

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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AUGUST 2023



**Wednesday, August 9
6 p.m.**

The Staff-Parish Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 9, at 6 p.m. The members of the committee are Tom Geddens, Chairperson, Daphne Branham, Becky Derrick, Brandon Jones, Ruth Frady, Chris Derrick and Jeff Portwood.



*You're Invited to a
Baby Shower in Honor of*

Ashton Jordan Rogers

Date: August 19th

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Place: Trinity United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

RSVP: Kay Jordan (803) 315-0673

Registry: Ashton's & Charlie's Baby Registry
[@babylist.com](https://www.babylist.com)



**Tuesday, August 15
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, August 15, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



**Sunday, August 20
4 p.m.**

As a summer surprise, we will once again be showing a movie in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 20, at 4 p.m. Join us as we watch the inspiring movie *Jesus Revolution*, which is based on the autobiographical book of the same name co-written by Greg Laurie. The film follows Laurie, Christian hippie Lonnie Frisbee, and pastor Chuck Smith as they take part in a counterculture movement in the 1970s that becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history.

Gale Frady and friends will be preparing delicious food for you to enjoy as you watch the movie. We look forward to seeing you and your family on August 20th at 4 p.m.!



Sunday, August 27

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, August 27. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Steve Aiello
Patsy Shuler

Murray (Buddy) Hudson
Lynn Hudson

Francis Hipp
Rev. Joe Alley



Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for all you guys do for God's Helping Hands.

Thank you from all of the volunteers.

(The card was signed by the volunteers and can be seen on the bulletin board across from the office.)



As the music director I want to personally and collectively on behalf of the choir and congregation thank the **Family of Jackie & Charles McNeill** for the generous donation of Jackie's baby grand piano to the choir room. It was originally a gift to Jackie by her beloved Charles.

How thoughtful and loving for it to be in the choir room where it can be enjoyed by so many that loved and admired them. The musical legacy that Jackie (my Columbia Mom) created in our church will continue to inspire me particularly to continue to move that legacy forward for new generations. That love and passion was also shared by Charles.

With much love,
Christopher, the Choir and the Congregation

Each month we highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. There are none in August.

John's Jotting

Guilt as Grace

Most people do not like guilt. Guilt is uncomfortable. People do not like guilt so much that some places have passed laws banning books and teachings that might make people feel guilty. However, guilt cannot nor should not be legislated. Guilt may be an act of God's grace.

To understand guilt as God's grace, we must examine the meaning and purpose of guilt. We generally think of guilt in the forensic sense, that of a court of law. The person who commits a crime is found guilty. The guilty party has to face some consequences. Guilt is wrongdoing.

Guilt is also an emotion. It is the feeling of having done something wrong. In this sense, there are two types of guilt, justified and unjustified.

Unjustified guilt is the feeling of having done something wrong without reason. Unjustified guilt arises from victim blaming. For example, the rape victim is blamed for "dressing provocatively." Abusers blame the abused for making them violent. Many women stay in abusive relationships because they feel it is their fault. Unjustified guilt often comes from telling oneself that they should have done something to change the situation. For example, I should not have taken the shortcut down the alley. Unjustified guilt is often felt when one is sinned against, then blamed.

Justified guilt is the feeling of having done something wrong. Justified guilt arises when someone has done something wrong. Feeling guilty for lying to someone or cheating on taxes is justified guilt. Most people consider justified guilt as part of our natural conscience. Wesleyan theology views justified guilt as prevenient grace or preventing grace.

Wesley defined preventing grace as the drawings of the Father and desires after God that increase light in the world. This light shows every person to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. It is the conviction that God's spirit works in every child of man.¹ Prevenient grace is God's move toward restoring the relationship with fallen humanity.² Justified guilt as prevenient grace evokes repentance. By grace, people become aware of their fallen condition and may or may not respond to God's gracious overture.³ Justified guilt reveals sin and prompts repentance, which leads to justification and salvation. Justified guilt is grace. It is therapeutic and leads to healing and restoration.

The problem with feeling guilty is not guilt. It is the source of guilt. Is my guilt coming from something that was done to me that I had little or no control over? Is someone making me feel guilty for their benefit? If the answer is yes, then the guilt is unjustified and is not from God. Is the guilt coming from within me? Is it revealing wrongdoing or wrong thinking? If the answer is yes then the guilt is justified and is from God. The guilt is God's prevenient grace calling me to repent, seek forgiveness, be healed, and be restored to God.

Shalom,

John

1 John Wesley, "The Scripture Way of Salvation." In *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*, Ed. Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013) 583.

2 Randy L. Mattox, *Responsible Grace; John Wesley's Practical Theology*. (Nashville: Kingswood Books: 1994) 90.

3 Thomas A. Langford, *Practical Divinity: Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition, vol.1*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983) 28.