

Today's liturgical color is blue which symbolizes hope. During the season of Advent, we remember our reason that hope is in our life. We are assured that God keeps his promises and on that first Christmas, He sent his only son Jesus Christ to fulfill His promise of salvation to us.

To help promote the happenings in our church, you can share our services and events to the community on your Facebook page.

****DISCLAIMER:** Trinity UMC utilizes videography to live stream all sanctuary worship services to social media. Service will be available for replay and images, likenesses, and audio may be captured to be used as thumbnails on each TUMC ran website. If you have any concerns, please notify the church office staff.**

Prelude: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen arranged by Craig Curry

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshiping community.

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship: It's Me, It's Me, O Lord No. 352

Welcome from Pastor Tim and welcome your neighbors

Lift up your heads, O gates!

and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of Glory may come in.
(Psalm 24:7)

Announcements (*noted within the bulletin)

A Time for Prayer: Pastor Tim

The 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 that 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. Amen.

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel No. 211

Light the Advent Candle

**Light the Advent candle three
Think of heav'nly harmony
Angels singing "Peace on earth"
At the blessed Savior's birth.**

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Readers: Katie, Laura & Sandra Rich

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a)

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles (purple and pink) of the Advent wreath.

Light the Advent Candle Chorus

**Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night:
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

Children's Moment: led by Patty R

The Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Ushers: (Chris S., Daniel W., Dennis A., Billy W.)

Offertory Prayer: Let us pray,

God of our future, whose compassion is unlimited, all that we have is yours and to you we shall render account for all you have given us. As we offer you these gifts we enjoy from your bounty, grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first your kingdom, on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our most kind Judge and Saviour. Amen.

Offertory Music: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arranged by Michael Scott

Doxology

No. 95

Anthem Song: Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Special Song: Mary Did You Know by David Goodman

Sermon: "Are You Ready for Christmas?" Luke 2:1-7

Response to the Service: Altar Call—if you desire to come to the front for prayer you are welcome to do so.

Closing Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

No. 221

Benediction

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another. AMEN!

Postlude: Anticipation for Christmas by Linda Kerby

Sending Forth/Extinguishing of the Candles: At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. The acolyte leaves the worship service at the pastor's direction, carrying out the lighted candle lighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.

*Offering stewards for December

Dec 24: Susie W., Amy G., Joyce P., Erin H.

Dec 31: Paul C., John H., Steve P., Fred H.

*Children's Moment for December

Dec 24: Mary Beth A.

Dec 31: Beth H.

*Greeters for December

Dec 24: Donna M., Amy G.

Dec 31: Alberta M., Patty R.

*Advent/Lector Readers for December

Dec 24: Love—Alberta and Kevin Mitchell

Dec 24 evening: Jesus Christ Candle—

Dec 31: Paula B.-Psalm 148

Nursery Volunteers for December

Dec 17: Cathy G., Judy H.

Dec 24: Donna M., Nicole R.

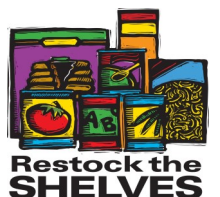
Dec 31: Amy G., Katie Z.

*Communion Stewards for December 24th

Amy G., Beth H., Erin H., Patty R.

UPS Back Pack Program

Don't forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School. The food item requested for December is juice boxes—apple or grape.



ZIMBABWE BACKPACK ITEMS: Our goal is to fill 60 backpacks. The donation requested for December is rulers; there is a box in the fellowship hall to deposit supplies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS AND SUCH.....

Adult Sunday School is Sunday at 10 am.

Choir Practice is Wednesday at 7 pm.

Financial Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, **Jan 10, at 6 pm**

The next **Pop’N for Jesus** is scheduled for **Wed, Jan 31st, 2024**. Interested in helping? **Meet at church or Hardees at 8:30 am!**

Worship service at Heritage Hall **every Wednesday at 1:30-3 pm**, all are welcome to attend. Pastor Tim is in high demand, they have requested two services each Wednesday in two separate areas of Heritage Hall!

EVENTS AND CHURCH HAPPENINGS.....

Our Annual Epiphany Service will be held January 14 @ 5pm

Greenbelt display—we have a Christmas display on the greenbelt —check it out cause it’s **FABULOUS!!**

Christmas Poinsettias are available again this year. Blossom Box will be providing the poinsettias—wrapped in gold with a red bow. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of someone, they are \$30 each. Please complete the form w/money & place in the offering plate or in the office.

Trinity UMC Staff Christmas Bonus—to show our appreciation to the staff members of Trinity, through the month of December you can give a monetary gift which will be divided between the following staff members: Joyce Palmer (treasurer); Tiffany Stallard Adams (admin/production asst); Amy Garcia (church secretary); Rick Galyean (music director); Calli Shell (pianist); and Steve Guerrant (custodian)

Christmas Eve—this year we will have two services on Christmas Eve - our 11 am morning worship & our **Candlelight Service at 6 pm**. **Please join us!**

Thank you to Cindy Ashley for the refreshed Chrismon ornaments on our Sanctuary tree—they look AWESOME!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Dec 10:

Sunday School: 4
In-Person Worship: 102
Facebook Live: 32
Visitors: 20
Heritage Hall Dec 13: 26
Methodist Men 12/11: 8

Pictures of the Baptisms at Heritage Hall on December 6th:



L to R: Pastor Tim, Roe David (baptized), Leonce Hall, and Nannie Kilbourne (baptized)



Pics from Backpack Christmas Boxes packing party headed up by Phil Robbins



The Trinity Companion

December 17, 2023



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St. South
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Timothy Robinson

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