

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*

Organist: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

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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OCTOBER 2020

John's Jottings

Stewardship

Normally, during the month of October, we would be starting our stewardship campaign. But these are not normal times so we will not be having our usual stewardship campaign this year. I must say from what I have observed during these past few months we have been good stewards. Many have honored the pledges made for this year and while giving has been down some, our overall financial situation is good.

I realize that we go into 2021 with some uncertainty and anxiety. We are in the midst of an election year which always causes some uncertainty. We do not know how long this pandemic will last or when a vaccine might become available for widespread use. We don't know what the long-range economic impact of the pandemic will be. It is hard to know how much one may be able to give to the church in this next year.

Richard Foster, in his book *Freedom of Simplicity*, notes that John Wesley calculated that twenty-eight pounds (about \$65) would meet his basic needs for a year. He gave away all that he earned above that amount even as he earned more. Now Wesley did not have to deal with inflation and rapid changes in the economy. Wesley also remained single most of his life and did not have to deal with the expenses related to family matters.

While this may be impractical in our modern economy, the principal may be a sound one. Determine how much you need to live on comfortably each month and give whatever you earn above that amount. Take a look at your expenses and determine what you may be able to eliminate. This may mean paying off some debts before one may be able to give.

One way to determine how much one can give may be to see if there are ways one can increase their income. Wesley stressed in his sermon, *The Use of Money*, that one should earn all they can but not at the expense of their health and well-being. One should use all their talents to the fullest to earn all that they could. So perhaps there is some creative way you can use some talent to earn some extra income that could then be given. There are many online platforms where people are making money from hobbies. Perhaps one can consider giving money from a yard sale or sale of some unneeded belongings.

Wesley continued in the sermon to relate that one should save all they can. One approach that Foster suggests is instead of giving all the money away, set up a separate savings account to be used only for causes for the Kingdom of God. This may be one way to have money for those special times such as disaster relief, when one may want to give but may not have funds available. Save for those times.

Wesley's final point in the sermon is that you earn and save in order to give all you can. Good stewardship is not about just giving a certain percentage of your income, but about giving all you can, not just financially, but also in terms of time, gifts and talents. As good stewards we use all the resources we can for God's kingdom.

I realize that it may be difficult to predict how much one will be able to give to the church next year. If you may not be able to give financially, consider other ways you may give in terms of time and service. It may be easy for us to get worried about our church and its finances but I believe that church budgets and finances are based on a different economy than worldly economy. While the worldly economy looks only at the facts and figures, the church looks at the facts and figures through the lens of faith. We have faith that as long as we are being the church God wants us to be and doing the ministries God wants us to be doing, the resources we need will be provided. We can only make it through these uncertain times as we keep our faith and focus on being the church God wants Trinity to be, and do what God wants us to do in our community and the world.

Shalom,

John

From the Pastor

We have been having in-person worship since August 30. I would like to thank all the members of the worship committee who spent much time developing the protocols so we feel that we can worship safely. I want to also thank the Church Council for the time spent passing these protocols and determining when we could safely begin in-person worship. I also want to thank those of you who have attended for following the protocols we established. We are working to improve our infrastructure so we can begin live streaming and improving our video capabilities. I believe that this will not only be a way of connecting during this pandemic but will also be a way we can continue to spread the gospel to others outside the church.

Church Council Meeting

We have scheduled a Zoom Church Council meeting for Wednesday, October 14, at 5:30 p.m. to pass the budget and take care of other business we need to address prior to Charge Conference on October 29.



Mary Alice Duncan

Boots Morgan
Index Journal Ad Dept.
Steve & Kathy Aiello
John & Patsy Bowzard
Rev. Joe Alley

Shirley Scurry

Oren & Hilda Edwards
English & Jewel Pearcy
Pauline Wenner
Laurie Knapp
Jim & Marie Stiles

Wayne Henderson

Ray & Gale Frady

Carolyn Harwell

Ray & Gale Frady

Robert Smith

Jo Ann Heiting
Jim & Marie Stiles
English & Jewel Pearcy
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Mary Kamoroff
Bonnie Ramsey

Fred Mills

Jo Ann Heiting
Jim & Marie Stiles
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Mary Kamoroff
Bonnie Ramsey



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Bill Smith and family on the death of his brother, **Robert Smith**, on September 5.

Francis and Gillett Hipp and family on the death of his brother-in-law, **Fred Mills**, on September 9.

Epworth Children's Home

We are still receiving donations for Epworth Children's Home. Donations can be made at any time during the year by bringing your donation for Epworth to the church or mailing it in. You can also give directly to Epworth at their online giving form:

<https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/give/>.



Dear Trinity Family,

I want to thank all of you for the food, cards, calls and prayers during my episode of gout and my cataract surgery.

God's Blessings,
Charlie Hooker

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Charge Conference has been scheduled for **Thursday October 29 at 6:30 p.m.** Like many things this year, Charge Conference will be different. Rather than in-person it will be held via Zoom. The link and password to the meeting will be given to us prior to the meeting. Please complete your reports at least a week prior to the meeting.

God's Helping Hands Food Giveaway

God's Helping Hands will have a food giveaway on Thursday, October 29, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. for Cayce and West Columbia residents. It will be held at their location, 919 Holland Avenue.

SRAA Donations

We will continue to collect items for SRAA throughout the month of October.

Updated List of Items Needed:

Mini water bottles (water fountains will be turned off); Lysol/Clorox wipes, etc.; Lysol spray; Band-aids; boxes of tissue; sandwich and gallon zip top bags (any brand).

You can also still make a monetary donation, and if you would like to donate in this way, please make checks payable to TRINITY UMW and send to the church office for delivery to Marilyn Lloyd.