



The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 12

December, 2025

Come & See ...

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Andy Stanley Advent Study led by Mike Byrd

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A Word From The Old To The Young
By Marilyn Holcombe

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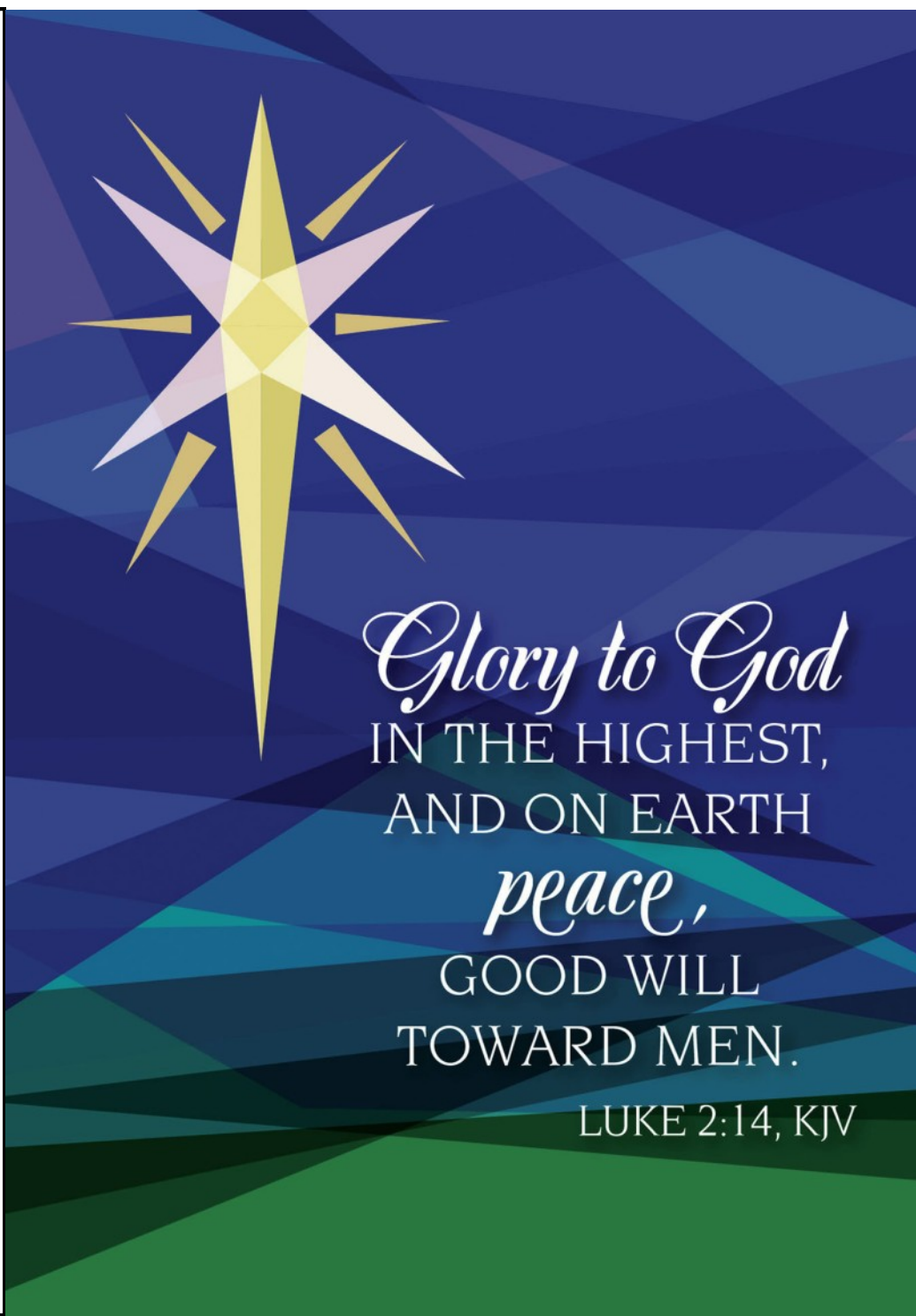
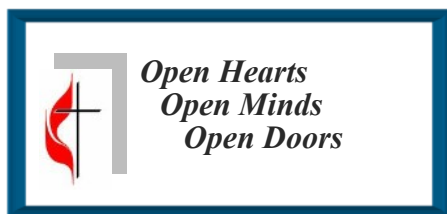
Memorials & Gifts

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Price Increase for Altar Flowers

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries





The Fish as the Disciple

Trinity began an annual ritual yesterday. We put up the trees and began getting the Christmas decorations out. Today, we will hang Chrismons on the tree. I love the contrasts of the shiny Chrismons set into the dark green of the tree. The lights seem to tie it all together.

Though the look of the tree always appealed to me growing up, I did not know what to think when I learned how each symbol tells a story.

What symbol could we create to speak about our faith journey here at Trinity?

I was amazed to see how many different symbols represented the Trinity. The number and variety of crosses boggle my mind. Some of the stories are more impressive than others. When I see the symbol for the fish, it always reminds me of my home church and its preacher.

This preacher took an interest in the young people. Growing up in the 1970s church was not cool, but it was legal. This preacher wanted us to gain insight into the troubles of the early Christians. So, he became creative.

He met us in the basement, so no one would see us together. (Until then, I did not know our church had a basement.) We walked down the stairs. The lighting was poor. We gathered so we could all see him. He wanted to see each other's face too.

Then, he began an old story which is not in the Bible. He told us how the early Christians were arrested for being Christians. This forced them to be innovative in how they met. They wanted to continue meeting, but they did not want to go to jail. They used symbols to hide their identities. The Book of Revelation reminds us of these times.

One symbol they used was the fish. This symbol held many layers of meaning and a message or two. He shared one use of it. He took a piece of paper out and laid it on the floor. Then, he drew an arc with a felt tip pen. As two strangers were meeting, the early Christians would immediately know the person drawing the arc was a Christian. The response was to draw another arc resulting in the shape of a fish.

At that moment they both knew the other was a Christian and they could talk freely about faith, church, and other conversations we take for granted. They both belonged to the family of God.

As you notice the symbol of the fish, think about its faith story. May this reflection help us appreciate our faith story.

Bill



Rediscover the improbable story of Christmas.

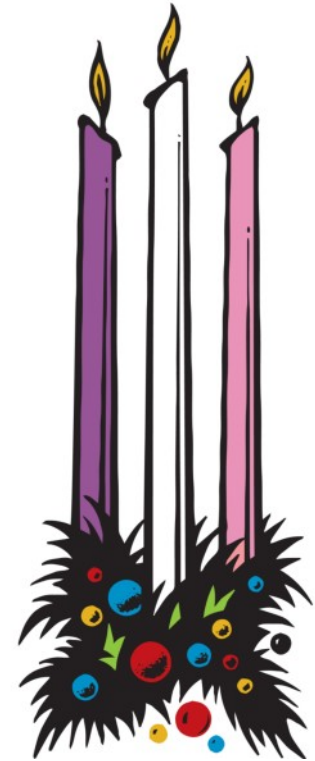
Four thousand years ago, God promised he would do something through the bloodline of Abraham. Two thousand years later, Jesus was born. And two thousand years after that, we're still talking about it. Why?

The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone expected: a baby...born in the armpit of the Mediterranean...to save us from sins that no one thought we needed saving from.

Pastor Mike will lead this Andy Stanley Advent study as he unpacks why the improbability of the Christmas story makes it so believable. Join us on Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-5:30pm and then stay for dinner and fellowship.

Sessions include:

1. December 3rd : The Story Behind the Story
2. December 10th : The Author of Life
3. December 17th : The Message of Christmas
4. December 23rd : Ready or Not . . . He Is Coming (Note: this is a Tuesday)



Advent EVENTS

Nov.
30

First Sunday of Advent
Hope

Dec.
7

Second Sunday of Advent
Peace
Christmas Cantata - Glory to the Newborn King.

Dec.
14

Third Sunday of Advent
Joy

Dec.
21

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Love
Handbells Perform
Longest Night Service @ 3:00 pm

Dec.
24

Christmas Eve
Christ
Worship Service @ 5:00 pm



2025 **ADVENT LUNCHEONS** Mondays at Noon

December 1, 2025
Host: Kingston Presbyterian Church
Speaker: Father Lee Bultman

December 8, 2025
Host: First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Rev. Bill McCown

December 15, 2025
Host: Trinity United Methodist Church
Speaker: Rev. Kyle Randle

December 22, 2025
Host: St. James Catholic Church
Speaker: Rev. J. Robert Bannan Jr.

I WILL GIVE THANKS
to the LORD because
OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS;
I will sing the praises
OF THE NAME OF THE
LORD most High.
PSALM 7:17, NIV





United Methodist Men will not meet the month of December.

UMW Soup Supper

Monday | December 1 | 6PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of food, fellowship, and an inspiring message from our guest speaker, Tabby, from Fostering Hope.

This event is open to **ALL** women.

We will be auctioning off baskets, so don't forget to bring some money for tickets.



THROUGHOUT ADVENT, WE PROCLAIM HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE. BUT ON THE LONGEST NIGHT, THE WINTER SOLSTICE, WE WILL HAVE A SERVICE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND REMEMBER THOSE WE HAVE LOST.

JOIN US IN A TIME OF REFLECTION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST @ 3:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY. LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD'S PRESENCE IS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE - AND THAT GOD'S WORD COMES TO SHINE LIGHT INTO OUR DARKNESS.

2025 Poinsettia Order Form



Poinsettias will again be adorning our altar during the Advent season. Please complete the form below and return it, *along with your check for \$23.00 per plant, made payable to Trinity United Methodist Church*, no later than **Monday, December 8**, if you wish to place a poinsettia on the altar. Please, *one name per plant*, either in memory of or in honor of a loved one. You may also make a contribution to missions in honor of or in memory of a loved one if you do not wish to purchase a poinsettia.

GIVEN BY: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____
(check 1 of the above)

_____ This is for a poinsettia

_____ This is for a mission contribution

Remember: **Reservations for plants and your check for \$23 made payable to Trinity United Methodist Church, are due in the Church Office no later than Monday, December 8.** You may pick up your plant(s) after the Christmas Eve service.



To all our staff & to all volunteers involved,

Congratulations & thanks! Sunday's All Saints service was near perfect. The bells, Jennifer's special sermon and the Lord's Supper—All just right and so meaningful. Thank you all.

I wish I could be helpful with "clean up" but I don't trust my balance. You might have to clean me up. So I thought I could help with supplies. Here's just a little for that (check for \$25.00).

Thanks for all you all do. God bless you all.

Love,

Merilyn



Dear Friends at Trinity UMC,
Your gift of \$1075.00 received on 10/14/2025 is already making an impact by helping us provide Epworth Foster parents with needed training supplies and equipment.

Your support helps us give foster parents access to tutoring, child development, and counseling services, along with 24-7 staff support.

Epworth's Foster Care program is just one way our organization fulfills our mission to serve children, youth and families through caring, safe, Christian communities, where hurts are healed, hope is nurtured, and faith in God, self, and others is developed. The program makes an enormous difference.

We are so grateful to you for believing in Epworth's mission and using your resources to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and teens in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Beth Williams
President and CEO



Dear Trinity UMC family,

The family of Robert Brinson would like to thank you for your kind words, cards, prayers and support during this difficult time. The love you have shown our family has given us much comfort and touched us deeply.

We are so grateful for your heartfelt expressions of sympathy which will always be remembered.

With Gratitude,

Beth Brinson and family

Dear TUMC,

Thank you so much for the prayers and the gift card. It is a big comfort to know the church cares for me and is praying for my success at college. Please continue to do so.

Thank you again,

J.D. Murdock



Given in Memory of...

Patsy K. Smith

James & Ruth (Ruthie) Kearns

Robert (Bob) Brinson

Paul & Diane Luderman

Given in Honor of...

All December Birthdays

Marilyn Holcombe



Flower Schedule

December 7

December 14

In memory of Dan Winiarski by Nancy Winiarski

December 21

Christmas Poinsettias

December 28

In honor of Nancy Hopkin's birthday by her family



Our staff has done a great job during 2025 and we know that you will want to join with us in showing our appreciation at this special time of the year with a Christmas Love Gift. You may place your gift in the offering plate, drop it by the church office, or mail to P.O. Box 1072, Conway, 29528-1072.

Please make checks payable to Trinity with "Staff Love Gift" on the memo line. Please have your gifts to us no later than Monday, December 15th, so that the monies can be distributed to the staff before Christmas.

Thank You!
John Creel, Chairperson SPPRC



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
JOIN SANDY SMITH AS SHE
WALKS US THROUGH HOW TO
MAKE THE ABOVE SANTA CRAFT**

*This craft will be offered on Tuesday,
December 9th at 10 am following
Tuesdays at Trinity. Please RSVP to
Jennifer by December 2nd to ensure that
Sandy has enough supplies.
There is no cost for this craft.*



For the month of
December our children will
be collecting your spare
change during the worship
service. All money
collected will be donated
to fostering hope.



Called to Serve

December Altar Guild:

Susan Blackwelder
Ann Long

Acolytes:

December 7	Kirby McCown
December 14	Hailey Patterson
December 21	Rosemary Reid
December 28	Whitley Gainey



**Reminder...we will
not have Wednesday
activities on
November 26th, we
will see you again on
December 3rd!**

A Word from the Old to the Young Merilyn Holcombe

Christmas time is often the happiest time of the year. Never let it be ruined because of lack of funds. Money cannot buy the treasured time together. If it is not possible to spend time together spend time in happy letters, cards, and calls.

Enjoy the decorating, the cooking, the visits as a family, together. And, most of all, remember the Reason for the Season-the Birth of Jesus, the Precious Son of God.



Dear Partnering Churches,

It is time to begin thinking about Christmas!

We are asking each church to sponsor families. The cost is \$25.00 per family. Please Remit your check to TUMC with CAP/Christmas dinner on the memo line by December 15th, if possible.

Please encourage your Sunday School classes and other organizations to participate. We are planning to provide 200 bags this year. Christmas bags will include a canned ham and all the Christmas sides.

We look for your continued support as we feed our community neighbors in need. We serve families in Conway, Aynor, and Galivants Ferry.

Blessings,
Donna C. Bodie, Executive Director

Thanks Trinity family for stepping up to fill our pew so that we could fill a pew for CAP.



We Care for One Another



MEMBERS EMERITUS

Claiborne at W. Lake

557 Fursys Ferry Rd, Martinez, Georgia 30907
Janet Mayers

Arbor Landing

3105 Dick Pond Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Carrie Raymor (Apt. 101)

Mullins Nursing Center

2829 E. Hwy. 76, Mullins, SC 29574
Ruby Pittman (Rm. 355)

Spring Oak Assisted Living

2310 US-378 Conway, SC 29527
Dorothy Deitrich (Rm. 515)

Barbara Thompson

7523 Misty Wood Rd, Knoxville, TN 37938

Pat Rose

1011 Moore Lane, Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Lettie Byrdic

3025 Chesbrough Blvd, (Apt. 316)
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Robert & Irene Booth

3840 Wilmot Ave. Columbia, SC 29205

Russ Nixon

114 Jessica Lakes Dr. Conway, SC 29526
(843) 333-1020

Ed & Gail McNew

Apt. 331-Maple Brook Terrace
150 Verdin Rd, Greenville, SC 29607

Sandra Parler

4178 Bradford Dr
Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Martha Johnson

833 Shaftesbury Ln
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 365-1668

B.G. Gantt

16 Holly Cr.
Greenville, SC 29607

Members

Marie Skipper
Lynn Spires
Rich & Phyllis Eisenman
Cheryl Robertson
Mark Blackwelder
Mary Miller
Martha Cross
Vance & Jennifer Donkle
Kathy Gray
Pat & Eddie Gerosa
Beth Brinson
Merrell Floyd

Tina Hubbard
Phyllis Koch
Linda Hendrick
Jason Owens
Sharon Black
Tamara Tindal
Burnett Owens
Susan Wiseman
Dr. Dick Rush
Art & Sandy O'Brien
Helen Emmons
Jonathan (Jon) Hill
John Wright
Lana Fortson
Donna Cartrette

MEMBERS' PARENTS

Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)

MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Janice & Danny Elmer (Jerri Woodlee's friends)
Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)
Ralph Fields
Mike & Chris Cloderfelter (friends of Gene & Cookie Johnson)
Rev. Carl Hunsucker

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Bret & Bryn Ginn (son-in-law & daughter of Lana Fortson)
Cynthia Inman (Donna Cartrette's sister)
Pam Broun (sister of Beth Suggs)
Ruth Ellen Coffey (sister of Mary Miller)
Betty Coggeshall (Sister of Linda Hendrick)
Frankie Collins (sister of Pat Gregory)
Charles Johnson IV (son of Pete & Martha Johnson)
Peggy Inman (sister of Athene Long)

Armed Forces

Eliza Edge
Samuel Weitzman (nephew of Marti Hubbard)

College Students

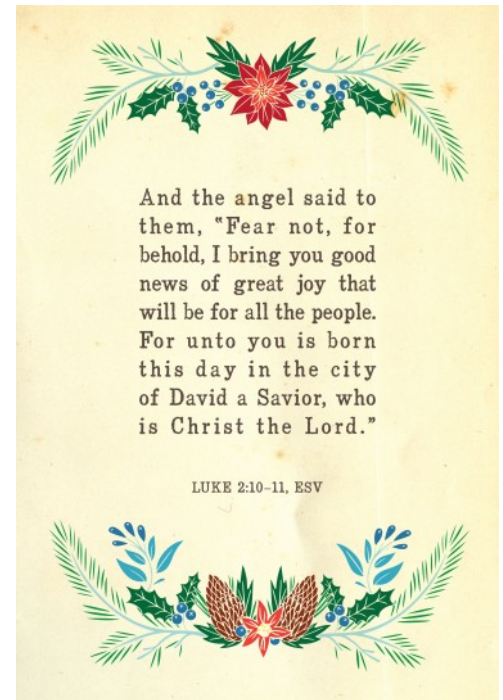
Hayes Blackwelder
614 Elgin Ct
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-3332

Ellie Howle
USC, 1615 Rice St
Columbia, SC 29205

Luke Skipper
566 J.P. Stevens Rd
Seneca, SC 29678

Austin Suggs
1100 Bluff Rd, Unit 507
Columbia, SC 29201

John (J.D.) Murdock
Attn: FMU Housing
51430 East Palmetto St
Florence, SC 29506



All information that is to be included in the next month's **Good Word** needs to be in the church office by the 20th of each month.
Thank you!

For where two or
three are gathered in
my name, I'm there
with them.

Matthew 18:20

Tuesdays at Trinity are underway and
the only thing missing is YOU!
Join us for prayer and fellowship beginning at 9am.



Altar Flowers

The price of the altar flowers has
been increased to \$97.20.



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Dr. Cynthia Terres
Liam Luttrell | 22 Lynn Long
Glenn Cartrette
Brooke Howle
Kelly Arel |
| 2 Kim Molineu | |
| 3 Garrett Johnston
David Custon
Jelaijah Singleton | 23 Dylan Luttrell
Louie Gullimette |
| 4 Tiffany Suggs
Gladys Ortiz-Yanez
Chap Hutchinson
Daniel Arel | 24 Julie Strickland
Kitt Bond |
| 6 John Calhoun | 26 Tina Anderson
Dalton Gore
Mac Smith |
| 7 Melissa Cox
Bill Racz | 28 Wayne Suggs
Nancy Hopkins
Charles Calhoun
Larry Woodle |
| 8 Jaeda Custon | 29 Russ Dozier
Luke Skipper
Phyllis Koch
Jan Green
Shorty Langdon |
| 9 Janet Mayers | |
| 10 Kip Miller
Raylene Williams
Andy Altman | 31 Jennifer Graves
Melanie Wysong
Rev. Carl Hunsucker |
| 11 Susan Glass
Inez Guilmette
Gloria Moyer
Jordan Hupko
Gerald Michael | |
| 12 Kay Graham
Cassidy Hewitt
John Rogers
Amy Price | |
| 15 Lynn Hucks | |
| 16 Julio Fuentes
Marie Skipper
Janet Howle | |
| 17 Sam Kinon | |
| 18 Cheryl Landry | |
| 19 Gwen Winn
Page Spivey
Shauna Hughes | |
| 20 Leigh Richardson | |
| 21 Wesley Jordan | |

Anniversaries

- | |
|--|
| 1 Dennis & Kay Graham |
| 18 Stoney & Creola Harrelson |
| 20 Joe & Donna Lunsford |
| 23 Burnett & Geraldine Owens
Dan & Melanie Wysong |
| 27 Mike & Gloria Moyer |



When they **saw the**
they **STAR,**
rejoiced *with*
exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:10, KJV



**TRINITY
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

...a Stephen Ministry Congregation
P.O. Box 1072, Conway, SC 29528-1072
198 Long Avenue, Conway, SC
843-248-2194 phone, 843-248-4445 fax
www.trinityconway.com

Change Service Requested

REV. WILLIAM H. MCCOWN III, Pastor
843-248-2343, (parsonage) 843-283-4320, (cell) or
bmccown@trinityconway.com
JENNIFER DONKLE, Program Director
704-219-1899 or jdonkle@trinityconway.com
REV. MICHAEL D. BYRD, Associate Pastor
215-859-8409 or mdbyrd@umcsc.org
DR. ANDREW FOWLER, Director of Music
843-457-9686 or andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com
CAROLYN CAUSEY, Business Administrator
843-907-0030 or ccausey@trinityconway.com
JAN BITTING, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor
RALPH FIELDS, Facilities Maintenance

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