

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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MAY 2021

John's Jottings

An incident came to mind recently that occurred while I was a graduate student at the USC School of Social Work. In a course on race and gender we were discussing stereotypes, that is, placing a broad characteristic on a group of people based on a frequently erroneous perception of the group. The instructor made the statement that white southern males were the hardest people to change. The instructor saw me as I was shaking my head no and immediately said "John, you don't count. You're a social worker."

First, I disagreed with her stereotype about white southern males. I don't think that white southern males are any harder to change than anybody else. Her second comment about me not counting because I was a social worker seemed to say that since I was a social worker, I could not be a "real" white southern male. For the record I was born and raised on a peanut farm in South Georgia so you could not get more southern than that.

The instructor's comments hurt in that they challenged my identity. I am a white southern male and I am (or was at the time) a social worker. In her eyes I could not be both. I could not be a white southern male (who are conservative and difficult to change) and be a social worker (who we all know are bleeding heart liberals). Her perceptions and stereotypes discredited me as the person I was.

That is the problem with stereotypes of all sorts, even those that we may think are positive. Stereotypes discredit the person as who they are. Instead of seeing them as God created them, we see them as how we think they should be. God created each person as a unique individual not with some standard cookie cutter.

We are each formed by our own DNA, and experiences that are unique to us. To stereotype is to deny each person's uniqueness. It denies the true individual character of each person as God made them. It denies God's intent for us to see each person in the way in which they were uniquely made.

That instructor's stereotype of me hurt me deeply. It denied who I was in her sight. She did not see me as who I was but as she thought I should be. That is how any stereotype of any group is harmful. Stereotypes are harmful to others for we tend to react to others according to our stereotype rather than seeing them as the individual that God made.

May we avoid making stereotypes and look beyond our stereotypes of people so we may see them as the unique person that God made.

Shalom,

John

Exercise class

The Exercise Class meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour. They are 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 meets 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.

Women's Fellowship

UMW News

On behalf of the UMW, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your response to the fundraiser held for the Howard family whose apartment was destroyed in a fire at Park Place Apartments in March. Their two children attend Saluda River Academy for the Arts and we have been in mission to SRAA for many years and were glad to be able to assist in helping them get back on their feet. Through your generous contributions, we received \$1,000.00 in gift cards and clothes for Tisha, the mother, which were taken to the school on Thursday, April 1.

As more activities resume at Trinity in May and assuming COVID rates remain low in S.C., the UMW will be looking forward to once again meeting in September. We invite all women of the church to join us in a return to in-person meetings as we plan for the year ahead. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room and we'd love to see YOU there!



A Gift to Trinity is given in loving memory of *Tommy Johnson* on their Wedding Anniversary by *Marty Johnson*. They were married on May 19, 1973.



There is light at the end of the tunnel. After the Sunday morning service, we have been polling the congregation on how many in attendance are fully protected: two shots of Phizer or Moderna more than two weeks prior, one shot of Johnsons and Johnson two weeks prior. two shots or one Johnson and Johnson but within two weeks, how many have had only one shot and are waiting the second and finally, how many have not gotten vaccinated yet.

As of Sunday, On Sunday, April 18, 70% of the congregation in attendance were fully protected and 17% were on their way to being fully protected (I am now in the fully protected category). Therefore, it is now safe to gather in small groups of fully protected people.

The Church Council voted for each Sunday School Class to meet again as the members of the class feel comfortable and become fully protected. Other activities, such as Time Together and Snacks and a Movie, will also restart. Time together will restart on the first Sunday in May as well as movies on May 30. The CDC continues to recommend social distancing and face coverings which will continue to be required for worship until further notice. Since it is now safe to gather in small groups and small groups are good places to invite people into our community at Trinity, we would like to see more small groups developing. These may be Bible Studies, Discipleship Groups, interest groups (art lessons, book clubs, prayer groups, cooking classes) or any others that may help us to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. If you have any ideas or ever wondered if we could do something at Trinity, bring it to the attention of the Church Council. Attend the next Church Council meeting on June 14 at 6:00 p.m. and share your ideas of any small groups we can start.



SNACKS AND A MOVIE
Sunday, May 30 @ 4 p.m.

Snacks and a Movie will resume on Sunday, May 30 at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Look for additional information in the coming weeks.



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. For May:

May 10
Shirley Butler

May 17
Jewel Pearcy

May 22
Tom Lloyd



Thank you!

Thank you all so much for the cards, calls, and get well wishes following shoulder surgery in February, which went well. PT is progressing (in spite of the pain), and I hope to be finished with therapy by July. Knowing that my church family has been praying for a successful surgery and rehab has brought me much comfort and reminds me that God is Good all the time.

With a grateful heart for all the ways you show you care,
Lynn Martin



Mother's Day
May 9, 2021

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th. Time Together will be in their honor.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME
MOTHER DAY'S OFFERING
May 9, 2021

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Did you know that in the last year Epworth Children's Home gave over 200 children a safe and loving place to call home? Each of these children had this opportunity because of United Methodist churches in South Carolina who embrace and provide for this ministry in support of the children and families in our state. We will participate in the annual Mother's Day Offering on Sunday, May 9th, 2021, to benefit the children who call Epworth home. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org. We will be collecting funds for Epworth through the end of May.