

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: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, arranged by Greg Howlett

Lighting of the Candles

Greeting:

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen his glory!**

Announcements

Prayer:

O God, our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.
Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Choir: "Light the Advent Candle" by Mary Lu Walker, arranged by H. Myron Braun

⁵Light the Christ-mas can-dles, now:
Sing of don-key, sheep, and cow;
Birth-day can-dles for the King,
Let the al-le-lu-ias ring.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Kim Parsons and Tiffany Stallard

Adams

Christmas Eve: Christ Candle (white)

This year, the Advent Liturgy was written by Derek Weber. Derek will take us through a journey from being at home in Christ.

Welcome Home

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-20

Reader One: This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

Reader Two: We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.

Reader One: We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

Reader Two: It's time to be home.

(Light all candles of the wreath.)

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: What Child is This?

No. 219

Special Music: O Holy Night (Paula Barton and the Sanctuary Choir)

Offertory: Luke 6:38 (NRSV): Combined Team will be passing the plates this evening.

"...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."

Offertory Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem, arranged by Jason Tonioli

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

Sermon: The Lord's Greatest Gift! Luke 2:1-7

Response to the Word: The Apostles Creed

No. 881

Service of Word and Table:

No. 7-11

Communion Music/Musical Interlude: Mary, Did You Know?, by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arranged by Carol Turnquist

Closing Hymn: Silent Night (candlelight vigil)

No. 239

Benediction

Postlude: Carol of the Bells, arranged by Lisa Donovan Lukas

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is on Sunday at 10 am.

No Book Study for the rest of the year. Our next gathering will be Monday, January 3rd at 6 pm.

No Bible Study for the month of December and for the month of January.

No Apprentice Study for the month of December. Our next gathering is Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30 pm.

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 your vehicle for those who may be unable to walk up to it.

Holiday Cookies and Sweets Fellowship was awesome!! Help me thank our **Kitchen Coordinator Kathleen Gillespie** for organizing this event. The cookies were good and the Fellowship was even better.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife & Pest Management, LLC, serviced our church building all day on Monday, December 20th. The much needed work included securing and sealing cracks within the church structure to prevent bats and racoons from entering the building. Thank you for your willingness to invest, serve, and meet budgets throughout the year. You have helped to ensure that the church remains a safe and healthy environment for all to worship in.

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 the **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 under the purposes behind the Daniel Fast, our friend **Martha Spurlock** will be teaching about it on Sunday, January 2nd during our 11 am worship service. It is my hope and prayer that during the 21-Day Daniel Fast our church will be empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Administrative Board Meeting will be held after the worship service on January 9th.

Resurrection 2022 is January 21-13 at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. This year's theme is "Together Again." The scripture of focus is Hebrews 10:23-25 which states, "Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near." (CEB) Please keep our Youth Director Christy Smith and the youth who plan to attend in prayer that they will have a blessed time in the Lord.

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.

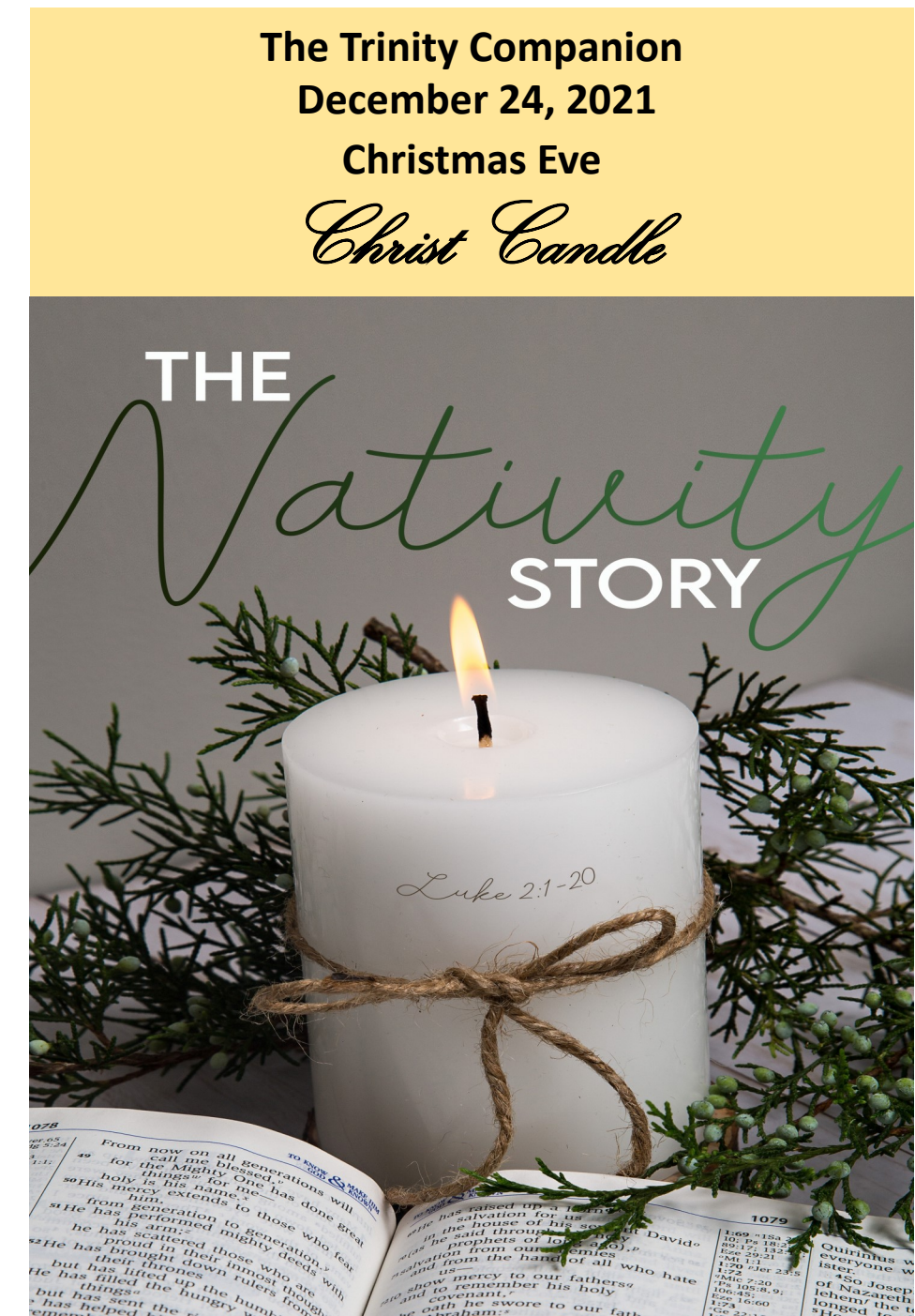
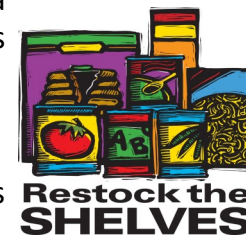
Purchased and placed in memory of those who joined the church triumphant by Trinity UMC.

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 item for January is Soup. The requested flavors are Chicken Noodle or Tomato.



The Trinity Companion December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve

Christ Candle

THE Nativity STORY

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