

# 10:00 a.m. Service

## The Birth of the Christ Child Through Stories and Song 3rd Sunday of Advent | December 17, 2023 Gathering for Praise

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Brian Gilmer

### Advent Candle Liturgy & Lighting

The Roberts Family

Reader : When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath. If your Advent wreath includes a pink or rose candle, light that candle today.

### The Story Behind the Song

Charlie Crenshaw

### Congregational Hymn

'Once in Royal David's City' - vs 1,2

Psalm 100 Band

### The Story Behind the Song

'Do You Hear What I Hear?'  
TRUMPETS

Delma Lord

### Children's Disciple Moment

Kyle Thompson

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

### The Story Behind the Song

'Silent Night'  
Hand Bell Choir

Lisanne Cisson

### The Story Behind the Song

'Mary, Did You Know?'  
Choir

Greg Weatherly

### The Story Behind the Song

'O Holy Night'  
Emily Guth, Piano

Dave McAda

### Offeratory

### Doxology

UMH 94

### The Story Behind the Song

'Gesu Bambino'  
Kimilee Bryant

Louisa Hulme

### The Story Behind the Song

'Greensleeves' (arr. Chip Davis)  
Dianne Eikenbusch, flute

Donna Koegler

### The Story Behind the Song

'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'  
Psalm 100 Band

Tali Nance

### The Story Behind the Song

'O Come O Come Emmanuel'  
Ginger Greer & Paula Catron, violins

Miki Golden

### The Story Behind the Song

'Mary's Little Boy Child'  
Cliff & Janet Joens

Eric Guth

### The Story Behind the Song

'Joy to the World'  
Psalm 100 Band

Bryson Gilmer

### Sending Forth

Rev. Brian Gilmer

## Stewardship & Attendance Report

One Fund Monthly Goal 2023	\$47,808	Date	Online	In-Person	Sunday School
One Fund Actual MTD	\$18,332	12.3	52	252	n/a
Deposits Week Ended	\$5,663	12.10	TBD	218	n/a
Building Project Fund as of November	\$1,365,238				

### Ways to Give:

- Scan the QR Code and fill out the form
- Online at [trmethodist.net](http://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 or given online. All contributions must be received by online or postmarked December 31, 2023 in order to be included on your 2023 contribution statement.

## 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 Robitalle  
Martha Foster

### FRIENDS OF TRUMC

Lorretta Sigenow  
Boinne Hovda

### OTHER REQUESTS

Israel & Gaza

Submit a prayer request to our Prayer Team: [prayer@trmethodist.net](mailto: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

Digital Connect Card



## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### TODAY'S MEETINGS 12/17

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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

Wednesday, 12/20 at 11am in the Parlor

**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](mailto:patticrenshaw1@gmail.com)

### HELP LEAD WORSHIP

Acolytes/Bible Bearers; Scripture Readers; Greeters/Ushers:  
Sign up online [www.trmethodist.net/online-sign-ups](http://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.**

## Advent Events

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

### **Churchwide Cookie Couriers Event**

3 PM - Meet at the TRUMC belltower entrance

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6PM**

### **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service**

This service is held during the Advent season on the longest night of the year to support those grieving the loss of loved ones during the holiday season.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10 AM - ONE Service

### **Christmas Eve**

### **Candle Light Communion Service**

3 PM & 5PM

## *Travelers Rest United Methodist Church*

*The Church on the Trail*

*Walking with Christ, Serving God, Changing Lives.*

**December 17, 2023 | 3rd Sunday of Advent**



**Rev. Brian Gilmer**

brian@trmethodist.net

864-345-4784

Address:

19 South Main Street

Travelers Rest, SC 29690

864.834.9862

**Rev. Christine Matthews**

christine@trmethodist.net

864-915-4737

Office Hours: M-Th, 9am—1:00pm

E-mail: info@trmethodist.net

Website: www.trmethodist.net