

Tithes and Offerings

August Tithes: \$3,364.50

August Expenses: \$8,598.25

Year to date: (\$2,477.66)

Bank Balance: \$10,780

A Secure Dropbox is located in the alley between the Church building and the Toney's house.

You may mail your tithes to Trinity UMC, 203 E 1st St, South, Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219. Attention: Joyce

COVID 19 Update

Three weeks ago Wise county had 5.1 active cases per 100,000 people. As of Tuesday Wise County had 33.6 active case per 100,000 people. We moved from Yellow risk level to Red. It looks like the number of cases has decreased slightly since Saturday. I anticipate we may return to Sanctuary Worship when the cases drop to 10 or fewer per 100,000.

Call to Gather Together

I also say, let us not cease gathering together. This pandemic has humbled me. For years I have taken the passage from Hebrews 10 out of context. I spun it into a False Narrative, a half truth. A half truth is just enough to believe a lie! The writer clearly says the "sanctuary" in which we are to gather is in Christ. You may ask, "How do I enter, or where is this sanctuary?" The writer clearly says that by Faith we enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus. This Sanctuary is not made by human hands. No mortal has made a human heart! And, yes, I know about the artificial heart that pumps blood. The Holy Sanctuary is in us. It is our spiritual heart-soul-mind that Christ sprinkles clean of evil and a conscience imprisoned by shame, guilt, and blame. A sprinkled heart is filled with every Spiritual Blessing!

19 Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.