just something we do at 11:00 Sunday morning. We have church as we gather in a small group for study at a coffee shop. We have church when we worship online or by reading the scriptures and sermon at the same time, even if we are all in our own homes. Church is whenever, wherever and however the people of God gather to do God's work.

So, during this time in which the church is "lying fallow," we may consider new ways of connecting and making disciples. Is there anything that you would like to see happening at Trinity that has not happened? Do you have some ideas for reaching new people that no one may have considered before?

This may be a time when we can evaluate what we have done here at Trinity and listen for what God is wanting us to continue, let go of, or do something new. We may, when all this is over, restart church at Trinity in a new way.

Shalom,
Pastor John



As part of my Ordination process I will be leading a Zoom Bible Study entitled *Eating with Jesus: Table Fellowship in the Gospel of Luke*. Since the focus will be on table fellowship and dining, let's have a virtual lunch together, beginning August 5 from noon until one. Let's nourish our bodies and souls at the same time. A link to participate in the study will be sent the week before the study.



New Phone Numbers:

Christopher McCroskey (803) 360-9041

Dan Greshel (803) 365-3502

Please make these changes in your directory.



Tommy Johnson

Ray & Gale Frady
John & Sue Ballentine
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Pauline Wenner
Bonnie Ramsey
Mary Kamoroff
Jo Ann Heiting
John & Patsy Zeigler
Ron & Pam Shealy
Jim & Marie Stiles
George Taylor
English & Jewel Percy
Charles & Jackie McNeill
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Margie Gay

Charles & Jackie McNeill

Gene Crumpton

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Billy Rawl

Charles & Jackie McNeill

Jerry Chitty

Charles & Jackie McNeill

Marian Risinger

Charles & Jackie McNeill



Dear Trinity family,

The Risinger family sincerely appreciates the cards, phone calls, and friendship from our Trinity family during Marian's hospital stay and subsequent passing. She was a faithful member and dearly loved her church, as well as the people in it. She is resting in peace.

Sincerely,
Tommy and Dana Risinger



Dear Trinity family,

Thank you to everyone who made my 90th birthday extra special. You made my day!

Sincerely,
Jackie McNeill



An Anonymous Gift has been given in honor of all of the *Widows and Widowers* at Trinity United Methodist.



My schedule for August will be the same as it was for July. I will work from home on Mondays, work in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and take vacation days on Fridays.

In addition to reaching me by email and phone message on Mondays, you can also call or text me on my cell (803) 719-7821.



Dear Trinity family,

Thanks for all the birthday cards and well wishes for my birthday in June. They were very much appreciated.

Love,
Nell Cooke



Recently you should have received the protocols for restarting in-person worship which was passed by church council. As the numbers of new CoVid-19 cases remain high, the council is still debating a specific date to restart. We feel that we have established the best protocols on how we can restart safely but still have concerns about when. We do hope to restart toward the middle or end of August depending on the numbers. Please read the protocols carefully and follow when we do come back together. While these may seem strict to some, this is what we believe is needed so that we can safely return to in-person worship.

We will be establishing further protocols for how we will respond when someone who attended a service or church activity tests positive. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms which we listed from the CDC, please stay home. If you think you might have been exposed to CoVid-19, please stay home. If you fall into one of the high-risk categories as established by the CDC, we encourage you to stay home.

Your decision to attend when we restart in-person worship should be according to your level of comfort in the present situation. If you feel uncomfortable about coming to church because of your health, don't. We will continue to post the service on Facebook and Website, and are working toward livestreaming capabilities. We will continue to send out the order of worship and sermon so you may worship in that manner. Remember, having church is not that we come to the building, but that we come together in spirit to worship God.

Remember we can curtail the spread of this virus by washing our hands, avoiding large gatherings particularly in enclosed spaces, wearing a face covering AND maintaining six feet social distancing as much as possible.

UPDATE FOLLOWING VIRTUAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

The Church Council voted to restart in-person worship on **August 30 at 11:00**. All of you should have received the protocols we will be following, but if you have not please call Jackie and we will get them to you. I have highlighted a few points for Sunday Mornings:

- The service will be the same as what we are posting online without singing or recitations.
- Services will continue to be posted online.
- Masks will be required. Disposable masks will be available if you forget.
- Enter through the doors that are open.
- Sit in designated areas.
- The Gathering Area, hall in the tower from the Gunter Circle parking lot, restrooms across from the Choir room and sanctuary will be the only areas open.
- Take your seat immediately upon entering.
- Exit immediately as directed by the worship leader.
- Socialize outside maintaining social distancing.
- Attendance will be taken so we may contact attendees if there is someone who tests positive.
- Stay home if you have any symptoms of CoVid 19.
- Contact the church immediately if you develop symptoms and test positive after attending a worship service.

These protocols were established in order that we may return to worship as safely as possible with the safety of our congregation and community as our foremost consideration. We simply ask for your cooperation in following these protocols.