

The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 4

April, 2025

Come & See ...

Thoughts From Bill

Easter Activities

Fish Club learning about Lent with Pastor Mike

2025 Nominations For Church Offices

A Word From Mike

Youth Connection

Tuesdays at Trinity

Wednesday Night Food & Fellowship

UMW & UMM

We Are One

Lenton Luncheons

Altar Guild & Acolytes

Thank You Notes

Birth Notification

Memorials & Gifts

Sympathies

Flower Calendar

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Easter Lily Order Form



*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*





The Transformed Spiritual Life, Part 4

My home church helped me nurture my “spiritual life.” I gained lots of insight by reading the Bible. Later, I would gain even more insight by studying the Bible. There is a difference. Additional help came from Sunday school and other relationships with adults and my peers. Though I was not very intentional, the church helped me do this.

Thomas Merton grew up outside the church. Pursuing his love of literature he attended various colleges in Europe. He was not a bad person. He pursued a rather Bohemian existence during the 1950s. Sharing a house with other college students, they would shop for books wherever they could find them. They loved used bookstores.

One day Thomas Merton stumbled onto a set of prayer books published by the Catholic Church. His love of literature attracted him to the books. Essentially an atheist, he had never attended church. As he read these prayer books, he found himself drawn into their perception of reality. He speaks in general about the effect of the prayer books. They introduced him to God and God’s values. It also introduced him to the practice of taking time out of his day to think and pray about God’s Creation. Merton liked what he saw.

In 1 Corinthians 2:14 Paul compares people following Jesus as “spiritual” compared to those who are not. The best translation calls them, “soul-ish.” The NRSV uses the term “unspiritual.” Other translations talk about “natural.” Each struggle to get at what the Greek means.

“Soul-ish” works great for this though. I prefer it. It describes someone with a “soul,” but it is tarnished somehow. I believe Merton would agree with this assessment of him at this stage in his life. The prayer books help him with this. In fact, when you read his faith story, The Seven Story Mountain, he starts off a page in his life as someone who did not believe in God. By the end of the page, he did. I came away scratching my head wondering, when did he begin to believe?

Merton’s love of literature blossomed into monastic work as a priest within the Catholic Church. Writing his own prayer books, I find them helpful. At one point in my life, his books helped me see God at work in my own life.



Holy Week

DAILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.

Monday

Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday

Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday

Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.

Thursday

The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.

Good Friday

The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.

Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.

Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.

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Please worship with us during Holy Week.
Check your bulletins and Pastor Blasts for more information of activities and services.

Pastor Mike teaching our children all about Lent.



Denotes member of Church Council*

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development
2025 Nominations for Church Offices

PASTOR: William H. McCown III *
RETIRED U.M. CLERGY AFFILIATED WITH CHARGE CONFERENCE:
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM MINISTRIES: Jennifer Donkle *
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Andy Fowler *
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: Carolyn Causey *
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Anne Steele *
LAY LEADER: *
CHAIRPERSON, CHURCH COUNCIL: *
TREASURER: Dave Evans *
RECORDING SECRETARY: Carolyn Causey *
LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE: John Creel *
ALTERNATIVE LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Dave Evans
CHURCH HISTORIAN: Sharyn Holliday
CHAIRPERSON, STEWARDSHIP: Bill Fox *
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Charles Gidney *
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Carolyn Causey
STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER:
DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR:
EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME REPRESENTATIVE: Carolyn Causey
NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE: Milton Gantt
PRESIDENT, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Brenda Plaughter *
PRESIDENT, UNITED METHODIST MEN: Bryan Hopkins *
PRESIDENT, UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: *
AGE-LEVEL & FAMILY COORDINATOR:
Children: *
Youth: *
Adults and Family: * Jennifer Donkle*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE OF CHURCH COUNCIL: *
Class of 2025 **Class of 2026** **Class of 2027**
Greg Suggs

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES
Outreach: Nancy Winiarski * & Susan Blackwelder * (CO-CH)
Worship: Jerri Woodle (CH) *

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Committee on Finance, including Stewardship (para. 258.4:
Dave Evans (CH-2025) *, Rev. William H. McCown, III, Carolyn Causey (Bus. Admin.), Anne Steele (Fin. Admin.), (CH), John Creel (CH SPRC), Sid Blackwelder (CH Trustees), (LL), Dave Evans (Treas.), Bill Fox (CH Stewardship), Pat Howle (2027)

COMMITTEE ON Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations:
Class of 2025: John Creel (CH), Greg Suggs
Class of 2026: Tammy Boyd, Linda Gainey, Dennis Wiseman
Class if 2027: Patsy Buck
Lay Leader, and John Creel, Lay Member to Annual Conference, are also members of this committee:

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee:
Class of 2025: Jordan Hyman
Class of 2026: Kelly Covington, Judy Gidney
Class of 2027: Glenn Cartrette, Libby Cates
(NOTE: Lay Leader is also a member of this committee. Pastor is chairperson. Vice-chair is elected by the Committee)

Board of Trustees:
Class of 2025: Susan Blackwelder, Charles Jordan
Class of 2026: Ara Heinz (SEC)
Class of 2027: Sid Blackwelder (CH), Wayne Hill, Charles Small
(NOTE: This Board elects its own chairperson and officers from among its members. Chairperson* is a Council Member.)
Staff Representative: Business Administrator

A FURTHER NOTE: (para. 244.3, 2012 Book Of Discipline): "The Pastor shall be the administrative officer, and task forces, unless restricted by the Discipline."

Respectfully submitted,
Nominations and Leadership Development Committee
Rev. William H. McCown III, **Chairperson**

Vice-Chair
Secretary

Key to Abbreviations:

CH=Chairperson
VCH=Vice Chairperson
SEC=Secretary
LM=Lay Member of Annual Conference
Y=Youth
LL=Lay Leader
YA=Young Adult

*=Member of Church Council



I wanted to share another article I read on the Fresh Expressions website. The article focused on the teachings of David Sunde, an influential figure in the realm of "small batch disciple-making." David's insights are particularly timely, reflecting a deep understanding of the crisis of discipleship in the church. He challenges the conventional frameworks of discipleship, advocating for a more relational, experimental approach that mirrors Jesus' own methods.

The article focused on "What if discipleship wasn't a program but a way of life?" It focused on discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus and share him in our daily lives. I believe this is what our mission for the United Methodist Church is all about: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In the quest to revitalize discipleship, David urges a significant shift from static teachings to a more experimental approach. Instead of repeating established doctrines, he emphasizes that the church should transform into a vibrant laboratory where believers actively explore and experience their faith in real-world contexts. This model encourages continuous learning and adaptation, reflecting an evolving dynamic relationship with God. By fostering an environment where questions are welcomed, and exploration is encouraged, the church can create a more engaging and meaningful discipleship experience.

I resonate with David's statement, "We've got the teachings of Jesus well-documented, but we don't necessarily follow the methods of Jesus, which are hyper-relational." It's clear that discipleship needs to be more than just an educational program. It is a lifelong journey of transformation and relational growth. Churches are encouraged to experiment with new forms of engagement, focusing on creating environments where relational discipleship can thrive. That's what Fresh Expressions is all about.

I'm excited to share I have found a building to start a Fresh Expression in the Aynor area. The hope is to start a new Fresh Expression in late May early June. If you are interested in learning more, please see me or contact me in the church office. Most importantly, I covet your prayers.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



Trinity's youth recently enjoyed the Mac 'n Cheese cook off in Garden City and a trip to the beach.



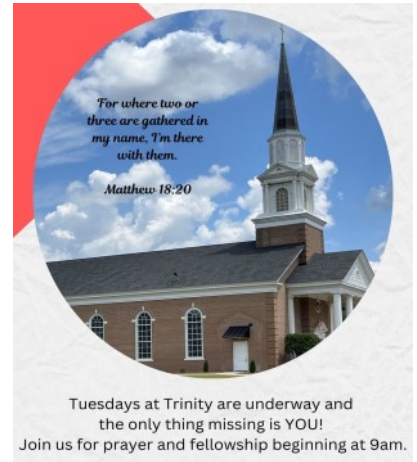
Hailey Patterson was recently highlighted on Good Morning America for her work as a Girl Scout. She shared about her Bronze Project.
Way to go Hailey! Your church family is proud of you.





April Altar Guild:
Phyllis Eisenman
Jerri Woodle

April Acolytes:
April 6th Rosemary Reid
April 13th Lily Sellers
April 20th Holli Siena
April 27th Ailey Covington



Betty Goldfinch Circle-Monday, April 7th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Friendship Circle-Monday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cordie Page Building
Sunshine Circle-Sunday, April 13th at 12:00 p.m. in the Cordie Page Building



United Methodist Men-Monday April 21st at 6:30 pm in the Cordie Page Building



Join us on Wednesday nights for great food, wonderful fellowship, and faith growing!

Schedule:
Dinner: 5:45-6:30
Bible Study
6:30-7:15
Children 10 & under, free
Children over 10, \$4.00
Adults, \$7.00
Family Maximum, \$20.00

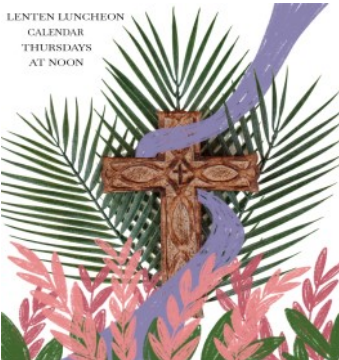


April "We Are One"

We will be going to Leone's on Main St. in Conway April 3rd at 4:00 PM. If you plan to go, please contact Ellen by noon, April 8th.
Text or call (843)465-6103 or enagvc21@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!

Blessings, Ellen



APRIL LENTEN LUNCHEONS

April 3rd hosted at St. James Catholic Church, 1071 Academy Dr., Conway
Speaker: Rev. Kevin H. Sparrow

April 10th hosted at Trinity United Methodist Church, 198 Long Ave., Conway
Speaker: Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.



Dear TUMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$400.00 on 02/12/2025. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will make a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. May God bless you!

On behalf of the Shepherd's Table, its Board of Directors, and our neighbors served,

Dana Hanna
Director
The Shepherd's Table



Dear TUMC,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to help us feed children. It makes a difference for them to have food to eat, new clothes, shoes and school supplies.

Your Kindness will help us see to it that each child we help will have this. We are grateful for your support.

Barb & volunteers,

Barb

"A child might not remember your name, but he will remember you fed him when he was hungry."

Dear members of Trinity United Methodist Women,



Fostering Hope thanks all of you for your recent financial donation of \$200.00. Donations help ensure we can be here throughout the year to serve the young children in our area facing daily struggles. Your generosity will make a great difference in their lives.

All of us at Fostering Hope thank you for helping us meet our mission to be here for the children.

The volunteers of Fostering Hope

"Together we can make a difference in the life of a child."

Trinity loves spreading Easter Joy to our community.



memorials & gifts

Given in memory of....

Stanley Bond
Marilyn Holcombe

Jimmy Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Cates
Marilyn Holcombe
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Eisenman

Larry Dietrich
Marilyn Holcombe
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Eisenman

Tim Coffey
Marilyn Holcombe

Rev. Jim Hyatt
Marilyn Holcombe

Given in honor of...

All April Birthdays
Marilyn Holcombe

Kathy Gray
Barry & Libby Cates
Boyd & Linda Gainey
Nancy Winiarski
Charles & Margaret Jordan
Tom Gray
Eddie & Pat Gerosa
Janet G. Kline
Milton & Cynthia Gantt

Their New Grandson
Alan & Lois Edwards



*Rev. McCown and the entire T.U.M.C. family and staff join in expressing sympathy
and Christian love to:
Gail and Ed McNew and family following the death of her brother,
Tom Grier*



April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

In memory of Ed Kemm by Gail Kemm and Ned
Palms in vases
Easter Lillies
In honor of their grandchildren, Hayes, Braxton & Evelyn by Sid and
Susan Blackwelder



Congratulations to:

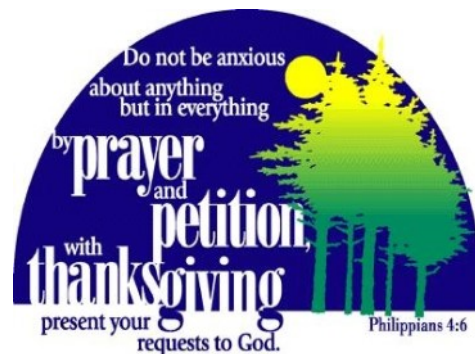
Charles & Abigail Edwards following the birth of their son,
James Robert Edwards born 02/25/2025.

Proud Grandparents are Lois & Alan Edwards:



We Care for One Another

Dr Dick Rush
Susan Wiseman
Mary Miller
Martha Cross
Vance & Jennifer Donkle
Rick Morehouse
Ann Bedwell
Marie Skipper



Claiborne at W. Lake

557 Furrys Ferry Rd, Martinez, Georgia 30907
Janet Mayers

Arbor Landing

3105 Dick Pond Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Carrie Raymor (Apt. 101) 843-902-7032

Mullins Nursing Center

2829 E. Hwy. 76, Mullins, SC 29574
Ruby Pittman (Rm. 355)

Spring Oak Assisted Living

2310 US-378 Conway, SC 29527
Marie Herrin (Rm. 414)
Dorothy Deitrich (Rm. 515)

Homebound

Barbara Thompson

7523 Misty Wood Rd, Knoxville, TN 37938

Pat Rose

1011 Moore Lane, Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Lettie Byrdic

3025 Chesbrough Blvd, (Apt. 316)
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Robert & Irene Booth

3840 Wilmot Ave. Columbia, SC 29205

Russ Nixon

952 The Boulevard, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 333-1020

Ed & Gail McNew

Apt. 331-Maple Brook Terrace
150 Verdin Rd., Greenville, S.C. 29607

Joe & Sandra Parler

4178 Bradford Dr
Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Martha Johnson

833 Shaftesbury Ln
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 365-1668

MEMBERS

Tina Hubbard
B.G. Gantt
Phyllis Koch
Linda Hendrick
Jason Owens
Pete & Martha Johnson
Sharon Black
Tamara Tindal
Burnett Owens
Charles Calhoun & Family
Larry Woodle
Susan Wiseman
Brian Anderson

MEMBERS' PARENTS

Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)
Elaine McCown (mother of Bill McCown)

MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Janice & Danny Elmer (Jerri Woodle's friends)
Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)
Ralph Fields
Daved Kinard (Daisy Fair Florist)
Carol Horner (mother of Amy Horner)
Mike & Chris Cloderfelter (friends of Gene & Cookie Johnson)
Helen Emmons
Rev. Carl Hunsucker

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Bret & Bryn Ginn (son-in-law & daughter of Lana Fortson)
Cynthia Inman (Donna Cartrette's sister)
Pam Broun (sister of Beth Suggs)
Ruth Ellen Coffey (sister of Mary Miller)
Betty Coggeshall (Sister of Linda Hendrick)
Frankie Collins (sister of Pat Gregory)
Charles Johnson IV (son of Pete & Martha Johnson)
Rosemary Self (Aunt of Jennifer Donkle)

Armed Forces

Eliza Edge
Samuel Weitzman (nephew of Marti Hubbard)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Samantha Heinz
206 Dogwood Dr.
Conway, SC 29526

Luke Skipper
566 J.P. Stevens Rd
Seneca, S.C. 29678

Austin Suggs
1100 Bluff Rd.
Unit 507
Columbia, S.C. 29201

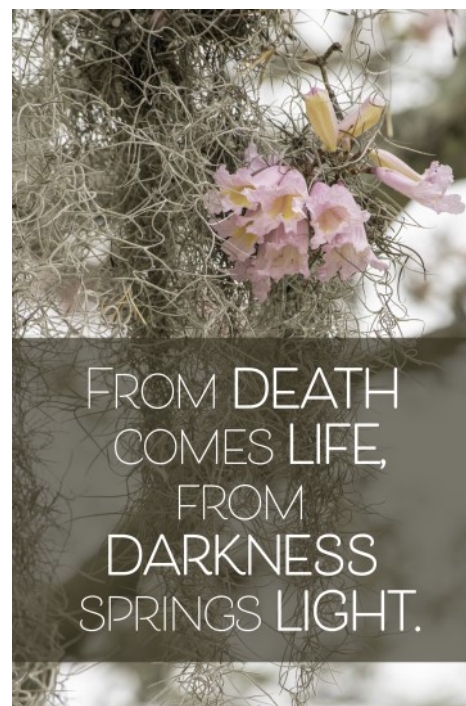
Ellie Howle
USC Student Box 82900
1300 Wheat St.
Columbia, S.C. 29225

Addison Inabnit
USC Student Box 70531
1300 Wheat St.
Columbia, S.C. 29225

Are there any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them.

James 5:14

Please let us know if your phone number has changed and/or if you have dropped a land line. Please update your preferred phone numbers and emails. We want to stay connected!!





**LAKE MURRAY
SALKEHATCHIE
JULY 12-19**

SINCE 1978, SALKEHATCHIE HAS BEEN MORE THAN A CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAM, VOLUNTEER GROUP, OR JUST ANOTHER SUMMER YOUTH CAMP.

FROM SATURDAY TO SATURDAY, VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCE MORE THAN JUST A WEEK OF HARD WORK. THEIR DEDICATION AND LOVE HELP FAMILIES FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SECURE IN THEIR HOMES.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1...DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE. ANY QUESTIONS, GIVE JENNIFER A CALL OR TEXT.




YOUTH MEALS


OUR YOUTH NOT ONLY NEED TO BE FED SPIRITUALLY, BUT ALSO PHYSICALLY. CAN YOU HELP OUT BY SUPPLYING A MEAL ONE SUNDAY EVENING? HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP: COOK A MEAL, PICK UP FAST FOOD, OR MAKE A MONETARY DONATION TO THE YOUTH. PLEASE LET JENNIFER KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP.

UMW LOUISE DORMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are being accepted in the church office for the UMW Louise Dorman Scholarship.

ACTIVE, female, members of the church who are graduating high school seniors are eligible.

Applications can be picked up at the church office and are due by April 30th.




BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sandra Crosland
William Gainey
Sharon Bailey
- 4 Katie Fox
Ann Campbell
Greg Smith
Brett Johnson
- 5 Bonnie Silk
Alex Marshall
- 6 Jared Cochell
- 9 Charles Gidney
Drake Owens
Todd Marshall
Jeff Bange
- 10 Karen Nobles
- 11 Ann Bedwell
Ella Wysong
- 12 Caleb Boyd
- 13 Stoney Harrelson
- 15 Harrell Hardwick
Sid Blackwelder
Miles Feldner
Gina Hucks
Todd Cox
Mike Landry
- 16 Abby Freudiger
- 17 Cynthia Evans
Larry Hyman
Stella Gore
- 19 Xavier Campbell
Todd Browning
- 21 Janie Barnes
Ford Graves
A. J. Wysong
- 22 Brent Glasgow
Barry Cates
- 24 Donnie Brown
- 25 Pat Jordan
- 26 Mandy Tobin
- 27 David Covington
- 29 Dottie Brown

Anniversaries

- 2 Irene & Robert Booth
- 7 Beth & Ken Calhoun
- 11 Elaine & Terry Hyman
- 20 Kathy & Ken Anderson
- 22 Trisha & Grant Cates
Cheryl & Mike Landry
- 23 Linda & Boyd Gainey
- 24 Jerri & Joe Woodlee
Deborah & William Gainey
- 25 Cynthia & Dave Evans
- 26 Melanie & Reid Murdock
Jessica & Bob Rogers
Anne & John Stewart
- 14 Gary & Kristi Updegraff
- 18 Becky & Mike Smith



All information that is to be included in the next month's **Good Word** needs to be in the church office by the 20th of each month.



2025 Easter Lilies

Lilies will again decorate the chancel area on Easter Sunday morning. You are encouraged to “adopt” a lily in honor of **OR** in memory of a loved one. (*Please remember, only one name per lily*). You may choose to contribute to missions instead; if so, please indicate in the area provided below.

The cost is **\$22.00** per lily. Please, **only one name per lily**. Please send this form to the Church Office by **March 13**, along with your check made out to Trinity United Methodist Church. **Only 30 lilies** have been ordered so please get your order in as soon as possible.
Thank you!

Given by: _____

_____ In Honor/Memory of _____
(please circle ONE)

_____ I do not wish to purchase a lily, but would like to make a contribution to missions. (Please specify

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...a Stephen Ministry Congregation
P.O. Box 1072, Conway, SC 29528-1072
198 Long Avenue, Conway, SC
843-248-2194 phone, 843-248-4445 fax
www.trinityconway.com

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843-248-2343, parsonage 843-283-4320, cell
bmccown@trinityconway.com

JENNIFER DONKLE, Program Director
704-219-1899 or jdonkle@trinityconway.com

Rev. Michael D. Byrd, Associate Pastor
215-859-8409
mdbyrd@umcsc.org

DR. ANDREW FOWLER, Director of Music
843-457-9686 or andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com

CAROLYN CAUSEY, Business Administrator
843-907-0030 or ccausey@trinityconway.com

ANNE STEELE, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor

RALPH FIELDS, Facilities Maintenance