



# The Mustard Seed

*"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing will be impossible for you."*

## Advent Season Edition

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*Greetings and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*Friends,*

*As we enter this time of joyous celebration and anticipation for the birth of Jesus, we know this can also be a time of chaos for some as they try to balance activities on the calendar. For others, it may be a time of loneliness due to a variety of reasons. Jesus calls us to reach out to others and to offer encouragement and a place to belong. Everyone belongs here at Trinity UMC and we want to be intentional this Christmas season in making sure that each person continues to feel welcomed.*

*To help, we have put together a calendar of events for the Advent season. Many of these activities are free (and some do require tickets/advanced reservations which we tried our best to mark in the information). Our hope is that you will use this guide to fill this season with memories whether it is with family, friends, or small groups. We also encourage you to invite somebody new or reach out to somebody you have not been able to spend time with in a while. It is often much easier to always contact the same group of friends or sit at home wondering why nobody is calling, but when we allow ourselves to venture outside our comfort zone, that is when God can move mountains.*

*Please note that some of the activities are only held on a certain day while others are available all season. Schedules are hard and nobody can fit everything in, but our hope is that as a community of faith, we can use this time to be together as we are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ. The staff at Trinity is here for you as well so please let us know if there is anything that we can assist you with or attend as possible.*

### Trinity Staff

**Pastor**

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**Administrative Assistant/Church Office**

Kristen Donahue, Extension 101  
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**Music Director**

Stephen Burnette  
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**Song Leader**

Nick Mullins

**Adult & Family/Youth Director**

Sheryl Mabry, Extension 106  
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**Preschool Director**

Kirsten McDaniel, Extension 107  
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# Christmas SCHEDULE

1

DECEMBER

**HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE**

9:00AM

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

11:00AM

15

DECEMBER

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA SERVICE**

9:00AM

22

DECEMBER

**LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE**

9:00AM

24

DECEMBER

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

5:00PM

**VIGIL SERVICE**

11:00PM



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2303 JONES BLVD.  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129  
[WWW.TRINITYUMCMURFREESBORO.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYUMCMURFREESBORO.ORG)

1

Sunday

9:00 AM *Hanging of the Greens Service @ Trinity*

11:00AM *Chili Cook-off @ Trinity*

6:00PM *Rutherford County Tree Lighting (Downtown)*

2

Monday

*ANY day in December: Christmas @ Gaylord Opryland featuring a lot of activities. Pricing/times vary per date.*

*ICE, Snow sledding, gingerbread cookies, Lights in hotel,*

3

Tuesday

*ANY day in December: London's Lights @ 1001 Ash Circle, LaVergne*

*ANY day in December: Winterfest Ice Skating @ The Fountains*

*Adults: \$15, Children: \$12 (times vary per day)*

4

Wednesday

5:30pm *Wonderful Wednesday Meal @ Trinity*

*\*Call a friend you have not spoken to in a long time\**

5

Thursday

6pm-8pm *Celebration of Trees @ Discovery Center at Murfree Spring (sponsored by Jr. League M'boro).*

*Tickets: \$35 for Adults/\$20 for Students*

*(Trees displayed until Jan. 3)*

6

Friday

6:00 PM *Swigs & Sprigs Container Workshop @ Valley Growers Garden Center (Cost based on size). Call 615-890-9990 To make reservations*

7:00 PM *Pentatonix @ Bridgestone Arena (Cost per ticket varies)*

7

Saturday

10:00am-4:00pm *Holly Jolly Market @ TN Miller Coliseum 304 W. Thompson Lane \$1/person or one canned food item admission.*

9:00am-2:00pm *Meet & Green with Santa @ Martin's Home & Gardens*

8

Sunday

10:00am-4:00pm *Holly Jolly Market @ TN Miller Coliseum 304 W. Thompson Lane \$1/person or one canned food item admission.*

2:00pm *Murfreesboro Christmas Parade*

9

Monday

*ANY Day in December: Zoolumination at Nashville Zoo Tickets vary depending on night. 5:00pm-9:00pm*

*\*Try a new recipe and share with somebody\**

10

Tuesday

*December 6-22: A Christmas Carol @ TPAC Polk Theatre. Times & prices vary per day.*

*December 6-15: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown @ M'boro Center for the Arts. Tickets vary per day.*

11

Wednesday

5:30pm *Wonderful Wednesday @ Trinity*

*\*Listen to your favorite Christmas music\**

12

Thursday

6:00pm *Trinity Preschool Christmas Program @ Trinity*

*\*Watch a Christmas movie at home\**

13

Friday

5:00pm *Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll*

5:00pm-8:00pm *ANY Fri/Sat/Sun in December: Cannonsburgh  
Village Drive Thru Lights*

14

Saturday

11:00am *Christmas Market @ 6790 John Bragg Hwy (free)*

4:00pm-8:00pm *Candlelight Tour of Homes (Oaklands Mansion)  
\$30 per adult/\$10 per student. Purchase on-line  
or at museum by Friday, Dec 13 @ 4pm.*

15

Sunday

9:00 AM *Christmas Cantata @ Trinity*

7:30 PM *Amy Grant & Vince Gill @ Ryman Auditorium (tickets)*

16

Monday

December 12-15: Irving Berlin's White Christmas @ M'boro Center for the Arts. Tickets vary per day.

*\*Send an encouraging note to somebody\**

17

Tuesday

7:00PM Christmas Concert Tennessee Valley Winds @ Patterson Park (free according to website)

*\*Thank a teacher or church staff member; they are tired!\**

18

Wednesday

5:30pm Last Wonderful Wednesday of 2024

*\*Make a Christmas craft\**

19

Thursday

ANY day in December: Holiday Lights @ Cheekwood. Tickets vary in cost, but times seem to be 4:30pm-10:00pm.

*\*Make cookies (or other favorite treat) and share!\**

20

Friday

ANY day in December: Dancing Lights of Christmas Drive Thru @ Wilson County Fairgrounds. \$35 per vehicle.

Sunday-Thur: 5pm-10pm

Fri-Sat: 5pm-11pm

21

Saturday

10:00 AM *Pictures with Santa @ Rutherford County Courthouse*

1:00PM-4:00PM *Bell Buckle Old Fashioned Christmas  
(also open Dec 7 & 14)*

22

Sunday

9:00 AM *Worship @ Trinity - Lessons and Carols Service*

*\*Enjoy a cup of coffee, apple cider, eggnog, or hot chocolate\**

23

Monday

6:00PM *The Belonging Co Christmas at the Ryman (Auditorium)  
Free event; tickets at door as long as supplies last.*

*\*Spend extra time in prayer in preparation for Christmas Day\**

24

Tuesday

5:00PM *Christmas Eve Service @ Trinity*

11:00PM *Christmas Eve Vigil @ Trinity*

25

Wednesday

*MERRY Christmas*



DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

# Advent Calendar

Lauren Ibach & PAPER PEONY PRESS



|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>1</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>Genesis 1:1-2<br>John 1:1-5                             | <b>2</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>John 1:9-14   | <b>3</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>Colossians 1:15-23                                    | <b>4</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>Ephesians 2:1-10  | <b>5</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>John 3:16-21                               |
| <b>6</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>John 14:1-6   | <b>7</b><br>THE GOSPEL<br>Romans 15:13  | <b>8</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Genesis 3:12-15<br>Hebrews 2:14<br>1 John 3:8 | <b>9</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Genesis 12:1-3<br>Matthew 1:1                   | <b>10</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Genesis 49:10<br>Hebrews 7:14     |
| <b>11</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>2 Samuel 7:12-13<br>Isaiah 9:7<br>Luke 1:31-33 | <b>12</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Psalm 2:7<br>Psalm 89:26-27<br>Hebrews 1:1-5 | <b>13</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Isaiah 40:3-5<br>John 1:6-7<br>Luke 3:2-6    | <b>14</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Isaiah 7:14<br>Matthew 1:23                    | <b>15</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Jeremiah 31:15<br>Matthew 2:16-18 |
| <b>16</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Hosea 11:1<br>Matthew 2:13-15                  | <b>17</b><br>FULFILLED PROPHECY<br>Micah 5:2-5<br>Matthew 2:6<br>John 7:42      | <b>18</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Luke 1:26-35                                | <b>19</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Luke 1:46-55                                  | <b>20</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Luke 2:1-7                       |
| <b>21</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Luke 2:8-21                                   | <b>22</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Matthew 2:1-12                              | <b>23</b><br>THE CHRISTMAS STORY<br>Matthew 2:13-23                             | <b>24</b><br>CHRISTMAS EVE<br>Galatians 4:4-5<br>Hebrews 2:9<br>2 Corinthians 8:9 | <b>25</b><br>CHRISTMAS DAY<br>Isaiah 9:6-10                          |



## **From the Stewardship Finance Committee:**

We have been a busy committee and have met at least monthly, if not more, for the past months. Pastor Dane has a keen interest in finances and has been sharing his knowledge with us, it is appreciated!

As a committee, we met with each staff member and committee/work area chair to review their budget request for 2025. Kristen provided each presenter with historical expenditure data as well as to date expenditures to assist them in developing their requests for 2025. In November, the finance committee will finalize the 2025 budget with the goal of projected expenses being equal to anticipated giving.

You may have noticed that we did not have an annual stewardship campaign. With the unanticipated departure of Tom, LeNoir as an interim pastor and the arrival of Pastor Dane in September, the timing was not ideal. It is too close to one of the busiest seasons of the church to have a campaign now. We anticipate a campaign within the first 4-6 months of 2025.

What does that mean for you and Trinity? We do not think monthly expenses will decrease significantly, staff and committees will remain judicious in their spending. You will not be asked to complete a pledge card. We hope that this does not deter you from your continued faithful giving as we are getting closer to the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025.

**Please have all 2024 Contributions in by Sunday, December 29.**

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### **Office Hours During Holidays:**

Monday, Dec. 23: 8am-4pm

Tuesday, Dec 24: By Appointment Only (services that evening)

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Closed

Thursday, Dec. 26: Closed

Friday, Dec. 27: 8am-4pm

Monday, Dec. 30: 8am-4pm

Tuesday, Dec. 31: 8am-4pm

Wednesday, Jan 1: Closed

Thursday, Jan. 2: 8am-4pm

Friday, Jan 3: 8am-4pm