

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.

Phone: (803)794-7777

Fax: (803) 939-9628

E-Mail Pastor - jdjordan@umcsc.org

E-Mail Church - trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website - trinityumcwc.org

JUNE 2022



We welcome our newest members:

Mitzie Graff, who joined Trinity on Sunday, May 8.

Mark Branham, who joined Trinity on Sunday, May 15.
Mark is the husband of Daphne Branham.



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

June 2

Nell Cooke
Brookdale
1920 Ebenezer Road, Room 705
Rock Hill, SC 29732

June 3

June Hutto
1 Martha Franks Drive
Cayce, SC 29033

June 19

Jean Raynor
Morningside of Lexington
218 Old Chapin Road, Room 106
Lexington, SC 29072



Sunday, June 19th

There will be a special Time Together on Father's Day,
Sunday, June 19th.

On Sunday, May 15, we celebrated the following graduates:

Ryan Edwards
B. C. High School

Kara Howard
B. C. High School

Dee Hughes
B. C. High School

Matthew Skipper
Degrees in Sociology and Political Science
Francis Marion University (December)

Slone Taylor
Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from USC



On Sunday, June 5, I will finally come to the end of a long journey as I will be ordained a Full Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference. The past four years of this journey have been difficult. I thank all of you, particularly those who served on Staff-Parish, for your support and role in this process. The Service of Ordination will be held at 7:00 p.m. June 5. I would love for all of you to be there to share in this event, but once again the in-person attendance will be limited. However, the service will be live streamed on the Conference Website, umcsc.org. Though you may not be able to be with me in person, I know your spirit will be with me.

John



Carolyn Hardee

John & Georgie DeLoach Connie Mason
Jeanette Hornsby Charles & Jackie McNeill
George Taylor, Sr. Joyce Robinson
Linda Berry

Pauline Wenner

Nell Cooke

Bill Pearson

Nell Cooke

Betty Jean Newton

George Taylor, Sr.

Janet Caulk

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Francis Hipp

Linda Berry

Jim Miller

Linda Berry

Theresa Hudson

Linda Berry



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO *Chris and Erin Derrick and family* on the death of his aunt, *Janet Caulk*, Saturday, May 7, 2022.



Lunch Bunch will not meet during the summer.

Exercise Class will not meet during the summer. They will resume classes in September.

Wonderful Wednesdays will not be held during the summer.



Dear Trinity Family,

I am so thankful for all the thoughts, prayers and cards that I received during this time. Although the doctors are still working to adjust my medications, my good days outnumber my bad ones. It is a warm feeling to know so many care.

With love for all,
Charlie Hooker



To Our Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for your prayers, thoughts, calls and cards.

Please keep both of us in your prayers! Thanks again.

Love,
Hilda and Oren Edwards



Trinity Family,

You can never underestimate how reassuring the church family daily prayers lift us each up, even when you don't know the specific issue of that person. Recently Ted had an acute infection that became a quick challenge. Gratefully, it is under control and Ted is returning to his usual self. Sitting in the emergency room, it was very comforting to know we were in God's hands and, our church family had asked their daily prayers. Always remember that prayers as a congregation are one of the four commitments that we pledge to do for each other.

As always, we appreciate your gifts of Prayers and Love,
Ted & Ruth



I will be taking Fridays as vacation days during the summer. The Church Office will be closed on Fridays.



FROM THE PASTOR

John's Jottings

Why Church?

Many of us go to church as a regular part of our lives. The church is important to us. We have trouble understanding people who do not go to church. Sometimes we don't know what to say to convince those who do not go to church. In this writing, I want to examine some common reasons people have for not going to church, then some ways to respond.

One reason people have for not going to church is that they have been harmed by the church or a clergy person. We see this with people who are "different". Rather than being welcomed into the church, they are told overtly or covertly that they are not welcome. One couple left one of my previous churches because she never felt fully welcomed. The final straw was when she asked how she could help in the kitchen, and the person in charge told her to get out of the kitchen. Often people who are divorced, have had an abortion, or have been to jail feel that the church has rejected them. To people who have been harmed in some way by the church, the best response is to listen to their story. Try to understand by putting yourself in their shoes. Validate their feelings. Let them know their feelings are understandable and OK. Then just let them know that they are loved.

Another common reason that people don't go to church is that they feel the church is a bunch of hypocrites. This is sadly a common reason among young people. They see people espousing one thing in church, but then doing the complete opposite outside of the church. They see people saying "love neighbor" and then posting hateful messages on social media. First, we need to make sure that the life we live outside the church is aligned with what we say inside the church. Then, we admit that yes, the church is full of people that say one thing in church and then say and act differently outside the church. Remind them that the church is not made up of saints but sinners striving to become saints. We are not perfect but we are going on to perfection.

Some say they can find God anywhere. They experience God in nature while hunting, fishing, or on the golf course. While one may experience God in these places, they are missing something. They are missing the community. They are missing having people to support and guide them in drawing closer to God. The writer of Hebrews says that we come together to encourage one another and provoke one another to love and do good deeds (10: 24-25).

In reality, the best response to someone who does not go to church is to tell them why you go to church. Validate whatever reason they may have, saying something like, "there are hypocrites in church but I go to learn how to walk more closely with God." Responding like this tends to make the other person less defensive and maybe more amenable.

Another thing is to rethink the church as more than the 11:00 worship hour. The church is whenever people gather to increase their knowledge of God and their love for God and neighbor. For some, a small group like a class meeting or Bible Study may be easier than a worship service as a beginning. So, invite them to one of these or some other activity.

During the time of quarantine, many just simply got out of the habit. In that case, remind them that they are missing the personal relationships even if they have been participating online. Maybe volunteer to give them a wake-up reminder call on Sunday Morning.

As going to church is becoming less a cultural norm, we need to be more active and intentional in sharing what the church means to us. Let people know why you come to church and what they are missing. Let them know of alternatives such as small groups if they are uncomfortable in a church service. Remember church is whenever and wherever people gather to worship and grow in their faith.

Shalom,
John



Thank you for all your prayers and support during Kay's eye surgery and John's shoulder surgery.
Kay and John

Wesley Class Meeting

The number of people who describe themselves as spiritual but not religious has been increasing according to the Pew Research Center. To me this indicates that people are looking for spiritual meaning in their lives but have not found what they are seeking through traditional church activities. Eight weeks ago, ten of us led by Tom Geddens and Pastor John began a study of the Wesley Class Meetings. Those participating in the group are Marie Stiles, John and Sue Ballentine, Kay Jordan, Chris Derrick, Mary Louise Robinson, Ruth Frady and Slone Taylor. This is a small group that meets weekly to focus on the state of one's soul. The group supports each other in their journey toward God and knowing the perfect love of God and for neighbor. We believe that this group is a means by which we can reach some of those who are seeking God and a spiritual life but not finding it by traditional means. If you would like more information or know someone who may benefit from this group contact Pastor John, Tom or any of the group participants.



Dear My Trinity Family,

I wanted to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and gifts related to my upcoming graduation and my 21st birthday! I'm sorry I couldn't be there on the 15th to celebrate with you all, but as you may know I was in Canada at the time (sadly I did not see a moose). Schedules and the pandemic willing, I will try to visit soon. Thanks again for your many gifts.

God bless,
Matthew Skipper



Dear Trinity UMC,

I wanted to say thank you for the gifts and the nice words of encouragement for my future.

Love,
Ryan Edwards



Brandon Jones
Kelsey Tolliver
141 Dunn Lane
Lexington, SC 29073