

***This week'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.***

***Special Welcome to Special Musical Guest, Martha Painter!***

**Prelude**

**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 worshipping community.

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Call to Worship**

Special Selection from Trinity UMC Choir

**Announcements** (\*noted within the bulletin)

**A Time for Prayer:**

**Scripture to encouragement:** 1 Chronicles 16:11

<sup>11</sup>Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

**Pastoral Prayer for our town:** Pastor Tim

**Congregational Prayer**

Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN.

**Opening Hymn:** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **No. 196**

**Light the Advent Candle**

Light the Advent candle two  
Think of humble shepherds who

Filled with wonder at the sight  
Of the child on Christmas night

**Second Sunday of Advent: "Peace"** by the Hagan Family

**Stand As A Signal**

*Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13. Matthew 3:1-12*

**Reader One:** "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV)

**Reader Two:** We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

**Reader One:** "In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance." (Matthew 3:1, 2, 8 NRSV)

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

*Light two 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.

**The Presentation of Tithes and Offering**  
***(Thank you for your generosity!)***

**"God loves a cheerful Giver!" 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

**Ushers:** Women's Team (Alberta M., Lana P., Donna M., and Pat B.)

**Offertory Prayer**

Lord,  
Your 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 Savior.  
Amen

**Offertory Music:** Harp Solo

**Doxology:**

**No. 95**

**Christmas Cantata**

**Trinity UMC Chancel Choir  
presents  
"An Appalachian Christmas"**

Music compiled by Calli Shell  
Text by Rick Galyean

Harpist-Martha Painter  
Narrator: Kim Parsons

*The Coventry Carol* arranged by Staub

*The Cherry Tree Carol* arranged by Calli Shell

*I Wonder as I Wonder* arranged by Bates

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem (Traditional)*

*Mary, Did You Know?* arranged by Schradler

*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* arranged by Gordon

*The Little Drummer Boy* arranged by Simeone

*Amen! Tell It On The Mountain* arranged McDonald

**Response to Worship:** The Apostles' Creed

**No. 881**

**Benediction**

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

**Postlude:**

**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 our the lighted candle lighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.

## Announcements

**Adult Sunday School** is on Sunday at 10 am.

**Choir Practice** is Wednesday at 7 pm.

**New Member Class** is Sunday, December 11th.

**Trinity Book Club** is on Monday at 6 pm. The book discussion is based on the text “Enemies of the Heart” by Andy Stanley. The ISBN is 9781601421456 and you can find the book new for around \$10-15.

**New Member and Baptism Classes**—If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, our classes have started and we will meet again on December 11th. The new membership class is being held in the Wicker Room/Library (the room off of the Fellowship Hall). If you would like to be baptized, we can start a class for you so please contact either Rob or Tim to set this up.

**Trinity Security Team Meeting**—Our next meeting is Thursday, December 8th at 6 pm. If you want to be on the Trinity security team or just interested in their progress, you are welcome to come.

**Advent 2022**—Advent is the period of preparation for Christmas, which begins on December 25th. The Sundays leading up to December 24th are the Sundays of Advent with the final day being December 24th.

To help you reflect and celebrate Advent, you should notice a wreath surrounded by four exterior candles and one central candle. The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of a renewed creation: joy, hope, peace, and love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one more of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ’s ongoing presence.

Each week, we light a new candle in the Advent wreath as well as the candles from the preceding week. The candles represent Hope (purple), Love (purple), Joy (pink), and Peace (purple). The white candle represents Christ and will be lit on Christmas Eve.

**Hanging of the Greens**—Thank you so much for helping us decorate the church last week. Everything looks wonderful and it now feels like Christmas is near!

**Christmas Cantata**—This morning the cantata will be performed during our worship service. This year’s performance is “An Appalachian Christmas.” The music was arranged by Calli Shell and the story was written by Rick Galyean.

**Communion Sunday**—For the month of December, we will offer communion to you on Sunday December 11th.

**Noah’s 1st Birthday Party**—You are invited to attend Noah’s birthday party on Sunday, December 11th at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not

bring any gifts but we ask that you bring your smile, joy, and hungry bellies. We will have chili and cake for all who attend. See you there!

**Christmas in the Gap**—We are happy to announce that Christmas in the Gap is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th, 10:00 am—2:00 pm, at the Big Stone Gap Visitor Center. Dennis Ashley (SON’s Ministry) will be there to serve the people in our community with gifts and food. If you want to donate, participate, or have questions, please contact Dennis.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—Our annual Christmas Eve service will be Saturday, December 24th at 6 pm.

**Poinsettias**—This year, we have 10 poinsettias in the sanctuary for your viewing enjoyment. If you desire to purchase one in honor or in memory of someone you love, please fill out and turn in the inserted card that is within your bulletin along with \$35 to the church office. You can also place the card and money in the offering plate. Your memories and honorees will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18th.

**Administrative Board Meeting**—Our next meeting is Sunday, December 18th after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. We plan to continue our conversation about why churches are choosing to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church denomination and determine what is in the best interest of Trinity UMC. All are welcome to attend this vital meeting.

**New Members Sunday**—On Sunday, December 18th during the worship service we will be welcoming new members to our church fellowship. During this service, you will have the opportunity to better get to know those in whom the Lord has sent us.

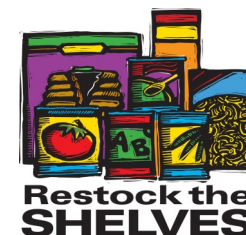
**Blessing Box**—If you want to bring food or other items for the blessing box, you can place your donated items in the labeled plastic bin located in the church fellowship hall.

**TUMC Youth Fundraiser**—The TUMC Youth will be selling Chocolate Covered Peanut Butter and Chocolate Covered Coconut Trees for a fundraiser. The trees are \$5.00 each and payment is due with the order (see bulletin insert to order). Please see Christy Smith if you have any questions. Trees will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 18 (alternate arrangements can be made as needed).

### 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 requested flavors are apple or grape.



## The Trinity Companion

December 4, 2022



## 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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