

# God's Love In Action

GLIA: the essential element, or glue,  
which connects the tissue found in the nerve centers of the body

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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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JANUARY 2022

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## Announcements from the Pastor

As we begin the new year, there is a need for people to participate in the Sunday service. Starting in February, you may participate in the following ways:

- 1- **Greeters:** Being in the gathering area at 10:30 to greet people as they enter, especially visitors; to orient visitors- location of bathroom, to stay for time together, nursery etc.; to give visitors a visitor's card so we can have contact information; to check the attendance sheet (this is so we can have a record of attendance and for tracing if there is a COVID situation.).
- 2- **Nursery:** Since in our virtual visit video we say we do have a nursery available, we need volunteers to keep the nursery, at least 2, not from the same household, each Sunday. This is in accordance to Safe Sanctuary Guidelines and the volunteers would have to have a background check. If there are no children the nursery workers may come into the service at 11:15. The speakers in the nursery are working so you may hear the service.
- 3- **Readers:** To read the scriptures, except the sermon text, and lead the Psalter.
- 4- **Audio- Visual:** While Marie Stiles and Chris Derrick do a great job with this, we need more people to learn to use the system. It is fairly easy, even John can do it. You can learn it by sitting in with Marie and Chris a couple of weeks.

If you are interested in serving in one of these areas, please sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Area or contact John or Tom Geddens.

As the new Omicron variant is on the rise we strongly recommend wearing face coverings during Church services and other activities except when eating.



Due to the recent number of members that have tested positive or been exposed to COVID 19, the Church Council has decided to suspend Time Together and Wonderful Wednesdays for the month of January. Christopher has suspended Choir Practice for January and Becky has suspended the Exercise Class for January. Sunday School will not be held on the 9th and possibly the 16th. The Snacks and a Movie will remain on the 23rd for now. We will keep you apprised of any other changes in church activities.

Please wear a mask when out among people regardless of your vaccination status so we can curtail the spread of this virus.

Shalom,  
John.



**Snacks & a Movie**  
**Sunday, January 23**  
**4 p.m.**

Join us on Sunday, January 23, at 4 p.m. for Snacks and a Movie. The movie will be *Quo Vadis* from 1951 starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov. A synopsis of the movie appears below:

Returning from a military campaign abroad, General Marcus Vinicius (Robert Taylor) discovers that a new religion has taken hold in Rome: Christianity. When Vinicius encounters Lygia (Deborah Kerr), a follower of the strange religion, he tries to win her affections but she is reluctant due to their differing beliefs. Complicating matters is the crazed Emperor Nero (Peter Ustinov), who blames the Christians for his own burning of Rome, beginning a wave of persecution.



**Brenda Jackson**  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey

**Kristin Moyer**  
Ray & Gale Frady  
John & Sue Ballentine

**George Rentz**  
English & Jewel Pearcy  
Mary Kamoroff  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey

**Buddy Hudson**  
Mary Kamoroff  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Bonnie Ramsey

**Betty Street**  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey

**John & Pat Bailey**  
Mary Kamoroff  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey

**Gene Teague**  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey

**Stacey Hinson**  
Jo Ann Heiting  
Ray & Gale Frady  
Bonnie Ramsey



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. The birthday for January:

**January 28**

Linda Maloch  
1425 Redwood Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169



Dear Trinity family,

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas package I received from Trinity. The cards and gifts really brightened my day and the season. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

**Pauline Wenner**



**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to *Chris and Vince Gleaton* on the death of Vince's mother, *Kristin Moyer*, on November 26, 2021.



Dear Trinity family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas package delivered to Irvin. The gifts and cards really brightened his spirit. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Irvin and Dale Wells



**Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> @ 2 p.m.**  
Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 30, at 2 p.m.

## The Foundation of the Methodist Movement

When one thinks of the Methodist Movement, one tends to think of John Wesley. One would think that John Wesley was a charismatic, powerful evangelist, the Billy Graham of his day. However, that was not the case. While Wesley did go out and preach in the fields and to the coal miners, he was not the one that started this practice. It was George Whitefield who started this practice. George Whitefield was a great evangelist, more so than Wesley. He was a fiery preacher who was banned from preaching in many English churches because of his enthusiasm. He was a much better preacher than Wesley. Whitefield was the face of early Methodism both in England and America.

If Whitefield was the face of early Methodism, why is John Wesley considered the “Father of Methodism? The answer is not in Wesley’s preaching skills but an emphasis on holiness. While Whitefield preached justification by faith, Wesley preached that justification by faith was the first step toward the holiness of heart and mind. By justification, we are saved from our sins but also we are saved for living a life of holiness. We are to go on to Christian Perfection which is to completely know the love of God and for neighbor. Whitefield preached justification while Wesley preached holiness.

From his own experience, Wesley knew that maintaining a holy life and going on to perfection was difficult. Wesley recognized from his involvement in the Holy Club at Oxford the importance of having a small group of people for support and accountability. He organized the congregations into classes. The classes were small groups of seven to twelve people that met weekly for mutual support and accountability. The classes were organized according to geographic proximity. Therefore members of the class might well run into each other during the week. Each class had a leader who was of good moral character. The class leader would report to Wesley any persons who might be in need in the class. The class leader would also report people who may need to be removed due to unholy behavior. The class meeting was the foundation of the Methodist movement. All Methodists were required to be involved in a class meeting. The class was not a Bible study or prayer meeting. The focus of the class was on the health of the soul of each member. Each member, including the leader, would be asked, “How is it with your soul?”

In the decades after Wesley’s death, the enthusiasm for classes began to wane. In the 1830’s annual conferences, beginning with South Carolina, dropped the requirement for members to be part of a class. Eventually, the class meetings were replaced by Sunday school. In the past few decades, there has been an increased interest in small groups. One recent study found that one of the key “drivers” of vitality was the number of small groups in a congregation.<sup>1</sup> However, most of these small groups fell into either affinity or informational groups. Affinity groups are groups that revolve around a common interest, such as a quilting group. Information groups are study groups that focus on information, such as a Bible Study. Both of these types of groups have value but a class meeting is quite different. Rather than focusing on a particular interest or information, the class meeting focuses on transformation. It focuses on the spiritual life of the members and helps each member go on to perfection with mutual love. At the last Lay Servants School, Tom Geddens took a class on the class meetings using the book *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten Small Group Experience* by Kevin Watson. Tom was excited about the course and I was also. We both read the book and feel that a small group experience like the class meetings might revitalize Trinity, particularly as we (hopefully) come out of the COVID pandemic.

Tom and I would like to begin at least one small group starting in February. We will use Watson’s book as a guide for the first eight weeks with the hope that the group will continue after the eight weeks. A class is an open group so others can join. When the size of a group reaches twelve it will split into two groups. Membership in a group is not limited to members of Trinity but to anyone who wants to grow in their walk with God toward Holiness.

If you would like to participate in or want to know more about a class meeting contact Tom or me. We hope to rebuild this foundation of Methodism at Trinity.

Shalom,  
John

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1 Kevin M Watson, *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten Small Group Experience*, (Wilmore, KY, Seedbed Publishing, 2014.) 4.