

Prelude: Eine Klein Nachtmusik by W. A. Mozart

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What is Good'

Friends, we gather this day to celebrate life—

The life we have been given by God,

The life we share with one another in community,

That life that Jesus gives in abundance.

Let's be grateful for the joy of life,

And let us worship God.

Announcements (*noted within the bulletin)

A Time for Prayer:

Scripture on Prayer: Matthew 18:19-20

¹⁹"Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

Congregational Prayer:

We draw near to you Almighty God, united as brothers and sisters within your kingdom. Gathered together, we lift our eyes to see your face. Expectant with faith, we lay our lives before you. Lord, may your Holy Spirit transform us, may your light shine upon us and bring peace. We open our ears to hear your good news, we open our eyes to see your truth and in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus **No. 514**

A Blessing for our Graduates

God of truth and knowledge,

by your wisdom we are taught the way of truth.

Bless Haley and Andrew as they now finish their high school studies.

We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.

Walk with these graduates as they move forward in life.

Take away any possible anxiety, fear, and confusion of purpose.

Strengthen their many talents and skills,

instill in them a confidence in the future plan,

where energies may be gathered up and used for the

good of all people;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Moment: Led by Cindy Ashley

At this time, children can come forward or you can bring your child to the front pew to hear and participate in the children's reflection.

The Presentation of Tithes and Offering

(Thank you for giving to this Church!)

Ushers: Men's Team (Spencer Q., Fred H., Dana B., Paul C.)

Offertory Prayer:

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom,
I know that all I have received is from your hand.
You call us to be stewards of Your abundance.
The caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.
Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and
Teach us to share them generously.
May our faithful stewardship bear witness to
the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. Amen.

Offertory Music: Down In The River to Pray (Wise Guys)

Doxology: **No. 95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above the Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Anthem: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Sermon: "So Have I" John 15:9-17 by Rev. Beth Tipton

Response to the Word: The Apostles' Creed **No. 881**

A Service of Farewell to District Superintendent Jeff Wright

Brothers and sisters:

Jeff answered the call to ministry in 1985 and in 1989 he graduated from Duke Divinity School. Through the grace of God, he ministered in the name of Christ for three years as a student pastor at Salem United Methodist Church in Oxford, NC; four years at the Mountain View and Seven Mile Ford United Methodist Churches near Chilhowie, VA, and seven years at the Central (Bean Station) and Rutledge United Methodist Churches in Grainger County, TN. Prior to being appointed as the senior pastor at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, VA, in

June 2011, he served us for 11 years as the pastor of Allen Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens, TN. For the last eight years, Jeff has served as the District Superintendent of the Appalachian District formally known as the Big Stone Gap and Kingsport Districts. In June of 2022, Jeff will no longer serve as our District Superintendent but will take on a new appointment as the lead pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Sevierville, TN. Jeff and Sandy have been married for 38 years and they have two sons and two grandchildren.



Now we celebrate this ministry and give thanks
to the One who has granted the harvest
and to Jeff, who has been a faithful and tireless laborer
for the gospel.

Presentations of gifts from TUMC: Dennis Ashley

Jeff, you have been a faithful servant of Christ's holy Church.
In your life and ministry, we have seen the work of God.

**God's work in your life has renewed our faith
and inspired us to ministries in the name of Christ.**

Let us pray:

**Most bountiful God, the giver of every good gift,
you have given each of us gifts
for our season of labor in your service.
Bless and extend all your gifts,
that they may glorify your name and heal and save
your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: God of the Ages **No. 698**

Benediction

Postlude: March by Gustav Holst (Wise Guys)

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is on Sunday at 10 am.

Youth Gathering is on Sunday at 5 pm.

Book Study and Discussion is Monday at 6 pm.

Apprentice Study is Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

Choir Practice is Wednesday at 7 pm.

Change-for-Children—Our campaign to receive loose change is from May 1st to May 29th. All donations received will go towards grants and ministries for children in the Holston Conference.

Church Rummage Sale—Our rummage sale was a huge success! After a few more donations, the final amount received was \$3,000! Thank you to all who made this fundraiser possible.

Honoring our 2022 Graduates—This morning we will be honoring Andrew Holyfield and Haley Zirkle who have recently graduated from Union High School. Andrew Holyfield will attend Longwood University in Farmville, VA, and Haley Zirkle will attend Mountain Empire Community College to study to become a Registered Nurse. After completing this study, she desires to become an anesthesiologist. Please help us celebrate these graduates with your prayers and support!

Special Fellowship for D.S. Jeff and Sandy Wright—Today, we will have a special service and fellowship meal in appreciating for Jeff and Sandy. For the last 8 years, Jeff has been our District Superintendent. In June, he will have a new appointment as Lead Pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Sevierville.

To help make the service special, Rev. Beth Tipton is preaching today. Rev. Beth Tipton is an ordained Deacon ministering in the Appalachian District at the Wesley Foundation at UVA Wise since 2003. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Christian Spirituality at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is a graduate of Asbury Seminary. She leads and accompanies people on their spiritual journeys and labors to connect the church and the world in creative ways. She is married to Jason and they have one child, Samuel.

Baptism Ceremony—After this morning's service and before the fellowship meal, Mason Vaughn and Daniel Wade will be baptized. So please gather on the large parking lot side of the church to celebrate this wonderful event in the life of the church.

Recovery Fest 2022—The 2022 Recovery Fest is Saturday, May 21st at the Miner's Park at 1 pm. The NOW Team will be having a free water giveaway and will set-up a prayer station for those needing or wanting prayer. If you want to donate or volunteer your services, please contact Christy Smith.

Nominations Committee Meeting—If you are on the Nominations

Committee, our next meeting is Wednesday, May 25th at 6 pm. This is an important meeting since we have some vital positions in the life of the church that need to be filled.

Next Appalachian District Superintendent—Beginning July 2022, Rev. Jeff Lambert will be our new District Superintendent. Rev. Lambert currently services as pastor of First United Methodist Church of Sevierville, Tennessee. Jeff married his wife Tammi in 1991 and they have three children and two granddaughters. Rev. Lambert graduated from Hiwassee College, Tennessee Wesleyan University, and Asbury Theological Seminary. He has served Forkner's Chapel/Browder Memorial, Del Rio Circuit (Jones Chapel/Mulberry Gap), Oakland (Galax), St. Mark's (Louisville), Marion First, Red Bank, and Sevierville First.

Rev. Lambert is very grateful for the exacting journey God has called him to and is looking forward to this new role. His prayer is that God would fill us with grace, mercy, love, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and that God of heaven will give us success (Nehemiah 2:20) as we offer them Christ (John Wesley).

NOW Team—The NOW team has purchased 10 School Kits for students in Zimbabwe for the 2022 Holston Conference Hands-On Mission Project. Each kit consists of a backpack and school supplies such as paper, erasers, pencils, pens, and an English Dictionary. The total cost of these items was \$237. The money used to purchase these items came from the NOW Team fund and you are welcome to designate money to this account at any time.

Youth Sports Camp 2022—The 2nd Annual Youth Sports Camp is June 13th-17th at the Taylor-Lewis Center in East Sone Gap. The camp is for boys and girls in 5th-8th grades and will consist of Christian-themed sports instruction with a Bible lesson each day. If you want to volunteer your services, register a child, or sponsor a child please talk to Pastor Tim.

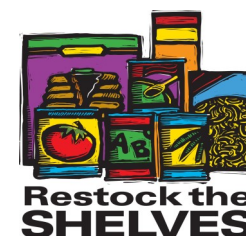
The bulletin was sponsored in celebration of the Graduates who are heading out to make their mark and in gratitude of Jeff and Sandy, their laboring love within the communities they have served, and the impact of fostered relationships over the years.

Also, today we are honoring the Rummage Sale/Kitchen Team for all of the hard work and dedication that it has provided to Trinity United Methodist Church.

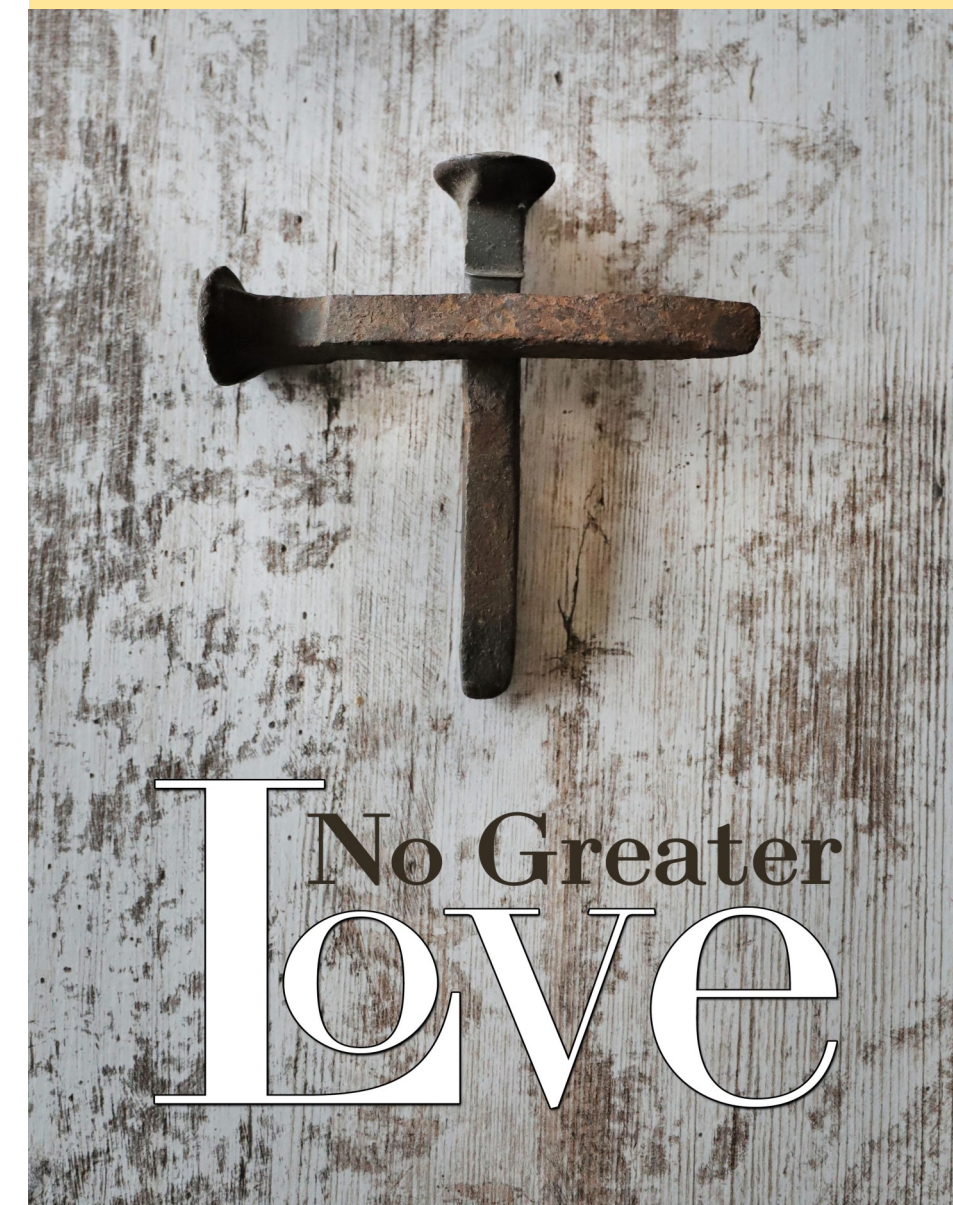
UPS Back Pack Program

Don't forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School Back Pack Program with a specific kind of food. The food item for May is Juice Boxes.

The requested flavors are Apple or Grape.



The Trinity Companion May 15, 2022 *Jeff & Sandy Appreciation*



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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