

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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FEBRUARY 2021

John's Jottings

"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
John 8:32 NRSV

We have all heard these words many times. They have become such a familiar adage that we may have forgotten that it was Jesus who spoke these words. This phrase is actually the second phrase of a sentence that Jesus spoke in a discourse with Jews who had believed in him. Let's rewind to verse 31. "Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free'." Jesus is saying that if you continue to believe in me, my teaching and my relationship with God, you will know the truth that sets you free. Jesus is saying that by believing in him, his teaching and relationship with God, they will be free from the rigid structures of Torah as they had interpreted it. Jesus is saying that by believing in him they will know the true Torah, the true instructions of God.

Yet, as we read the rest of the story, we see that it ends with these Jews who had believed (notice the past tense) in Jesus picking up stones to throw at him. The Jews argued that they were not slaves, they were children of Abraham and did not need to be freed. They did not accept the truth that Jesus told them would make them free. They could not accept the true Torah but held to their interpretation of Torah. Why?

Perhaps the why is in another old adage, "the truth hurts." The idea of giving up their interpretation of Torah might have been too painful for them to admit the truth. Perhaps the realization that simply being a child of Abraham was not enough was too painful for them to accept, so these Jews quit believing in Jesus and prepared to get rid of him by stoning. The truth may have been too painful for them so they tried to get rid of the truth.

The words of Jesus and the old adage are both realities regarding truth. The truth does often hurt and the truth does make one free. I was hurt when I did not pass ordination in November. As I looked back at my paperwork and reflected on my interviews, I recognized the painful truth that my paperwork was not my best work. My interviews reflected an anxiety that came from a previous situation that interfered with me presenting well. These realizations hurt but they also freed me to recognize that there were issues I needed to address about myself. As I addressed these issues I became a better husband, father, pastor and person. I was freed to find joy in ministry and life that I had lost.

The truth is often painful. The truth that our society has changed may be painful. The truth of a diagnosis of an illness may be painful. The truth of death is painful. Many times the truth is painful and we want to deny the truth.

(continued next column)

But when we accept the truth, we are freed. We are freed to move on. As we accept that our society is changing, we are free to befriend others that we may have shunned before. As we accept the truth of an illness, we are free to go into treatment and face the illness. As we accept the truth of death, we are free to mourn, grieve and remember. When we accept the truth, we are free to face whatever comes next.

Shalom,
John



Due to the pandemic we will have a virtual Ash Wednesday Service without imposition of ashes at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 17. It will be live streamed on YouTube with a link on the website and Facebook. We will continue with a live streamed Lenten devotional at noon each Wednesday until Holy Week.



WE ARE GOING LIVE! Beginning February 7, we will begin streaming our services live on YouTube. To access the live stream on YouTube, just go to YouTube.com and type Trinity United Methodist Church West Columbia in the search box. It should bring up the live stream. Once you subscribe, you should receive notifications when a service is live. We should also have a link to the live stream on our website and Facebook.

Now you can participate in the service in real time. The order of worship and sermon will continue to be sent out and the services will be archived and available for later viewing. As with most new projects we may have some glitches, so please let me or K. C. know of any problems you may notice or any suggestions to improve the online experience.



Souper Bowl Sunday is this Sunday, February 7. Since we have limited in-person worship, we will be collecting donations for Souper Bowl throughout the month of February. All funds collected will be given to a local charity that will be selected by the youth later in the month.

memorials & gifts

Sara Efron

Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Nell Cooke
Rev. Joe Alley
Tim & Gay James
Wayne & Kay Johnston
Bonnie Ramsey
Mary Kamoroff
James & Faye Grahl
Richard & Brenda Stewart
Bit Graham
Ray & Gale Frady
Chuck & Lynn Martin
English & Jewel Pearcy
George & Yvonne Bryant
John & Patsy Zeigler
David & Leslie Wylie
Jim & Marie Stiles
Oren & Hilda Edwards
Charles & Jackie McNeill
Jo Ann Heiting
Bill & Kathy Courtney

Maurice Robinson

Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Mary Kamoroff
Bonnie Ramsey
Ray & Gale Frady
Carol Diane Padgett
English & Jewel Pearcy
Rita Elmore
John & Patsy Zeigler
Wayne & Kay Johnston
Jim & Marie Stiles
Oren & Hilda Edwards
Nancy Allen
Charles & Jackie McNeill
Jo Ann Heiting
Rhett & Pam Hook

Charles Von Glahn

Wayne & Kay Johnston
Bonnie Ramsey
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Mary Kamoroff
Ray & Gale Frady
English & Jewel Pearcy
John & Patsy Zeigler
Jim & Marie Stiles
Oren & Hilda Edwards
Charles & Jackie McNeill

Ed Chambers

Mary Kamoroff
Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting
English & Jewel Pearcy

Hugh Tyler

Ray & Gale Frady

Grover Shuler

Ray & Gale Frady
Bonnie Ramsey
Mary Kamoroff
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Oren & Hilda Edwards
John & Patsy Zeigler
Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Wayne & Kay Johnston
Nell Cooke
Don & Betty Elliott
Jo Ann Heiting
Charles & Jackie McNeill
Boots Morgan
English & Jewel Pearcy
Howard & Doris Wessinger
Rhett & Pam Hook



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. For the month of February we wish a Happy Birthday to the following:

February 3

Bob Strickland
1922 Valley View Road
West Columbia, SC 29172

February 14

English Pearcy
1129 Osage Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

February 15

Gillett Hipp
1408 Cardinal Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to:

Jo Ann Heiting and family on the death of her brother, *Charles Von Glahn*, on January 6.

Family of Hugh Tyler, a friend of Ray and Gale Frady, on his death January 7.

Joyce Robinson and family on the death of her husband, *Maurice Robinson*, on January 9.

Christopher Coward and family on the death of his aunt, *Sabre Coward Lott*, on January 13. Christopher is the grandson of Patsy Shuler.

Jeanette Hornsby and family on the death of her aunt, *Doris Todd*, on January 14 and the death of her uncle, *Jerry Branton*, on January 31.

Patsy Shuler and family on the death of her husband, *Grover Shuler*, on January 18.

Connie Chambers and family on the death of her husband, *Ed Chambers*, on January 19.

Nancy Whitehead and family on the death of her son-in-law, *CJ Gallegos*, on January 19.



The COVID-19 vaccine is available for all persons over 70. You can find information about sites at 1-855-3432 or [scdhec.gov/vaxfacts](https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxfacts). Some of you have already gotten the vaccine and I encourage all to get it as soon as possible. I know it can be frustrating to find information, but the sooner people get vaccinated the sooner we may reach the necessary percentage of the population with immunity to be able to return to our activities. Even after you get vaccinated you still need to wear a mask and maintain social distancing, particularly with the virus mutating into new strains. These are difficult times so let's all do what we can to beat this virus.