

# The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 26, Issue 8

August, 2026

## Come & See ...

**A word from Pastor McManus**

**August Altar Flower Calendar**

**August Altar Guild**

**August Acolyte Schedule**

**Special Called Church Council Meeting**

**Regular Church Council Meeting**

**VBS**

**Prayer List**

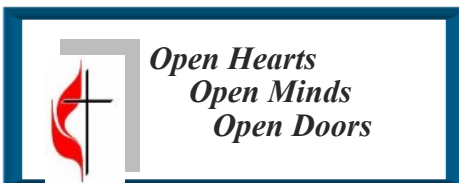
**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Home Touch Devotion**

**Thank You Notes**

**Memorials & Gifts**

**Sympathies**



## From the Pastor

Dear ones,

In the letter written to the Church at Galatia, the Apostle Paul says some wonderful things. Many of you will be familiar with his statement regarding the fruit of the Spirit in chapter 5, verse 22-23a.

“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” NRSV

It is interesting to me that the word “fruit” is singular in the New Testament Greek. There are not nine fruits promised, but the one fruit that contains all nine. God is working in us to conform us to the image of Christ and bring about a masterpiece, a human being fully alive, which St. Ignatius said was the glory of God.

The Holy Spirit does this work in us as we follow Jesus and learn his way, all for the glory of God.

There is also another verse that, while not as popular, is equally powerful.

In chapter 6, verse 2, Paul writes:

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” NRSV

As many of you likely know, moving can be a great burden. First, one must reckon with the truth of the coming move. There is the difficult work of packing, all while beginning to process the grief that comes with knowing you will soon leave people you love. Next, there comes the apprehension of arriving somewhere new, complete with wondering whether you will be welcomed or if you will eventually experience the same depth of relationships as the ones you are leaving behind. Samantha and I have experienced these emotions in each of our moves. Though, I admit, I am a little more sensitive than she.

We want you to know that you have made us feel most welcome here. We are truly grateful for that. You have helped carry our burden through the cards that were sent to us long before we moved, the kindness offered through visits on the day we moved in, the food provided for that day, and your continual, gracious expressions of welcome. In this, you have fulfilled the law of Christ; that we love one another as Christ has loved us. You have made us feel quite welcome. We are truly grateful.

The same Holy Spirit who has brought us together in Christ now calls all of us to continue becoming the people Christ is making us to be together. Samantha and I are grateful to be part of that with you.

Under Christ's mercy,

*Pastor David*





#### **August Schedule:**

Rosemary Reid  
Ailey Covington  
Whitley Gainey  
Hailey Patterson



#### **August Altar Guild:**

Charles & Judy Gidney  
Greg & Beth Suggs



#### **August Flower Schedule**

- |             |                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2nd  | In recognition of the birth of our first great grandchild, Everette Plaughter by Ed & Brenda Plaughter |
| August 9th  | In praise of God and in honor of my brother, M.B. Huggins, on his 100th birthday by Marilyn Holcombe   |
| August 16th | In celebration of Cynthia Gantt's birthday by Milton Gantt                                             |
| August 23rd | In honor of Carla Booth and in celebration of her birthday by her daughter, Tami Casey                 |
| August 30th | In memory of Mary Shellam Hill by Margaret and Charles Jordan                                          |

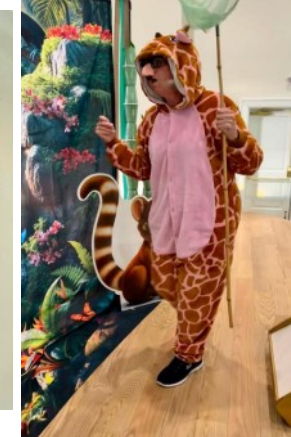


# VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL











### Members Emeritus

#### Arbor Landing

3105 Dick Pond Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
**Carrie Raymor** (Apt. 101)

#### Spring Oak Assisted Living

2310 US-378 Conway, SC 29527  
**Dorothy Dietrich** (Rm. 515)

#### **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**

114 Jessica Lakes Dr.  
Conway, SC 29526

#### **Ed & Gail McNew**

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

#### **Saundra Parler**

4178 Bradford Dr.  
Conway, SC 29526

#### **Pete & Martha Johnson**

833 Shaftesbury Ln.  
Conway, SC 29526

#### **B.G. Gantt**

16 Holly Cr.  
Greenville, SC 29607

#### **Dave Sweeney**

The Lakes, 613 Hattoras River Rd.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

# *We Care for One Another*

### MEMBERS

John Wright  
Anne Woodle  
Marie Skipper  
Lynn Spires  
Rich & Phyllis Eisenman  
Cheryl Robertson  
Mary & Kip Miller  
Martha Cross  
Vance & Jennifer Donkle  
Pat & Eddie Gerosa  
Beth Brinson  
Merrell Floyd  
Phyllis Koch  
Linda Hendrick  
Jason Owens  
Tamara Tindal  
Burnett Owens  
Dennis & Susan Wiseman  
Dr. Dick Rush  
Art & Sandy O'Brien  
Patti Herbert  
Cynthia Evans  
Ron & Bobbi Johnson  
Samantha McManus  
Gene & Cookie Johnson  
Athene Long

### MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)  
Ralph Fields  
Mike Cloderfelter (friend of Gene & Cookie Johnson)  
Rev. Ben Barnett (former pastor at FUMC)

### 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)  
Ellen Wright (cousin of Cynthia Gantt)  
Eddie Garrison (Brother of Helen Emmons)  
Bill McIlroy (Uncle of Harriet Hearl)  
Terri Hutaff (Sister of Barry Cates)  
Joyce Hathaway (Sister of Micheal Mears)  
Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)  
Shaula Richardson (Mother of Tamara Tindal)  
Mary Hopkins (Mother of Bryan Hopkins)  
Bryan Terres (Nephew of Cynthia Terres)  
Roy Stevens (brother of Athene Long)  
Brian Walton (son of Tami Seeders)  
Clem Turner (brother of Janet Howle)  
Ben Humphries (brother of Libby Cates)

### Armed Forces

Eliza Edge



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!!

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



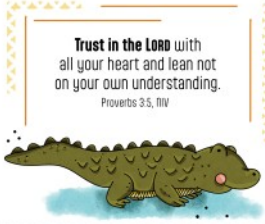
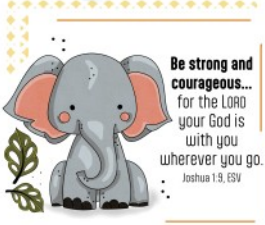
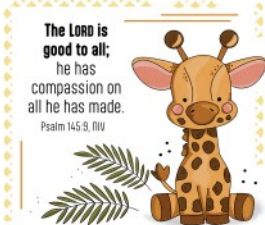
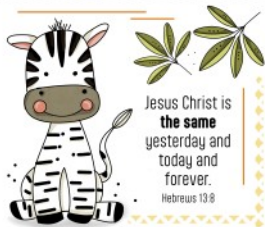
**GATHERED  
IN MY NAME,**  
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

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.  
Thank you!



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CARDS

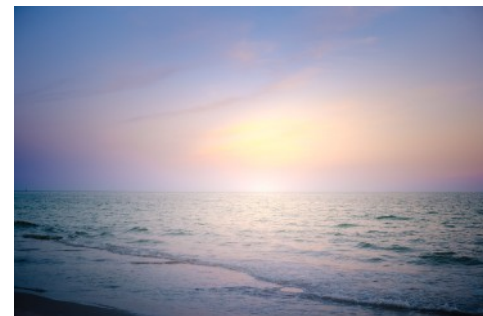


### Birthdays

- 1 Heather Vaught  
Janice Cutts  
Chandler Abrams  
Doug Smith
- 2 Grace Fortson  
Greg Suggs  
Victoria Arel
- 3 Russ Nixon
- 8 Patsy Buck  
Karley Watts
- 9 Michelle Brovelli
- 10 Dave Evans  
Hank Eddy
- 12 Bailey Spivey
- 13 Stephanie Fleming  
Jill Marshall
- 14 Chris Kinon  
Michael Kinon
- 15 Anderson Davis  
Steve Hughes
- 16 James Vaught  
Hayes Blackwelder  
Guy Dozier  
T. J. Robertson
- 17 Cynthia Gantt  
Aubrey Heinz  
Melanie McKeefery
- 18 David Hill  
Ryan Covington  
Ashley Hucks  
Glenn Ray
- 19 Anne Stewart  
Camden Brown
- 21 Carla Booth
- 22 Meredith Hyman  
Mary-Carson Helms
- 23 Fay Holt  
Michael Palmer
- 24 Brice Strickland
- 26 Vance Donkle
- 27 Alta Fox  
Jordyn Boyd
- 29 Carolyn Causey  
Marti Hubbard  
Ailey Covington
- 31 Tamara Tindal

### Anniversaries

- 1 Pat & Janet Howle
- 10 Tim & Karen Lowrey  
Doug & Sandy Smith
- 15 Glenn & Sondra Ray
- 20 Richard & Nancy Anderson
- 23 David & Amy Price
- 25 Lex & Georgia Johnson  
Mac & Jenny Smith
- 26 Gray & Linda Strogon  
Ava & Garrett Luttrell
- 27 Eddie & Pat Gerosa
- 30 Burt & Dottie Brown





Trinity United Methodist Church,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for making my time serving the church such a rewarding experience. Your generosity and support have created lasting memories for me. I have learned so much, both professionally and personally, and I truly appreciate the guidance, encouragement, and friendships I have gained along the way.

Thank you for the opportunities and the memories we have shared. I will always look back on my time here with appreciation.

Although I am moving on to a new chapter, I know our paths will cross again. I wish each of you the very best. Thank you once again for everything.

With sincere appreciation,  
Ralph Fields



Dear Friends at Trinity UMC,

We recently received your generous donation of \$3,275.00 on 06/09/2026 and I wanted to personally thank you and tell you how much of an impact you're making with your gift. Since 1896, Epworth has given South Carolina children and teens from stressed homes a nurturing refuge. Today Epworth also helps children through community based programs that work one-on-one with non-violent parents to goal to help teach them how to resolve issues so that children can remain home safely.

Our unique Family Care Center gives single moms in recovery from substance use disorder a chance to reunite with their children. Moms complete classes in parenting, money management, and job training along with intensive counseling and participation in local addiction support groups.

Your gift to Epworth benefits hundreds of children each year. Thank you for believing in our mission and for the compassion and love you have shown for South Carolina's most vulnerable children and teens.

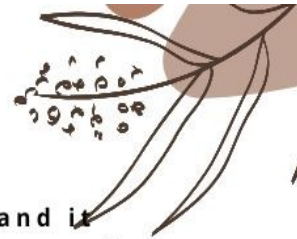
You all are a blessing to Epworth. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Beth Williams  
President and CEO





# THANK YOU



What an incredible week! Vacation Bible School was a resounding success, and it simply would not have been possible without the dedication, heart, and energy of our wonderful volunteers. To everyone who gave their time and talent this week, thank you.

- To our crew leaders and teachers: Thank you for the endless love and kindness you showed to every child who walked through our doors. By bringing so much joy, energy, and enthusiasm each day, you showed our kids that learning about God and growing in faith is not only important—it is full of fun and delight! You modeled Christ's love in a way they will remember for a long time.
- To our setup and decorating crew: Thank you for working tirelessly behind the scenes to transform our church into a stunning, vibrant rainforest. Walking through the doors felt like stepping into an exciting jungle adventure, and your creativity set the stage for an unforgettable week.
- To our meal teams: Thank you for keeping us nourished, energized, and cared for with delicious meals every single night. Serving a crowd night after night is no small task, and your hospitality meant so much to our families and volunteers alike.

Because of your willing hands and servant hearts, seeds of faith were planted, wonderful memories were made, and our kids experienced the warmth of a loving church community. I am endlessly grateful for each and every one of you! Love-Jennifer

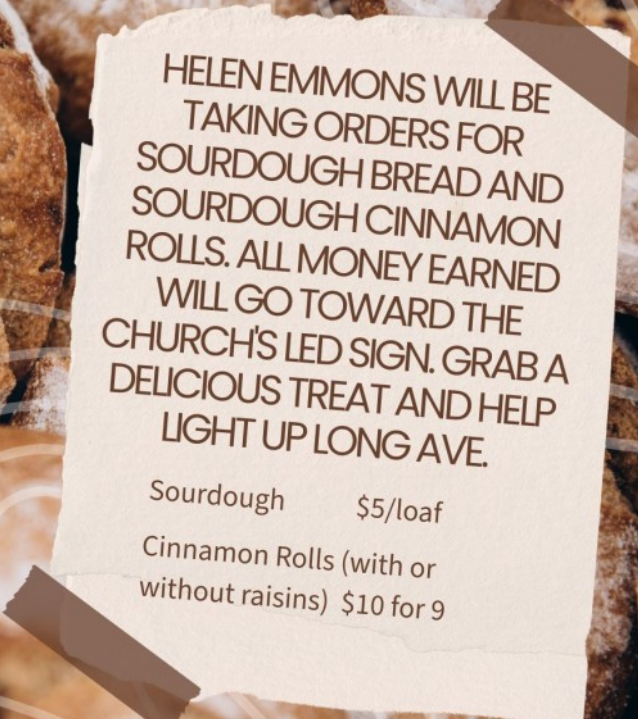


**LIGHT UP  
LONG AVE**

**Brighter signs,  
stronger connections!**

**YOUR GIFT HELPS PROMOTE EVENTS,  
WELCOME GUESTS, AND  
SPREAD GOD'S LOVE!**

**CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO TUMC UMW AND  
GIVEN TO JENNIFER DONKLE.**



HELEN EMMONS WILL BE  
TAKING ORDERS FOR  
SOURDOUGH BREAD AND  
SOURDOUGH CINNAMON  
ROLLS. ALL MONEY EARNED  
WILL GO TOWARD THE  
CHURCH'S LED SIGN. GRAB A  
DELICIOUS TREAT AND HELP  
LIGHT UP LONG AVE.

Sourdough \$5/loaf

Cinnamon Rolls (with or  
without raisins) \$10 for 9



Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Walking on water wasn't built in a day. —Jack Kerouac

The year 2025 was a year of some amazing but deadly and costly natural catastrophes. The southern California wildfires in early 2025 had an economic impact of \$112 billion. Then in July, the skies opened over the central Texas hill country, dumping more than 20 inches of rain in under six hours, causing the Guadalupe River to surge 26 to 31 feet in less than 90 minutes. At least 135 deaths were reported, making it the deadliest U.S. inland flooding event in nearly 50 years. As for hurricanes, the season was comparatively quiet in 2025.

Storms have a way of revealing our limits. The disciples were seasoned fishermen, but the storm on the Sea of Galilee that Matthew describes in our reading for today was so fearsome that the disciples just about forgot how to breathe. Still, they strained at the oars, exhausted and afraid.

It's often in those moments — when our strength is spent — that Christ draws near.

Jesus comes to them “early in the morning,” which means sometime between 3 and 6 a.m., the darkest, coldest, most discouraging hours of the night.

At first, the disciples don't recognize him. Fear blurs their vision. They think he's a ghost. But Jesus speaks the words every frightened heart needs to hear: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (v. 27). God's timing may not be early, but it's always faithful.

Peter's brave step onto the water is both inspiring and familiar. He does something impossible as long as his eyes are on Jesus. But the moment he notices the wind, he begins to sink. We know that feeling — holding steady for a while, then wobbling when fear rises.

But Jesus does not shame Peter. He reaches out instantly and catches him. The miracle here is not just water-walking; it's the grace that grabs us when we go under.

For those in later seasons of life, storms may take many forms — declining health, loneliness, family worries or spiritual fatigue. But the promise of this story is clear: The presence of Jesus is stronger than any storm. And even when our faith falters, his hand does not.

So, remember, faith is not the absence of fear; it's reaching toward Jesus, even while the waves rise. —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, meet us in life's storms. When fear grows loud, speak your peace. When our steps falter, hold us fast. In your name. Amen.





**Given in memory of....**

**Kathy Gray**

Merilyn Holcombe  
Mr & Mrs Charles Jordan  
Mrs Gail Kemm  
Mr & Mrs Barry Cates  
Mrs Carolyn Norris  
Mr & Mrs Milton Gantt  
Wayne Hill

**Given in honor of...**

**All August Birthdays**

Merilyn Holcombe

**Sharon Black**

Mrs Gail Kemm



*The FUMC family and staff join in expressing  
sympathy and Christian love to:  
Gene Johnson and family following the death of his wife,  
Cookie Johnson*



This is the day  
*the Lord has made.*  
LET US REJOICE  
*and* BE GLAD IN IT.  
Psalm 118:24

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**TRINITY  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

*...a Stephen Ministry Congregation*  
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Jan Bitting, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor