

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER & with your cards, calls, visits**

**RECUPERATING AT HOME**

Garland Whittaker  
Jerry Mallonee  
Check Mills  
Marjorie Reaves  
Virginia Brown  
Wanda Sue Ammerman

**HOMEBOUND**

Martha Sigmon  
Joyce Potts  
Peggy Wright  
Bobbie Whisenant

**IN ASSISTED-LIVING FACILITIES**

**ABERNETHY LAURELS**

Joan Williamson—Room 240  
Mary Tuttle—Memory Care  
Peggy Hollis—Apt 219  
Joe Schell—Apt 205

**TRINITY RIDGE**

Odessa Whitmire—Room 807

**CAROLINA REHAB CENTER**

Peggy Miller—Room 110

**CV ASSISTED LIVING**

Mary Crump—Room 114

**ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER:**

Homer Laube	Linda Hill
Sarah Hoffman	Wally Davis
Jo Ann Simmons	Vae Hamilton
Diane Loftin	Paul & Lula Towery

\*Michael Webb (Kathleen Shuford's brother, having surgery on Dec. 21st on his right hand)

\*Larry Riffle (coworker of Amanda Houston, dealing with complications of COVID-19)

\*Roger Bowman (close friend of Hamp & Kathleen Shuford, at Frye Hospital)

**THE WORSHIP MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

All Church Members, Ministers

Rev. Peggy Stout, Pastor

Rev. Jaha Seechang, Lahu Worship Leader

Martha Caldwell, Director of Adult Traditional Choirs

Marty Light, Organist

Joe Hart, Financial Secretary

Tamara McCarter, Church Secretary

**TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

217 Second Avenue NE

Conover, NC 28613

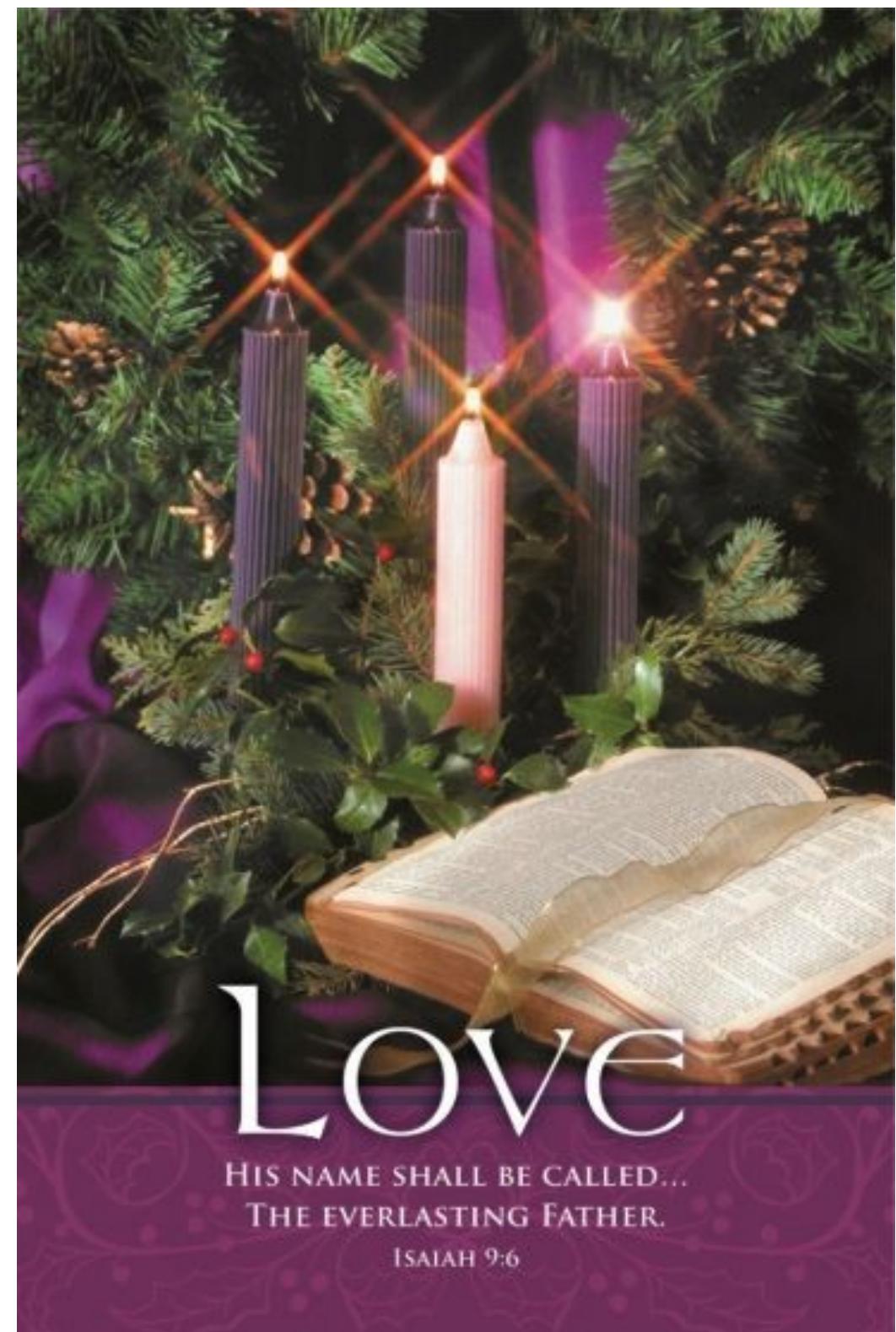
Office Telephone: (828) 464-8226; Fax: (828) 464-1622

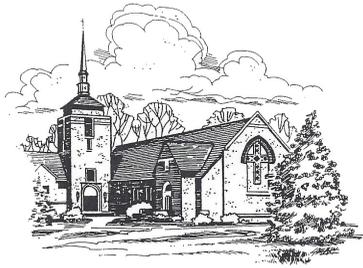
Office Hours: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Web site: [www.trinitytoday.org](http://www.trinitytoday.org)

E-mail address: [trinityucc@trucc.net](mailto:trinityucc@trucc.net)

The Children's School Telephone: (828) 464-0057





*Trinity Reformed*  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 DECEMBER 20, 2020—10:30 A.M.**

*\*Designates "Those who are able, please stand."*

**COMING BEFORE GOD**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Peggy Stout

**HYMN** "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" Choral Ensemble

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Michael Lingle, Liturgist  
 "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with my mouth I will make  
 your faithfulness known through all generations." (Psalm 89:1)

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** Michael Lingle, Liturgist  
 You surprise a world, O God, by coming not in clashing thunder or flashing  
 lights, but in the quiet and simple splendor of a child's radiant face. Help  
 us to understand this mystery of love beyond all loves — one that is not  
 focused on what we can get, but what we can give, a love that counts not  
 who is worthy to receive, but beyond our human calculations, is showered  
 freely on all. Show us the way of Bethlehem's child — that in seeing, we  
 may believe, and in believing, we may truly learn how to love. Amen.

**PIANO INTROIT** Marty Light (*recording*)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Peggy Stout  
 Generous and Gracious God, you give us the greatest gift of all—yourself,  
 but often we find it hard to notice. We are so caught up in our own lives  
 and with our own gifts, both given and received. Forgive us, O God, for the  
 casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in; be  
 born in us today. We ask all these things in the name of Christ our Lord,  
 who taught us to pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom  
 come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
 our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine  
 is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE** Eric, Kristi, and Jacob Conner  
 Out of love for the people of God, the Lord spoke through the prophet



**TODAY** is the last day to get in orders  
 for **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**.

*Remember, we will be donating the money  
 collected to Carolina Caring (Hospice).*

Thank you for your donations!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2021** are available for pick-up TODAY at the back  
 of the Sanctuary. You may also stop-by the Church Office any time during  
 regular office hours and pick-up yours! (If you would like them to be picked-  
 up outside the church, please call and let Tamara know when you are coming!)

**Volunteers are needed** to help set-out Luminaries on Christmas Eve around  
 3:00pm. Please contact the church office or Ted Setzer (828-962-5626)  
 if you can help!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

*"Carols, Candles, &  
 Communion"*

**Thursday, December 24  
 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.**



**The Preschool will be CLOSED** from December 21st—January 4th.  
**The Church Office will be CLOSED** on December 25th & 28th for Christmas.

**NEXT Sunday, December 27th and Sunday, January 3rd**, we will meet  
 BACK IN THE LEC. After worship on January 3rd, the Consistory  
 will meet again for discussion.

As a reminder, 90.5FM station will work in the parking lot on Sunday  
 mornings as well as a video will be added to the church website and  
 Facebook page. Stay Safe!

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostle's Creed*)

Jennifer Lingle

Let us confess the faith of our baptism:

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

**Invitation**

Rev. Peggy Stout

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

*"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

*(Please be seated.)*

**HYMN**

*"How Great Our Joy"*

Choral Ensemble

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Peggy Stout

**\*POSTLUDE**

Marty Light (*recording*)



**THE FLOWERS** on the altar today are given in Loving Honor and Memory of our Loved ones.

Dear Trinity Family, **THANK YOU** to so many of you who called, sent cards, and for those who prayed for us and our families during the loss of Jeff's mother, Betty Jackson, and Elizabeth's grandmother, Lois Richey. These past few months have been very difficult for our families. We are grateful for your support.

- With sincere thanks, Jeff & Elizabeth Jackson



**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

<sup>14</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.<sup>15</sup> “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God!***

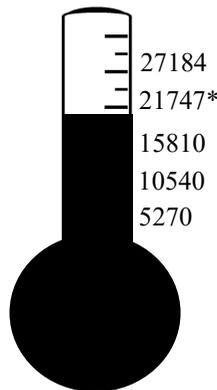
**\*GOSPEL READING**

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” <sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>al</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup>“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

***All praise to You, Christ our Lord!***



<u>ATTENDANCE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER</u>						
	Lahu	10:30am	5:00pm	Total	SS	Envelope Giving
December 06	—	70	—	70	—	\$ 6,392.42
December 13	—	72	—	72	—	\$ 9,936.50
December 20						
December 27						
<b>TOTALS</b>	—	142	—	142	—	\$ 16,328.92

Goal for a four week month is \$21,747\* and for a five week month is \$27,184.

## This Week

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

\*Poinsettia Donations are Due!

10:30am—Traditional Worship (in the Sanctuary)

10:30am—Radio Broadcast (90.5FM—in the parking lot)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Preschool CLOSED

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Preschool CLOSED

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Preschool CLOSED

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Preschool CLOSED

3:00pm—Volunteers needed to help set out luminary bags.

7:00pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (in the Sanctuary)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

Preschool & Church Office CLOSED

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30am—Traditional Worship ([back in the LEC](#))

10:30am—Radio Broadcast (90.5FM—in the parking lot)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

Preschool & Church Office CLOSED

### REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Liturgist: Kelly Barringer

Lay Reader: Cole Reitzel

Flower Calendar: Gina Setzer

Isaiah and said, “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 (God With Us).” Love—no other word so completely describes what we know of the true nature and character of God. For God so loved—

***For God so loved the world that a child was given, God's own son. A Savior was born in the form of Love Incarnate, and His love lives on in us as followers of Christ.***

During this Advent season we give thanks for God’s love that reaches out to us and all people of the world. (*Please light the candle.*)

Let us pray:

***God of hope, Prince of peace, and Lord of love—your goodness is beyond our wildest imagination. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

PRAISE RESPONSE

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (vs 3)

Choral Ensemble

***What can I give him, poor as I am?***

***If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;***

***If I were a wise man I would do my part;***

***Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.***

### LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cindy Abel, Lay Reader

Holy and Loving God, the stories of this Advent season are familiar to us; so, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Spirit to hear the scriptures afresh. Make us attentive to Jesus, the Living Word, and may we be responsive to the gifts He brings into our midst. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Cindy Abel, Lay Reader

SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Star, A Song, A Sign”

Choral Ensemble

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Peggy Stout

The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

***All praise to you, Christ our Lord!***

SERMON

Rev. Peggy Stout

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Choral Ensemble