

SPECIAL PRAYER IS REQUESTED: Vera Kluttz, Unspoken prayer needs, Pete Skinner (son-in-law of Chuck & Ruth Quimby), Telka Gullett (sister-in-law of Donnie Whitesides), Linda Barraclough (sister of Nancy Malone), Johnny Myers, Joy Brown, Randy Grant, Charlotte Gehrke (great niece of Mary Helen Myers), Sherry Moore, Pat Chaffin, Ron Baldwin (Becky (Tom) Wetmore's cousin), Malcolm & Peggy Bullock, Sam & Gloria Correll, Kate Wilson, CC. & Peg Williams. **Public Safety Personnel:** Probation officers, firefighters, paramedics, sheriff and police officers. **Military:** James & Sarah Fullwood (Marines), Logan Willis (National Guard). **Missionaries:** The Raymer Family & The Riddle Family. **Pastor Nominating Committee, Next Pastor for Unity Church, Salem Presbytery, Our Nation.**

DEACONS TO COUNT OFFERING: Helen Dickson & John Wetmore
(Next week: Dick Moore & Rick Moore)

NURSERY TODAY: Libby Watson (Next Sunday: Margaret Kluttz)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to (19) Sara Bailey, Travis Dartt, Sam Foster
(21) Lynnette Eller & Chris Wagner (25) *Happy Birthday, Jesus*, Diane Etheridge.

Christmas Cards can be taken home today.

Poinsettias can be taken home after the service today.

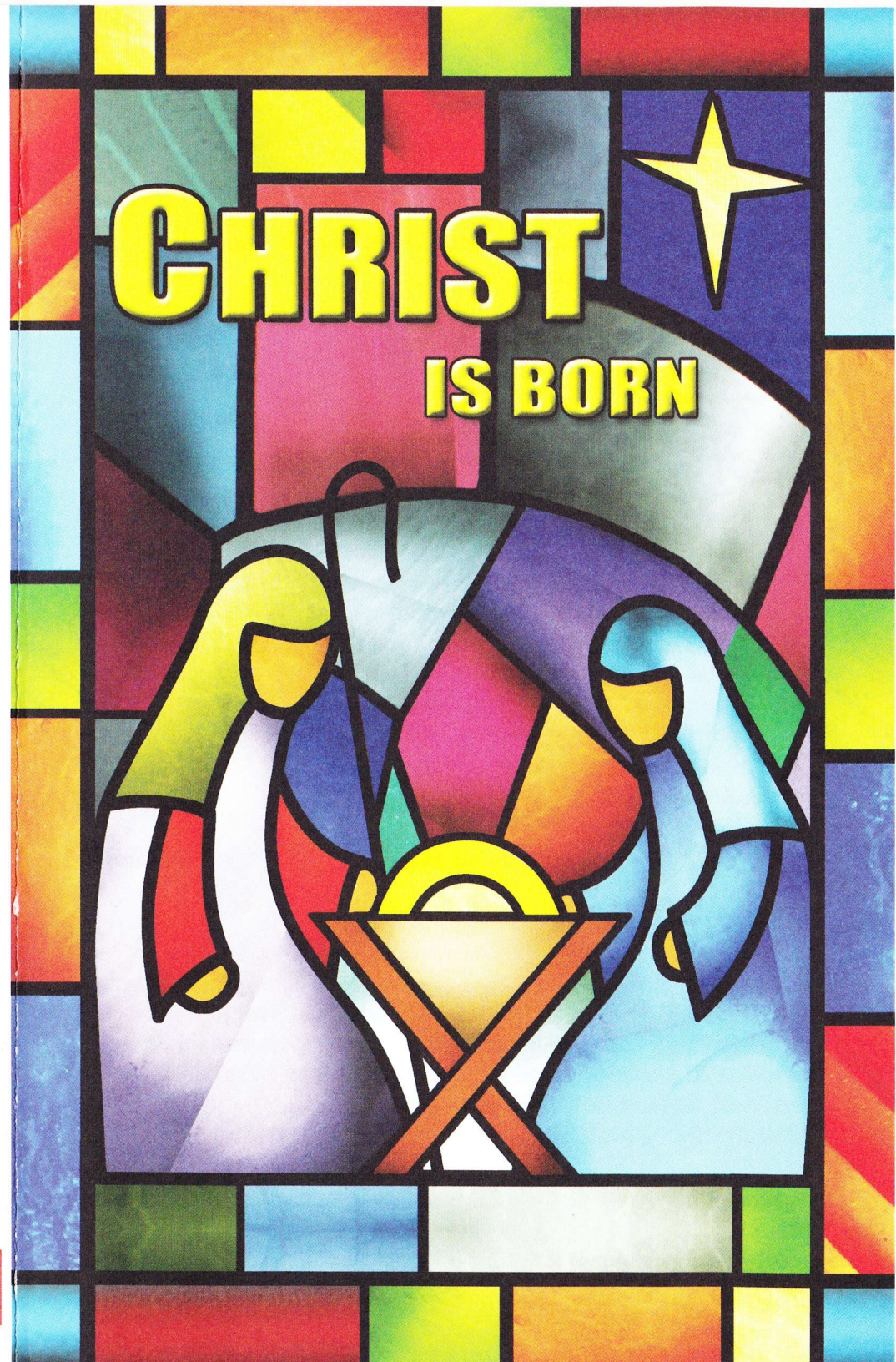
Our annual Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:00pm.

Please pick up your copy of the January newsletter today.

Drive-thru live nativity at Unity Presbyterian Church today from 6-7 PM.
Cookies and hot apple cider will be provided. This is open to all, and we look forward to seeing you!

The Session reviewed the results of the COVID Surveys at their last meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the decision was made to set a tentative date for returning worship services to the sanctuary and for resuming other church activities. However, a final decision will be made at the next Session meeting when information is available about any rise in illnesses due to holiday gatherings. If rates of illness do not increase, worship services will resume in the sanctuary on January 30. Other church activities will resume in February.

MEMORIALS: In memory of Bobby Whitesides by Chuck & Ruth Quimby, Susan Huggins, Nancy Moore and Stan & Jane Moore.



UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP from Isaiah 9

One: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
All: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

One: For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given
And the government will be on his shoulders.

All: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

All: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN "Away in a Manger" (see insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of surprises; You bring Your name of peace out of a small clan and a previously insignificant place. Wrongly, we have looked for You only among the powerful. If we have stood in the way of those You have called to be shepherds of Your flock, because they did not seem imposing and appeared in humility, we are sorry. We need to measure greatness as You do, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS
SPECIAL MUSIC
DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive Your church standing before You, O God, as a body prepared to be moved by the Spirit, to do Your will in this time and in this place. Use this body as your agent to do your work in our world. Amen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

"Our God of Love"

Luke 2:1-20

Sue Moore

STATEMENT OF FAITH "Apostle's Creed"

HYMN

"What Child is This"

(see insert)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Luke 2: 1-20 1In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3And everyone went to their own town to register. 4So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.