**Trinity United**

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**Micah’s BIG Question:**

**“What Does the Lord Require of Me?”**

Oct. 14 – Nov. 18, 2018

Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry, Interim Pastor

**Micah’s BIG Question:
“What Does God Require of Me?”**

The future is about vision. Every day we envision the future and how we’re going to get there, from the most mundane tasks to our biggest goals. Where does God fit into that vision and that journey? Small-town churches are often inspired by a verse of scripture to bring their vision into focus. Micah 6:8 is one such verse.

**[*God*] *has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord***

***require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk***

 ***humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8***

But what does it mean to walk humbly with God? Eugene Peterson in his translation of the Bible, *The Message*, quotes Micah in this way:

**[*God's*] *already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't***

***take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.***

By honoring God’s wisdom and embracing our human imperfection, we can better answer God’s call to act with love and compassion. We are well-suited to walking with God. It is up to us to begin the journey.

In this 6-week sermon series, we will explore how walking humbly with God can shape our vision and mission for the future. What are we called to do along the way? What challenges will we encounter? How will the journey transform our relationships and our lives? How will the journey change our relationship with God?

And Micah’s BIG question reframed: What does God require of us as people of faith? What does God require of our faith community?

Come, join us as we walk with God and deepen the spiritual connections within ourselves, with each other and with our community and the world. Invite a friend to make this journey with us.

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**Oct. 14, 2018 – An Introduction**

Micah 6:1-8; Ps 107:1-9, 43; and Luke 12:13-21

Sermon: *The Vision: Walking, Doing and Loving*

**Oct. 21, 2018 – Walking Humbly, Part 1**

Micah 6:1-8; Deut. 10:12; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19; and Luke 9:57-62

Sermon: *Being on the Way*

**Oct. 28, 2018 – Walking Humbly, Part 2**

Micah 6:1-8; Ps 30; and Luke 10:1-12

Sermon: *The Spiritual Walk: Sometimes, the Journey is the Destination*

**Nov. 4, 2018 – Doing Justice**

Micah 6:1-8; Ps 82; and Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: *Doing*

**Nov. 11, 2018 –**

**Loving Kindness, Part 1**

Micah 6:1-8; Ps 86;

and Matthew 5:7, 43-48

Sermon: *Loving*

**Nov. 18, 2018 –**

**Loving Kindness, Part 2**

Micah 6:1-8; Ps 16;

and Matthew 6:1-4

Sermon: *The Vision and the Mission: Love Makes Our Lives, the Church and the World Alive*

 **Trinity United Church of Christ**

 PO Box 730, 3229 York Street

 Manchester, MD 21102 410-374-2727

 E-mail for more information: pastortucc@comcast.net

 [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

**Trinity United Church of Christ**

**If you are looking for warm people who will love you just as you are,** consider worshiping with us. Trinity United Church of Christ has been welcoming seekers for over 250 years, and we invite you to be part of our long tradition of welcoming! Worship at Trinity is participative, held in a beautiful traditional sanctuary with inspiring sermon series and a diverse musical offering from our choir and congregation.

**Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not.** We believe in God’s continuing testament. This is why we are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. We try to remain attentive to God’s creative movement in the world. Religion and science are not mutually exclusive, and your head and heart are both welcomed into our places of worship. We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in ministry in the present and future church, and we embrace all kinds of communities and new modes of thinking. Why? Because God is still speaking.

**Beyond Our Walls.** Trinity is committed to the community beyond our walls in Manchester, or even in Carroll County. We are involved in a variety of outreach efforts in the name of Christ**. Food Bags for Backpacks:** Food items are collected monthly during the school year for Manchester Elementary School for students who receive Free/Reduced meals.  **The Little Free Library is a shared effort between the church, Manchester Elementary School, and the town of Manchester. This Library belongs to everyone! You, your neighbors, friends, and people who pass by. Anyone may use it! This Little Free Library offers a way to share good things to read in our community. Little Free Library is honored by The Library of Congress for creating communities of literacy.**

**What is a Little Free Library?**

**A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. In its most basic form, it’s a wooden box of books where anyone may pick up a book or two, or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch and there is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community. These aren’t just any old books, this is a carefully curated collection. The Library itself is a piece of neighborhood art that acts like a mini-town square. A Little Free Library promotes community and a sense of caring for those living in the community.**

* **TAKE BOOKS – If you see something your child would like to read, take it. You can even take two!**
* **SHARE BOOKS – When you are finished reading, return the books to the Little Free Library or pass them on to a friend. If you can’t bear to part with them, keep them and bring back different children’s books to share with others.**
* **GIVE BOOKS – Do your part and keep the Little Free Library well stocked with high-quality children’s books – share your favorites. Pay it forward! To donate larger quantities of good condition children’s books, simply drop them off at the designated boxes inside Manchester Elementary School and inside Manchester Town Hall.**

**Why Is Trinity UCC Interested in Being Part of This Effort?**

**Our church is committed to community within and beyond our walls. We are expanding the directive “Feed my sheep” to “Read to My Sheep.” We believe that by providing books to those who might not otherwise have access to them, we are demonstrating our commitment to community and helping to shine God’s light of care in Manchester.**

**Cold Weather Shelter:** We cook for the residents of and staff the cold weather shelter in Westminster, MD. We began this effort in two years ago by working at the shelter one night and have expanded to working two nights during the winter months. **Prayer Shawls** are made and blessed monthly for those needing a spiritual touch.  **Carroll County opens an overnight shelter from mid-November to April 1. It is staffed by volunteers from the community. Our congregation helps staff and provides a warm meal for the 30-40 homeless people who depend on this facility during the cold weather months.**

**We have seen people with various chronic illnesses and people lacking warm clothing. So we also donate clothing and over the counter medicines to the shelter as well.**

**Caring Committee:** The caring committee responds to emergency requests from the community. We partner with Human Services Programs and NESAP to guide individuals to resources available in the community.