

We welcome you to worship the Living and Triune God. Jesus Christ is alive and with us in the power of the Holy Spirit. To schedule an appointment or become a member, speak to Pastor Phil. Prayer and counsel are available after the service. Silence your phones and give yourself to the holy work of worship! You are called to be a follower of the Lord, a member of his people, and a participant in his mission. It's our business as we serve the world from the center of Greenwood, SC. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, September 23, 2012
Our website is www.msumc1.org

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

11:00 am **The 17th Sunday after Pentecost** **Color: Green**

*Stand as able

A nursery is provided

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

“Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on...
who in the strength of Jesus trusts, is more than conqueror.”
-Charles Wesley’s call to spiritual conflict, 1749-

ENTRANCE

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE Pray as You Enter; Assume Silence at the Chiming
TRINITY CHIME Schuyler McGinnis
PRELUDE *Prelude in D Minor (Handel)* Joyce Nickles: Organist
WELCOME AND SILENCE Phil Thraikill: Pastor

***GREETING** Trinitarian Greeting, 1 Peter 5:6-9

As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord:
Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that in due time he may exalt you.

Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares for you.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil
prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith,

knowing that the same experience of suffering

is required of your brothers and sisters throughout the world.”

***PROCESSION HYMN, NO. 575** *Onward, Christian Soldiers*

***COMMON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON** Based on Ephesians 6:10-24

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

**Almighty and Living God, our heavenly Father,
you have promised us a new world in your kingdom,
but how great are the powers arrayed against us.
Sin and rebellion are our constant companions,
but you offer us the healing medicine of forgiveness and obedience.
The deceit of evil stalks us and exploits our weaknesses,
but you have given us divine armor with which to stand and fight.
Death will one day snuff out the only life we have known,
but you have given us a love that is stronger than death.
Forgive us our sins and our foolishness.
Equip us for battles that are won by the powers of love and truth.
Restore to us the holy passion that marked our founding,
that we may bear bold witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
and spread scriptural holiness and fresh hope across the land.
You are our God, and we are your people in need of deep restoration.
We welcome your Holy Spirit to shine light and power upon us this hour.
Amen. (Silence is kept for prayer. Pardon is announced.)**

***ACT OF PRAISE, NO. 70** *Glory Be to the Father*

REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE (Counting sheep!), CHURCH CONCERNS

AN ORDER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES Scripture Sheet

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Priests, Pagans, Prophets* Deuteronomy 18:9-22

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(Glenn William: Lay Reader)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Shell Dula
(3-year-olds through Kindergarteners leave for Extended Session.)

A READING OF UNITED METHODIST DOCTRINE *Book of Discipline 2008: 58-59*
John Wesley's Standard Sermons, No 42, "A Caution Against Bigotry"

2.5 "The *god of this world* holds his English worshippers full as fast as those in Lapland. But it is not his business to affright them, lest they should fly to the God of heaven. The *prince of darkness*, therefore, does not appear, while he rules over these his willing subjects. The *conqueror* holds his captives so much the safer, because they imagine themselves at liberty. Thus "*the strong one* armed

keepeth his house, and his goods are in peace;" neither the Deist nor nominal Christian suspects he is there: so he and they are perfectly at peace with each other. 2.6. All this while he works with energy in them. He blinds the eyes of their understanding, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ cannot shine upon them. He chains their souls down to earth and hell, with the chains of their own vile affections. He binds them down to the earth, by love of the world, love of money, of pleasure, of praise. And by pride, envy, anger, hate, revenge, he causes their souls to draw nigh unto hell; acting the more secure and uncontrolled, because they know not that he acts at all."

ANTHEM *Sometimes a Light Surprises (arr. Craig Courtney)*
Chancel Choir, Larry Moore: Director

SERMON LESSON *The Armaments of Spiritual Battle* Ephesian 6:10-24
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Why the Christian Life is Hard* Phil Thraikill: Pastor
Am I willing to learn the discernment, arts, and disciplines of spiritual conflict?

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

***WESLEY HYMN, NO. 513** *Soldiers of Christ, Arise* The altar is open for prayer
***THE RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL OATHS** *Hymnal: 34, No. 4, 6*

INVITATION AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY *When Thou Art Near* Joyce Nickles: Organist

***DOXOLOGY, NO. 95** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

***PASTOR'S PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

SENDING FORTH

***HYMN, NO. 511** *Am I a Soldier of the Cross*

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING** Phil Thraikill: Pastor

***SUNG RESPONSE, NO. 666** *Shalom to You*

The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Cronin by their family.