

10:00 a.m. Service

2nd Sunday of Advent | December 10, 2023

Gathering for Praise

Song of Welcome 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus' Psalm 100 Band

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Liturgy & Lighting The Campbell-Harris Family

Reader: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

***Hymn of Praise** 'What Child Is This?' UMH 219

***Psalter Reading** Psalm 80 UMH 801

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Disciple Moment Paula Catron

The PrayerGround Table is for children 6 and younger to use during the sermon. Parents should sit near the table to assist.

Anthem 'How Quietly' Raney
Andrew Bryant, soloist

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading Luke 3:1-20 Lisanne Cisson

***Song of Preparation** 'King of Heaven' Psalm 100 Band

Message How Do We Prepare For Christmas? Rev. Brian Gilmer

Responding to God's Word

***The Affirmation of Faith** **The Apostles Creed** UMH 881
*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.*

Offertory 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' Barbara Rich,
Jann Howell, piano

Doxology UMH 94

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ as part of this congregation, please see Pastor Brian or Pastor Christine after the service. They would love to point you to some discipleship opportunities and ways to serve Christ here at TRUMC.

Going Forth to Serve God's World

***Hymn of Sending** 'Away in a Manger' UMH 217

Sending Forth

Stewardship & Attendance Report

One Fund Monthly Goal 2023	\$47,808	Date	Online	In-Person	Sunday School
One Fund Actual MTD	\$8,477	12.3	TBD	252	n/a
Deposits week ended	\$8,447				
Building Project Fund as of October	\$1,361,038				

Ways to Give:

- Scan the QR Code and fill out the form
- Online at trmethodist.net
- Text-to-Give: Text the amount you wish to give to (833) 948-2135 and continue with steps.



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

The office will be closed the last week in December. Donations can be mailed to the church office. In order to be included in your 2023 contribution statement, it has to be postmarked in 2023.

Prayer Concerns

HOMEBOUND

George Adamson, James White, Dee Hughes, Patrick O'Dell, Reggy O'Dell, Frances Lockaby, Barbara Floyd, Martha Foster, Mary Greene, Fred Dyal

TRUMC

Myra Robitaille, Martha Foster

LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Judy Durant's sister

FRIENDS OF TRUMC

Lorretta Sigenow
Boinne Hovda

OTHER REQUESTS

Israel & Gaza

Submit a prayer request to our Prayer Team: prayer@trmethodist.net

Connect with TRUMC

Worshiping here for the first time?

Stop by one of our Hospitality Stations on your way out of the sanctuary for a welcome bag and a greeting from one of our Hospitality Team members. Or scan the QR code and fill out our contact form. We'd love to hear from you!

Follow us on Social Media!

@TRMethodist



Upcoming Events & Announcements

TODAY'S MEETINGS 12/10

- **TRUMPETS** - 12/10 at 5pm in the Chapel

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ADVENT STUDY - December 12

"Experiencing Christmas"

10 AM at the Woodlands & 6:30pm in the parlor of the Family Life Center

FOREVER 55 - Save the Date for our Christmas Gathering on Friday, December 15th.

UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) - 12/17 - Advent Party from 4:30pm - 7:00pm at the home of The Gutschows. Drop off and pick up are at TRUMC.

WOODLANDS BIBLE GROUP meets each Tuesday at 10AM at the Woodlands at Furman in Brian and Mary's Apt 1208.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This group provides a caring, nonjudgemental and confidential one-to-one relationship between a trained church member and a person experiencing a difficult time or transition in his or her life. For more information, contact Patti Crenshaw at (864)380-8421 or patticrenshaw1@gmail.com

HELP LEAD WORSHIP

Acolytes/Bible Bearers; Scripture Readers; Greeters/Ushers:

Sign up online www.trmethodist.net/online-sign-ups



Christmas Eve Offering

Every year on Christmas Eve, an offering is collected that supports two local organizations that our congregation directly volunteers with and supports.

The Clubhouse Gang: After school ministry that mentors and tutors children in the City View neighborhood.

Meals on Wheels: Delivers meals and enhances the quality of life for homebound individuals.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 3pm and 5pm.

Donations are also accepted through our website.

Trail Guide

Sunday: December 10, 2023

Message: How Do We Prepare For Christmas?

Scripture: Luke 3:1-20

A Baptism of Life-Change

3 1-6 In the fifteenth year of the rule of Caesar Tiberius—it was while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, ruler of Galilee; his brother Philip, ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias, ruler of Abilene; during the Chief-Priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—John, Zachariah’s son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Thunder in the desert!

“Prepare God’s arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

Every ditch will be filled in,

Every bump smoothed out,

The detours straightened out,

All the ruts paved over.

Everyone will be there to see

The parade of God’s salvation.”

7-9 When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God’s judgment? It’s your life that must change, not your skin. And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as ‘father.’ Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.”

10 The crowd asked him, “Then what are we supposed to do?”

11 “If you have two coats, give one away,” he said. “Do the same with your food.”

12 Tax men also came to be baptized and said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

13 He told them, “No more extortion—collect only what is required by law.”

14 Soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “No harassment, no blackmail—and be content with your rations.”

15 The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?”

16-17 But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

18-20 There was a lot more of this—words that gave strength to the people, words that put heart in them. The Message! But Herod, the ruler, stung by John’s rebuke in the matter of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, capped his long string of evil deeds with this outrage: He put John in jail.

Travelers Rest United Methodist Church

The Church on the Trail

Walking with Christ, Serving God, Changing Lives.

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