

The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 26, Issue 7

July, 2026

Come & See ...

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study

July Altar Flower Calendar

July Altar Guild

July Acolyte Schedule

E-Blasts

**Welcome lunch for
David & Samantha**

Thank You Note from Mike

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Thank You Notes

Memorials & Gifts

Sympathies

**VBS (Rain Forest Falls)
(Volunteers Needed!)**



*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*



Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has
chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12, ESV

*Celebrating freedom —
in Christ and in our nation.*

What happened at Annual Conference?

The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church held its Annual Conference 2026 June 7-10 at the Greenville Convention Center. Here's what happened, courtesy of the *Advocate*:

Major actions and decisions

Approved a \$9.8 million budget for 2027

Passed a resolution supporting voting rights, democratic participation and equal representation, especially for historically marginalized communities

Rejected (in a close vote) a resolution to increase support and resourcing of local pastors; four other resolutions were referred to committees

Approved four changes to Standing Rules, including one keeping key metrics before the body annually

Approved a statement of relationship with Epworth Children's Home, celebrating its 130th anniversary

Tabled a request from the United Methodist Center Board of Trustees to explore selling the conference center;

Bishop Fairley announced a task force to report on desired answers

Clergy and leadership

Ordained, commissioned or recognized 16 clergy (4 elders, 5 provisional elders, 3 provisional deacons, 3 recognitions, 1 transfer)

Licensed 12 new local pastors

Honored 26 retirees, with a symbolic Passing of the Mantle

Remembered 60 clergy and spouses who died over the past year in a memorial service

Said farewell to three district superintendents (Terry Fleming, Steve Patterson, Cathy Mitchell) and welcomed three new ones (Megan Gray, Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin, James Friday)

Welcomed Dr. George Ashford as director of innovation and strategy

Announced a 2% cost-of-living increase for clergy

Health insurance premiums will rise 13% next year

Worship and milestones

Bishop Leonard Fairley preached the opening sermon, "Seeing the Possibilities," and closed with "What Do You See? Who Do You See?"

Held the conference's first-ever intergenerational worship service

Celebrated the 70th anniversary of women's ordination in the UMC and honored the late Rev. Vivian McFadden, SC's first ordained woman (1974) who passed away in May

Recognized Bishop Robin Dease, SC's first African-American female bishop

Reported 823 baptisms in 2025

Mission and giving

Packed 125,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger with hundreds of volunteers

Collected \$55,154 for Rise Against Hunger, \$13,028 for theological education funds, and \$7,655 for the seminary scholarship fund

Wrote encouraging card for college students and camp staff

Other notes

Received a progress report on restructuring from 12 districts to 10, honoring the Florence and Greenville districts as they merge into others

Again included high-school-age youth delegates

Offered a "prayerground" enabling children to engage in Annual Conference in age-appropriate ways

Next year's conference: June 6-10, 2027, at the Florence Center (also the site for 2028 and 2029)

Read the full article at <https://go.advocatesc.org/ac2026>

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or print Advocate and support our work, or consider a discounted church plan. Conference support provides only one-sixth of our

operating budget. Learn more at

AdvocateSC.org/subscribe or scan QR code:

Download the
Advocate app on
Google Play or the App Store (Search "SC United
Methodist Advocate")





July Schedule:

July 5th	Rosemary Reid
July 12th	Ailey Covington
July 19th	Whitley Gainey
July 26th	Hailey Patterson

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR CHURCH E-BLASTS? IF YOUR ANSWER IS "NO", PLEASE LET JENNIFER KNOW THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED. YOU CAN SEND HER AN E-MAIL LETTING HER KNOW TO ADD YOU TO THE LIST. JDONKLE@TRINITYCONWAY.COM



July Altar Guild

Linda Gainey
Gail Kemm



Altar Flowers

July Flower Schedule

July 5th	To the glory of God and in memory of our mothers, Eloise Sitterson and Elizabeth Hutchinson, by Nila & Chap Hutchinson
July 12th	To the glory of God and in honor of Nancy Winiarski, by John and Anne Creel
July 19th	To the Glory of God and in memory of her husband, Richard E. Holt, by Fay Holt
July 26th	To the glory of God and in memory of Joe and Joey Parler, by Sandra and Mary Clark Parler

The Trinity family welcomed Pastor David & Samantha with a church wide lunch this past Sunday. We are so excited to be in ministry with you!



Dear Church Family,

With a heart overflowing with gratitude, I want to express my sincere thanks for your incredibly generous gift and, even more importantly, for the love and encouragement you have shown to Cindy and me.

Your kindness is a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness and of what it means to belong to a church family that truly cares for one another. Your generosity is not simply a gift; it is an expression of your love for Christ and your commitment to encourage those who serve alongside you. I am deeply humbled by your thoughtfulness.

Serving as a pastor here at Trinity has been one of the greatest privileges and blessings of my life. Every prayer you have offered, every word of encouragement you have spoken, every act of kindness you have extended, and every display of support has strengthened and inspired me to serve the Lord with joy.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3). Those words express exactly how I feel. I thank God for each of you and for the wonderful memories we have shared together in ministry.

As the Lord has now called me to a new appointment, I leave with a heart full of gratitude and countless cherished memories. While it is difficult to say goodbye, I rejoice in knowing that God continues to guide both your congregation and my family according to His perfect will. Though our paths may now lead in different directions, we will always be united as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for the love you have shown, the prayers you have prayed, and the generous gift you have given. I will carry your kindness with me as I begin this new chapter of ministry. My prayer is that God will continue to bless Trinity UMC abundantly, strengthen your faith, and use you mightily to reach others with the hope of the Gospel.

May the Lord richly bless each of you until we meet again. Thank you for allowing me the sacred privilege of serving as one of your pastors. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

**With heartfelt gratitude and Christian love,
Pastor Michael Byrd**



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



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

Sandra 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

MEMBERS' PARENTS

Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)
Shaula Richardson (Mother of Tamara Tindal)
Mary Hopkins (Mother of Bryan Hopkins)

MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)
Ralph Fields
Mike Cloderfelter (friend of Gene & Cookie Johnson)

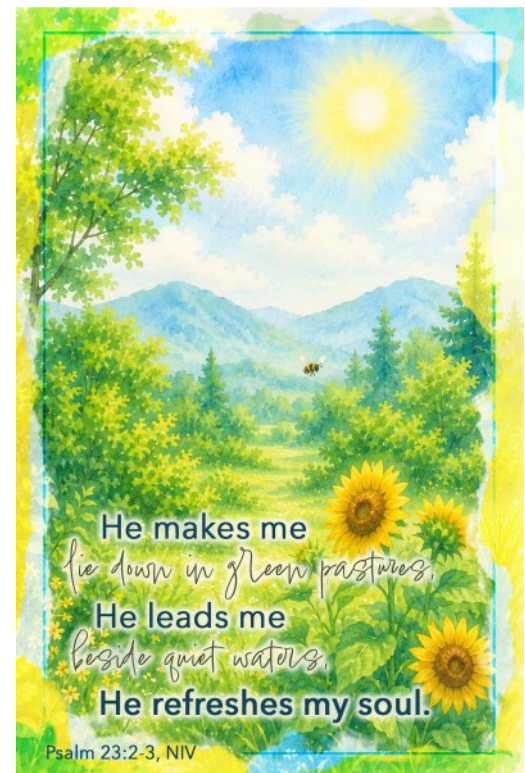
MEMBERS' FAMILY

Bret & Bryn Ginn (son-in-law & daughter of Lana Fortson)
Cynthia Inman (Donna Cartrette's sister)
Pam Brourton (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)

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





Birthdays

- 1 Jordan McCown
Jane August
Creola Harrelson
Glenn Crofts
- 2 Todd Bailey
- 3 Irene Booth
Lex Johnson
- 5 Phyllis Eisenman
Debbi Siena
- 8 Mark Blackwelder
- 9 Polly Bell
Timothy Liebrand
Charles Small
- 11 Laura Eddy
Benjamin Hyman
- 12 Hope Harper
Skylynn Peterson
- 13 Shirley Johnson Campbell
Carter Wall
- 14 Sherri Freudiger
Bob Siena
- 15 Pat Smith
- 16 Kelli McMeekin
Grant Cates
Bill McCown
Todd Hall
- 17 Kristi Updegraff
- 18 Helen Emmons
- 19 Dawne Oliver
Mallory Strickland
Red Hallman
- 20 Nathaniel Ortiz-Yanez
- 21 Mike Heinz
Andrew Fox
- 22 Ethan Murdock
Omar Ortiz
Laura Covington
Avery Line
- 24 Mills Eddy
Cheryl Pardue
- 25 Marshall Perry
Dick Rush
- 26 Patrick Howle
- 27 Katherine Palmer
- 28 Sam Graves
Joshua Arel
- 30 Barbara Thompson
Deborah Gainey

- 31 Joe Woodle
Lettie Byrdic
Gage Fortson
Milton Gantt
Michael Mears
Josh Hall

Anniversaries

- 2 James & Melanie McKeefery
- 5 Larry & Delores Dickerson
- 6 Stacey & Gina Hucks
- 19 Dan & Stephanie Fleming
- 23 Robert & Michelle Turner
- 25 Jill & Britt Feldner
- 28 Bryan & Nancy Hopkins
- 31 Mike & Ara Heinz

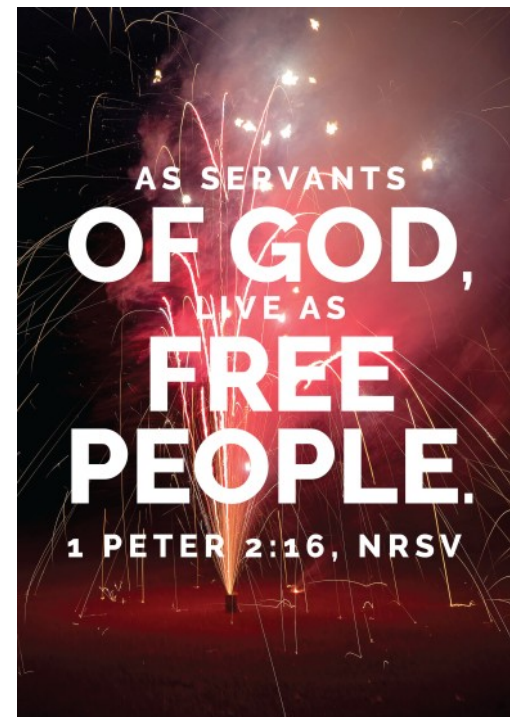
Seeking Jesus



JOIN OUR
BIBLE STUDY
ON PHILIPPIANS BY LORI WHITE

EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING JULY 14TH |
10AM-12PM
CORDIE PAGE

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!





To Trinity staff, Sunshine Circle, and volunteers,

Sharon Black's memorial was very well done. Jennifer, Cat, and Sharon's family did a fine job. The flowers were lovely, and the food was delicious. It was good so many of her family could attend. Everything was just right. Sharon would have been very pleased.

Thank you all for doing everything. Sharon was worthy of such special recognition.

Merilyn Holcombe



Dear Trinity United Methodist,
Thank you for your gift of \$300.00,

Summer is here and God is greatly at work. We praise Him for 27 babies saved from abortion and the 21 individuals that accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior already this year! Every day brings impact and we are so grateful for partnership in this mission!

God bless you all! Please keep us in prayer as we work on some infrastructure projects this summer for growth.

Life Abundantly,

Jeanie Smith
Founder/President

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

We cannot thank you enough for your kindness. Thank you for loving on Sharon Black. Love to all the members of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Pastor Nealy, Cynthia Dobbs & Family

Thank You for Supporting Epworth's Mother's Day Offering

Thank you for participating in Epworth's annual Mother's Day Offering and helping make it a success. We are especially grateful for our local church representatives and the important role they play in sharing Epworth's ministry with your congregations.

The gifts received through the Mother's Day Offering help provide direct care for children living on our campus, children in our foster care program, and children and families served through Epworth's programs across South Carolina.

Your support makes a meaningful difference, and for that, we are truly thankful.

Epworth Children's Home



We didn't capture many photos of the helpers this morning, but our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for our incredible church family and their tireless efforts to make Trinity shine!





Mark your calendars...

July 26th - 29th

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Dinner is served daily
from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm





Given in memory of....

Sharon Black

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Eisenman
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Cates
Ms. Pat Taylor
Pat & Janet Howle
Linda Hendrick
Dr. Dick Rush

Given in honor of...

All July Birthdays

Merilyn Holcombe

Merilyn Holcombe

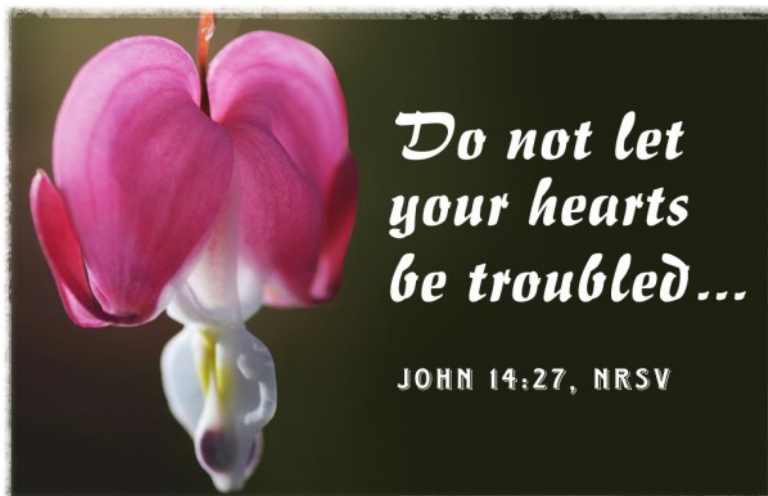
Mr. & Mrs. M.B. Huggins, Jr.

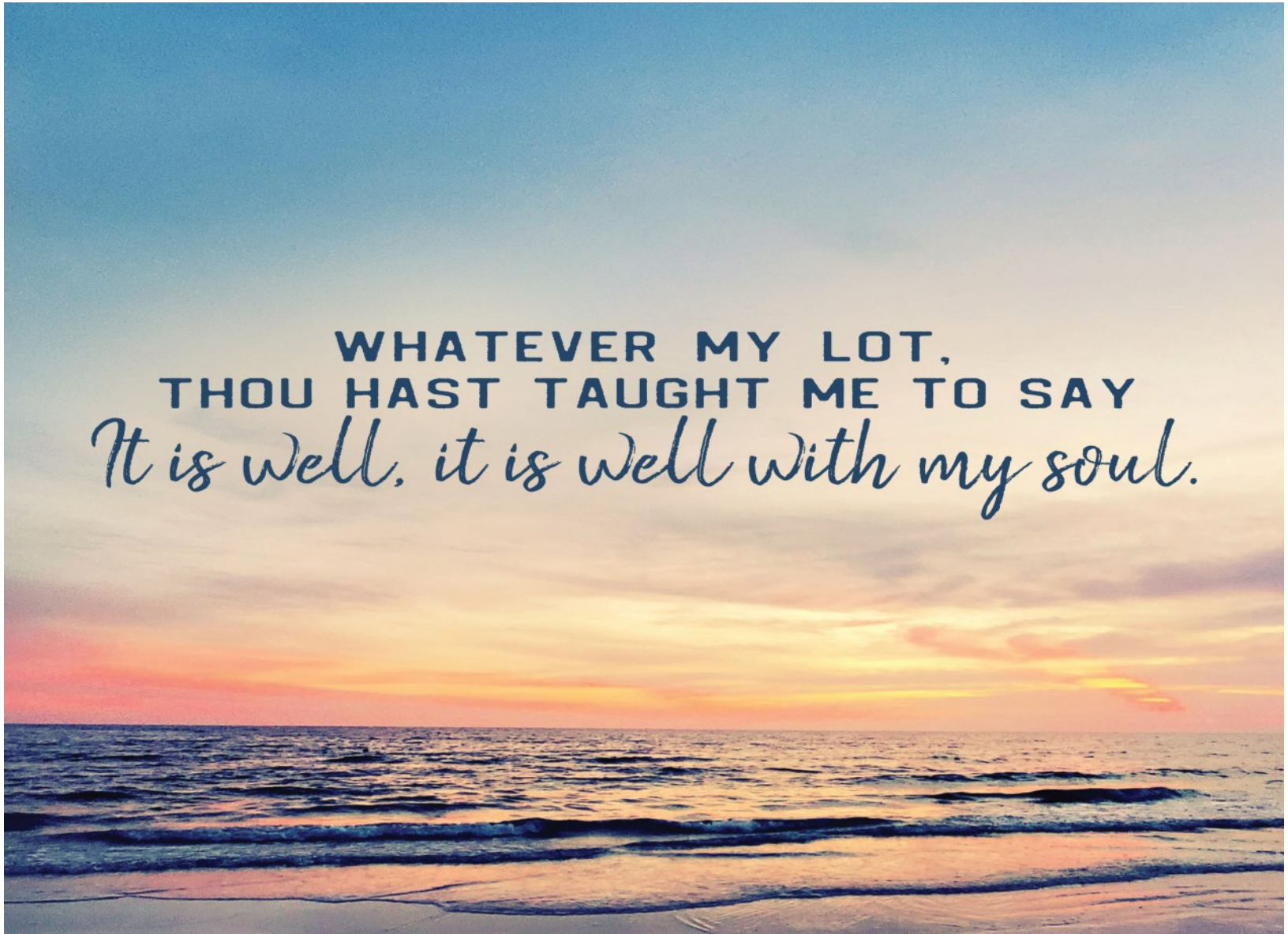
Ed Grove

Merilyn Holcombe
Pat & Janet Howle



*The TMC family and staff join in expressing
sympathy and Christian love to:
the family of Mike Prosser
&
the family of Kathy Gray*





WHATEVER MY LOT,
THOU HAST TAUGHT ME TO SAY
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**TRINITY
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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

Change Service Requested

REV. DAVID D. MCMANUS JR., Pastor
803-422-1121
JENNIFER DONKLE, Program Director
704-219-1899 or jdonkle@trinityconway.com
DR. ANDREW FOWLER, Director of Music
843-457-9686 or andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com
CAROLYN CAUSEY, Business Administrator
843-907-0030 or ccausey@trinityconway.com
Jan Bitting, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor
RALPH FIELDS—FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

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