

Trinity United Methodist Church

"Thoughts For Troubled Times"

Volume 329

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

I John 3:1-7



Until We Meet Again

As you've all heard by now, June 28 is my last Sunday as Trinity's pastor. July will begin a new journey of faith for you as you welcome Pastor Jovie and a new direction for me in retirement. Saying goodbye is never easy and, frankly, I'm terrible at it. I look at our 18 years together and see not a pastor and a congregation but the blessing of a large extended family. We've experienced joys and sorrows, ups and downs, successes and victories yet to be won, but it's been as a caring, loving fellowship. Alice and I will truly miss that and each of you. Coming to fill in for a Sunday, I never anticipated that we would build such a relationship. But change is a part of life, and the Bible shows us that goodbyes have a way of leading to growth and new things. We see throughout Scripture examples of people who had to bid farewell to others and places they loved, putting their trust in God's plan. Whether Abraham leaving his family and homeland or Jesus telling His disciples of His departure, these goodbyes were a step toward something better. Goodbyes tend to lead to new beginnings. God promises us that He has plans for our future, plans that are full of hope and purpose and I am excited for you and your next chapter. Believe in yourselves and all that you are. You'll achieve great things!"

By our conference structure, with the exception of being invited back by the pastor for a wedding, funeral, or some special occasion, I am not permitted to return to the church for two years. This is to ensure that new relationships, helpful and caring are built between Pastor Jovie and you. It does not mean that our friendship is over or that we won't see each other. The local fairs, Builders of Hope functions, just the casual breakfast or meal shared, these are all acceptable, as long as we don't discuss church business. Where would I be without Leon repairing my lawnmower, Steve helping with my roof, the ladies making salads, cookies and such available? I may even start patronizing our yard sales! Our relationship changes but it does not end. So this isn't really goodbye, but rather, farewell until we meet again. You have our phone numbers and emails; you know where we live. Don't be strangers! Now, let me close with a word of prayer....

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the time we have shared with those we love. As we part ways, we trust in Your perfect plan. Bless us with peace, strength, and guidance as we step into the next chapter. May Your presence go before us, leading us with wisdom and grace. In Jesus name, Amen. **Pastor Mike**