

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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DECEMBER 2022



WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT
12 P.M.

On Wednesday, December 7, we will continue our weekly Advent Study, *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*. Within the context of Advent and preparing for the coming of Jesus, we will examine the Wesleyan theology of grace, piety, mercy, and response. Join us at noon in the sanctuary or online on our YouTube channel.



Christmas Cards Needed

It is time to begin writing Christmas cards for our shut-ins and Asbury Arms folks. There are **8 local shut-ins** and **55 Asbury Arms residents**. We will need great participation for this endeavor! Please bring the cards to the church and put them on the table near the door to the sanctuary.

The last day to bring the cards will be **Sunday, December 18**, so that the gift bags can be delivered the week before Christmas. Please put the names of the shut-ins on their cards. Thanks so much for everyone's help!

Shut ins: *Melton Martin, Jean Raynor, Claudia Sineath, Shirley Butler, Gillette Hipp, Esther Carter, Georgeann Pace and George Taylor*



The deadline for turning in the information for gifts in lieu of poinsettias is **Monday, December 12**. All donations will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for Hurricane Ian disaster relief. Inserts have been in the bulletin and can be picked up in the Church Office. Please call if you need one mailed or emailed to you. A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on December 18.



"Christmas Words and Music"
Sunday, December 18

The cantata for this Christmas 2022 is titled, "**Christmas Words and Music**". To start with, there will be fewer words but that is to make room for lots of music. Come prepared to join us in singing many of your favorite Christmas carols, but you will get a break here and there as the choir sings some familiar anthems and a medley. Between the words and the music, we'll hear the story of the birth of Jesus. Christmas falls on Sunday but we'll be performing this year's cantata on Sunday the 18th. Come and make a joyful noise with us. We look forward to seeing you there!

Christopher & Dan



Columbia Community Concert Band
Christmas Melodies
Sunday, December 18
4 p.m.

The 42nd season of the Columbia Community Concert Band continues with a festive selection of music on Sunday, December 18, at 4 p.m. at Airport High School Auditorium. Admission is free. Chris Derrick will once again drive the church bus which will leave the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 p.m. A signup sheet is on the round table in the Gathering Area for those who would like to ride the bus. We hope you can join us!

Lynn Martin



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

December 31

Melton Martin

1317 Cardinal Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169



Buddy Hudson
Camille Vaiden

Shirley Padgett
Dale Wells
Jim & Marie Stiles
John & Sue Ballentine

Irvin Wells
Steve & Kathy Aiello

Raymond & Shirley Padgett
Pat & Donna Padgett

Charles McNeill
Steve & Kathy Aiello

The Trinity Saints
Jay Alley

Ray Culbreth
Dale Wells
John & Sue Ballentine

Wade Albert Payne
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

James Stephen Self
Ray & Gale Frady

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the many ways you have honored Charles. He loved Trinity with all his heart. Your actions have shown how much you loved him too.

Love,
Jackie McNeill



Dear Trinity Family,

This has been a difficult year at Trinity as we have lost fourteen members of our church family to death. Thus, I have presided over fourteen funerals this year. I just want to thank every one of you for your prayers and support this year, not only for me but for Kay. For Kay, each funeral becomes a time of added stress as she supports me. I could not have gotten through these funerals as well without your prayers and support. So many, many thanks to all of you.

Shalom,

John

Arnold Heiting

A gift to Trinity has been given in loving memory of **Arnold Heiting** by **Jo Ann Heiting** in lieu of sending Christmas Cards for 2022.

Bill Smith

Wayne & Charlie Hooker	Lynn Martin
Jim & Marie Stiles	George Taylor, Sr.
Ray & Gale Frady	George Taylor, Jr.
Mary Kamoroff	Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting	Morris & Slone Taylor
Tom & Marilyn Lloyd	John & Patsy Zeigler
Jackie McNeill	Jeanette Hornsby

Jewel Percy

Jeffrey Portwood	Joyce Robinson
John & Sue Ballentine	Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Tom Geddens	Dee Senn
Lynn Martin	Bonnie Ramsey
John & Kay Jordan	Frances Garren
Jim & Marie Stiles	Dale Wells
Robert & Frances Loryea	Hope Group of Hopewell UMC
Pam Turner	Hillary Taylor
Anne Piercy	Wayne & Kay Johnston
Hilda Edwards	Jeanne & Dannie Roberts
George Taylor, Sr.	Lois Canaday
George Taylor, Jr.	Phil & Melissa Smith
Marty Johnson	Ray & Gale Frady
Mary Kamoroff	Jo Ann Heiting
Frank & Betty Sue Hill	Drucie C. Eaddy
Gene Horlbeck	Margaret Kennerly
Morris & Slone Taylor	Tom & Marilyn Lloyd
Robert & Pamela Utsey	John & Patsy Zeigler
Jeanette Hornsby	Margo McMicken
Marion Connelly Family	John & Mary Ray
Gene & Vanessa Wamer	Spring Branch Hunting Club
Ernest & Bonnie Westbury	Jackie McNeill
Nell Cooke & Family	Jan Stamps
Jean Raynor	Claudia Dubose



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Bill Jr., Allan and Jill Smith and family on the death of their father, **Bill Smith**, on Friday, November 4, 2022.

English Percy and family on the death of his wife, **Jewel Percy**, on Friday, November 11, 2022.

Betty Cantrell and family on the death of her husband, **Preston Cantrell**, on Monday, November 28, 2022

John's Jotting

Presents

In a few weeks, we will have a Christmas tree surrounded by brightly wrapped presents. Those presents will remain under the tree until Christmas when the family gathers. At that time, the presents will not remain under the tree. Those brightly wrapped packages will be ripped open. Boxes will be opened and their contents will elicit squeals of delight or sometimes groans of "underwear again".

We do not leave presents unwrapped. We want to know what that package holds for us. After the package is opened, we use the contents. If it is clothes, we wear them (especially underwear). If it is a book, we read it. If it is a toy, we play with it. If it is a tool or gadget, we use it for the task for which it was developed.

We do not leave presents under the Christmas tree. We open them. We take out the contents. We use them for the purpose for which they were made.

What about the gift God gives at Christmas? God gives us the gift of the Son, Jesus. Do we ignore this gift, leaving it wrapped under the tree? Do we just ignore God's prevenient grace that surrounds us at all times? Do we unwrap this present but leave it in the box? Are we satisfied with just knowing about Jesus? Do we take it out of the box but then set it aside and forget about it? Do we just accept Jesus as our Savior and leave it at that? (I believe this is the case for many.) Do we take this gift and use it for the purpose for which it was given? Do we accept the gift of Jesus to transform our lives and the world?

God's gift of Jesus is for the healing and transformation of lives and the world. However, it is a gift that we do not use. It is a gift that uses us, that transforms us to be used for God's purpose. It is a gift that restores us to the Image of God.

This Christmas let's unwrap the gift God gives. Let us take it out and let it enter our lives so we may be transformed into the Image of God. Then, let us be used for God's purpose.

Shalom,

John



The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*. *Mathetes* means a learner and also a follower. A disciple is one who learns and follows the teacher. As disciples of Jesus, we learn from Jesus how to live, then we live as Jesus did.

A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor. Some synonyms include guide, confidant, advisor, trainer, coach, and teacher. The main difference between a mentor and an instructor is in how one instructs. An instructor disseminates information. A mentor instructs by building a relationship and guiding. A mentor guides through the relationship with the disciple. As we read the Gospels, I believe Jesus placed more emphasis on relationships over information. In 2023 we will be starting a confirmation program. The curriculum we will be using will be *Making Disciples* by William H. Willimon, a retired Bishop. Instead of the usual and often boring classroom process, this program used a mentor-based process. Each confirmand will be paired with a mentor who will meet weekly for the 13 weeks of the program. The mentors are members of the congregation who exemplify a disciple of Christ. At the last church council meeting, I asked members of the council to write down the names of women and men at Trinity who exemplified being a disciple of Jesus. I will take the mentors from this list. If you are asked to be a mentor, remember it is not how much you know, but how you may build a relationship and guide one to becoming a disciple. Remember, as disciples we are also learning.



Saturday, December 24
6:00 pm

Join us on Saturday, December 24, for our Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service. Bring your family and join us for this special service on this most Holy Night.



Sunday, December 25
10:30 a.m.

We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a Service of Lessons and Carols. This service will be a shortened version of the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. Bring your family and join us as we celebrate Christmas through word and song.



Jean Raynor
The Pines of Columbia
Room 204
190 McSwain Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Phone: (803) 661-9362