

The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 26, Issue 3

March 2026

Come & See ...

Thoughts From Bill

A Word From Mike

Spring forward for Daylight Savings

Lenten Bible Study

UMM

UMM

Lenten Luncheons

Easter Activities

UMW Bake Sale

Flower Calendar

Welcome New Members

Thank You Notes

March Altar Guild

March Acolyte Schedule

Memorials & Gifts

Sympathies

Prayer List

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*





Faith and Science

Some people made such an impact on the world, mention their names and people immediately begin talking about a certain event.. This is the fate of Galileo Galilei. Looking through a telescope and advancing the knowledge of astronomy, he noticed how earth revolved around the sun. He made the mistake of telling others. Then, his real problems began.

Science possesses this ability. It moves forward as we discover knowledge. Like a puzzle science seeks to make sense out of discoveries by putting them into a larger framework. In the day of Galileo the Church felt like it held all Truth. (The Church held that the universe revolved around the Earth – an ancient notion.) They didn't need to discover anything. So, when Galileo made his discoveries, it brought many church teachings into question.

These were the days of the Inquisition. Although it claimed to be about keeping people straight with their religious beliefs, it proved to be mostly raw knuckled politics. The pope and his Inquisitors used power in all the wrong ways. Financially, politically, and militarily, leaders within the Catholic Church of those days benefited from the Inquisition. Everyone else paid a price.

Even today we assume faith and science fight against each other. In fact Galileo was a devout Catholic. This fact gets lost in the re-telling. He was a forerunner of religious people who would further the knowledge of science. Robert Boyle, Isaac Newton, and Blaise Pascal represent not only science but various denominations as well. These were "big idea" guys. They pursued truth through faith and science. The two often worked together in their minds.

For them it came down to finding truth. Science began making discoveries about God's creation, as the Medieval Period came to a close. The probing nature of science reflects the advances of the Medieval Period. Its theologians sought answers to faith questions.

Sometimes, the answers come into conflict with each other. Sometimes, the truths of science and faith help us better understand God's creation providing insight unique to each. This helps us appreciate the beauty of God's creation. We need both.

Bill





Well, Trinity family, how's your new year going so far? Did you enjoy the snow? "Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire; it is the time for home." (Edith Sitwell). We have begun our Lenten season. What is Lent in the United Methodist Church? Lent, in United Methodist teaching, is a 40-day season of preparation leading up to Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, with Sundays excluded because each Sunday is considered a "little Easter," a celebration of resurrection. United Methodists understand Lent as a time for:

***Repentance:** Turning our hearts back toward God, acknowledging where we've drifted, and seeking renewal.

***Fasting** Not as punishment, but as a way to clear space—physically, emotionally, spiritually—to become more attentive to God.

***Self-examination and reflection:** Looking honestly at our lives, habits, and relationships in the light of Christ.

***Preparation for Easter.** Historically, Lent prepared new believers for baptism and helped the whole church return to the heart of the gospel.

Lent is a grace-filled journey—a season to slow down, return to God, and prepare our hearts for the joy of resurrection. It's less about giving something up and more about making room for God to do something new in us. By doing so, we seek to live and love more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ.

For Fresh Expressions, I have scheduled several more meetings on Sundays moving forward in March and April. What we call a fresh expression is, at its simplest, a pattern for believers to share their faith in their everyday lives. It was a practice Jesus used with his disciples. It was a practice that the Church Fathers developed to reach and disciple believers across the ancient world—a meal, fellowship, music, and message. I want to thank the UMW again for their support of Fresh Expressions.

I'm still looking for volunteers to assist with serving food, greetings, and fellowship at the tables during meals. We do it naturally in our church and homes. I want to connect with the community, which you already do. If you're interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd love to have a cup of coffee or two and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

Blessings, Pastor Mike



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development
2026 Nominations for Church Offices

PASTOR: William H. McCown III*

RETIRED UM CLERGY AFFILIATED WITH CHARGE CONFERENCE:

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM MINISTRIES: Jennifer Donkle*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Andy Fowler*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: Carolyn Causey *

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Jan Bitting *

LAY LEADER: Bill Fox*

CHAIRPERSON, CHURCH COUNCIL: Pat Howle*

VICE-CHAIR, CHURCH COUNCIL: Wayne Suggs*

TREASURER: Dave Evans *

RECORDING SECRETARY: Carolyn Causey*

LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE: John Creel* and Dave Evans*

CHURCH HISTORIAN: Brian Anderson

CHAIRPERSON, STEWARDSHIP: *

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Charles Gidney*

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Carolyn Causey

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER:

DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATORS: Frank Chesla, Ed Plaughter

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 COORDINATORS:

Children: *

Youth: *

Adults and family: Jennifer Donkle*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE OF CHURCH COUNCIL *

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Merilyn Holcombe		
Charles Jordan		
Harriet Hearl		
Jimmy Johnson		
Lana Fortson		

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

Outreach: Nancy Winiarski* & Susan Blackwelder* (CO-CH)

Worship: Jerri Woodle (CH)*

Witness/Evangelism: Chris Bond*

Nurture and Discipleship: Nancy Hopkins*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Committee on Finance, including Stewardship (para. 258.4):

Dave Evans(Treas), Rev. William H. McCown III, Carolyn Causey (Bus. Admin),
Jan Bitting (Fin. Admin.) Pat Howle (CH Council), Wayne Suggs (VCH Council). John Creel (S/PPRC),
Sid Blackwelder (CH Trustees), Bill Fox (LL), Boyd Gainey (AL2028),
Jimmy Johnson (AL2026)

Committee on Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations:

Class of 2026: Tammy Boyd, Linda Gainey, Dennis Wiseman, Charles Jordan

Class of 2027: Patsy Buck

Class of 2028: Nila Hutchinson, Greg Suggs

Bill Fox, Lay Leader, and John Creel, Lay Member to Annual Conference, are also members of this committee.

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee:

Class of 2026: Judy Gidney

Class of 2027: Glenn Cartrette, Libby Cates

Class of 2028: Martha Cross, Pat Taylor, Milton Gantt

(NOTE: Lay Leader*, Bill Fox is also a member of this committee. **Pastor** is Chairperson.
Vice-Chair is elected by the Committee)

Board of Trustees:

Class of 2026: Sid Blackwelder (CH), Wayne Hill, Charles Small

Class of 2027: Lois Edwards, Barry Cates, Jackie Taylor



Please check your e-blasts and bulletins for up-coming Easter activities



Sunshine Circle—Sunday, March 8 @12:00 PM in the Cordie Page Building

Betty Goldfinch Circle—Monday, March 5 @ 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall



United Methodist Men—Monday, March 16 @ 6:30 PM in the Cordie Page Building



Welcome to
the family!

Mike Mears &
Debra Pannullo
(top)
Joe & Cheryl
Pardue (middle)
Helen Emmons
(bottom left)
Sandi D'Attilio
(bottom right)



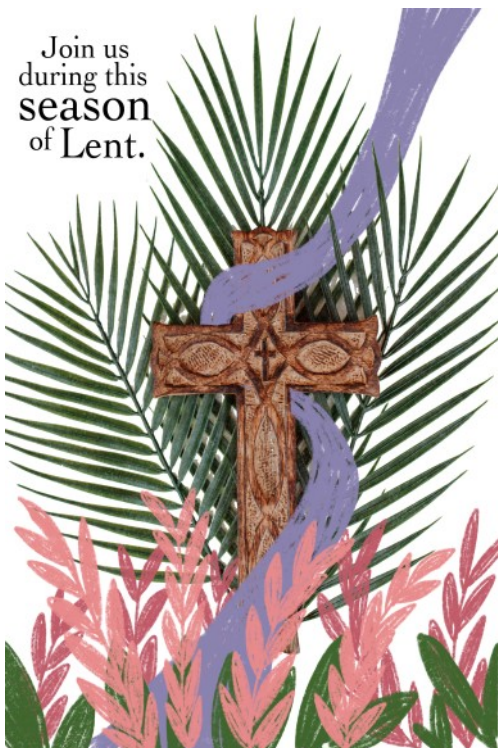
**WHAT A STUNNING
ADDITION TO OUR
CHILDREN'S AREA!
A VERY BIG THANK
YOU TO DANA
DONKLE, WHO
MELED TOGETHER
THE STORIES OF
JONAH, NOAH,
DANIEL IN THE
LION'S DEN, AND
THE PARTING OF THE
RED SEA SO
SEAMLESSLY.**



March Flower Schedule

- March 1 In honor of Donna Cartrette on her birthday by her mother, Annie Pearl Norris
- March 8 In memory of Jo Darby Rush on her birthday by Dick, Cindy, Debbie and Tammy
- March 15 In loving memory of her parents, Robert and Louise McCord by Nancy and Bryan Hopkins
- March 22 To the glory of God and in honor of our grandchildren by Margaret and Charles Jordan
- March 29 Palms in vases by Jerri Woodle

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.



LENTEN LUNCHEON CALENDAR

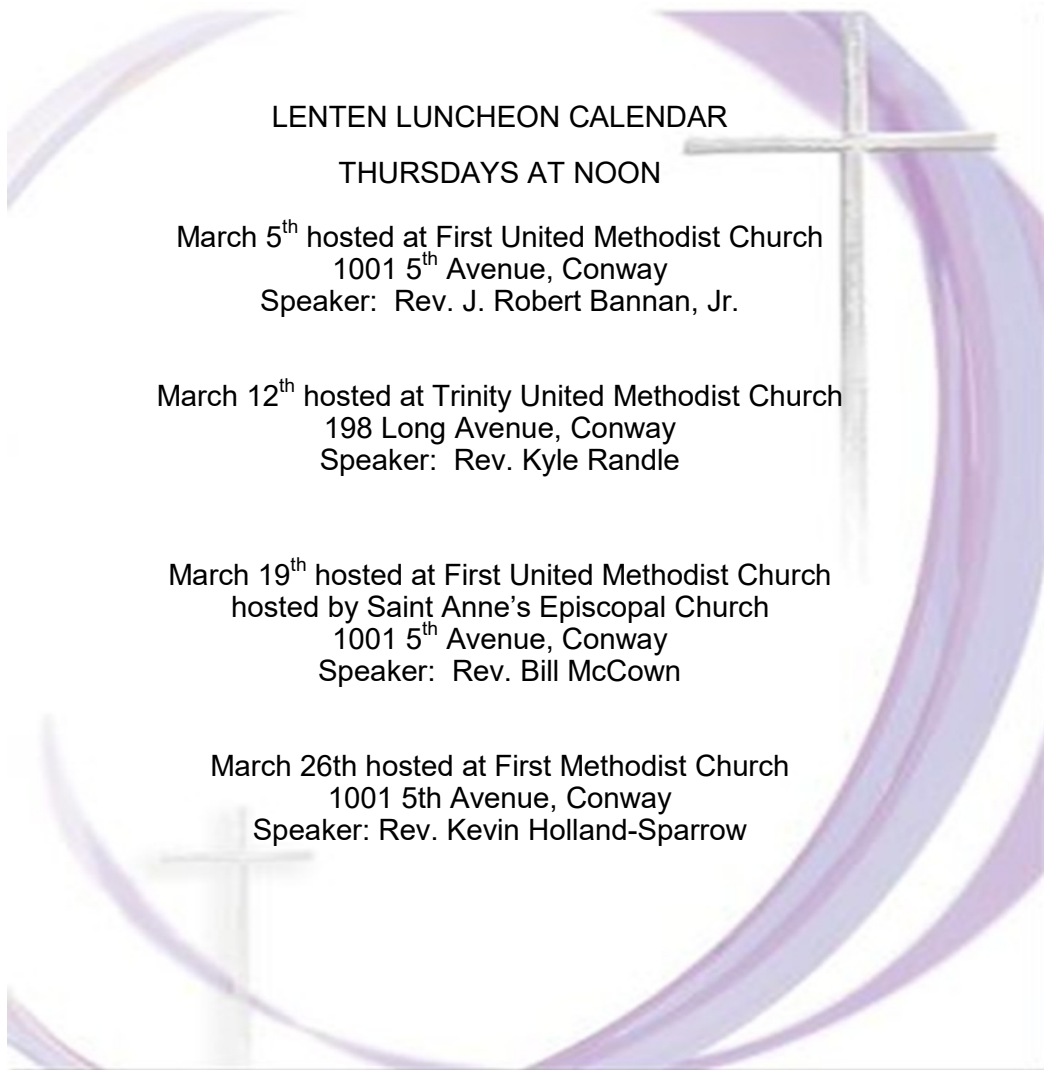
THURSDAYS AT NOON

March 5th hosted at First United Methodist Church
1001 5th Avenue, Conway
Speaker: Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.

March 12th hosted at Trinity United Methodist Church
198 Long Avenue, Conway
Speaker: Rev. Kyle Randle

March 19th hosted at First United Methodist Church
hosted by Saint Anne's Episcopal Church
1001 5th Avenue, Conway
Speaker: Rev. Bill McCown

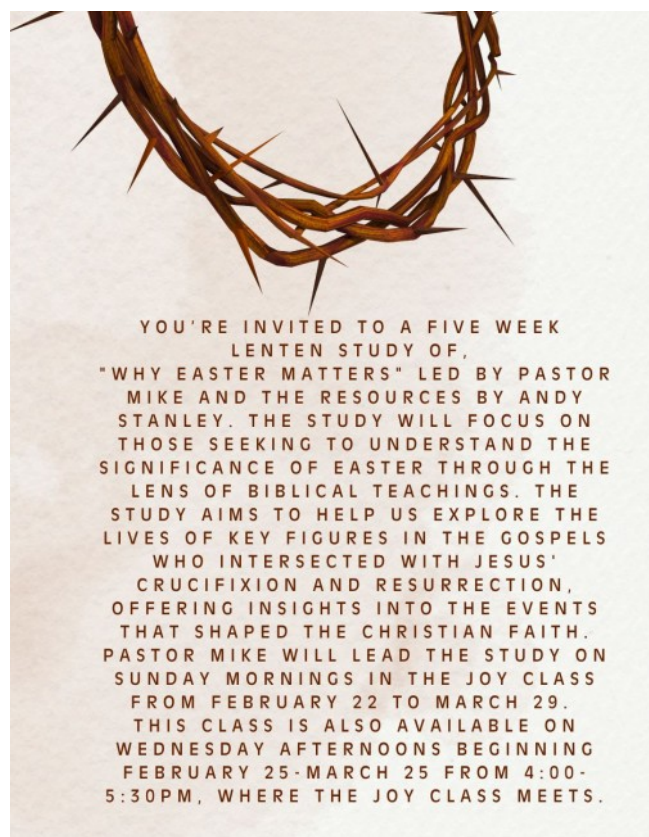
March 26th hosted at First Methodist Church
1001 5th Avenue, Conway
Speaker: Rev. Kevin Holland-Sparrow



"NOT MY
WILL,
BUT
Yours."



Please join us for
Maundy Thursday
Service
April 2nd
at 7:00 PM



YOU'RE INVITED TO A FIVE WEEK
LENTEN STUDY OF,
"WHY EASTER MATTERS" LED BY PASTOR
MIKE AND THE RESOURCES BY ANDY
STANLEY. THE STUDY WILL FOCUS ON
THOSE SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF EASTER THROUGH THE
LENS OF BIBLICAL TEACHINGS. THE
STUDY AIMS TO HELP US EXPLORE THE
LIVES OF KEY FIGURES IN THE GOSPELS
WHO INTERSECTED WITH JESUS'
CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION,
OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO THE EVENTS
THAT SHAPED THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.
PASTOR MIKE WILL LEAD THE STUDY ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS IN THE JOY CLASS
FROM FEBRUARY 22 TO MARCH 29.
THIS CLASS IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 25 FROM 4:00-
5:30PM, WHERE THE JOY CLASS MEETS.



There you go again...being a bright spot in God's world and mine!

Friends,

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness during my hospital visits and recuperation at home. Your prayers were felt and answered.

You are my "rock in Faith". I love you with all my heart. Thank you for being a blessing in my life.

In faith,
Cheryl Robertson

Dear Trinity UMC,

Thank you all so much for the generous out pouring of love during Mom's illness and passing. From visits, cards, texts, messages, flowers, goodies and gifts, we are so thankful for our Trinity family, especially the Sunshine Circle, the Men's group, Women's group, Joy class, Seekers class and of course the bereavement team, Bill, Jennifer and Carolyn.

We could never fully quantify or express our gratitude and appreciation. Please know that Mom loved this church and its people, near and far, for many decades. Bill and Jennifer, thank you for honoring Mom so beautifully and spending time with her, visiting and in prayer.

Thank you for letting us lean on you. Karen Nobles will always be part of this church's legacy and it is certainly part of hers.

All our love,
Adrainne Anderson & family

Dear Trinity family,

We are so grateful to our Trinity family for your prayers, love, and support following the death of Andy's mom.

Thank you,
Andy and Scarlet Fowler



Dear TUMC,

Thank you for your donation of \$228.00 on December, 2025 and your continued support throughout the year. We were able to help hundreds of children each month. This Christmas we provided gifts for 1,035 children.

We truly appreciate everything you do for Fostering Hope.

Blessings,
Tabby
Fostering Hope

HOPE DELIVERED

Thank you, Trinity family,
for your "Souper Bowl" donations
to The Shepherd's Table!





Given in memory of....

Janet Mayers

Linda P Hendrick
Marilyn Holcombe
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hopkins

Fred Thomas

Marilyn Holcombe

Annette Bond

Marilyn Holcombe

Marilyn (Ria) Fowler

Marilyn Holcombe
Beth Brinson
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Gainey
Mrs. Carla Booth
Mrs. Meredith Hyman
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hopkins

Larry Woodle

Marilyn Holcombe

Sharon Smith

Marilyn Holcombe

Karen Nobles

The Joy Class
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Hopkins

Given in honor of...

All March Birthdays

Marilyn Holcombe



*Rev. McCown and the entire J.U.M.C. family and staff join in expressing
sympathy and Christian love to:
the family of Karen Nobles
and
Athene Long following the death of her sister,
Peggy Inman*



We Care for One Another

Arbor Landing

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

Mullins Nursing Center

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

Spring Oak Assisted Living

2310 US-378 Conway, SC 29527
Dorothy Dietrich (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

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

MEMBERS

John Wright
 Lana Fortson
 Anne Woodle & Family
 Marie Skipper
 Lynn Spires
 Rich & Phyllis Eisenman
 Cheryl Robertson
 Wade & Kim Horenforst

Mary & Kip Miller
 Martha Cross
 Vance & Jennifer Donkle
 Kathy Gray
 Pat & Eddie Gerosa
 Beth Brinson
 Merrell Floyd
 Tina Hubbard
 Phyllis Koch
 Linda Hendrick
 Jason Owens
 Sharon Black
 Tamara Tindal
 Burnett Owens
 Susan Wiseman
 Dr. Dick Rush
 Art & Sandy O'Brien

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

Janice & Danny Elmer (Jerri Woodle's friends)
 Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)
 Ralph Fields
 Mike Cloderfelter (friend of Gene & Cookie Johnson)
 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)
 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

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Hayes Blackwelder
 614 Elgin Ct
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-3332

Ellie Howle
 USC, 1615 Rice St
 Columbia, SC 29205

Luke Skipper
 566 J.P. Stevens Rd
 Seneca, SC 29678

Austin Suggs
 1100 Bluff Rd, Unit 507
 Columbia, SC 29201

John (J.D.) Murdock
 Attn: FMU Housing
 51430 East Palmetto St
 Florence, SC 29506



March:
Janet Howle
Sandra D'Atilio



March Schedule:

March 1	Hailey Patterson
March 8	Rosemary Reid
March 15	Ailey Covington
March 22	Whitley Gainey
March 28	

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!!

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.

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

14-18 OCTOBER

2026



Ladies, join us as we head to the NC mountains for our annual ladies retreat! It is a time to deepen your relationship with God and the ladies at TUMC. We have great fellowship, delicious food, and a whole lot of fun!! Don't miss out...RSVP by May 31st; cost depends on attendance.

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



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jessica Rice | 3 Chap & Nila Hutchinson |
| Mason Luttrell | 6 Helen & Howard Emmons |
| 2 Patrice Boatwright | 7 Charles & Judy Gidney |
| Ryan Freudiger | 9 Lee & Tammy Boyd |
| 3 Garrett Thomas | 14 Don & Sherri Freudiger |
| 4 Kelly Barnes | 15 D. J. & Lynn Hucks |
| 5 Bill Wiegand | 19 Barry & Libby Cates |
| Josh Nesbit | 20 Chad & Matti Hooks |
| 6 Gail Kemm | 27 Polly & Joey Vereen |
| 7 Merrell Floyd | 31 Erica & Shane Tyler |
| Robert Booth | |
| Anna Johnson | |
| Gage Fortson | |
| 8 Karen Lowrey | |
| 9 Mary Hawkins | |
| Carolyn Guyton | |
| 10 Jessica Rogers | |
| William Helms | |
| 11 Tyler Johnson | |
| Holley Wallace | |
| 12 Sarah Hughes | |
| 13 Kathy Gray | |
| 14 Richard Anderson | |
| Deborah Burdine | |
| 16 Whitley Gainey | |
| 17 Bill Fox | |
| Grant Johnston | |
| Jordan Hyman | |
| 18 Janie Johnson | |
| 19 Burt Brown | |
| 21 Taylor Hunsucker | |
| 22 Russ Richardson | |
| 23 Lyndsay Anderson | |
| Mary Chesla | |
| Jimmy Seeders | |
| 24 Bobby Gantt | |
| Beau Dingle | |
| Paul Gore | |
| 25 Ara Heinz | |
| Jackson Anderson | |
| Austin Suggs | |
| 27 Catherine Dingle | |
| Anna Dingle | |
| Mary Dingle | |
| 28 Jordyn Barnes | |
| Rachel Fleming | |
| 29 Cynthia Welch | |
| 30 Reid Murdock | |
| 31 Andy Fowler | |
| Jacob Holden | |
| Dennis Greene | |
| Layla Richardson | |



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS Saturday, March 7th
and join us on time for worship





**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. WILLIAM H. MCCOWN III, Pastor
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

Jan Bitting, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor

RALPH FIELDS, Facilities Maintenance

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