

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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John's Jottings

Vaccinations as an Act of Love

Most of us remember getting vaccinated before going to school. I remember going to the health department and getting a shot for smallpox. Many remember eating the sugar cube with the drop of the polio vaccine on it. In recent years we have gotten vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis, shingles, chicken pox, and other diseases that once were very prevalent. Now many of these once common and potentially fatal diseases are rather rare.

In the 1980s there arose an anti-vaccine movement. The beginnings of this movement were based on a study published in the British medical journal, *Lancet*, that linked vaccines to autism. Later studies debunked these claims and it was shown that the research was flawed and invalid. However, this led to many parents refusing to vaccinate their children.

Even though the scientific research showed that vaccines did not cause autism, the vaccine issue became one of civil liberty. The anti-vaxxers claimed that the government could not mandate that they vaccinate their children. Because of this many diseases, which were diminishing in frequency, were now coming back because there was no longer herd immunity. As fewer children were getting vaccinated there were more hosts for viruses such as chicken pox to spread.

Now many of these are childhood diseases which many of us may have experienced. I remember two of the most miserable weeks of childhood was when I had chicken pox. However, there are some people who are unable for medical reasons to get vaccinated. For these people, particularly children, a simple childhood disease like chicken pox could be fatal.

I have a niece who adopted a medically fragile child who she fell in love with when she worked as a nurse at Eggleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta. Ashley had multiple medical problems and required a kidney transplant at age 2. Because of this and the other medical issues Ashley cannot get any of the routine childhood vaccinations. Since her immune system is so compromised, a simple childhood disease like chicken pox is potentially fatal. If it is even suspected she has been exposed, she has to be admitted to the hospital to receive IV drugs to fight the infection that her body cannot fight.

I tell this because there is another way we, particularly Christians, should look at vaccinations. Vaccinations are not a civil liberty issue but an act of love. By getting vaccinated we may stop the spread of a disease so children like Ashley or adults who are immunocompromised may live life with a diminished fear of exposure to a potentially fatal disease. I express my love for Ashley and others by getting vaccinated so I may not expose them to a disease.

I write this not just in regard to the COVID-19 vaccine but for all vaccines. There are so many diseases on the verge of being eradicated because enough people world-wide have been vaccinated. So there are not enough hosts for the virus to be maintained.

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Paul addresses a similar issue in 1 Corinthians 8. In this chapter he is addressing the issue of meat that has been sacrificed to idols. He states that while he knows that meat sacrificed to idols is permissible to eat, for some who are not as mature in their faith seeing him eat meat may become a stumbling block to their faith. Since his eating meat may create problems for someone else, Paul states that he would not eat meat. Even though he was at liberty to eat meat he would not let his liberty cause someone to fall. He would not eat meat because he loved the person who had problems eating meat sacrificed to an idol.

We can demonstrate our love for our neighbor by getting vaccinated and getting our children vaccinated for all diseases. If we do, people like Ashley can live without fear of exposure to a potentially fatal disease. Let us express our liberty to love.

Shalom,
John



Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 13

Graduate Recognition will be held on Sunday, June 13, during the Worship Service. Plan to join us as we celebrate our recent graduates.



Sunday, June 20

Father's Day is Sunday, June 20. Time Together will be in their honor.



Congratulations to the B. C. Boys Soccer Team on winning a State Championship for the first time in the school's history! Ryan Edwards was a part of this winning team and we are proud of what they accomplished. Way to go team!



Iris Turlington

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

Dean Frye

English & Jewel Pearcy
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Chris Edwards

Patsy Shuler

Bill DuBose

Nell Cooke
English & Jewel Pearcy

Martin Timms

Ray & Gale Frady

Billy Newton

Patsy Shuler

Sara Efron

Patsy Shuler

Maurice Robinson

Patsy Shuler

Charles Von Glahn

Patsy Shuler



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

June 2

Nell Cooke

June 3

June Hutto

June 19

Jean Raynor



Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

I really appreciate my church family. Thank you for the many blessings in all forms I received on my birthday.

It is great to be a part of such a loving family.

Jewel Pearcy



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to:

John and Patsy Zeigler and family on the death of his aunt, ***Iris Turlington***, on Monday, May 17.

Paul and Andrea Frye and family on the death of his father, ***Dean Frye***, on Thursday, May 13.

Christopher McCroskey and Dan Greshel and family on the death of Dan's father, ***Jarred Greshel***, on Sunday, May 30.

K.A.N.K.A. Exercise class

The Exercise Class meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for about an hour. The class is open to everyone but you must have received both doses of the vaccination to attend. If you would like additional information on what to expect from the class contact Becky Derrick.



Women's Fellowship

UMW News

As more activities resume at Trinity in June 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!