

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: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 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

This is the day that the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus No. 196

Light the Advent Candle

**Light the Advent candle one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas Day**

First Sunday of Advent: Hope
Readers: Natalie and Caitlyn Shell

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle (purple) 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 Kim P.

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

Ushers: (Spencer Q., Gary H., Phil R., John H.)

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: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arranged by Greg Howlett

Doxology No. 95

Anthem/Special Song: Mary, Did You Know

A Service of Word and Table No. 13-15

Communion Stewards: Paula B., Donna M., Joyce P., Alberta M.

Communion Music: Hope of Israel by Chris Tomlin

Sermon: "The Lord has shined on us" Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19

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

Closing Hymn: Break Thou The Bread of Life

No. 599

Benediction

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

Postlude: Hope of the Nations by Brian Doerksen

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 10: Lana P., Pat B., Susan H., Sandra R.

Dec 17: Chris S., Daniel W., Dennis A., Billy W.

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 10: Diane B.

Dec 17: Patty R.

Dec 24: Mary Beth A.

Dec 31: Beth H.

*Greeters for December

Dec 10: Alberta M., Angie T.

Dec 17: Amy G., Patty R.

Dec 24: Donna M., Amy G.

Dec 31: Alberta M., Patty R.

*Advent/Lector Readers for December

Dec 10: Peace—Beth, Morgan and Luke Hagan

Dec 17: Joy—Katie, Laura and Sandra Rich

Dec 24: Love—

Dec 24 evening: Jesus Christ Candle—

Dec 31: Paula B.-Psalm 148

Nursery Volunteers for December

Dec 3: Nicole R., Amy G.

Dec 10: Amy G., Paula B.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS AND SUCH.....

Adult Sunday School is Sunday at 10 am.

Choir Practice is Wednesday at 7 pm.

Administrative Board Meeting TODAY, Dec 3, immediately following the worship service

Women of Trinity—The meeting will be held at the **Fox House** for our holiday meeting, **TODAY @ 5 pm**. All women are encouraged and welcome to attend—please bring an appetizer to share!

The **SPPR, Trustees & Finance committee meetings have been rescheduled to Thursday, Dec 7 at 5 pm**. A meal will be provided. Please plan to attend if you are a member of any of these committees.

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.....

Thank you to all who came out for hanging of the greens—our sanctuary looks amazing!

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 enclosed 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)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—our **CHRISTMAS CANTATA IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 11 AM!** - **“THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS”!** and will be followed by a fellowship meal. **You don’t wanna miss this!**

Christmas Parade—did ya see it; were we fabulous or what!!!!?!



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Nov 26:

Sunday School: 4
In-Person Worship: 50
Facebook Live: 14
Visitors: 1
Heritage Hall Nov 29: cancelled

The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in loving memory and honor of Betty Cline as she celebrates her 100th birthday & are provided by John D & Mary Lu Williams and John & Mary K Wilson.



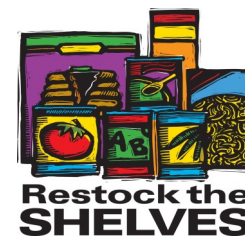
Christmas Eve—this year we will have two services on Christmas Eve - our 11 am morning worship & our **Candlelight Service at 6 pm**. **Please join us!**

Highlights from November Administrative Board meeting:

- Now Team reported Trunk or Treat, Recovery Fest and Home Craft Days water giveaways, along with the Fall Festival were all successful.
- Parsonage Committee reports there is yard work to be completed; the porch project has been postponed to spring for better weather. The downstairs room will be painted and get new flooring installed.
- Methodist Men provided the hot dogs for the fall festival.
- Women of Trinity had a successful bake sale; a book study for women

UPS Back Pack Program

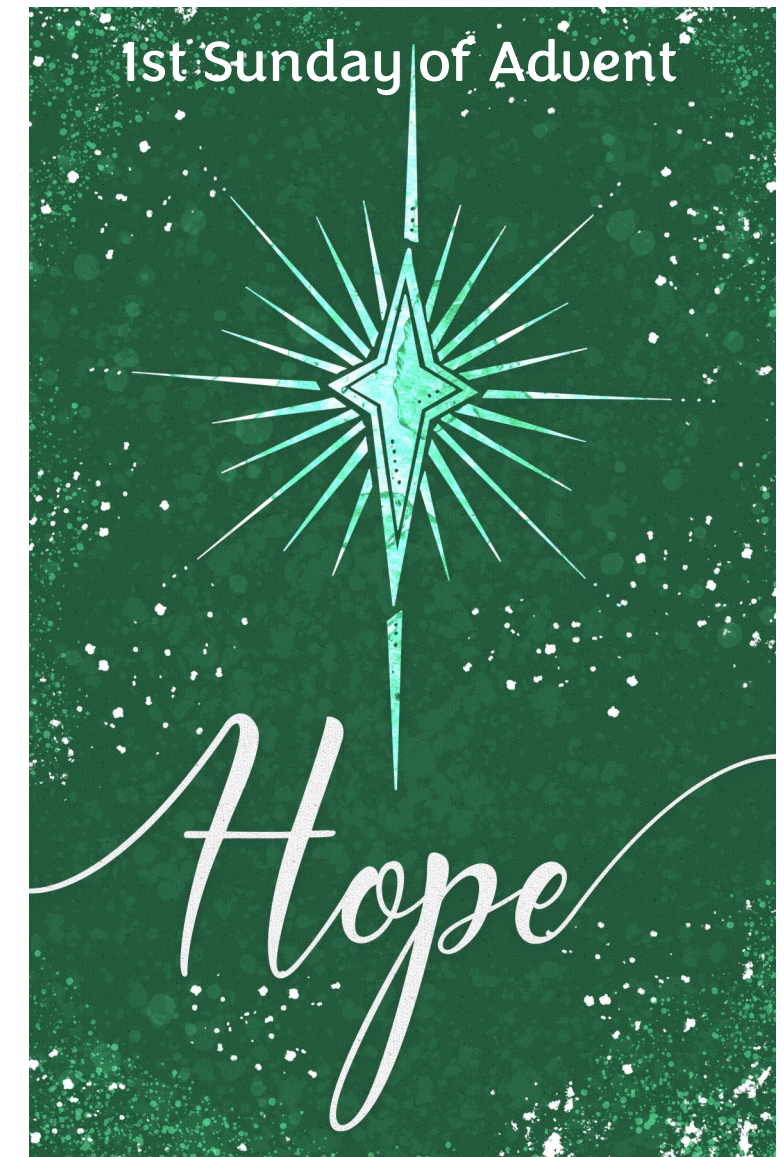
Don’t forget that each month we are going to Restock the Shelves for the Union Primary School. During the month of December, the requested item is juice boxes. The food item requested for December is juice boxes—apple or grape.



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.

The Trinity Companion

December 3, 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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