

Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God loves you and so do we! Due to the increased number of cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant, we ask that both vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees wear a mask during worship services. If you do not have a mask, we have masks available for you in the narthex. The Church Council is monitoring this situation closely and will inform you of any changes in the future. We appreciate your willingness to provide a safe worship environment for all during this challenging season that we are living in.

Prelude: Canticle of the Turning by Rory Cooney, arranged by Mark Hayes

Lighting of the Candles

Greeting:

We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains
and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

Announcements

Prayer:

Ever present God,
You taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son.
Save us from undue love of the world,
that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord,
and so abide in him,
that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed;
through Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen.

Choir: Light the Advent Candle

⁴Light the Ad-vent can-dle, four:
Think of joy for-ev-er-more;
Christ-child in a sta-ble born,
Gift of love that Christ-mas morn.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love (purple)

This year, the Advent Liturgy was written by Derek Weber.

Derek will take us through a journey from being at home in Christ.

The Blessing of Home

Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-45

Reader One: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

Reader One: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.

Light all four candles in the Advent wreath (purple, purple, pink, and purple)

Choir: Refrain from "Light the Candle"

Can-dle, can-dle, burn-ing bright,
Shin-ing in the cold win-ter night:
Can-dle, can-dle, burn-ing bright,
Fill our hearts with Christ-mas light

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

Offertory: Luke 6:38 (NRSV): Men's Team will be passing the plates this morning.

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Musical Interlude: In the Bleak Midwinter by Gustav Holst, arranged by Craig Curry

Doxology:

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

Special Music: Dennis Ashley- Going Home
Thank You

Sermon: "Come Holy Spirit Come" Luke 3:7-18

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

Closing Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This **No. 292**

Benediction

Postlude: Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting) by Alberto Taule

4th Sunday
in Advent

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at 10 am.

No Book Study this week. Our next gathering will be Monday January 3rd, 2022.

No Bible Study for the month of December.

No Apprentice Book Study this week.

The **Holiday Cookies and Sweets Fellowship** will be today following the worship service. All are welcome to stay with us to eat and to join the fun!

We congratulate and are proud of our very own **Andrew Holyfield** for being selected to the All-District Chorus. Due to this accomplishment, Andrew will participate in a choral event in February and compete for a spot with the All-Virginia State Choir.

We are happy to announce that with the reference and support from our church, **Mountain Empire Older Citizens has received a \$2,000 hunger and poverty grant from the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network.** This money will be used to help pay for desperately needed modifications and repairs to homes of older adults in MEOC's service area. Members of our church, other local churches, and mission groups will have the opportunity to provide volunteer labor to address future home repair projects.

Please take the opportunity to view **Trinity UMC's** display for the **"Greenbelt in Lights."** The display is adjacent to the parking lot for the town soccer field (Proctor St. S) and is visible from a vehicle for those who may be unable to walk up to it.

Staff Appreciation Love Offering: We at Trinity UMC are tremendously blessed to have a wonderful staff who helps us in many ways. As tradition, we are receiving a love offering that will serve as a Christmas bonus for our staff. There will be an offering basket located at the front of the church for you to place your love offering in. After the money counting today, the offering will be divided equally between the following individuals: Steve (custodian), Calli, Tiffany, Joyce, and Rick.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Friday, December 24th at 6 pm. As tradition, we plan to have the singing of "O Holy Night," words of encouragement, and communion. Also, we will close out the service with a candle-light vigil and the singing of "Silent Night." All are welcome to attend.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife & Pest Management, LLC., will be servicing our church building all day on Monday, **December 20th.** The much needed work will take all day as they will be securing and sealing cracks within our church structure to prevent bats and raccoons from entering the building. The Administrative Board approved this \$6,600 project to ensure that the church remains to be a safe and healthy environment for all to worship in. Thanks to your willingness to invest, serve, and meet budgets through the years, we can pay for this expense with a capital campaign.

Daniel Fast— The New Year is quickly approaching us and with that comes excitement, hope, and resolutions. For many it is a time for them to approach a new look or start a new daily routine such as exercise and strive to have better sleep patterns. Such things are done to help kick start their year and to be more resourceful than last year.

To kick start the new year and to continue with the momentum from 2021, I am calling all to participate in a **21-Day Daniel fast from Monday, January 3rd to Monday, January 24th.** In Daniel 1:12, Daniel fasted from meat, fine foods, and wine. Instead he had vegetables to eat and water to drink. Today, people fast to put away their fleshly desires and struggles, to get in-sync with God, and to see direction from God. To help us better understand the purposes behind the Daniel Fast, our friend Martha Spurlock will be teaching about it on January 2nd during our 11 am worship service. It is my hope and prayer that during the 21-Day Daniel Fast, that our church will be empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Poinsettias

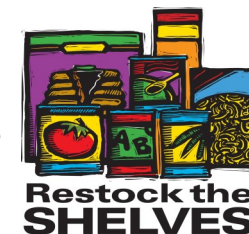
Purchased and placed in celebration of Betty Cline's 98th birthday day by John D. and Mary Lou Williams and John and Mary Kay Wilson.

Purchased and placed in memory of those who joined the church triumphant by Trinity UMC.

Purchased and placed in memory of Nilda Williams by an anonymous donor.

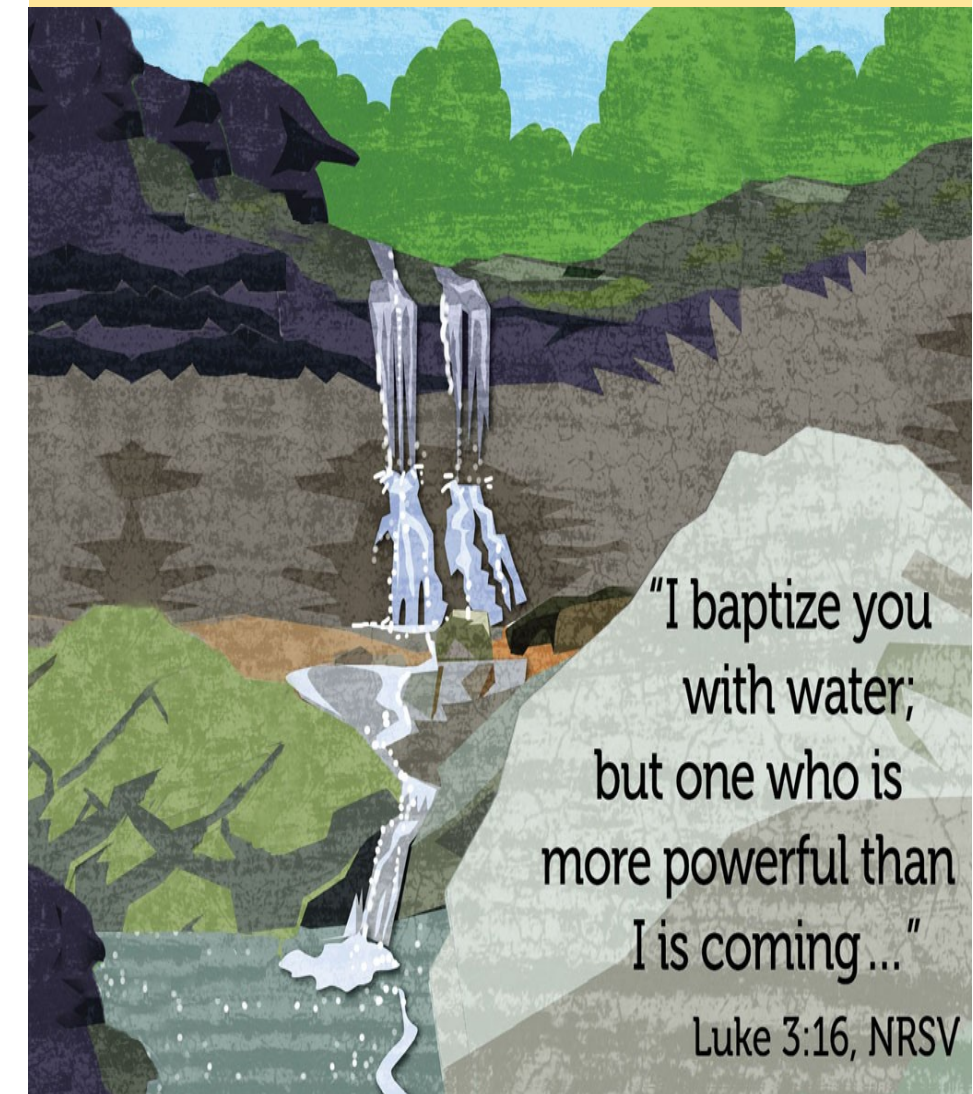
UPS Back Pack Program

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 December is Juice Boxes. The requested flavors are Apple and Grape.



The Trinity Companion Sunday December 19, 2021 Advent Week 4

Love



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Timothy Robinson

Office: (276) 523-0789

Cell Phone & Text: (276) 393-6499

www.trinityumc-bsg.net