

Glade Weekly News

December 16-22, 2024



Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Micah 5:2-5a — Luke 1:46b-55 — Hebrews 10:5-10 — Luke 1:39-45

Scripture for the Week

Luke 1:46b-55 *Mary’s Song* (Common English Bible)

With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.
⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.
He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,
⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.

Word for the Week

Love
LOVE



Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

What I love about this passage is that it's a song of resistance. In the season of Advent, we're waiting on the birth of Jesus. I usually envision the manger with the baby wrapped in rags and the shepherds coming to see him after being visited by angels in the field. Peace on earth, good will to all.

But the birth of Jesus was no silent night. It was an earth-shaking event. Mary's song of resistance was the kind to sing in defiance of empires, terrorists, or fascists. Mary's song brings good news of great joy – God cares about everyone – the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden.

Mary's song proclaims that Jesus has come to challenge the structures of sin and death. It also states that he has come to change the plight of the poor and oppressed. Jesus has come in the strength of God to do what God has always done – to lift up the lowly, free those who are trapped in the cycle of abuse or poverty, feed the hungry, and give justice to the widow, the orphan, and the immigrant. With compassion and love.

Kelly Bryant

Office Day Next Week: There is no set office day the week of Christmas. Should you need Pastor Kelly, please don't hesitate to contact them. 540-521-9993, bryantkj@gmail.com.

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

Christmas Eve Service

We will have a Christmas Eve service on 12/24 at 3 PM. We hope you'll join us!

Spiritual Formation Class and Youth Group meets again on January 5

Spiritual Formation for adults and Youth Group meets on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Next meeting date is Sunday, January 5 at 9:45 AM. We hope you'll join us!

Volunteers are needed for Kids Church and Youth Group

There are leader slots available for youth, kids, and nursery. Session topic info is available on the sign-up link below. Youth Group is on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:45 AM. Kids Church is on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during worship service. Here is the link to sign up to serve our children: [Kids Church and Youth Group Volunteer Signup](#)

Laundry Love

Thursday, December 26 from 6-8 PM at North Main Laundromat.

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put "Words" into "Actions" of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. Click below to volunteer!

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

It's not too late to turn in your 2025 Pledge Card!

It's not too late to turn in your 2025 Pledge Card! Pledging is important because it helps Council plan the budget for next year. Cards are available on the podium at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

You are welcome to drop your card into the offering plate or email a digital copy to the church at treasurer@gladeucc.org. Thank you!

To Our House Volunteer Signups are OPEN!

Glade Church will be hosting To Our House from December 28, 2024 through January 11, 2025.

Here's the link to sign up to volunteer: [To Our House 2024/2025](#)

Our guests appreciate your care and support. Thank you!

Help provide an extravagant welcome

We have Greeters posted at the two main entrances to the church to welcome people as they arrive on Sunday mornings. Greeters hand out a bulletin, make sure visitors receive a visitor card to fill out, and answer any questions they may have about the church service and the building. See Sandra Bryant for more information or to sign up to be a Sunday Greeter.

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer. This time of fellowship is open to everyone, it's a time to gather for conversation, devotion and prayer. Come meet some people you may not know.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRlYTNuRkdPaUNqUTog>

Radical Conversations [RadCon] Meets Saturdays at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. RadCon is open to any and every interested individual. For the remainder of 2024, the group will meet for social time. They will resume a study of the book of Mark in January.

Save the Date - Pastor Kelly's Ordination Service

We hope everyone will be able to join us for Pastor Kelly's Ordination Service on Sunday January 12, 2025. The service is currently scheduled to begin at 5 PM and will be followed by a potluck reception. Additional details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

UCC Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements

Purpose: To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. (From the Gospel of Matthew)

Vision: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Mission: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.



John 17:21 is the scriptural foundation of the United Church of Christ