

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

**RECUPERATING AT HOME**

Jeanne Michael  
Mary Schell  
Mike Kilby  
Sarah Hoffman  
Peggy Miller  
Odessa Whitmire  
Louise Schell

Grace Gundlach  
Joan Williamson  
Peggy Hollis  
Marilyn Mills

**CONOVER NURSING**

Helen Ellis

**ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER:**

Dotty Shuford

Jackie Kanipe

Marion Graham

Connie Harelson—Friend of Cole  
Reitzel

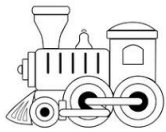
**HOMEBOUND**

Paul & Lula Towery  
Mary Tuttle  
Martha Sigmon

**IN ASSISTED-LIVING FACILITIES**

**ABERNETHY LAURELS**

Bill Graham (Back at Rehab)



**ALL AGE/FAMILY EVENT**—Saturday, December 23; 3:00pm  
Country Christmas Train in Denton, NC. Tickets are \$15 for those over 11 years old—\$5 for age 5-11—FREE for children under 5. Admission includes train ride and a walking tour through the park (with a petting zoo). Please let Mark know if you are interested ASAP!

**THE WORSHIP MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

All Church Members, Ministers

Rev. Peggy Stout, Pastor

Rev. Jaha Seechang, Lahu Worship Leader

Mark Dickerson, Director of Christian Education

Alyssa Lowe, Director of Adult Traditional Choirs

Marty Light, Organist

Steve Thomas, Financial Secretary

Tamara McCarter, Church Secretary

**TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

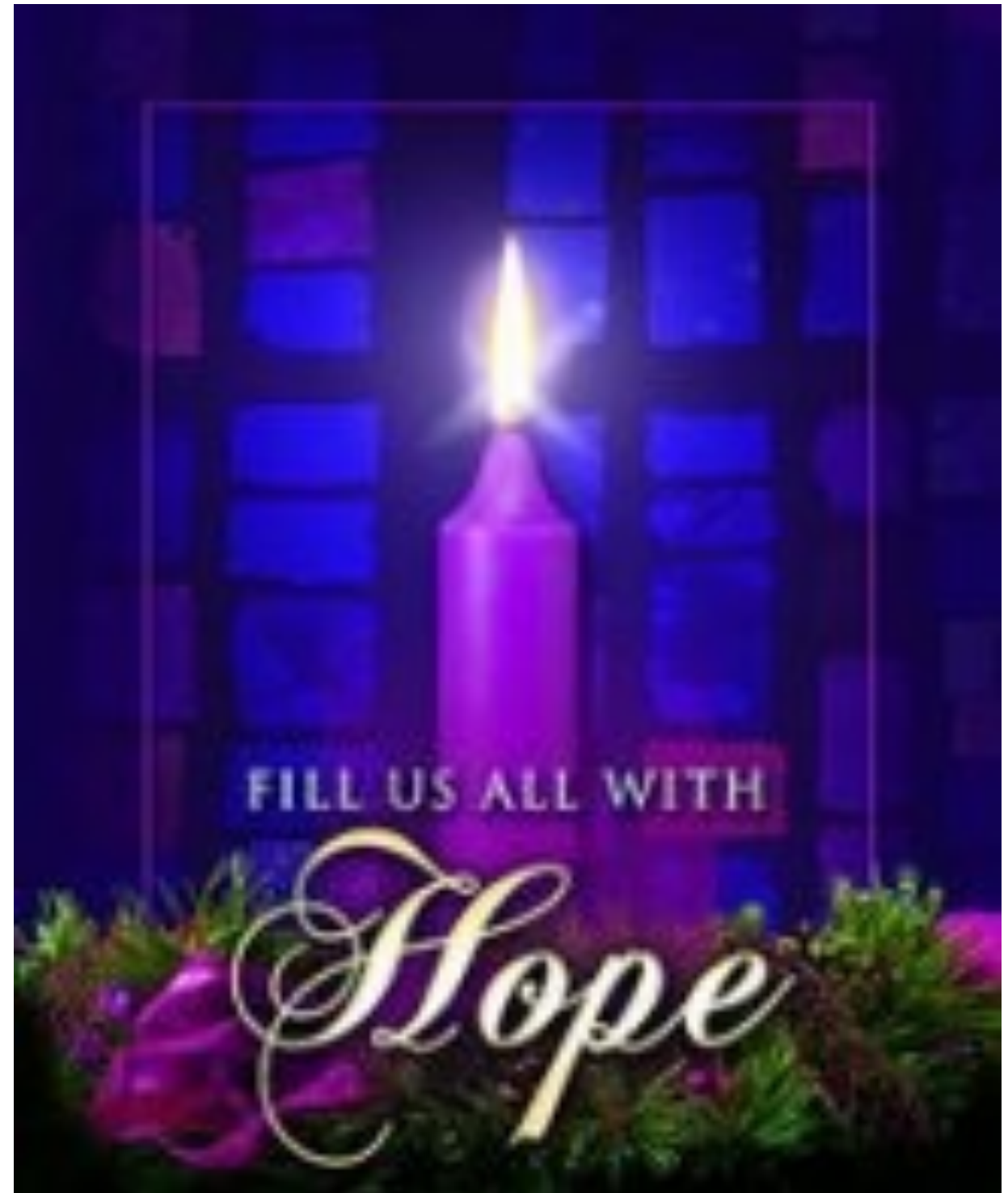
217 Second Avenue NE

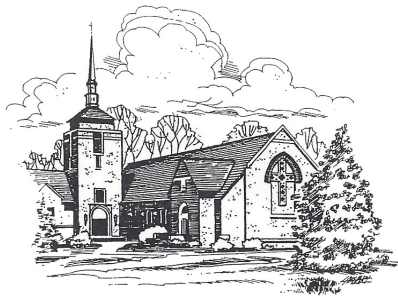
Conover, NC 28613

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

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

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





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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 "HANGING OF THE GREENS"  
 December 3, 2017—10:30 a.m.**

*\*Designates "Those who are able may stand"*

**COMING BEFORE GOD**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Peggy Stout and Mark Dickerson

**PRELUDE** Marty Light, Organist

**\*PASTORAL DECLARATION** Rev. Peggy Stout

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #193 Blue Book

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsively*) Jennifer Lingle, Liturgist  
 Come, let us worship our God—the One who brings all things to fulfillment.  
*We come to listen for words of hope and love, promise and challenge.*  
 We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of  
 waiting and expectation.  
*All praise be to our God!*

**\*INTROIT** Chancel Choir; Alyssa Lowe, Director

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (*Responsively*) Jennifer Lingle, Liturgist  
 Eternal God, who chose the lowly village of Bethlehem to be the birth place  
 for the Messiah:  
*Come to our community and let your Son be born anew in us—that we  
 may share with all those who are a part of his flock, the strength of his  
 love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Jennifer Lingle, Liturgist  
 God of heaven and earth, the little town of Bethlehem creates a beautiful  
 vision in our minds. It is easy to look back in history and see it as a sacred  
 place. But, our vision is not as clear when we look at the present to see  
 within our community that here, too, is where Christ is to be born.  
*Forgive us, O Lord, for all the times we have missed seeing you in our*

**TODAY after services:**  
 Youth will meet in the Youth Room for a little Christmas Gift Exchange &  
 Kids will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas Pageant Rehearsal.

**TONIGHT at 5:30pm:**  
 Please join our Praise Band (Kellie & Marty Light, Chrystal  
 Dieter, Kim Vollinger, & Tim Key) as they host a LIVE  
 Christmas Concert for your enjoyment! Refreshments will be  
 provided after the concert.



**Connections Chili/Pottery Fundraiser**—THIS Wednesday, December 6  
 from 11:00am-1:30pm. Cost is \$15, which includes a homemade chili  
 lunch and a piece of pottery. Dine-In or Take-Out! Tickets are available  
 in advance from Connections (828-466-0030) or at the door.

Kidz Club:



**pancake breakfast  
 fundraiser**

*"A Short Stack for a  
 Tall Cause"*

Sunday, December  
 10th from 8:30—  
 9:30am in the LEC

We are also pre-selling **CASSEROLES**.  
 (*Casseroles will come ready to be baked or frozen.*)

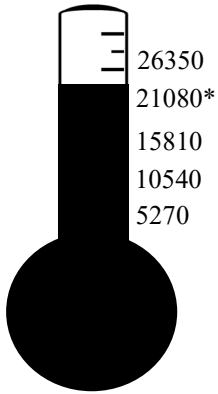
**Choose between Baked Spaghetti or Chicken Pie.**  
**8x8 pan—\$10      9x13 pan—\$18**

Orders & Payments will be taken TODAY. Please stop by our table in the foyer.  
 (Casseroles will be available for pick-up next Sunday).

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR "ADOPT-A-FAMILY!"**

**Please excuse our error in the December Tablet—**

The Cantata (to be performed on Christmas Eve morning) will be titled  
 "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem." Please make plans to join us for this  
 wonderful musical event!



<u>ATTENDANCE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER</u>						
	Lahu	10:30am	5:00pm	Total	SS	Envelope Giving
November 05	29	146	49	224	64	\$ 10,208.10
November 12	21	119	18	158	58	\$ 3,136.00
November 19	25	116	25	166	52	\$ 4,759.00
November 26	27	104	—	131	54	\$ 3,701.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>\$ 21,804.10</b>

Goal for a four week month is \$21,080\* and for a five week month is \$26,350.

## This Week

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

#### First Sunday of Advent

#### Hanging of the Greens

- 9:15am—S.S. Assembly
- 9:30am—Sunday School (all ages)
- 10:30am—Traditional & Lahu Worship
- 11:45am—Christmas Pageant Practice
- 11:45am—Consistory Meeting
- 11:45am—Youth Gift Exchange
- 5:30pm—FA! Praise Band's Live Christmas Concert

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 6:30pm—Church Staff Christmas Party @ Da Vinci's

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 11:00am—Connections Chili/Pottery Lunch Fundraiser
- 7:30pm—Choir Practice

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 6:00pm—Sweet Adelines'

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:00pm—Singles Christmas Party

Our Singles group will hold their annual **Christmas Party** at Blue Moon Tavern at 6:30pm. We will be downstairs—please bring money for dinner and a gift for exchange. *(Gifts should be no more than \$10).*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

#### Second Sunday of Advent

#### Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts

- 8:30am—Kidz' Breakfast Fundraiser
- 9:15am—S.S. Assembly
- 9:30am—Sunday School (all ages)
- 10:30am—Traditional & Lahu Worship
- 11:45am—Christmas Pageant Practice
- 5:00pm—Supper
- 5:45pm—Christmas Caroling

*midst, for all the times we have doubted your Presence, and for all the times we have failed to help others find their way. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen. (Please be seated.)*

### LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

#### LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE Gloria Hill, Dianne Propst, & Mike Brittain

Today, we begin the Advent season, a time of looking forward to Christ's birth. In this season we remember how God's promises to our ancestors came true—the Son of God, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem. God's promise continues to us today because Christ is in our midst and God will keep His promise to come again in His glory. We celebrate this season by lighting candles during each Advent Sunday.

The first candle we light is the candle of Hope. (Please light the candle).

Hope is the Spirit of God dwelling within us, reminding us that we are never alone. Hope is our assurance that God will finish all He has started and all He has promised. When we light the candle of hope, we embrace God's presence among us—yesterday, today, and always.

Let us pray: (unison)

***Eternal God, we thank you that Jesus brings hope into our broken world. Show us that the power of hope silences doubts and fears. Take this light, small but mighty, and magnify it within us—that we may point others to Christ, who is the hope of the world. Amen.***

#### ORGAN INTERLUDE

Marty Light, Organist

#### HANGING OF THE GREENS

#### Litany

Mark Dickerson

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of God's Royal Son?

***With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.***

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

***With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever-green and with candles that symbolize the eternal light of Christ.***

*(The cedar branch and holly will be placed on altar and a candle will be lit on the altar)*

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

***With wreaths of holly and ivy, the humble poinsettia, and the telling of His passion, death and resurrection.***

*(Poinsettias to be put on pulpit and lectern table).*

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

***By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving***

**work of God.**

“For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

**Glory to God in the highest.**

Hymn Verse      *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(Unison)*      Kathy Winters, Lay Reader  
*Guide us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, that the words read and proclaimed  
in your name this day, may convey your truth and deepen our faith walk  
with you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING      Micah 5:2-5a      Kathy Winters, Lay Reader

ANTHEM      Chancel Choir-Alyssa Lowe, Director

OLD TESTAMENT READING      Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7      Kathy Winters, Lay Reader

HYMN      *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (stanzas 2-4)*      #169 Blue Book  
*(Wreaths are hung on the pulpit and lectern.)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING      Isaiah 53:1-6      Kathy Winters, Lay Reader

\*HYMN      *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*      # 178 Blue Book  
*(Placing of Chrismons and Lighting of the Christmas Tree)*

\*GOSPEL LESSON      Luke 2:1-7      Rev. Peggy Stout  
The Gospel of the Risen Christ.  
**All praise to you, O Christ our Lord!**

SERMON      Rev. Peggy Stout

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

ORGAN INTERLUDE      Marty Light, Organist

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Invitation**

Rev. Peggy Stout

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Sharing of Communion**

**Sharing of the Bread**

**Sharing of the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(in unison)*

*Bread of Life, through our communion together, you have confirmed  
your Presence with us and reminded us of the depth of your love.*

*Accept our thanks, O Lord, and send us forth in courage to serve You  
faithfully. Amen.*

ORGAN INTERLUDE

Marty Light, Organist

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).*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

Alyssa Lowe—Soloist

*(Hymn #172 BLUE BOOK)*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Peggy Stout

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir—Alyssa Lowe, Director

\*CHIMES

\*POSTLUDE

Marty Light, Organist



**THE FLOWERS** on the altar are given in Love and  
in Honor of Aubrey’s 2nd Birthday on December 1st.  
- Given by Jason & Lisa Herman

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Robert Clayton Rowe who is graduating from NC State University on December 15th with two Bachelor of Science Degrees—in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering!



**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS** Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**IN THE LORD'S SERVICE**

**Acolyte(s):** Evie Belle Hight

**Cross Bearer:** Gina Setzer

**Elder(s):** Deb Hill & Dawn Kilby

**Nursery Attendant:** Sonya Starnes

**Treasurer Assistant today:** Natalie Inman

**REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Liturgist:** Dawn Wilson

**Lay Reader:** Howard Cooper

**Treasurer Assistant:** Dianne Propst

**Flower Calendar:** Larry Fox

**Advent Readers:**

Tommy, Jo Ann, & Chloe Simmons



**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

*All praise to you, Christ our Lord!*

**UPCOMING:**

- Next Sunday, December 10: We will have Church-wide Christmas Caroling and Supper at 5:00pm. Please join us for a hot dinner and caroling in the neighborhood. Everyone is welcome!

- Tuesday, December 12: Catawba Valley Medical Center presents: Cancer Survivors' "Down Home Country Christmas Celebration" at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come mingle and jingle during this celebration of Life and Light. Dinner will be provided. Music by Band 9:57.



- Friday, December 15: Good Timers will have lunch and a Christmas Cookie-Swap at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. *Please see Mark for more details.*