



# Trinity Times

**Volume 8, Issue 5  
June 2020**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Church Council at Trinity has decided that we will reopen the church for in-person worship this Sunday, June 14. The decision to open the sanctuary is not an easy one, nor is it one that should be approached in a careless or thoughtless manner. The safety and health of our congregation should be of paramount importance. Not only should our congregation actually be safe to return, it is important that they have the confidence that all is being done to secure their safety.

Unfortunately, our return to in-person worship cannot be done like flipping a light switch back on. Our return must, in our opinion, be gradual, incremental, and done with all appropriate safeguards.

This pandemic has been difficult for all of us. Our lives have been disrupted and we have had to get used to staying home more than we wanted to, learning new ways of doing things, discovering new things to do, taking precautions that we never have had to take before, and taking care of ourselves and others more than we have ever had to. We have also had to learn how to “do” church in new and exciting ways—but ways that have tested our imagination, resolve, and sometimes even our faith. But we have gotten this far together even while we have struggled through almost three

months of separation and lockdown. We are slowly coming out of it and we have an opportunity to begin to rebuild and renew our church and to re-energize our ministry.

The Church Council has decided to implement precautions that will allow us to begin our reopening. We are abiding by the guidelines of the S. C. Conference of United Methodist Churches for reopening churches in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to the day that we can worship as we did before without any restrictions or precautions. But we are not there yet. You will find the guidelines we will be following on the next page. These guidelines go into effect beginning Sunday June 14.

Blessings,

Charles



Pastor Charles Wilbanks



## **TRINITY UMC GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO WORSHIP**

1. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that individuals over the age of 65 are at a higher risk of contracting coronavirus than people who are younger. That being said, if you are 65 or older, before you choose to come back to worship, carefully consider your risks.
2. No matter what your age, if you feel uncomfortable coming back to in-person worship, please do not feel obligated to do so. Your reluctance and anxiety are certainly understandable. We would urge you to participate in worship online via our Facebook page or take advantage of alternate ways of joining us.
3. If you have compromised immune systems or underlying medical conditions that put you at an increased risk, we ask that you stay home and worship with us online until it is safe for you to return.
4. If you have any symptoms (fever, coughing, headache, etc.) please remain at home and worship with us online.
5. Seating in our sanctuary will be limited to 60 persons. The fellowship hall can seat more if space is needed as the service can be seen via livestream on the television in that area.
6. We are working on repairing the outside speakers of the church so that you may choose to worship with us by either sitting in your cars or by bringing your own lawn chairs and sitting outside your car. You can listen to the service as well as watch via livestream with the volume turned down.
7. Those attending in the sanctuary and/or in the fellowship hall will wear masks. Bring your own if you have one. If not, one will be provided. Hand sanitizer will be available. You are strongly encouraged to use it as you enter and as you leave the sanctuary.
8. There will be no acolyte processional or lighting.
9. There will be no children's church downstairs during the service.
10. There will be instrumental music, but no congregational hymns will be sung.
11. There will be no collection plates passed. Instead the plates will be at the entrance of the church for the collection of tithes and offering.
12. Communion will not be celebrated until it is safe to do so.
13. Ushers will seat attendees. Proper social distancing of approximately six feet will be observed. People may be asked to sit in pews in which they do not normally sit.
14. Doors will be opened and closed by the ushers.
15. There will be no Sunday School.
16. As you leave the church after service, please maintain six feet from the person in front of you and keep your mask on. Wait until you go outside to visit with others or attempt conversations with others. Even outside you are urged to maintain appropriate safe social distance.
17. The sanctuary and other public areas will be thoroughly sanitized after each worship service.
18. All items, including pew Bibles and Hymnals will be removed from each pew.

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1160 Trinity Church Road  
Newberry, SC 29108

803-276-1245 Office  
803-206-4623 Pastor Cell



[clwilbanks@bellsouth.net](mailto:clwilbanks@bellsouth.net)  
[trinityumcnewberry@gmail.com](mailto:trinityumcnewberry@gmail.com)  
[www.trinityumcnewberry.net](http://www.trinityumcnewberry.net)  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN!

Peggy Bogart, Church Secretary  
Head Usher: Harry Longshore  
Choir Director: Jane Pollard  
Organist: Phyllis Sanders  
Substitute Organist: Eddie Welborn  
Video Board: Josh Pitts, Caroline Senn, Bryan Waldrop  
Acolytes/Cross Bearers Coordinator: Eli Martin  
Newsletter Editor: Harriet Stevenson



**Thanks to Pastor Wilbanks** for bringing us a daily scripture reading on Facebook. We will be discontinuing the daily message now that our

church is reopening. Also, thank you for bringing us the church service online each week so that those who are not comfortable returning to church right now may still hear God's word each Sunday. Special thanks to **Phyllis Sanders** and **Josh Pitts** for helping to make it possible each week while our church was closed..



We are a caring church and want to share your concerns. Let us know if you or someone you know would like to share a prayer request with us. We will be happy to pray for you. Contact Harriet Stevenson or Peggy Bogart, Church Secretary, to add or remove names from the Prayer List.

**Known Hospitalizations:**

**Recent Hospitalizations and/or Surgeries:**

**Nursing Home:**

**Continued Prayers** Shirley Berry, Gloria Brehmer, Jean Bundrick, Rebecca Bundrick, Alice Longshore, James and Jeanette Poag, Robert Pollard, Mary Waldrop

**Family and friends of Trinity:** Phillip Sanders, Haley Stuck and Baby

**CANCELLATIONS.**

- Vacation Bible School has been cancelled.
- Salkehatchie Summer Service has been cancelled.
- All church organizations are cancelled for the month of June. Some events may be starting back in July. We will keep you informed.

We will be mailing newsletters each month. Also, be sure to watch our Facebook page for information as well. We have made some changes to our website. Go to [www.trinityumcnewberry.net](http://www.trinityumcnewberry.net) and let us know what you think.



- 3 – Heather Armstrong
- 4 – Dena Pollard
- 6 – Eddie Welborn
- 6 – Peggy Marlowe
- 6 – Lavone Coats
- 17 – Dale Bundrick
- 20 – Henry Hendrix
- 22 – Ronnie Davenport
- 23 – Emily Spicer
- 25 – Lynn Mohler
- 29 – Leah P. Caldwell
- 30 – Michelle Morris

### **A Prayer for Washing Our Hands**

As I wash my hands, I not only cleanse them of dirt and dangerous elements, but I also pledge to lift them in holiness. I think of those affected by the coronavirus and pray for their recovery. I commit myself to dedicate my hands to doing good for the world by giving charity. I pledge to use my hands to help others in physical need. I pledge only to write words that can make a positive difference in the world. I pray that my hands do not harm others, but rather be a source of blessing to the world. To paraphrase the popular song from decades ago, “The whole world is in our hands.” In the words of the psalmist: “Lift up your hands in holiness and bless the Lord” (Psalms 134:2). In Jesus Name, Amen.

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### **CHRISTIAN SYMBOL FOR JUNE**



#### **Olive**

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony, and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah’s ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Men's Club Postponed			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Services streaming live on Trinity Facebook Page 11:00 a.m.  Trinity Sunday	United Methodist Women Postponed.		Silver and Gold Postponed			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Trinity re-opens with guidelines  Services continue streaming live on Trinity Facebook Page 11:00 a .m.  Flag Day	Administrative Council Meeting Postponed					First Day of Summer
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day  Services continue streaming live on Trinity Facebook Page 11:00 a.m.		Deadline for Trinity Times July Issue				
28 Graduate Sunday  Services continue streaming live on Trinity Facebook Page 11:00 a.m.	29	30	31			



## Congratulation to our High School Graduates

Our graduates will be honored during the church service on June 28, 2020.



**Shelbie Johnson**



Miss Shelbie Johnson, daughter of William and Carol Johnson, and sister of William Jr. (Boo Boo) graduated from Newberry High School with an advanced diploma and will be attending Piedmont Technical College in the fall. Shelbie was president of the MYF at Trinity and is a member of the Voices of Trinity choir. Shelbie was also involved in agriculture at the Career Center, ROTC and Best Sellers. We are very proud of Shelbie and congratulate her on her achievements.

**Lauryn Wilson**



Miss Lauryn Wilson, daughter of Ashley and April Wilson, and sister of Wyatt and Gavin, graduated from Newberry Academy and will be attending Clemson University in the fall. Lauryn was Vice President of the Beta Club, President of NA Junior Civitans, Secretary of Student Government and Seargeant of Arms for SC Junior Civitans. Lauryn was also on the cheering squad. We are very proud of Lauryn and all of her achievements.

*[For I know the plans I have for you,](#) declares the LORD, ["plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."](#) ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))*

Dear God, we thank you that you have indeed given Shelbie and Lauryn great hope and a future. We pray for the days you have prepared for them to walk in and ask you to fill them with your spirit and power as they live out their destiny. We ask that you inspire them to never be afraid to dream big, run strong, and soar high. We pray that nothing will ever be allowed to hold them back in this life. May they fulfill every calling you have for their lives. Strengthen them to live a life of so much love, passion, influence, hope, and determination that this world will be changed for the better. May they always know that anything is possible to those who believe, for our God is always greater. May they have a deep desire to serve faithfully and a heart to work hard. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace. Amen.

**Below is a letter received from Phyllis Sanders, our organist. When you see Phyllis, please join Trinity in letting her know how much we have appreciated and enjoyed her time as organist. I am sure God is saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We understand her decision but will miss her beautiful music each Sunday. We will celebrate her "retirement" at a later date.**

May 28, 2020

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1160 Trinity Church Road  
Newberry, SC 29108

Dear Rev. Wilbanks, Trinity UMC Council, and Congregation,

After much careful thought and consideration and after many fervent prayers, I want to inform you that I will be stepping down as organist at Trinity United Methodist Church. Please consider this my letter of resignation effective June 28, 2020.

Having served six different churches, beginning at the young age of 15, and continuing to serve over a period of sixty-one years, I feel now is the right time to let someone else take over this position and responsibility.

Sundays spent with my family have been few and far between over the years. I am anxious to spend more time with family and friends while my health is still good. This pandemic has made me realize just how important family and friends can be. Also, as most of you know, my situation at home is not getting better and is starting to take a toll on me. At this time, I need to do what is best for my health and well-being.

I have enjoyed playing the organ at Trinity and I will always have many fond memories of my time as organist. I love you, my Trinity family, and wish you the best in your search for a new organist. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Phyllis Sanders

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