

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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DECEMBER 2020



This year, like everything else, our Christmas Eve Service will be different. Instead of the usual indoor Candlelight Communion Service, we will have a shortened outdoor Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols (weather permitting). Chairs will be set up around the crosses on Mohawk to maintain social distancing, and masks will be required. This is the safest way in which we can enjoy singing the carols we all love to sing during this season. While the singing will be acappella, we will joyfully thank God for the gift of our Savior.



We will not be purchasing poinsettias this year. In lieu of a poinsettia you can give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one, with all money given going to God's Helping Hands. We will list all of the honorariums and memorials and send it out before Christmas. We will also print them in the January GLIA.



Congratulations to *Anjelica Johnston and Boeing Koo* on the birth of their son, *Robert Kam Koo*, on Saturday, November 21. *Robert Kam* is the grandson of *Eddy and Tonya Johnston* and the great-grandson of *Boots Morgan*.



Christmas Cards Needed

Trinity will once again be providing Christmas Cards to Trinity shut-ins and to Asbury Arms residents. There are 55 Asbury Arms residents and 11 Trinity shut-ins from our prayer list. I am listing the Trinity shut-ins and their addresses below for those of you who may want to mail your cards. The deadline for the cards to be included in the bags is Sunday, December 13.

Shirley Butler
2341 Robin Crest Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Francis & Gillett Hipp
1408 Cardinal Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Sara Efron
Jenni-Lynn
915 Hook Avenue, Room 52
West Columbia, SC 29169

Shirley Padgett
779 Hope Ferry Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Claudia Sineath
1620 Goldfinch Lane
West Columbia, SC 29169

Irvin Wells
1841 Robin Crest Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Georgeann Pace
1212 Rutland Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29169

Wayne Tallon
1024 Fontanna Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29169

Carolyn Hardee
Congaree Neighborhood, Room 2378
Greenway at Still Hopes
One Still Hopes Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Grover Shuler
Wellmore
200 Wellmore Drive, Room 4114
Lexington, SC 29072

Jean Raynor
Morningside of Lexington
218 Old Chapin Road, Room 106
Lexington, SC 29072



Mary Alice Duncan
Marty Johnson

Altha Percy
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Wayne & Kay Johnston

Shirley Scurry
Marty Johnson

*A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the glory of God in honor of all Veterans that have served in the U. S. Military and in loving memory of **George Hardee**, by his family.*

*A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the glory of God in honor of all Veterans that have served in the U. S. Military and in loving memory of **George Hardee**, by **Ray and Gale Frady**.*

*A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the glory of God in honor of all Veterans that have served in the U. S. Military and in loving memory of **Arnold Heiting**, by **Annie and his family**.*

*A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the glory of God in loving memory of their son, **Altie Hooker**, on his birthday November 14th, by **Wayne and Charlie Hooker**.*



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

***Judy Laval and family** on the death of her husband, **Harry Laval**, on Saturday, November 14.*

***English and Jewel Percy and family** on the death of his sister-in-law, **Altha Percy**, Saturday, November 21, in Greensboro, NC.*

***Patsy Shuler and family** on the death of her brother-in-law, **Raymond Rhode**, Wednesday, November 25.*

***John Ballentine and family** on the death of his cousin, **Joann Hershey**, on Friday, November 27.*



UMW NEWS

Killingsworth

Because of the generosity of several contributors, we were able to send Killingsworth a check for \$250.00 to help in their mission to provide a home and support services for the women in the greater Columbia area who are striving to rebuild their lives. We hope that by next year the Gala will once again be held at Seawell's so that we can attend in person and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship, silent auction, fashion show, music, and heartwarming testimonials from the women who have benefitted from their stay at Killingsworth.

SRAA

Because of the generous members of our Trinity family, we have received enough funds to be able to provide PB&J and Christmas treat bags for 60 children who are in the Snack Sack program at Saluda River as well as \$400.00 in Walmart gift cards for the purchase of clothing and other items as the need arises for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Beeler, Guidance Counselor at SRAA and our contact for the Snack Sack program, advised that all the families who had applied for adoption had been taken care of but that there are occasions when children need clothes, shoes, coats, etc., and having the gift cards allows them to provide exactly what the child needs in a timely manner.

2020 has seen many changes and adjustments have been necessary in the way we meet the needs of our community, but Trinity always finds a way to reach out and help those who need it most. On behalf of the UMW, we thank all of you for your support of SRAA in years past and for your continuing support of this special mission for the children in our community.



Hope in the Darkness

This has been a year of darkness. We have faced so many troubling events. The year began with this new, unknown virus which has made its way across the world. This virus, as of Nov 21, has killed 255, 076 in the US, 3,982 in South Carolina and 227 in Lexington County, according to the Centers for Disease Control and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Due to this virus many of our normal activities have been curtailed in attempts to slow its spread.

On top of that was the racial unrest that arose from the death of George Floyd. We had the issue of racism which exists in our country raise its ugly head once more. Then came the contentious election campaigns. (I never thought I would be happy to see commercials for lawyers while I watched Jeopardy, but I am.) It seems that we are in the most divisive time in our country that I can recall, and maybe not since the years leading to the Civil War, never mind issues such as climate change and others that affect the whole planet. This seems to be very dark times.

Two thousand twenty years ago there were dark times. The world, or at least the known western world of the time, was under the oppressive control of the Roman Empire. In Israel, the oppression was further exacerbated by the rule of the Roman appointed king, Herod the Great. Though this was the time of Pax Romana, the peace of Rome, this peace was kept by eliminating any opposition to imperial rule. Herod maintained this in Israel by violent means. It was a time where one's child could be taken into slavery for inability to pay taxes to Rome or Herod. Life for the common man was tenuous at best.

In that time of darkness two thousand twenty years ago, God did something miraculous. When it seemed that darkness was overtaking creation, God sent light. God sent light in the most unexpected way. God sent the light into the world in the form of a baby, born to a young woman from a small backwater province. This baby was born in a manger in a little village outside the holy city of Jerusalem called Bethlehem. God sent the Son into the world in order to save the world (John 3: 17) and to be a light to the world to enlighten the world. (John 1:9) This light was revealed to shepherds in the fields and to wise men from the east. This was a light that gave hope to a dark world.

But thirty-three years later, on a hill called Golgotha, the darkness appeared to overcome the light. It appeared that the imperial powers of Rome and Herod Antipas snuffed out the light as they hung the man who was born in a manger in Bethlehem on a cross. It appeared that the light had gone out and darkness won.

For a very little while.

On the third day after the man born in a manger was crucified, dead and buried, he rose from the tomb. The women who went to the tomb that morning found the tomb empty! The man born in the manger in Bethlehem rose out of the tomb in Jerusalem. The earthly powers could not stop God's light from bursting forth into the world. As it says in John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (NRSV)

The light of hope that came into the world two thousand twenty years ago still shines through today. In every period of darkness throughout history, God's light has prevailed and overcome the darkness. God's light will overcome the darkness we are experiencing today. We, as Christians, have this hope that no matter how much darkness there may be in our lives and in our world God's light, which came into the world that first Christmas morning and prevailed through Good Friday to Easter, still is with us. It still shines brightly in the world and will overcome the world completely. The light that overcomes the darkness still shines and will overcome the darkness we may find ourselves in today.

Shalom,
John



I know many are wondering when we will be able to get back to normal. When will we be able to have out Time Together, our movies, our exercise class, our Sunday School Class, and our fellowship dinners? I miss all these activities but I am afraid that this is not the time.

During the month of November there has been an average of 61 new cases of COVID per day in Lexington County as compared to 46 per day in October, according to SCDHEC. While this is not near the rate we were experiencing in July which was 73 per day, it is showing a marked increase in number of cases. All I read indicates that this will continue through the holiday season as people travel for the holidays.

This virus is an aerosol virus, which means it hangs in the air much like cigarette smoke. This is why it spreads so rapidly in places where people are in an enclosed space for extended periods talking or singing.

I know many say that they do not know of anyone who has contracted COVID, but it has affected our Trinity family. At least one member has contracted the virus and has thankfully recovered. Fay Grahl lost a cousin, Frank Porter, to the virus. Christopher McCroskey told me that it is becoming a daily occurrence for a student in the classes he subs to be sent home after testing positive. John Ballentine's cousin was on a ventilator due to complications of COVID, and has now passed away. Several of the pastors across the conference have tested positive with some requiring hospitalization. Even if we may think we can endure this disease, we might pass it on to someone who may not be able to endure this disease.

Therefore, it is not time for us to start in person gatherings indoors. This may be a time to be creative. Perhaps instead of indoor exercise the group could walk together, socially distanced. Sunday School classes could be held via Zoom, or as a conference call. We could do a zoom trivia night or some other activity.

I hope that the numbers begin to go down and a safe vaccine is available as soon as possible so that we can begin to go back to our new normal. So continue to wear your mask, keep social distance, avoid large crowds in enclosed spaces so we can see a decline and after the first of the year may be able to examine gradually restarting activities.



CANOEING FOR KIDS

NC Fraser Fir Christmas Trees & Wreaths

Christmas trees are up and ready! You can find the trees at two locations:

Canoeing for Kids Headquarters @ 114 Riverchase Court in Lexington

Trenholm Road UMC @ 3401 Trenholm Road Columbia

Lots are open Monday – Thursday from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday hours are 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For an earlier appointment on Monday through Thursday, call Jay Alley at (803)348-0348. Come see us, support a great cause and find the perfect tree!