

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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APRIL 2021

John's Jottings

Why did Jesus have to be crucified?

This was a question that was posed to me about this time last year. It is an appropriate question for this time of year as we celebrate Easter. Of course, the simple answer to this question would be that if Jesus had not been crucified, we would not have Easter. But then why did Jesus have to be crucified instead of just dying? Couldn't Jesus have just lived out his life and then be resurrected without having to go through the suffering he experienced?

To understand this question, we must keep in mind God's purpose for sending Jesus into the world. Jesus was sent into the world to save the world. This saving work of Jesus is the Christian doctrine of atonement. Think of the word atonement broken up by syllables: at-one-ment. Through the saving work of Jesus, we become at one with Jesus and restored into relationship with God and neighbor.

How does this take place? How does the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus restore our relationship with God? There have been several theories that have been brought forth throughout the years.

The first theory of atonement, which was the understanding of the Church for many centuries, was the "Christus Victor" theory. This placed more emphasis on the resurrection. Not only did Christ overcome death, but he also overcame the evil powers of the world that led to death. This theory envisions the resurrection as God's final victory over the power of Satan which had held the world in thrall since the fall of humanity. The powers of the world, Rome and the religious establishment, were defeated by the raising of Christ from the dead. Even though they thought they had killed God's emissary, God's plan to save and restore the world could not be stopped as God raised Christ from the dead.

This remained the predominant theory of atonement until the Medieval period. During this time two other theories of atonement arose. One was the Moral Government View. This theory is that God's wrath against sin was displayed by Christ. This was to deter humankind from suffering. Jesus, God's Son, took on God's wrath against sin by dying on the cross because of God's love for humanity. It is God saying, "This is how much I love you, that I take my anger toward you for sinning upon myself." This view also takes the life of Christ as an example of living a holy life in complete obedience to God that comes from being righteous, that is, in a right relationship with God.

The other theory of atonement that arose was the penal substitution theory. This theory is the most predominate in western culture, particularly among evangelicals. It is that Christ was the substitute sacrifice for our sins. Christ took the punishment that we deserve. God sacrificed the only begotten Son for us in place of the judgment we deserve. Thus, God's justice is satisfied by the sacrifice of Jesus.

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A more modern theory is that the atonement is healing. This theory is that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was to heal the brokenness of humanity. It is to heal our broken relationship with God and our broken relationship with our neighbor.

So, with all these theories of atonement we get back to our original question. Why did Jesus have to be crucified? Did Jesus have to be crucified to defeat the evil powers of Satan? Did Jesus have to be crucified to display God's wrath against sin so that we would lead a holy life? Did Jesus have to be crucified to take the penalty for our sin? Did Jesus have to be crucified in order to heal the brokenness in the world? Which one is it?

My opinion is that the correct answer is all of the above. I believe that Jesus lived, was crucified and resurrected to defeat the evil powers, and to encourage us to holiness by displaying God's wrath against sin, and to take the deserved punishment for our sins, and to heal the brokenness in the world. God is doing all these things through the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. All of these are vital to God's working to restore humanity and all creation to right relationship with God. God is defeating the evil powers of the world. God is bringing us to holiness. God is taking the punishment for our sins. God is healing the brokenness in creation. All of these are the saving work of God through Jesus Christ.

So, let's give our praise to God who does everything to restore us to a perfect divine relationship with God.

Shalom,
John



Exercise class

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Exercise Class will meet again starting Monday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. We will be using the **Grow Young Fitness & Balance** and the **Stretching Tape**. The class is open to everyone but you must have received both doses of the vaccination to attend. The class will meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour.

The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall instead of the Conference Room to allow space for social distancing. If you would like additional information on what to expect from the class contact Becky Derrick.

memorials & gifts

Sara Efron

Steve & Kathy Aiello
Sinners SS Class

Doris Todd

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Jerry Branton

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Maurice Robinson

Ray & Margie Adkins
Steve & Kathy Aiello
Boots Morgan

Grover Shuler

Steve & Kathy Aiello
Sinners SS Class

Charles Von Glahn

Sinners SS Class

Chris Edwards

Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Oren & Hilda Edwards

C. J. Gallegos

English & Jewel Pearcy

Billy Newton

Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Jim & Marie Stiles
Sinners SS Class
Nell Cooke
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Arthur Whisnant

Ray & Gale Frady



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. There are none for the month of April.



To my Church Family,

I wanted to thank you so much for everything you have done for me and others. Also, I wanted to thank you for the gift you gave me.

Sincerely,
Brandon Edwards



Dear Trinity Family,

Thanks for the prayers, cards and calls. We really appreciate our Church Family.

Love to all,
Oren Edwards and Family



Dear Trinity UMC,

We have received with gratitude your donation of \$250 to MSN – the Wesley Foundation at USC. Thank you! It is a great help in supporting Christian discipleship and maturity in young adults. They are indeed seeking the spiritual life in God.

Thanks,
Tom Wall & MSN



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to:

Oren and Hilda Edwards and family on the death of his nephew,
Chris Edwards, on March 8.

On March 15, which was the anniversary of the last Sunday in which we had our usual Sunday worship service, I began to reflect on the past twelve months. It has been the most difficult twelve months that I have experienced in ministry. All of my colleagues, both those that have been in ministry for forty years and those who have been in ministry four years, will agree with that statement. We have had to deal with a public health crisis unlike any we have known in our lifetimes. We had to deal with a deadly virus and no one knew exactly how it spread or what the long term effects could be. We had to deal with often confusing and contradictory information. Often decisions had to be made without clear guidance. It has been a time when we could not visit people in the hospital, nursing homes, or even in their home without fearing for the safety of those we were visiting.

We all, every pastor of every denomination, have had to make decisions that we had no training for, or even any idea we would ever have to make. To suspend worship for one Sunday due to severe weather conditions is one thing, to suspend indefinitely is another.

I know that many decisions that were made these past twelve months may not have been popular. Many disagree with many of these decisions. As your pastor, the ultimate responsibility for the congregation is mine. No decisions were made without the consultation and the approval of the Church Council. Many may ask why we are not doing X, because the church down the street is. To that I say theirs is a different context and situation from ours.

Any decisions that have been made these past twelve months were made on the basis of God's command to love neighbor, Wesley's first rule to do no harm, and Paul's declaration to the church in Corinth that it may be permissible but may not be beneficial. Just because it may now be permissible to gather in large groups without masks or social distancing does not mean it is beneficial. If my not getting vaccinated and not wearing a mask keeps someone from coming to church, I am doing them harm. If I disregard the health of others, particularly as I could be an asymptomatic spreader, I do not love my neighbor. These have been my guiding principles throughout the past twelve months. I have followed the science of this virus as it has developed and made decisions based on the science and data in our community.

This has been a difficult twelve months. I thank all of you for your support and prayers. It has been a difficult time for our church. I do believe that as we all get vaccinated, and continue to follow the guideline of social distancing and mask wearing until enough of the population develops immunity, we can overcome this virus and return to normal. This may not be the same normal we had prior to March 15, 2020, but it may be an even better normal.

We must have faith and remember that God is bigger than this virus and may have bigger plans for Trinity than we could ever conceive. We can do that as long as we put aside our differences and work together according to God's plan.

Again, I thank you for your prayers and support. I look forward to the day when we can all get together and give each other real hugs.

Shalom,
John



Church Council will meet on Monday, April 12, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary, but you can choose to attend via Zoom if you prefer.



Easter 2021

A Gift was given to the glory of God and in honor of:

Pam & Rhett Hook, by James & Faye Grahl.

Christopher McCroskey by Wayne & Kay Johnston.

Tom Geddens, who works so much around church, by Wayne & Kay Johnston.

English & Jewel Pearcy by Wayne & Kay Johnston.

Jackie Eitel by Wayne & Kay Johnston.

Our Church Family by John & Patsy Zeigler. We miss and love all of you and hope to see you all soon.

A Gift was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Jesse & Irene Grahl, by James & Faye Grahl.

Roland Morgan by Boots Morgan.

Our son, Altie Hooker, by Wayne & Charlie Hooker.

Our daughter, Ann Zeigler Derrick, by John & Patsy Zeigler.

Our parents, Grady & Lucile Chavis and Johnnie & Margurete Zeigler, by John & Patsy Zeigler.

Maurice Robinson by Joyce Robinson.

Maurice Robinson by Sonya & Wayne Dooley and Brent & Zen Robinson.

Arnold Heiting by his Annie.

Our parents, Charles & Josephine Von Glahn and Ben & Amanda Heiting by Jo Ann Heiting and the late Arnold Heiting.

My brother, Charles L. Von Glahn, Sr., by Annie Heiting.



If you would like to provide Altar Flowers, please call the Church Office. We can order a seasonal arrangement from Sightler's Florist for a cost of \$42.80. Jarrett's Jungle can also deliver to the church if you wish to order directly through them. You can order directly from other florists as well, but will need to arrange to have the flowers delivered when someone is here or pick them up and bring them with you on that Sunday.

You can also choose to give a gift in lieu of flowers and we will use one of the silk flower arrangements for that Sunday. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a specific Sunday, please call Jackie in the Church Office.