

Sunday March 31 through Sunday April 7

- Pastor Robert will focus on the ministry of reconciliation during the service today.
- Set up for the yard sale will begin this afternoon.
- Yard Sale begins tomorrow morning and ends Friday afternoon.
- There Apprentice Study Group will be meeting at the Parsonage on Monday evening at 6:30 pm.
- The NOW Team will be meeting on Tuesday evening at 7 pm.
- There will be no Fellowship Dinner for the month of April.
- Bible Study will be Wednesday at 6 pm followed by Choir practice at 7 pm.
- Lenten Service at Williams Chapel AME Zion.
- The Fellowship Hall is reserved for Saturday.
- Pastor Robert continues his Lenten series and loving the Lord by faith alone.



This WEEK at Trinity

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Sunday March 31

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
SET UP FOR INDOOR YARD SALE-
5:00 pm—UMYF

Monday April 1

INDOOR YARD SALE

6:30 pm—Parsonage Study Group
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday April 2

INDOOR YARD SALE

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group
7:00 pm—NOW Team Meeting

Wednesday April 3

INDOOR YARD SALE

6:00 pm—Bible Study
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday April 4

INDOOR YARD SALE

Friday April 5

INDOOR YARD SALE

Saturday April 6

Dogwood Garden Club

Sunday April 7

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF

Seeing Self and Neighbor with the Eyes of Christ II Corinthians 5: 16-21

Do you see the tension in creation? The glory of spring flowers lay down and give up their lives to become fruit. The fruit contains seed. The seed falls to the ground. The seed lays down its life to become a tree. The tree bears flowers and more fruits. Such is the complexity of reconciliation.

The wind blows. The flower's pollen rides the wind. It sticks to windshields, sinuses, and flowers alike. What looks like wastefulness reveals the abundance of God. Like yeast, a little pollen gives rise to an abundance of fruit. Such is the complexity of reconciliation.

The rains fall on fertile soil and rocky ground. The gentle showers of Spring erupt into Summer and Fall Hurricanes. What looks like destruction reveals the abundance of God. Surely we know that the marsh is like the lungs of the coastline. The hurricane cleanses the coastal lungs. That which looks destructive offers healing to the marsh and protects the coastline. (My friend Ted Fountain tells the story of his dad having the opportunity to purchase all of Edisto Beach for \$15,000. This was long before air-conditioning. Mr. Fountain said that only a fool would live on that pile of shifting sand!) Sounds rather Biblical. Yet, our human desires blind us to God's creation daily.)

The tension we see in creation requires us to reconcile many things. Until we see such reconciliation at work in the physical world, Paul's letters indeed sound like he is "out of his mind." (see 5:13) In today's lesson, Paul calls us to the ministry of reconciliation. Through Christ Jesus, God reconciled humanity to Himself by not counting our sins against us. Do you feel the tension? Do you see sin in your life and the life of your neighbor? Do you count people's sin against them or see sin as an opportunity to introduce people to live in the tension of faith in Jesus Christ?

In the book "Good and Beautiful God," the writer spells out this tension in a "beautiful" way. "Sin remains but it does not reign." Counting sins against our selves and our neighbors allows it to remain and reign. Faith that God does not count our sins against us offers us peace. Imagine Christ Jesus: In one hand he holds the sin that remains in our lives and in the other hand he holds the healing power of peace that God does not count sin against us. Such is the complexity of reconciliation.

It sounds like I am out of my mind. The sin that remains in my life gives me reason to count it a blessing that God does not count it against me. By the way, I am out of my mind. As I write, I am in Christ Jesus.

I wonder what might happen to the United Methodist Church if it chose to take up the Ministry of Reconciliation as The Way Forward. What are your thoughts?

One in Christ,

Robert