

# God's Love In Action

GLIA: the essential element, or glue,  
which connects the tissue found in the nerve centers of the body

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Trinity United Methodist Church, 1201 Mohawk Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169

Pastor: *John Jordan*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

Organist: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

Office Manager: *Jackie Eitel*

Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 M-F

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.      Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

The mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to:  
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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DECEMBER 2021

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*December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*12 p.m.*

The Gospel of Matthew begins with an unusual genealogy of Jesus. What makes this genealogy remarkable is that it includes five women. Biblical genealogies did not usually include women. One of the women is Mary, the mother of Jesus, so it is not too surprising that she is included. However, the other four are startling. These women are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.

During the four Wednesdays in December (the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>), we will study the stories of each of these women as our Advent Bible Study. The story of Tamar is in Genesis 38. The story of Rahab is in Joshua 2 and 6:22-25. Ruth, of course, has her own book. We initially find Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11-12:25, and she plays a significant role in the succession of Solomon after David's death (1 Kings 1). As we study the stories of these women, we want to ask the following questions. What are the common threads of each of these women? What is the importance of each one's story? What is the message from their inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus?

The study will be held at noon on Wednesdays in December in the sanctuary and will also be live-streamed. We will begin with the story of Tamar, so please read in advance and email me with any questions or observations you may have. I look forward to seeing you as we study these remarkable women.



## *Christmas Cards Needed*

Trinity will once again be providing Christmas Cards to Trinity shut-ins and to Asbury Arms residents. There are 55 Asbury Arms residents and 10 local Trinity shut-ins from our prayer list. The deadline for the cards to be included in the bags is Sunday, December 12.



*Sunday, December 19th*

As we approach the second year anniversary of COVID-19's affect on our church life here at Trinity UMC of West Columbia, we're very grateful to be able to perform a Christmas Cantata for the congregation once again. When deciding on the theme for this year, it seemed only appropriate to title it, "*What Endures in the Face of Adversity*".

It begins by recounting the present and past examples of adversities. Then we'll look back into the signs of adversity found in the birth narratives of Jesus that offer us so much joy each year. We hope that you are able to join us on Sunday December 19th at 11:00 a.m. as we look at the words and music that tell the story of how his life among us is said to have begun.



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service*  
*Friday, December 24*  
*6 p.m.*



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. The following all have birthdays on December 31:

Oren Edwards  
1186 Gunter Circle  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Melton Martin  
1317 Cardinal Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Charles McNeill  
113 Meadowview Court  
West Columbia, SC 29169



**Francis Hipp**

Jean Raynor  
Jan Stamps  
SC Conf. of the UMC

**Gene Pike**

Jeanette Hornsby

**Stacey Hinson**

John & Patsy Zeigler  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

**George Rentz**

Jeanette Hornsby  
John & Patsy Zeigler  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
Jim & Marie Stiles  
Chuck & Lynn Martin

**John & Pat Bailey**

John & Patsy Zeigler  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
English & Jewel Pearcy

**Brenda Jackson**

Jim & Marie Stiles

**Betty Street**

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

**Buddy Hudson**

Wayne & Charlie Hooker  
I. D. & Mary Hook  
Jean Raynor  
English & Jewel Pearcy

**Arnold Heiting**

A gift to Trinity has been given in loving memory of **Arnold Heiting** by **Jo Ann Heiting** in lieu of sending Christmas Cards for 2021.



**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to:**

**Jonnie Clark and family**, friends of Lynn Martin, on the death of her brother, **Jimmy Clark**, on October 31.

**Chuck and Lynn Martin and family** on the death of his aunt, **Betty Street**, on November 3.

**Paul and Melissa Abrams and family** on the death of her aunt, **Brenda Jackson**, on November 9.

**Ned Teague and family**, friend of Ellen Matthews, on the death of his father, **Gene Teague**, on November 24.



Dear Trinity family,

I want to thank everyone for all of the birthday wishes, cards and gifts as I celebrated my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was wonderful and very much appreciated.

Thank you for making this a very special day.

**Pauline Wenner**



Dear Trinity family,

Steve and I would like to extend our thanks for all of the cards and memorial gifts following the death of my grandmother, **Kathleen Streetman**, and his uncle, **Leslie White**. Your prayers were also much appreciated.

We pray that everyone has a Merry Christmas!

Kathy and Steve White



Instead of purchasing poinsettias this year, we ask that you give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one. All money given in lieu of poinsettias will go to **God's Helping Hands**. We will have an insert in the bulletin and would like to have all donations in by December 12. I will also be glad to mail a form to you if you let me know that you need one. A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on December 19.



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**  
*Who is at the Manger*

Of all the decorations we put up at Christmas, the one I enjoy the most is the manger scene. We probably all have at least one, which we usually display in a prominent place in the house. Some may be simple with just a few pieces. Others may be elaborate with many characters. Be it simple or elaborate, most manger scenes have some primary characters. Each of these primary characters has a meaning and message for us at Christmas.

Of course, the primary character is the baby, Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is God incarnate. This baby wrapped in swaddling clothes is God, who comes to us. God, the creator of all things, comes into the world as a helpless baby, born in a feed trough. Think about it. God could have come into the world at any place or time but chose to enter as a baby in a feed trough.

The following main characters are the earthly parents of this baby, Mary and Joseph. Joseph was a carpenter in a small village in a backwater province far from the seat of power. Mary was a young woman from a peasant family with no connections from the same town. They were an ordinary peasant couple, with no links to power except having King David as a distant ancestor. Think about it. Instead of having Jesus born to a king and queen, God chose a peasant couple who lived far from the seat of power.

Many manger scenes have both shepherds and Magi, while some have one or the other. We find the shepherds in Luke's Gospel. The angels appear to the shepherds in the field and tell them the good news. So the shepherds go to Bethlehem and find the baby as the angels said. Shepherds were the lowest in terms of occupational status. They were usually older men and young boys who could do no other work. Think about it. The first to receive the Good News of the birth of Jesus were those of the lowest status.

We find the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew. The three wise men came from the east, probably Persia, following the star that rose upon the birth of the prophesied king. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were looking for a sign and followed the star, which was the sign. Think about it. It was foreigners who saw and responded to the sign God placed in the heavens.

Since the scene takes place in a stable, we put animals in our manger scene. We have sheep since we have shepherds. There may be donkeys and cattle. Some may have a camel that the Magi rode on. Some of the more elaborate manger scenes may have many other animals. Think about it. Jesus was not born just for humans but for all creatures.

While some other manger scenes may have many more characters, these are the primary ones. Even in the most elaborate manger scenes, you will not find some characters. You will not find Herod, the king of the Jews, nor will you find any High Priests from the temple. Think about it. The political and religious leaders did not come to the manger.

As you set up your manger scene, think of each of the characters as ones that responded to the good news that God has come into the world. Consider who is not in the scene. The ones that come are those that respond to the revelation of God coming into the world. Those not in the scene are those who reject the God who comes into the world. May we always be in the scene, responding to the God who comes into the world.

Shalom,  
John



*Pledge Update*

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your pledge cards for year 2022. At this time, Jackie has received 31 Pledge Cards totaling \$162,812 which covers 65% of our budget for next year.

Thank you, too, to those who are considering what your pledge might be. As we know, life can throw us curveballs so that it is not always easy to make a commitment at a particular time. And that is okay. Your pledge, which also concerns your time and talents, needs prayerful consideration and is not to be taken lightly. As we go into the next year, I pray that we are all able to fulfill our 2022 pledges in order to serve God's greater purposes.

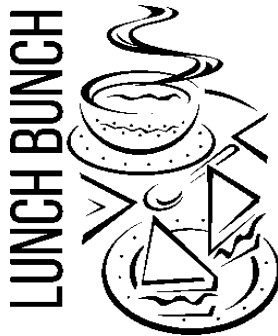
With hope and love from Jesus Christ,  
Sue Ballentine



Beginning on December 1, the cost of an arrangement from Sightler's Florist will go up from \$42.80 to \$53.50 for a seasonal arrangement. If you would like to provide flowers one Sunday, the Flower Calendar is located on the board outside the Church Office. You can order the flowers directly from Sightler's or Lynn Martin can order them for you.

Flowers can also be ordered directly from Jarrett's Jungle and they will deliver to the church. They can also be ordered from other florists, but arrangements for delivery will need to be made.

Trinity also has silk flower arrangements that can be used if you wish to make a gift to Trinity in lieu of ordering flowers.



### **Sunday, December 5**

Lunch Bunch meets the first Sunday of every month immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and join this time of food and fellowship.



### **Wonderful Wednesday December 8 5:30 p.m.**

The last Wonderful Wednesday of the year will be held on December 8. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be prepared by Wayne and Charlie Hooker:

Pork Loin  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Green Beans  
Bread  
Dessert

Reservations will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 5, or you can call the Church Office by noon on Monday, December 6.