

TOWER TALK



TRINITY

United Methodist Church

11761 Heritage Hwy. P.O. Box 335
Bamberg, SC 29003

Email: trinity.bamberg@umcsc.org.
803-245-4275

DECEMBER 2022

A SEASON OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE



On a cold Christmas Eve in 1952, when Korea was in the middle of civil war, one Young woman struggled along a village street, obviously

soon to deliver her child. She pleaded with those passing by, *"Help me! Please. My baby."* No one paid any attention to her. A middle-aged couple walked by. The wife pushed away the young mother and sneered, *"Where's the father? Where's your American man now?"*

The couple snickered and went on. The young woman almost doubled up from a contraction as she watched them walk away. *"Please . . ."* she begged. She had heard of a missionary living nearby who might help her. Hurriedly,

she began walking to that village. If only he would help her baby. Shivering and in pain, she struggled over the frozen countryside. But the night was so cold. Snow began to fall. Realizing that the time was near to deliver her baby, she took shelter under a bridge. There, alone in the night, her baby was born on Christmas Eve. Worried about her newborn son, she took off her own clothes, wrapped them around the baby and held the child close in the warm circle of her arms.

The next day, the missionary braved the new fallen snow to deliver Christmas packages. As he walked along, he heard the cry of a baby. He followed the sound to the bridge. Under it, he found a young mother frozen to death, still clutching her crying newborn son. The missionary tenderly lifted the baby out of her arms.

When the baby was 10 years old, his now adoptive father told him the story of his mother's unconditional love and death on Christmas Eve. The young boy hearing this story sat there and cried, realizing the sacrifice his mother had made for him. The next morning, the missionary rose early to find the boy's bed empty. Seeing a fresh set of small footprints in the snow outside, he bundled up warmly in a winter coat and followed the trail. It led back to the bridge where the young mother had died. As the missionary approached the bridge, he stopped, shocked and stunned. Kneeling in the snow was his son, naked and shivering uncontrollably. His clothes lay beside him in a small pile. Moving closer, he heard the boy say through chattering teeth: *"Mother, were you this cold for me?"*

That story reminds me of another mother and Son who sacrificed so much. One winter night, Jesus left his home, His glory and the warmth of heaven to be born in a stable to an unwelcome world. Just before He was born, Mary, His mother, was not welcome in any of the cozy inns in Bethlehem. Instead, she delivered her baby in the darkness of a cold

stable. The Creator of the Universe, the one who could destroy the world with a single word, was willing to endure an unpromising beginning for you and for me. That is unconditional love!

We who have experienced God's unconditional love are not asked but commanded to share that same love with others. John writes in **1 John 4:11**, "*Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.*" God wants us to express His unconditional love to others. We become examples of God's love to the world as we love our neighbors through the enabling of His Holy Spirit. My prayer for you this Advent Season is the same as Paul's prayer for the believers in **Ephesians 3:16-19** ...

"I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

You may confess, "*I don't have that kind of love to share with anyone.*" To experience God's unconditional love, and to claim it by faith, we then have the potential to love anyone God puts in our path. One of the greatest lessons I pray I can learn in my Christian walk is "*how to love by faith.*"

When we by faith invite God's unconditional love to flow in and through us, we soon discover a rekindled love that is alive and well. That is true for an "unlovable" spouse, family member, co-worker, neighbor, anyone deemed "unlovable." Nothing breaks the hardened ground of unforgiveness and bitterness like sincere acts and words of love. Sometimes you and I, by faith, must be the

ones who take the first step of restoration. A positive response may not be immediate, but we are commanded, by God to keep on loving and reaching out. There is no power on earth stronger than God's unconditional love. Merry Christmas to all!
-Pastor Kevin



Trinity United Methodist Church has been supplying food for children in need from Richard Carroll Elementary School each weekend for the past month. Thanks to generous donations we have been able to provide microwavable and ready to eat food items for the weekend. Here is a list of what we supply each weekend to 50 children.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 Bag | |
| 2 Applesauce cups | 1 Oatmeal pk |
| 2 Pudding cups | 1 Grits pk |
| 1 Cup of noodles | 1 Mac & Cheese |
| 2 Chef Boyardee Bowls | 2 Grain Bars |

Several have asked about purchasing items for the bags, below is the list of items that are put in the bags each week. **NO SUBSTITUTIONS**, only listed items.

- Motts applesauce (cups)
- Quaker Oatmeal (individual packs)
- Quaker Grits (Individual packs)
- Snack Pack Puddings Vanilla/Chocolate packs
- Chef Boyardee microwavable bowls – Beef Ravioli, Beefaroni, Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Kraft Mac & Cheese microwavable bowls
- Nissin Chicken Cup Noodles
- Kellogg Nutri Grain Bars

If you would like to contribute to this ministry just earmark your donation to Backpack Ministry. You can also help packing the bags as we meet each Wednesday at 5:30 to pack bags. We will not pack bags again until January 4th at 5:30 p.m.



**MENNONITE CHOIR TO PERFORM
AT PLEASANT HILL UMC**

On **December 11th at 6 p.m.** the Mennonite Choir will perform their Christmas program at Pleasant Hill UMC. There will be light refreshments afterwards. Everyone is invited.



UMCOR "IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS CARDS"

For a number of years Trinity has sponsored the "In Lieu of Christmas Cards" project. This is exactly what it says, you make a donation to UMCOR and the church will send a special Christmas Greeting to Trinity members. This saves you the chore of sending Christmas Cards and helps the United Methodist Committee on Relief do its work.

Deadline to do this is Monday, December 12th.



UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The UMW will meet on **December 12 at 6 pm** at the home of Tammy Smoak. The address is 5539 Char Augusta Rd. We will have our monthly program and a time of fellowship. So please mark your calendar and bring your favorite one dish that you would like to share. Anyone interested in joining the UMW is invited to join us.

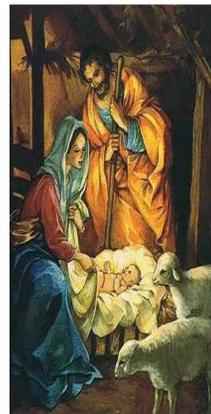
**POINSETTIAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**

Now is the time to think about putting Poinsettias in the church for Christmas, in Memory or in Honor of a loved one. **Please arrange your order yourself and let the church office know**, in whose memory or honor you wish to place your Poinsettias, **by noon on Tuesday, December 13th. Please remember to pick up your Poinsettia after the Christmas Service on the 25th.**



CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

This year's cantata is filled with traditional Christmas songs that we all are familiar with. The Chancel Choir will perform it on **December 18th during the 11 a.m. worship service.**



**Christmas Drop-In
at the parsonage
(4308 Faust St.)**

**Sunday, December 18
5 – 7 p.m.**



As our year draws to a close we are yet again faced with the question of “Will we meet our budget?” This time of year pulls all of us, financially, in many directions. First and foremost is Christmas, and with all that goes into making it special for our children and/or grandchildren; for many, it’s also time for those end of year tax bill(s); this on top of meeting all our family’s daily, weekly, and monthly obligations, especially with the cost of living today. I say this to let you know we understand the financial pressures all of us are under.

The members of Trinity United Methodist Church have always come through and met their yearly obligations. Yearly obligations concerning the budget and that of Conference Apportionments have always been met. Looking back, one can see that Trinity United Methodist Church has met 100% of its conference obligations for the past 13-14 years that I know of, and that’s impressive. But, once again we are here, the end of the calendar year and praying we can once again meet these obligations.

We ask, I ask that you would be in prayer asking God to help each one discern what they are able to do to help us, as a church family to meet these obligations in spite of the current financial difficulties we all face. May God bless you all this Advent Season.



On October 6th Trinity United Methodist re-started the United Methodist Men. Monthly meetings are planned for the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM.



The men plan what they do guided by the Three Simple Rules of John Wesley as stated by Rev. Reuben Job to “Do No Harm ... Do Good ... and Stay in Love with God.”

Each meeting the men discuss future plans and then share a Fellowship Meal prepared by one of the members. This past month the men worked on clearing the overgrowth on the backside of the Fellowship Hall parking lot. They have also been helping with the new Backpack Ministry. If you have any suggestions of possible areas the United Methodist Men can minister to our community, please let one of the men know or contact the church office. Our next meeting is scheduled for 12/7/2022 at 6:00 PM please make plans to join us.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
will be held on
Saturday, December 24
5:00 p.m.
at Trinity UMC
Everyone is welcome
to this family-oriented
service.**

PUZZLE

Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.

WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior



DRIVE-THRU BETHLEHEM

Edisto Baptist Church invites you to their annual Drive-Thru Bethlehem, **December 9, 10, & 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at 4831 Edisto River Rd. (Hwy 61) Branchville, SC. Admission is free.



DECEMBER 26, 2022 - JANUARY 2, 2023

The Church Office will be closed December 26th - January 2nd. We will reopen on January 3rd. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Church books for 2022 will close Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Many have gotten behind with their giving. Every dollar is needed. In the spirit of love of the season, if you're behind, prayerfully consider bringing your giving up to date so the body of Christ will be strong all over God's world.



The Bamberg County Chorale will be performing here at Trinity this Friday, December 2nd at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The Chancel Choir will be performing the Christmas cantata, "CAROLS" on December 18th during the morning service. Come as we worship Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Next month, we will be starting back the Amy Whitaker Handbell Choir. We will have rehearsals starting on Wednesday, January 4th from 5:30 – 6:30 in the handbell room upstairs above the fellowship hall. Please join us as we ring praises to God!

Through Jesus Christ, David

LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rad Free Ch. Church Council
 Eddie Sanders..... Lay Leader
 Randy Maxwell Ch. PPRC
 Patricia Izlar Ch. Finance
 Marshall Bunch Ch. Trustees
 Charlie Bellamy Church Treasurer
 Tammy Smoak Lay Member to Annual Conf.
 Tammy Smoak Ch. Outreach
 Sharon Cling President UMW
 Sharon Cling Epworth Local Church Rep.
 Mary Jane Maxwell Ch. Worship
 Carla Jowers Ch. Education
 Vicki Whitaker Age Level/Family Ministry
 Patty Weader Older Adult Ministry
 Obie Williams .. Superintendent Sunday School
 Laura Hoffman Ch. Outreach
 Laura HoffmanRecording Secretary
 Faye Bellamy Ch. Missions
 Nancy Foster Ch. Witness/Evangelism
 Mary Bray Mehrzad Communications Coord.
 Bob Smoak Church Historian
 Shryll Williams..... Membership Secretary



SUNDAY

10 a.m. – Sunday School
 11 a.m. – Worship

MONDAY

3 p.m. – God’s Squad, 1st – 6th graders, upstairs
 in the middle building
 3:30 p.m. – UMW, meets 2nd Monday of the
 month, Joy Classroom
 6 p.m. – Prayer Time, Fellowship Hall
 6:30p.m. – Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. – Pack Backpacks, Fellowship Hall
 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Club meets 1st Wednesday of
 the month in the Fellowship Hall
 6:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

7 p.m. – Bamberg County Chorale, Fellowship
 Hall



NURSERY WORKERS

December 4 – Mary Wallen
 December 11 – Tammy Smoak
 December 18 – Elizabeth Bunch
 December 25 – Beth Pregnall



The Giving Tree gifts need to be returned by **December 11**. You may leave them in the Sanctuary or bring them to the Church Office on or before **December 11**.

Thanks to everyone for making these kids feel special at Christmas.



Birthdays

- 5th - Blythe Weaver
 - 6th - Jeff Woolsey
 - 7th - Grant Weaver
 - 9th - Rad Free
Alex Ahlin
 - 13th - Madelyn Dempsey Jennings
Sumner Cooler
 - 14th - Dale Padgett, Jr.
 - 24th - Kaye Carson
 - 25th - Marilyn Cooler
 - 27th - Richard Threatt
Heather Palmer
 - 28th - Peggy Babineau
 - 31st - Riley Maxwell
-

Anniversary's

- 2nd - Brab & Cindy McCully
- 18th - Buddy & Kim West
- 22nd - Craig & Karen Threatt
- 30th - Allen & Sallye Bunch
- 31st - Chester & Tammy Hightower