

July 2026

Tranquil United Methodist Church



Tranquil Tidings

Sharing the Peace and Love of Christ in our Community since 1820.



You will be
blessed when you
come in
And blessed when
you go out.
Deuteronomy 28:6



Greetings fellow Tranquil ministers! I'm Greg Thompson and excited to be your new pastor. I was born and raised in North Carolina. At the age of 9, I accepted Christ as my savior. At 14 I felt a call to preach and explored this option. I was licensed to preach by my home church, Union Grove Baptist Church, Kernersville, N. C. in the 11th grade. I graduated from Mars Hill University in 1983 with a degree in psychology. Then I began seminary at Southeastern Baptist Seminary in the Fall of 1983.

I met my late wife, Lisa, while we were students at Southeastern Seminary in 1986. We married the next year and withdrew from our studies. I worked for the State of N. C. for 9 years before returning to Erskine Theological Seminary to complete the Master of Divinity degree. Afterward I worked at Harris Psychiatric Hospital as a Chaplain until 1999. In the meantime I taught at Forrest Junior College, Anderson, S. C. for three years.

Lisa was an Academic Registrar and accepted a position in Gainesville GA. I began hospital chaplaincy at NE GA Medical Center as a contract chaplain. In September of 2013, I was called to a UMC in the foothills of Georgia. I served there until August of 2017 when we relocated to Clinton, SC. I did a chaplain residency at Self Regional hospital from 2017 until 2018. In [September 2019](#), I was called to a double charge in the Spartanburg district after a local pastor was killed. In 2024 I was called to the Trinity/Central-Laurens charge in the Greenwood district.

I have many interests and hobbies. I enjoy reading, walking in the woods, "thrifting", re-purposing things, woodworking, languages, exercise and beginning yoga. Of course, studying the Bible and commentaries, Creation respectful living, more about that as we go.

Lisa developed dementia in 2022 and retired from Presbyterian College. I was privileged to be her caregiver until she went to heaven. Hospice was a Godsend during her last month. [June 30](#), 2025 sepsis took the love of my life. We were married for almost 38 years. I still have our cat, Jenny, who will be nine in November. She was featured in the [May 2026](#) Advocate. I have one younger sister, Melanie Geller who lives in Greensboro, NC with her husband Ross.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and hearing your stories. See you [Sunday](#)!

If you have questions you can reach me at [864-547-2116](tel:864-547-2116)(Landline) or [864-305-9380](tel:864-305-9380).

Blessings, Greg



STEWARDSHIP

June Offerings

Yearly budget received to date: \$ 63,121.66

	SS	Worship
Attendance June 7	19	33
June 14	21	32
June 21	18	26
June 29	16	37

Giving is Worship

Giving back to the One who gave

SERVING

July Trustee of the Month

Steve Durham
(C)864-200-6633

July Counters:

6	Helen Watson
13	Janet Robinson
20	Linda Goldman
27	Martha Vincent

Altar Guild Volunteer for July:

Cindy Davis

Usher for July:

Ann Coker

ALTAR FLOWERS

July Altar Flowers

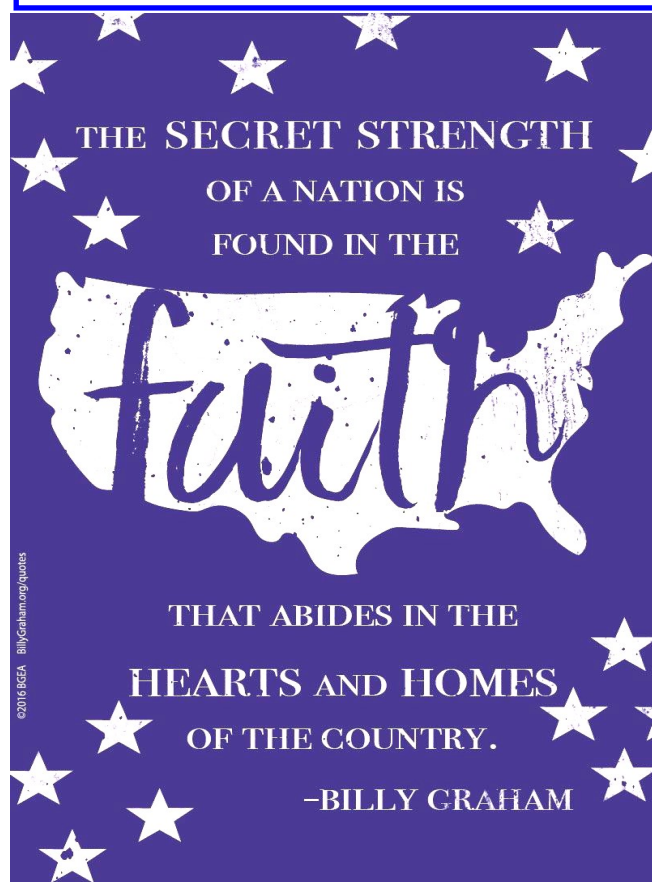
- 5 To the Glory of God
By Bubba and Cindy Davis
- 12 In memory of Kathie W. Moore
By Robert "Bobby" Moore
- 20 To the Glory of God
- 27 To the Glory of God

Lay Speakers

July 5	Sandy Shaffer
12	Martha Vincent
19	Martha Vincent
26	Sandy Shaffer

LECTIONARY READINGS

July 5	6th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Ps 45:10-17 or Ps 72 (UMH 795) Rom 7:15-25a Matt 16-19, 25-30
July 12	7th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 25:19-34 Ps 119:1-5-112 or Ps 25 (UMH 756) Rom 8:1-11 Matt 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	8th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 28:10-19a Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854) Rom 8:12-25 Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26	9th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 29:15-28 Ps 105:1-11, 45b (UMH 828) Rom 8:26-39 Matt 13:31-33, 44-52



CELEBRATION

Birthdays

4 John Vincent
5 Amy Buist
9 Lisa Stevens
10 Carolyn Durham
12 Ronnie Beverly
17 Jack Cauley
19 Leigh Ann Reynolds
21 Trevor Culbertson
23 Thomas McCombs
25 Olivia Bayne, Margie Darragh
27 Sherry Bayne
28 Steve Mikeal
29 Ginger Davenport Coster
31 Patsy Anderson, Michaela Weeks



Anniversaries



25 Ronnie and Twiler Beverly

Happy Anniversary!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Birthstone: Ruby

Flower: Larkspur



May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right. *Peter Marshall*

4 Things the Bible Says About Freedom

1. People have been searching for it for thousands of years. Just three chapters into the story of God's creation, humanity gave up freedom by choosing to rebel against God.
2. God's answer to our loss of freedom has always been Jesus Christ. When Jesus began his short period of ministry on earth, He announced He was the One that God's people had been waiting for since the fall of humanity. "He has sent me to proclaim **liberty** to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at **liberty** those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
3. Jesus came to free us from death, sin and anything that enslaves us.
4. God gives us freedom to choose our own path.

Are Julying?



Danny had recently passed his driving test and decided to ask his clergyman father if there was any chance of him getting a car for Christmas, which was yet some months away. "Okay," said his father, "I tell you what I'll do. If you can get your 'C' level grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your bible and get your hair cut, I'll consider the matter very seriously." A month later Danny went back to his father who said "I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and the work you have put into your bible studies is very encouraging. However, I have to say I'm very disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut yet." Danny was smart and never lost for an answer. "Look dad. In the course of my bible studies I've noticed in the illustrations that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair." "Yes. I'm aware of that..." replied his father "... but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?"

THE BIBLE AND LAUGHTER—Proverbs 17:22

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." A cheerful heart can include laughter. When we think about the heart being merry that is the inward working of the joy of Christ. Then, laughter is a physical sign of the inward working of God. Just like the Bible shares that our speech reflects our hearts, our laughter comes from a heart of happiness.



BBQ & BLUES FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY GREENWOOD, SC

Check out Greenwood's Festival of Discovery July 9-11, 2026. This festival celebrates the history, culture, food, arts, crafts, music and people that make South Carolina and Greenwood County such an incredible place to live and visit. The Festival started in 2000 and has been very successful ever since. There are so many activities that await you, so go to the SC Festival of Discovery webpage at www.uptowngreenwood.com/events/sc_festival-of-discovery/schedule-at-a-glance and check it out!

Should you visit the event, don't forget to.....
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!!!!



Dog Days of Summer

What are dog days of summer and why are they so called? Dog days, as they are called, are 40 days of sweltering weather beginning July 3 and ending August 11th (40 days). The 'dog days of summer' is a phrase used to describe the hot and humid days of summer. It can be traced back thousands of years to the days of the Roman Empire. The dates, July 3 to August 11, is 20 days prior and 20 days after the star Sirius rises and falls in conjunction with the sun. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star," because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog).

TIPS FOR TAKING CARE OF PETS:

- Provide fresh, clean water throughout the day. Water heats up.
- Create shaded spots for your pet to cool off.
- Certain breeds, especially those with short snouts, are more prone to overheat.
- Grooming regularly helps your pet shed excess fur, which can trap heat.



Prayer Requests

Ashley		Linda Sanders
Ashton	Emma	Lois
Austin	Gaines	Lori
Becky Steifle	Helen	Marcia
Benzie Witt	Gracen	Margaret Simpson
Billy and Brenda Fuller	Hannah	Matt
Bob Coman	Harper-Reese	Patty Flynn
Bonnie	Ian in Kuwait	Phyllis
Brenda Frady	Israel	Poole Family
Carson	Jack and Evelyn Cauley	Pfeiffer Family
Christy, Nicholas, Joseph	Jane Stroud	Richard Coker
Cody	James Poore	Ronnie and Twiler
Channing	Jeff Channing	Rosie
Dave Brinkerhoff	Jeanne Purvis	Sonny Meadows
Debbie	Jim Hagan	Sonny Tharpe
Dianne	Jim Rainey	Tranquil
Dolly	Justin	Trixie
Eddie Porter	Lawrence Daniel	Unspoken
		Wayne

Prayer requests can be submitted by calling or emailing the church office at 864 223-5333, tranquilmc@wctel.net or by accessing the church website at www.thetranquillife.org.



Volunteers Needed

Flags along the drive will be placed on Wednesday, July 1st, and removed on Wednesday, July 8th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed.

Upcoming Meeting

Administrative Board Meeting

Monday, August 3rd, 2026, 3:00 p.m.—Brockwell Classroom

Potluck luncheon brings us all together! Happy faces; full of graces.



Tranquil never disappoints!

Thank you to Von and David Hill, Cindy and Bubba Davis, Mike and Jean Byrd, Linda Goldman, Jennifer Byrd, Elaine Buist, and Linda Hearst for coordinating, decorating, setting up, taking down, and cleaning up afterwards.

Welcome Rev. Greg Thompson

On Sunday, June 28, 2026, a new Pastor was welcomed by the congregation to serve at Tranquil. It was a day of celebration to receive Rev. Thompson into the church family. Following the worship service, a POTLUCK LUNCHEON was served in the Fellowship Hall which gave everyone a chance to get acquainted and enjoy some delicious food.



Pictured L-r: Rev. Greg Thompson, Cindy Davis, Worship Committee Chair, Martha Vincent, S/PPRC Chair, and Sandy Shaffer, Lay Leader.

AN ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AN APPOINTMENT

Lay Leader: Dear friends, today we welcome Gregory Thompson, who has been appointed to serve as our pastor. We believe that he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our bishop, Leonard Fairley. Greg, you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God.

Pastor: Today I affirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

SPPRC Chair: Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Greg in these ministries?

Congregation: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Worship Chair: Let us pray. Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with Greg as our pastor. Give him and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts and talents in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation: Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body. May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness, and may we be doers of your Word and not hearers only. As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism gather at His table and then scatter into the world, may we be one in service to others, in Christ's name. **Amen.**

In Memory

In Memory

In memory of David Frady

By the following:

Richard and Ann Coker

Bubba and Cindy Davis

Jerrel and Linda Goldman

JoAnn Purkerson

Helen Watson

In Memory continued

In memory of Jean Corley

By the following:

Gail Moore

In memory of L. B. "B" Adams

(Welborn Adams father)

By the following:

Jerrel and Linda Goldman

Tranquil greatly appreciates the gifts that have been made in honor and in memory.



Welcome New Member

Tranquil is delighted to welcome new member, Sean Cornelsen, husband of Braydyn Cornelsen (granddaughter of Bubba and Cindy Davis) into the church family on June 7, 2026.

Pictured at left is Sean and Braydyn.

Pictured below from l-r is Pastor John P. Bolin, Sean, Braydyn, Lay Leader, Sandy Shaffer, and to the right of Sandy is Cindy Davis (grandmother to Braydyn).

Our prayer for you!

"Dear Lord, we lift up our hearts in prayer for our new church member. As he embarks on his journey of faith within our community, grant him wisdom to discern Your will and strength to follow Your path. Help him navigate any doubts or challenges, knowing that You are his steadfast companion. May he find fulfillment and purpose in his newfound spiritual home."



If my people, which are called by
my name, shall humble themselves,
and pray, and seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin, and
will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Be wise now therefore, O ye kings:
be instructed, ye judges of
the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling ...
Blessed are all they that
put their trust in him.

PSALM 2:10-12

Blessed is
the nation
whose God is
the LORD. . .

PSALM 33:12



The Christian flag vs. The American flag.

On the Christian flag, the colors match the American flag but are symbolically Christian. The colors on the flag match those on the American flag—Red, White, and Blue. But on the Christian flag, White represents purity and peace, blue indicates fidelity, and red stands for the shed blood of Christ.

The American flag has 13 alternating red and white stripes representing 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars on a blue field represent the 50 states that make up the United States of America for which we stand, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Storms of Life

Understanding “Storms of Life That Seem Like the End”

When life feels like it's in a relentless storm, it's natural to wonder if it will ever end. In faith, “storms of life” are metaphors for trials, grief, illness, or overwhelming challenges that test our strength and trust in God. They can feel endless, but Scripture and spiritual teaching emphasize that **we are meant to go through them, not stay camped out there** *Dr. Michelle Bengtson.*



Bible Perspective:

Job faced unimaginable loss yet remained faithful, showing that trials can refine character and deepen reliance on God.

Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee, demonstrating His authority over chaos and inviting us to trust Him in our own turmoil.

Isaiah 43:2 promises, “When you go through deep waters, I will be with you...you will not be burned up”, assuring God’s presence even in the fiercest trials.



The United States is celebrating 250 years of independence, marking the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.

The 250-year celebration, known as **America 250** or **Freedom 250**, commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, when the thirteen American colonies declared freedom from British rule. This milestone honors the founding of the nation, the sacrifices of early Americans, and the establishment of the United States as a republic. It is a moment to reflect on the country's history, achievements, and the ongoing journey of democracy and freedom.



THIS PIVOTAL MOMENT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON OUR COUNTRY'S PAST, CULTIVATE A RENEWED APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF OUR NATION, AND IGNITE A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE AND INNOVATION THAT WILL ELEVATE OUR COUNTRY TO NEW HEIGHTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME,

AND IN ALL WAYS PUT GOD FIRST!!!!

"O Say, can you see, by the dawn's early light"

The Star-Spangled Banner, national anthem of the United States, with music adapted from the anthem of a singing club and words by Francis Scott Key. After a century of general use, the four-stanza song was officially adopted as the national anthem by an act of Congress in 1931.

The Star-Spangled Banner and Its Biblical Connection

The Star-Spangled Banner is deeply tied to biblical imagery through its origins in the “**Song at the Sea**” (Exodus 15), a hymn celebrating Israel’s miraculous deliverance from Egypt. Both the anthem and the biblical song share striking parallels in theme, imagery, and structure.

Biblical roots

In Exodus 15, after God parts the Red Sea and destroys the Egyptian army, the Israelites sing a hymn of praise. The song begins with a call to witness: “*Israel saw Egypt dead on the shore of the sea*” (Exodus 14:30) and “*at the morning watch, God looked down upon the Egyptian army from a pillar of fire and cloud*” (Exodus 14:24). The morning light is a recurring motif, symbolizing God’s visible intervention and the dawn of a new life *jewishlink.news*.

Francis Scott Key’s inspiration

During the War of 1812, Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry. As dawn broke, he saw the American flag still flying, symbolizing the nation’s survival. He composed the anthem’s opening lines — “*O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light*” — echoing the Exodus hymn’s emphasis on visible deliverance *jewishlink.news*. Both works begin with a call to see the enemy defeated and end with a declaration of God’s power.

Symbolism of the banner

In the Bible, a **banner** (Hebrew *nēs*) is a rallying point, symbolizing God’s protection, identity, and victory. In Exodus 17:15, Moses builds an altar called *Yahweh Nissi* (“The Lord is my banner”), affirming that God Himself is the source of victory *Bible Hub*. The Star-Spangled Banner’s flag is a modern embodiment of this idea — a visible sign of national identity and resilience, much like the Israelite banners in the wilderness *annieyorty.com+1*.

Theological parallels

Both the Exodus song and the anthem frame the event as a divine act of salvation. The “foe” in both is arrogant and defeated, and the morning light is a sign of God’s presence. In Christian thought, the banner can also represent Christ as the ultimate standard of truth and salvation (Isaiah 11:10; John 12:32).

Summary

The Star-Spangled Banner is not just a patriotic song — it is a **biblically inspired hymn of deliverance**, echoing the Exodus narrative. Its imagery of dawn, the enemy’s defeat, and the visible banner reflects the same themes in Scripture, making it a cultural and spiritual echo of God’s power and faithfulness.





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 11 new local pastors
- Honored 26 retirees, with a symbolic Passing of the Mantle
- Remembered 58 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 McPadden, 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 "playground" 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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Advocate.
SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODISTS SINCE 1837

Your source for South Carolina United Methodist news.

July

Have you visited Tranquil's Web Page?
You can access Worship Information, the Monthly Newsletter, Online Worship, the Thought for the Day, Current Church Ministries, Kid's Corner, Contact and Staff information and so much more! Prayer requests can also be submitted. CHECK IT OUT!!!! www.thetranquillife.org

1

5

Worship—11: 00 a.m.
COMMUNION

6

7

8

12

Worship—11: 00 a.m.

13

14

15

19

Worship—11: 00 a.m

20

21

22

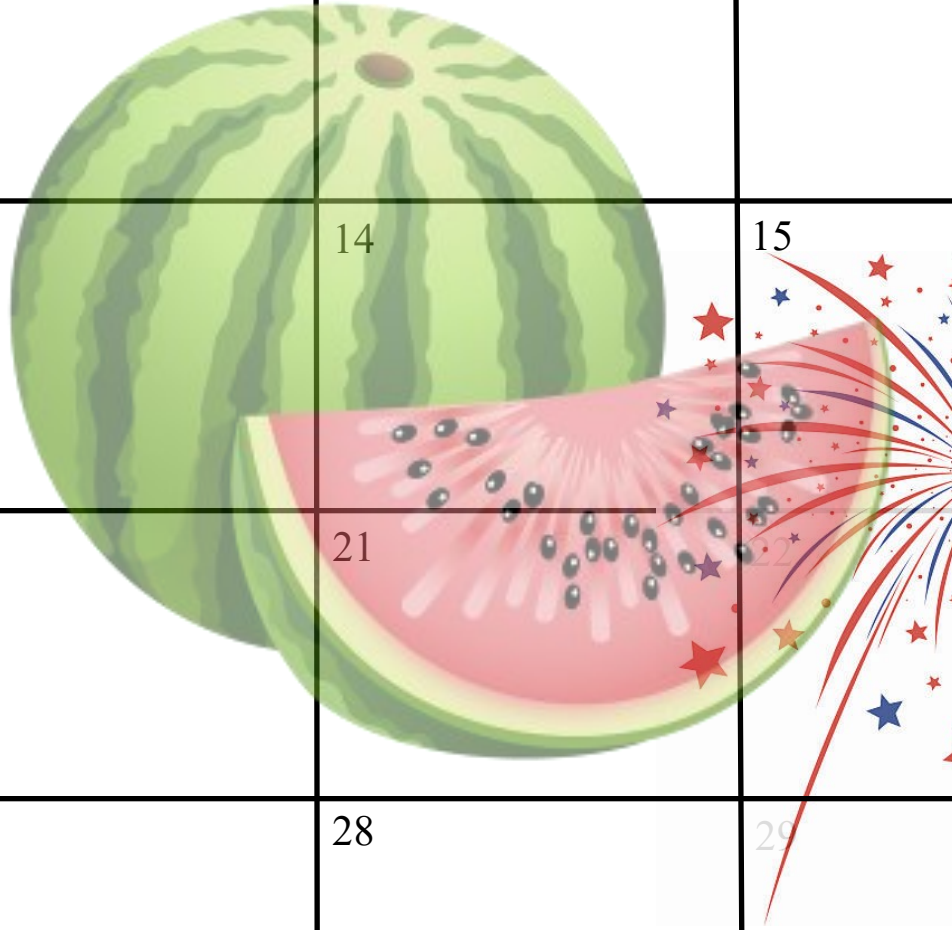
26

Worship—11: 00 a.m.

27

28

29



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 a.m. Placement of the American flags along the driveway. 	2	3 	4 
10:00 a.m. Removal of the American flags along the driveway. 	9 5 p.m. 	10 	11 11 p.m. 
	16	17	18
		24	25
	30	31	
  Worship Services are available on Facebook, You Tube and our Website www.the.tranquillife.org.			
			



Tranquil United Methodist Church
1702 McCormick Highway
Greenwood, SC 29646
Sharing the Peace and Love of Christ
in our community since 1820



Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM.
2 Corinthians 3:17

Tranquil Tidings

A monthly publication connecting members
and friends at Tranquil United Methodist Church.

Tranquil United Methodist Church

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Rev. Greg Thompson, Pastor (864) 547-2116 Jane Roper, Administrative Assistant
(864) 305-9380

Jack Cauley, Choir Director/Pianist

Sherry Bayne, Sound Technician