Continued from the front page

An interesting note is that if we called Jesus, “Child of the Light” as opposed to “Child of Light,” the Early Church Fathers would say we are way out of bounds and flat wrong. We can say that Jesus is the Light or the Son of God, but to phrase it as if he were produced from Light (Child of the Light) could imply that he was created or is a secondary level of the Light. To them, this would belittle the second member of the Trinity. In fact, some early Christians believed that Jesus was not fully God or at least was a second level god below the Father. This was part of the motivation for the great meeting at Nicaea in 325 to clarify what a proper belief about Jesus truly is.

I know this is a lot to digest. But, perhaps we might think about what it means to say Jesus is Light of Light or is the Child of Light. When we proclaim this, we are saying that we believe the child of Bethlehem is fully God in the flesh. He is worthy of our adoration. He is faithful to love us unconditionally and eternally. He, and only he, is able to save us and be our Lord forever.

Christmas is such a blessed time. The great themes of the four Sundays of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Let us recall the source of those things is God. Truly God, fully God, Eternally God, Light of Light. Our Lord and Savior is the one we call Jesus Christ. He is worthy of celebrating. Worthy of following. Worthy of our all.

~Mike

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
1088 Hughes Road
Madison, AL 35758

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





Trinity Tribute

Your Story, Our Story, God’s Story, Coming Together at Trinity.



Dr. Mike Oliver
Senior Pastor



Rev. Glenn Bowers
Associate Pastor



Rev. Billy Orton
Interim Minister of Music and Worship



Rev. Teresa Bowers
Minister to Families



Rev. Lane Craig
Minister to Students

Trinity Baptist Church of Madison, Alabama **December 2026**

Child of Light

During the season of Advent and Christmas, the worship theme is “Child of Light.” This is a beautiful image for the one we know as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We are told that he is the third person of the Trinity, who was and is and shall be, known as the great Logos or Word. In God’s fullness of time, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1). At Christmas, we focus on the little town of Bethlehem and the manger where the Christ child was laid to rest after his birth. Shepherds in a nearby field were the first to hear the good news of his birth when a band of angels announced his birth to them. They ran to see him, the one born to be king, in such humble surroundings. Mary treasured all of these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2).

Let’s take a moment to ponder Jesus as Child of Light and think about what that concept might mean for us this Advent and Christmas. The Early Church Fathers (great leaders and theologians) viewed Jesus Christ as the divine Light and the eternal radiance of the Father. This caused much debate in the early church. In the first great gathering of Christian leaders to bring unity to the global Church they formulated a creed, a statement of faith, called the Nicene Creed. This was in the year 325. In part, the creed states:

> We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
> the only Son of God,
> eternally begotten of the Father,
> God from God, Light from Light,
> true God from true God,
> begotten, not made,
> of one Being with the Father.

This statement was part of an effort to show the belief that Jesus is truly God, fully God, and in no way a secondary or subordinate member of the Trinity. The great St. Athanasius used the analogy of light and its radiance to explain that the Son is co-eternal and of the same essence as the Father—just as a light source and its beam can never be separated or exist without one another. Some leaders looked at the story of Jesus’ Transfiguration (Matthew 17) and viewed the bright light or glow of Jesus as an outward manifestation of his internal, uncreated, and divine nature. Some Christian writers referred to baptism as "Illumination" or "Enlightenment," teaching that believers are personally immersed in and transformed by the divine light of Christ.

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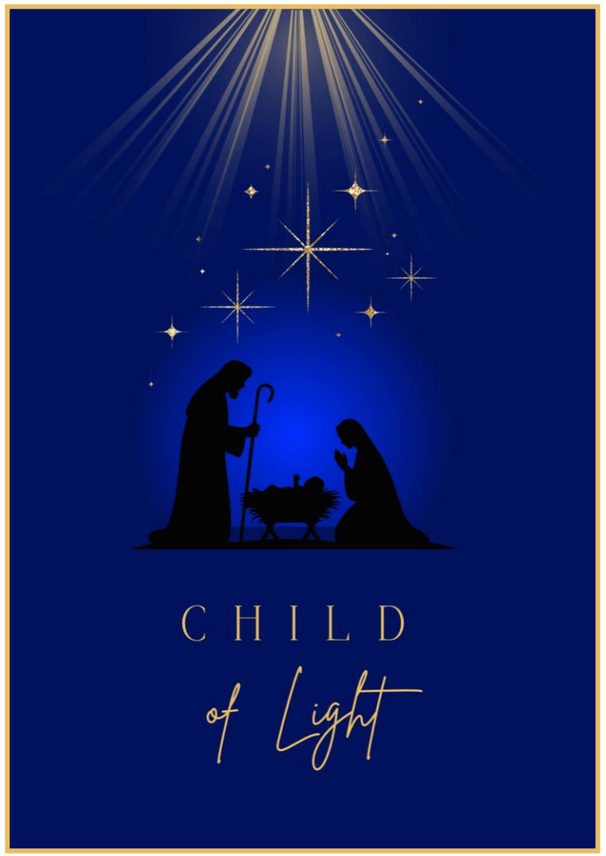
Music and Worship Ministries!

Trinity's 2026 Advent and Christmas theme is ***Child of Light***. Devotionals will be provided for each day, sermons and various ministry/mission endeavors are well underway, our numerous music groups are busy preparing for the multiple worship experiences ahead, various opportunities for service and fellowship are on the calendar, and the sights and sounds of the beautiful season ahead will be.....well, beautiful!

As usual, we will have a distinct focus for each of the four Sundays of Advent--Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Christmas Eve's NOELS music (4:30 pm) and Candlelight Communion service (5:00 pm) are designed to draw us ever closer into the presence and spirit of the Holy Birth. Then the days of Christmas and Epiphany that follow take us joyfully into spreading the message and meaning of Jesus to the world around us.

Below you will find many of the details of these weeks immediately ahead. May God bless us, everyone!

~ Billy Orton, Interim Minister of Music and Worship



Advent Schedule

The First Sunday of Advent—November 29
The Hanging of the Green during Morning Worship
Pastor's sermon — The Promise of Light (Isaiah 9: 2-7)

The Second Sunday of Advent—December 6
Music from the Children's Choirs and the Sanctuary Choir
Pastor's Sermon — An Unstoppable Force (John 1: 1-9)

The Third Sunday of Advent—December 13
Music from the Trinity Carillon and the Sanctuary Choir
Pastor's Sermon — Surrounded By Glory (Luke 2: 8-14)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 20
LESSONS AND CAROLS OF LIGHT
Led by the Sanctuary Choir, Ensembles, and Instrumentalists
Pastor's Meditation — The Guiding Star (Matthew 2: 1-12)

Christmas Eve—December 24
CHRISTMAS NOELS (Meditations and Celebrations from Trinity Musicians) — 4:30 pm
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE (Led by Ministers, Deacons, Choir and Soloists) — 5:00 pm
Pastor's Homily- The Light is Here! (Luke 2: 25-32)

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH Kids Ministry



Nativity Lighting!
Wednesday, December 2
6:30pm

Parents pick up kids from Missions Groups at 6:20pm and we will meet youth and adults under the overhang at the offices for hot chocolate, a couple of Christmas songs, and the lighting of the Nativity scenes! Afterwards, you can walk through the scenes, reading the Nativity story with your kids, and take pictures!



Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus
Sunday, December 13
11:30am Pizza lunch in the Fellowship Hall
(childcare through 5 yrs)

Families are invited to stay after worship on Nov. 22 for a pizza lunch and some Advent decorating! You can fluff and hang wreaths, decorate trees, tape up the manger scene and wisemen – all kinds of fun things!



Our kids and students helped with the Hanging of the Green on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29.

During worship, some will bring in the garland and poinsettias, and all the kids are invited to decorate the Chrismon Tree!



For Trinity Kids:

Wednesday, Dec. 2	Lighting of the Nativity, 6:30
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Last Missions groups meetings for 2026
Sunday, Dec. 13	Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus, 9:30am
Dec. 16, 23, 30	*No Wednesday Night activities*
Thursday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service, 5:00pm (childcare for infants – 3 yrs)
Dec. 27 & Jan. 3	Worship @ 10:30am (no Sunday School)

~ Teresa

Happy Holidays from the Weekday Preschool Ministry

The Christmas spirit is everywhere in the Weekday Preschool Hall! The children are busy making Christmas decorations and gifts for their families. The Christmas story and the birth of Jesus will be our focus during Bible story time. We are blessed to share the true meaning of Christmas with the children.

The children are busy practicing for their Christmas programs. If you are looking for something to help get you in the Christmas spirit, feel free to come and watch the children perform. The programs will be Thursday, December 10th and Friday, December 11th at 12:00 p.m.

If you would love to come spend time with the children, we are looking for substitutes. The Weekday preschool would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! **~ Nancy**

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRY

Christmas is almost here, and do you know how I know? Because I'm a big fan of the grocery store chain, ALDI. My wife and I absolutely love the small, "bring-your-own-quarter," no plastic-bag, do-it-yourself kind of grocery store. Now, I don't know if you are aware of what ALDI has been doing over the years, but one of their big pushes has been their marketing towards a younger generation of adults and shoppers. Every ALDI has a single aisle devoted to carrying new, limited-edition drops of different items. It could be something like a holiday mug, a new style of shoes, or a special-flavored cracker that is only available in limited stock for a short amount of time.

ALDI learned quickly that the best way to promote these limited drops was through social media. It's free, and influencers are the biggest promoters (also free, by the way because it is such a fantastic product). Why do I bring all of this up? Well, this year ALDI looked at the trends and realized that they were going to double down heavily on carrying a limited stock of ALDI Advent calendars. All across the United States, people lined up and slept overnight just to get their hands on one of these limited-edition holiday calendars. (The store location had over 70 people camp out overnight just to get their hands on one!)

Limited-edition, hustle-and-bustle, and push towards the final part of the year. How do I know that? Well, I've started to see the chaos unfold around me with holiday shopping, vacation plans being made, and ALDI dropping their new Advent calendars.

So, my question for you is, "What are you looking forward to?" Like, what is the tangible, real, and exciting thing that you are holding onto right now? We talk a lot about the birth of Jesus during this holiday season (after all, He *is* the reason for the season, am I right?), but for the most part, our main focus is just to get through and enjoy the time leading up to Christmas. But take a moment to lean into the still and quiet moments and ask yourself, "What am I looking forward to?" This is what Advent is all about, as we look forward to Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas! ~ Lane

Student Ministry Life









Mission, Ministry, Education, and Fellowship

MISSIONS

Macon/Tuskegee/Lee County Mission Trip February18-21

- We will be partnering with ALCBF, Together for Hope and Alabama Rural Ministries (ARM) for this weekend of missions!
- Projects will include things like flooring repair, plumbing repair, exterior siding, painting, installing sheet rock, ramp construction/repair, etc.
- Must be 16 years old to be on these job sites.
- Informational meeting after worship on February 14th in A109.

MINISTRY

Food Bins Dropoff - November 29

- Please plan to drop off your filled Food Bin on or before Sunday, November 29 to the modular or the Gathering Area.

Angel Tree Gifts Dropoff – December 6

- Please have your gifts returned to the Gathering Area by Sunday, December 6.
- If you have any questions about this opportunity to serve the children of Madison, please contact Debbi Marsh at debbikay@knology.net.
- Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry!

FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Night Out Dinner and Christmas Ornament Exchange - Dec. 8 at 6:00 pm

- At the home of Julie Wills at 7716 Old Madison Pike Madison, AL 35758
- Bring your wrapped Christmas Ornament for the "gift exchange game!"

Marriage Game and Potluck Dinner – Jan. 10, 2027

- Everyone is invited to come out and bring your favorite covered dish meal to share in the Fellowship Hall!
- We will enjoy getting to know each other more by playing the Marriage Game!

OTHER

- **We will not have Sunday School on December 27 and January 3rd.**

Building Maintenance Workday

Date TBD

- Projects will include changing out light bulbs, repairing exit lights, cleaning light fixtures, and other maintenance jobs.
- Doughnuts and biscuits will be provided!

Committee Catch-Up Night – January 10, 2027 at 4:00pm

- All Committees are invited to check with their chairperson to see if they are meeting during the Committee Catch Up to plan their areas for the remainder of the church year (which ends in August). **~ Glenn**

Our Neighborhood Blitz volunteers packed backpack snacks, delivered food, winterized homes, packed VBS crafts, and built a ramp. Our amazing Hospitality Committee also provided a wonderful lunch for all our volunteers before they got started.









~ December 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Missions Groups, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 6:30 Lighting the Nativity 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00 Ladies Christmas Ornament Exchange	4	5 10:00 Trinity Travelers Lunch and Nutcracker
6 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School, 10:30 In Person & Online Worship 11:30 Student Ministry Parent Meeting 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal	7 6:00 Young Adults	8 6:00 Men's Night Out at Blue Oak BBQ	9 4:45 Fellowship Supper 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 5:30 Children's Choirs, Student Ministry 6:00 Kid's Missions Groups, Church Conference, EL Class 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School, Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30 In Person & Online Worship 11:30 DR Mission Trip Lunch 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 5:00 Student Ministry Christmas Party	14 Christmas Angel Gift Pickup in the Modular 6:00 Young Adults	15 Christmas Angel Gift Pickup in the Modular	16 5:00 Trinity Carillon (handbells) 6:15 Vocal Ensembles 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 In Person & Online Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship No Evening Activities	21 6:00 Young Adults	22 Church Office Closed	23 Church Office Closed No Evening Activities	24 Church Office Closed 4:30 Christmas Noels 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Church Office Closed Merry Christmas!	26
27 Christmastide No Sunday School 10:30 In Person & Online Worship No Evening Activities	28 6:00 Young Adults	29	30 No Evening Activities	31		

Happy Birthday!

- 2: *Beverly Claunch, Audrey Lomax, Alicia Sherrod*
- 3: *Brad Perkins*
- 4: *Allen Bennett, Ronnie Francis, Laura Newquist, Ashley Rehage*
- 6: *Elizabeth Dunaway*
- 7: *Isaac Cooley*
- 8: *Bonnie Taylor*
- 13: *Kimberly Corbett, Larry Forrest*
- 14: *Megan Lizana, Ed Valentine*
- 15: *Arho Ikoba*
- 16: *Charles Lyons*
- 17: *Braden Koler, Noel Paschal*
- 18: *Elise Phillips, Alison Toney*
- 20: *Derek Odom*
- 22: *Melissa Bullard, David Rodgers*
- 23: *Steve Bramblett, Cana Farr*
- 24: *Catherine Norman, Jane Orton*
- 25: *Kellen Mitchell*
- 26: *Curtis Haney*
- 27: *Ronnie Blair, Mary Oliver, Rhodes Wicks*
- 28: *Cindy Valentini*
- 30: *Corrie Cooley, Beth Francis, Chris Rosson*
- 31: *Savannah Blackwell, Claire Horton*



If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Wendy at: wendy@trinitymadison.com

If you have questions about Realm, you may simply go to www.trinitymadison.com and click on "*Realm*" on the purple banner at the top of home page. This link will take you to the main sign in page for *Realm*.

End of Year Giving: To be counted as a contribution for 2026, all checks and envelopes must be in the church office by noon on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026, or postmarked by midnight, Dec. 31. Online donations must be completed by midnight, Dec. 31. The IRS does not allow any exceptions to this rule. ALL gifts received after this deadline must be credited to 2027, regardless of the date on the check.
—Noel Paschal, Treasurer and Wendy Colley, Financial Manager

Weekly Events

Sunday

Online & In Person Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Online & In Person Worship	10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Fellowship Supper	4:45 p.m.
Trinity Carillon (handbell choir)	5:00 p.m.
Youth Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Kids Mission Groups	6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting in Sanctuary	6:00 p.m.
EL Class	6:00 p.m.
Vocal Ensembles	6:15 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

October 2026 Financial Report

Monthly Information

Target Income	$84,583
Actual Income	$66,224
Actual Expenses	($64,809)
Monthly Gain/ (Loss)	$1,415

Year-To-Date for 2025

Target Income	$845,833
Actual Income	$732,645
Actual Expenses	($848,920)
YTD Gain/ (Loss)	($116,275)

Account Balances

General Fund	$111,457

YouTube

Make sure to hit that subscribe button!
"Do you get updates from Trinity's YouTube page? It's easy to find out :
1. Go to this link https://www.youtube.com/user/trinitymadisonvideo
2. Press the "Subscribe" Button on the right
3. Done! Now you will get up-to-date videos from TBC!"

Our Trinity Travelers had fantastic weather for the boat ride on Joe Wheeler Lake and lunch at Ro's in Athens!





