

*Today's liturgical color is white symbolizes days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.*

*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:** Do You Hear What I Hear? 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**

**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.**

### Light the Advent Candle

**Light the Advent candle four  
Think of joy forevermore  
Christ child in a stable born  
Gift of love that Christmas morn**

**Third Sunday of Advent: Love** (Luke 1:34; 46-49)

**Readers: Alberta and Kevin Mitchell**

**Reader 1:** When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name .

**Reader 2:** We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news. **Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

*Light the four outer candles 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.**

**Opening Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful No. 234

**Children's Moment:** led by Mary Beth A.

### The Presentation of Tithes and Offering

**Ushers:** (Susie W., Amy G., Joyce P., Erin H.)

**Offertory Prayer:** Let us pray,  
**Humble Lord, you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace for the poverty of Bethlehem's manger: as we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving for your gift, make us imitators of you in generosity and love, for the sake of the world you love so much, and for your Father's glory. In Jesus name, Amen.**

**Offertory Music:** Fantasia on a Christmas Carol by Rick Graham

**Doxology** No. 95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Anthem Song:** Candlelight Carol

**Sermon:** "There's Something Special About You" Luke 1:26-28

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

**Apostle's Creed** No. 881

**Closing Hymn:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear No. 218

### Benediction

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

**Postlude:** Once in David's Royal City arranged by Greg Howlett

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

**\*Children's Moment for December**

Dec 31: Beth H.

**\*Greeters for December**

Dec 31: Alberta M., Patty R.

**\*Advent/Lector Readers for December**

Dec 24 evening: Jesus Christ Candle— Paula B., Lana P., Amy G.

Dec 31: Paula B.-Psalm 148

**Nursery Volunteers for December**

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.

\*For the past 2 years, we have begun the New Year with prayer and fasting. This year we will be doing something a little different. I am asking all church attendees to read the easy-to-read, six chapter book "I am a Church Member," by Thom Rainer. For many, this will be a refresher and for others it is our hope that you will learn something new about how to be a vital church member. Beginning Sunday, January 21, 2024, I will start a sermon series on this book. After the series is completed, you will be invited to attend a book discussion group. The book costs \$6 and if you'd like to purchase a copy, please contact the office by January 12th. Thanks, Pastor Tim

### 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 CANCELLED this week

SPPR short meeting today following the service

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! Heritage Hall services are cancelled for this week.

**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.

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—Candlelight Service TONIGHT at 6 pm. Please join us!

A New Year is coming....wouldn’t you just love to volunteer on one of our many opportunities in 2024??! If you’d like to be included in any of the volunteer groups, please see the office, we’ll sign you up!

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Dec 17:**

- Sunday School: 6
- In-Person Worship: 58
- Facebook Live: 28
- Visitors: 0
- Heritage Hall Dec 20: 32



Pics from MEOC Pace Center—Trinity, SON Ministry and other individuals from the community put food packages together for the Elderly at the Pace Center to take home over the holidays!



Heritage Hall Baptisms 12/6  
L to R: Pastor Tim, Roe David (baptized),  
Leonce Hall, and Nannie Kilbourne (baptized)



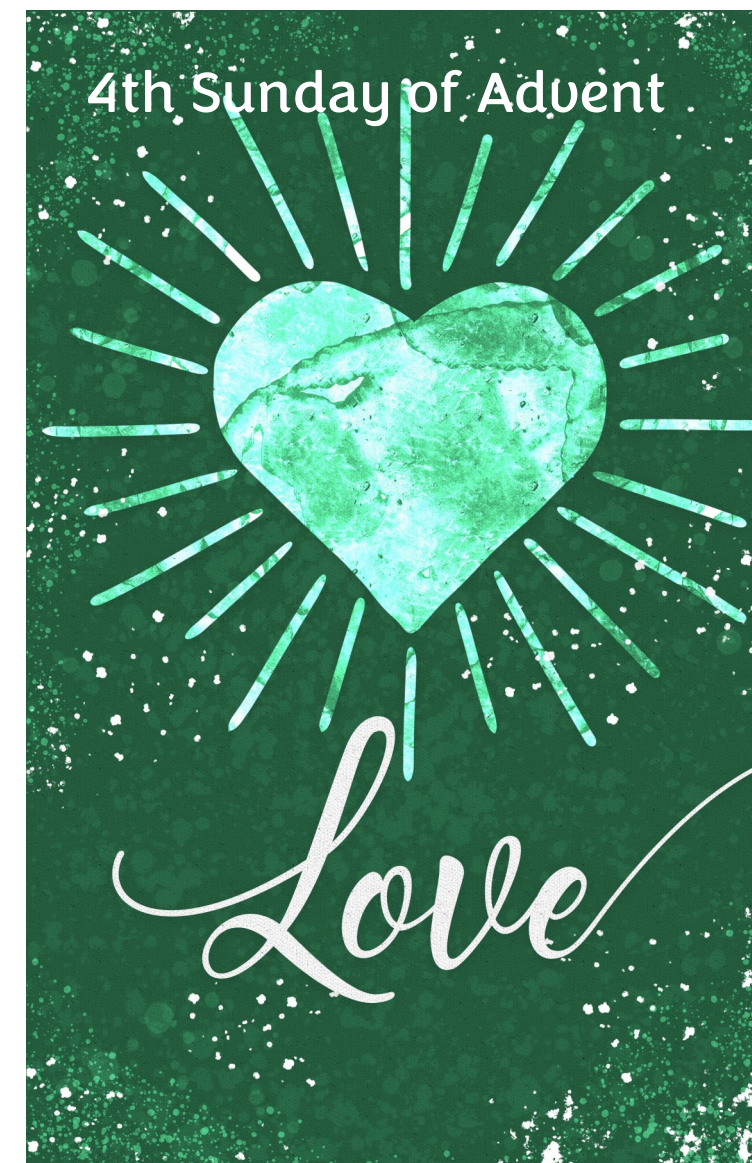
Backpack Christmas Project

**POINSETTIAS for CHRISTMAS**

- In honor of—Nancy Kilgore  
by Jonathan Hall
- In memory of—Sam & Faye Hall  
by Gary & Karen Hall
- In memory of—Mr & Mrs Fred Ashley and Mr & Mrs Jack Kilgore  
by Dennis & Cindy Ashley
- In memory of—David Allen Gibson  
by Alice Gibson
- In memory of—Charlie & Geneva Allen, Barbara Hughes, Billy  
Allen; Jack & Dell Williams  
by Sandra Rich
- In memory of—Michael Ferrell  
by Angela Roman, Don & Mary Ferrell

**The Trinity Companion**

December 24, 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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