

# 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*

Office Manager: *Jackie Eitel*

Music Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

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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JUNE 2023



### From the Pastor

Annual Conference will be held in person June 4-7 at the Florence Center in Florence. Marie Stiles is our Lay delegate. Please pray for the conference as many churches are disaffiliating and leaving the United Methodist Church. Pray that there is no rancor, but that we continue to love even as the separation occurs. I do invite you to attend even if only for one session.



The Church Council will meet on June 11. A new organizational model will be presented at that meeting for the council's consideration.



Tuesday, June 20  
11 a.m.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, June 20, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Sunday, June 25

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, June 25. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Each month we highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. The following have birthdays in June:

#### June 2

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

#### June 19

Jean Raynor  
The Pines of Columbia  
190 McSwain Dr, Rm. 204  
West Columbia, SC 29169



Sunday, June 18

Please join us on Sunday, June 18, as we celebrate Father's Day. A special Time Together will be held in their honor.



Congratulations to *Claire Boggs* who graduated from Ben Lippen School on Friday! *Claire* is the daughter of *Patsy Boggs* and *James Boggs* and the granddaughter of *Edwa Meek*. She will attend USC in the Fall.

Congratulations also to *Amelia Barilleaux* and *Loki Orth* who graduated in May. *Amelia* is the daughter of *Beth Barilleaux* and *Don Barilleaux* and the granddaughter of *Ted and Ruth Frady*. She will attend the University of Alabama in the Fall. *Loki* is the son of *Lonnie and Allison Orth* and the grandson of *Ted and Ruth Frady*. He will attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Fall.



Jackie McNeill  
Nancy Vosburgh

Dianne Schmotzer  
Lynn Martin

Adeline Campbell  
Lynn Martin  
Jeanette Hornsby

Steve Aiello  
Jeanette Hornsby  
Lynn Martin

June Hutto  
Lynn Martin



*It's a Girl!*

Congratulations to **Cristen Hipp** on the birth of her daughter, **Raylynn Faith Hipp**, on Friday May 5, 2023. Raylynn Faith weighed 7 lbs and was 20 ½ inches long. She is the granddaughter of **Jeff Hipp** and the great-granddaughter of **Gillett Hipp** and the late **Francis Hipp**.



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of **Mildred Perry** on her death on May 19, 2023.

**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
**THANK YOU!**

*From Kay Jordan*

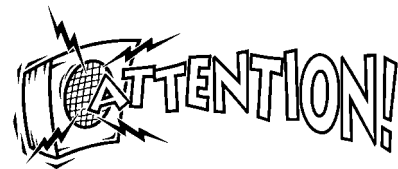
Our Spring Sale was a blessing! We not only raised \$2,553.75 for God's Helping Hands, we also had a wonderful time gathering with fellow members, friends and neighbors.

I would like to thank the following people for helping with the sale of the items from Jewel's Pink House and the garage sale! Please forgive me if I have left anyone out! Betty Cantrell, Kelsey Morgan and Brandon Jones, Sue Ballentine and Marilyn Lloyd, Marie Stiles, Patsy Boggs, Hilda Edwards, Erin and Chris Derrick, Pam Turner, Jackie Eitel, Mary Sue Lewis, John Jordan, Tom Geddens, Joyce Robinson, Patsy Ziegler, Charlie Hooker, Lynn Martin and Mary Sue Lewis.

# ADULT *Sunday School*

Beginning Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Adult Sunday School class members should bring their favorite translation of the Bible as we start a study of the Synoptic Gospels which consists of: Matthew, Mark and Luke. There will also be a brief study of John as well. This study will be focused on the writings that come after the birth narratives and just before the death and resurrection narratives, to look specifically at the stories that inspired people to follow Jesus.

The class will be led by Dan Greshel along with the excellent biblical scholarship of John Shelby Spong from his book, "Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes", a different perspective on the design and purpose of the Gospels.



**Gillett Hipp** no longer has a home phone. Her new cell phone # is (904) 536-2664.

## **John's Jotting**

### **The Purpose of Prayer**

What is the purpose of prayer? We may not think about this very much. Prayer is just something we do as Christians. Many say that prayer is asking God for what we need. This view is seemingly held by the Gospel (Matthew 7:7, 7:11, 21:22; Luke 11:9; John 14:13-14, 15: 7, 15, 16) and epistles (James 1:6; 1 John 5:15). We ask God for forgiveness, healing, resources, and guidance then God gives us what we ask.

Some people see prayer as transactional; we do X if God does Y. For example, a parent prays, "God if you heal my sick child, I will go to church." This transactional view indicates a correlation between faith and answered prayer. The more faith you have, the more your prayers are answered.

These views of prayer are problematic, relegating God to being a cosmic Santa Claus. We make our wishes known then God grants them depending on our faith. If the child the parent is praying for dies, does that mean the parent did not have enough faith? If this transaction is all there is to prayer, then the parent might turn from God because God did not answer their prayer. Also, Jesus says in Mathew 6:8, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." If God already knows what I need, why should I pray? The purpose of prayer is more than asking God for what we want and bargaining with God.

The Greek writer and philosopher, Nikos Kazantzakis, compared prayer to a soldier giving his report to the general. The soldier reports how the troops fought that day. He tells the general if they achieved the objective, the obstacles faced that prevented the objective from being achieved, and what resources are needed to move forward to the objective. After giving the report, the soldier waits for further orders until he is dismissed by the general. The soldier also knows that he only knows his sector of the battlefield while the general knows the whole battlefield.

In prayer, we report our accomplishments, shortcomings, and failures to God. We may ask for resources that may or not be given. We wait and listen to receive orders from God. We do not know all of God's plan for salvation, we only listen for what God wants us to do. While this describes what we do in prayer, it is not the purpose of prayer.

The purpose of prayer is not to report to God and receive orders. The purpose of prayer is not transactional, asking and receiving. The purpose of prayer is relational. Prayer brings us into God's presence. The more we are in God's presence, the deeper our relationship with God becomes.

At one of the T.a.G. meetings, Marie Stiles described her devotional time as visiting with God. That is a great way to conceive prayer. Prayer is visiting with God. We may visit someone to ask for something. We may visit with someone to share some good news, commiserate over bad news, or converse. The more we visit the deeper the relationship with the person becomes. The relationship reaches the point where the joy is not in what is said, but in being together.

The more we visit with God through prayer, the deeper our relationship with God becomes. Our knowledge and understanding of God's love for us become stronger. The parent may not know why their child died, but they may know God's presence is with them. The more we pray and visit with God, the deeper our relationship with God becomes. We come to know that God's love and presence are always with us. Growing in our relationship with God is the purpose of prayer.

Shalom,

John

***FROM THE PASTOR***

Jeanette Hornsby or I may be contacting persons who we think might be interested in a daytime T.a.G group. If you are interested, please contact John or Jeanette. If you would like to know more, the present group members are John and Sue Ballentine, John and Kay Jordan, Marie Stiles, Tom Geddens, Mary Louise Robinson, Chris Derrick, and Slone Taylor.