

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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FEBRUARY 2023



Sunday, February 12

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. On Sunday, February 12, Trinity youth will once again collect donations to help a local charity. Please plan to help them achieve their goal of helping others in our community.



**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m.**

Plan now to join us for our annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21 at 6 p.m. The Trinity Men will be preparing a wonderful pancake supper.



**Monday, February 20
11 a.m.**

The need for a grief support group arose from the presentation we had on Grief and the Holidays in November. I am glad to say that arrangements have been made and the Church Council approved.

The first session will be held Monday, February 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Future sessions will be every third Monday at the same time and place. The group will be facilitated by Jerry Fonte. Jerry is a recently retired chaplain from Prisma Health with many years of experience. The group is open to anyone who needs support as they experience grief. Please share this with anyone you know who could benefit from this type of support.

**Covered
Dish
Lunch**



Sunday, February 26

The covered-dish lunch on January 29 was enjoyed by everyone who attended! There was plenty of food and excellent fellowship. The decision was made to hold a church-wide covered dish lunch on the fourth Sunday of every month. The next one will be held on Sunday February 26, immediately following the worship service. Plan now to bring a covered dish and enjoy the food and the fellowship!



Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, beginning a period of reflection and penance. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.



**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND'S
WINTER CONCERT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023, 4:00 PM
AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

The 42nd season continues as we present our Winter Concert on Sunday, February 26, 4 p.m., in the Auditorium at Airport High School. Selections include a variety of music from James Bond and Harry Potter movies as well as a John Philip Sousa march or two. A signup sheet will be placed on the round table in the Gathering Area in a couple of weeks if you'd like to reserve a seat on the bus which will leave from the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 p.m. on the day of the concert. Chris Derrick will once again be your most capable chauffeur for this event, so please join us for a relaxing musical afternoon!



Paul Robinson

Rev. Joe Alley

Dale & Jerry Cook

English Percy

George Taylor, Jr.

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Jim & Marie Stiles

Barr-Price FH

Joyce Robinson

John & Patsy Zeigler

Marty Johnson

Tom & Marilyn Lloyd

Jo Ann Heiting

Mary Kamoroff

Bonnie Ramsey

Melton Martin

William Neglia

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Mary Kamoroff

Jo Ann Heiting

Bonnie Ramsey

Jewel Percy

Laura & Robert Behre

Rev. Joe Alley

Claudia Sineath



A Sincere Thank You to Claudia's Church Family

It was very kind that so many people sent Claudia Sineath Christmas Cards and some goodies at Christmas. It brightened her day and gave her something very nice to look at for a good long while!

Thank you very kindly,
Micheal & Pam Fulmer for Claudia Sineath



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

February 3

Bob Strickland

1922 Valley View Road

West Columbia, SC 29172

February 7

Mary Kamoroff

2340 Robin Crest Drive

West Columbia, SC 29169



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of **Melton Martin** on his death on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

February 14

English Percy

134 Percy Lane

Harleyville, SC 29448

29169in

February 15

Gillett Hipp

1408 Cardinal Drive

West Columbia, SC

John's Jotting

Rumors

“Do no harm” is the first of John Wesley’s general rules for Methodists. I believe that this is the primary rule for any Christian. Sadly this rule is often broken. This rule is broken most frequently without intent or malice. Often it is by our tongue that we do harm. The writer of James calls the tongue “a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3: 8, NRSV). I confess I have unintentionally harmed others, usually by talking without thinking.

One way our tongue causes harm is through rumors. Rumors are different from gossip. Gossip is trivial and groundless. Gossip does harm intentionally and maliciously. Rumors usually have a degree of truth. Rumors are perceived as passing along information. The harm of rumors is that the information is not verified. Rumors cause harm to individuals, organizations, and even the church. The harm is misinformation leading to negative reactions from others.

Rumors may come from a distortion of the truth in the telling over time. A popular party game is called gossip. One person begins by whispering a sentence to the person sitting next to them. The sentence is passed through the group to the last person. A player may not ask for it to be repeated but must pass on what they thought they heard. The last person repeats aloud what they heard. Frequently, it is very different from the original sentence. Often rumors are like that party game. They start as truth but the truth gets distorted with each passing of the information.

Rumors may come from misunderstandings. Misunderstandings may arise from overhearing a conversation but hearing only part of the conversation. In one episode of *WKRP in Cincinnati*, Les Nessman, the Sports Director, was banned from the locker room. One of the star players was uncomfortable about something he overheard about Les. He overheard that Les was a queer, meaning homosexual. What was said was, “He (Les) was a queer little fellow.” The meaning was an odd fellow, but not homosexual. Rumors arise from passing along things we overhear.

Making assumptions often lead to rumors. When I had a three-point charge, the three churches worshipped together every fifth Sunday. Church A had posted on their sign, “Join us at Church B for worship this Sunday.” Somebody from another church rode by and assumed that Church A was closing. Later someone called me asking if Church A was closing because they had heard it was.

Rumors may begin with broken confidence. Someone tells a friend something in unspoken confidence. The friend tells another friend, who tells another friend. Soon information one did not want to be shared is known to everybody.

Rumors distort the truth which causes harm. Rumors harm people’s reputations as Les Nessman’s was in the episode of *WKRP*. Rumors harm churches as did the rumor that one of my churches was closing. Rumors spread like wildfire, especially in today’s world of social media. Anything posted on Facebook or Twitter can be seen and passed on immediately by hundreds. Rumors are harmful because they are not completely factual even if they were based on truth. Rumors begun by broken confidence lead to broken relationships as trust is gone.

How can we stop the harm caused by rumors? One is simply not to spread rumors. Go to the source. If you hear a rumor about someone, ask them if what you heard was true. Do a little research and get accurate information. Many rumors are floating around about disaffiliation in the United Methodist Church. Go to the Conference website and read the process. Get accurate information from a reliable source. If the rumor is about some future event, such as if the pastor is returning, wait until the official announcement is made by the Bishop.

Let’s not harm by spreading rumors. In the words of Barney Fife let’s “Nip it in the bud, just nip it.” Just nip the rumor by not spreading it and verifying the truth.

Shalom,
John