

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.

Prelude: Little Drummer Boy by for KING and COUNTRY Michael Shell

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

¹¹Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Pastoral Prayer for our town: Pastor Tim

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

Light the Advent Candle

Light the Advent candle four
Think of Joy forever more.
Christ child in a stable born
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Love" by Katie, Aria, and Cody

Give You A Sign

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

Reader One: "Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused,

God would not be stopped, "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV)

Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own, God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as he angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and name him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

Light all four 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.

Children's Moment: led by Kim P.

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

Scripture about the importance of having childlike faith in Jesus:
Matthew 18:1-3 CEB

At the time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

²Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, ³and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Presentation of Tithes and Offering

(Thank you for your generosity!)

"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices" Hebrews 13:16

Ushers: Women's Team (Beth A., Patty R., Lana P., and Angela T.)

Offertory Prayer

Lord,
you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace
for poverty of Bethlehem's manger:
as we offer you our gift 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: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arranged by Greg Howlett

Doxology

No. 95

Special Music: Who Would Have Dreamed by Jason Hanslen and Bob Kauflin
Nicole Robinson accompanied by Calli & Michael Shell

Sermon: "Joy to the Community" Matthew 1:18-25

Closing Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 238

Benediction

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

Postlude: Anticipation for Christmas by Linda Kerby

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.

***Offering Stewards for the month of December**
25th-Paul C., Dennis A., Daniel W., & Gary H.

***Children's Moment for the month of December**
25th-Cindy A.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is on Sunday at 10 am.

Choir Practice is canceled for rest of the year. Rick does ask that you be here by 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve.

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.

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.

Christmas Cantata—Thank you to all who participated and attended the Christmas Cantata. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the choir and musicians did an awesome job. May we all be thankful for this Christmas season and enjoy our time with friends, family, and church family.

Finance Committee Meeting—God bless our committee members for gathering to discuss the finances of our church. More information will be available soon.

UPS Christmas Box Packing Party—Last Sunday, Phil Robbins led a group of 27 people in packing food and goodie Christmas boxes for the students at Union Primary School. 105 boxes with 18 items in each were packed in 1 hour. Many from our church and the community volunteered their time to make this possible.

Noah's 1st Birthday Party—Thank you for attending Noah's birthday party! The Robinsons are so grateful for you all for loving and supporting their son.

Christmas in the Gap—We are happy to announce that Christmas in the Gap is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th 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.

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 (Part-time secretary), Rick Galyean (Music

Director), Calli Shell (Pianist), Steve Guerrant (Custodian)

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—Praise the Lord for sending us such wonderful people to our church! Trinity UMC, we are "moving on up" for the glory of God. If you are interested in learning more about membership, please contact Pastor Tim.

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.

Christmas Float—Thank you to all who participated in putting out float together, and congratulations for winning 2nd place float in the parade. The \$200 prize will be used for creation and development of the 2023 Christmas parade float.

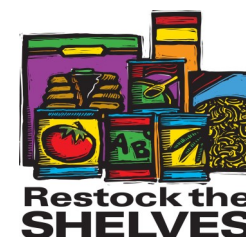
Youth and Children's Spotlight—

- During a wrestling match, Luke S. took a pin to allow his opponent to experience what it is like to win a match.
- In a recent Scholastic Bowl, Caitlyn S. was recognized for being in the top 10 point earners for the day.
- Help me thank Daniel, Laura, and Maverick for playing the roles as the three wisemen for our Christmas float.

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 18, 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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