

# Glade Weekly News

December 9 - 15, 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20 — Isaiah 12:2-6 — Philippians 4:4-7 — Luke 3:7-18

## Scripture for the Week

### Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Common English Bible)

- <sup>14</sup> Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem.
- <sup>15</sup> The Lord has removed your judgment;  
he has turned away your enemy.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you will no longer fear evil.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem:  
Don't fear, Zion.  
Don't let your hands fall.
- <sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.  
He will create calm with his love;  
he will rejoice over you with singing.
- <sup>18</sup> I will remove from you those worried about the appointed feasts.  
They have been a burden for her, a reproach.
- <sup>19</sup> Watch what I am about to do to all your oppressors at that time.  
I will deliver the lame;  
I will gather the outcast.  
I will change their shame into praise and fame throughout the earth.
- <sup>20</sup> At that time, I will bring all of you back,  
at the time when I gather you.  
I will give you fame and praise among all the neighboring peoples  
when I restore your possessions and you can see them—says the Lord.

## Word for the Week



## Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

The book of Zephaniah is set during the reign of King Josiah (640–609 BCE), the monarch that did his best to reform Israel. The rule of King Josiah disturbed the complacency, hypocrisy, and indifference of the ruling class of people in the nation, specifically the religious authorities. Josiah cared for the people under his care. He aspired to meet the standards of a king that God had put forth in the book of Numbers – namely to put the people first, caring and seeking justice for all.

Just as Josiah disturbed the status quo of the time, God's presence will also upset the standards that so many of us accept as "just the way things are." God's presence will not only upset the societies of the world that thrive from the labors of the oppressed, but the religious authorities of the world who vow to follow God in one breath, and in the next, worship other gods such as money or prestige, will face a reckoning.

This is cause for great joy! It's easy to feel that changing the world is a lost cause. However, God has promised hope, peace, and joy on earth despite the people's indifference, hypocrisy and greed. God's entry into the world brings celebration, restoration, and new life.

God promises the people that they will "will no longer fear evil. . . will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing. . . [and] remove from you those worried about the appointed feasts." Those worried about the appointed feasts mainly the wealthy and powerful who had feasts while people died in the slums next door.

Not only does God's presence bring a joy that casts out fear, but it also brings the restoration of justice and aid to the poor: "I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth." God's presence, and the upset it brings, brings a new way of life for the downtrodden. People will relate to God and to one another in a fundamentally different way, not with competition or fear, but with peace, love and joy.

*Kelly Bryant*

**Office Day Next Week: Monday December 16<sup>th</sup>** Kelly isn't listing hours to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly outside of these days, please don't hesitate to contact them.  
540-521-9993, [bryantkj@gmail.com](mailto:bryantkj@gmail.com).

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### **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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success)

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### **Spiritual Formation Class and Youth Group meets again on December 15**

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

Next meeting date is Sunday, November 15 at 9:45 AM. We hope you'll join us!

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### **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](#)

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### **Laundry Love**

**Sunday, December 15 from 2-4 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](#)

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### **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](mailto:treasurer@gladeucc.org). Thank you!

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### **To Our House TRAINING this Sunday 12/15**

If you'd like to volunteer to help with To Our House but not sure what's involved, then you will want to stay after service on Sunday for a brief training session. We will watch a video that explains the responsibilities of the volunteer positions and discuss how these are typically handled at Glade. If you would like to see the training but can't be at church on Sunday, a PDF copy of the presentation slides with notes is attached to the newsletter email.

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### **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!

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### **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.

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### **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>

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### **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.

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### **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.

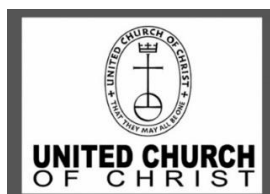
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### **UCC Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements**

**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**