

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

December 2018

See Our New Look for the Trinity Times: We are exploring new ways to present major news stories and opportunities to participate in the life of the Church and to provide space for spiritually enriching columns from our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry.

Good News Advent a six-part worship series, Dec. 2 – Dec.30. appears on page 4.

Pastor Gerry's column now appears on page 3 of the Trinity Times.



Christmas Giving Tree

Our Trinity Family will again be sponsoring gift giving to a local family for Christmas. Information for Families in need are provided to us by NESAP and NESAP is thankful for Trinity's continuing support in helping to fill the needs of our local community.

Tags for the Giving Tree will be available beginning Sunday, November 25th. If you are able; please take a tag from the tree to purchase a gift. NESAP, has suggested the cost of each gift be around \$30.00. The tag will indicate the gender, whether the gift is for a child or adult, and size if applicable. If clothes are purchased, please enclose a gift return slip with the gift in the event of an incorrect size. Then wrap the gift, gently attach the original Giving tree Tag to the wrapped gift bring it to church by Sunday, December 16th.



Longest Night at Immanuel Church

The Longest Night worship service (some churches call it Blue Christmas) originated years ago in churches around the world. The purpose of the service is to acknowledge our need for healing and hope when grief, illness and discord are present in our lives.

This simple service which will be held on Friday, December 21 at 7 pm in conjunction with Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastors Charlie and Gerry will share leadership for the service which will include silence, quiet music, and words to ponder. Maybe you won't attend for yourself alone? Perhaps you will bring a friend with you as well? Refreshments to follow.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 – Doug Rhoten
12/11 – Laci Saunders
12/18 – Doris Phelps
12/19 – James Price
12/23 – Sharon Girvin-Davison
12/27 – Amy Miller

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
January Newsletter – Monday, December 17

Contacting the Pastor and the Church Office

To reach Pastor Gerry in an emergency, please call him at 301-788-6546 (cell).

For non-emergencies, please call the church at (410) 374-2727. Please notify the church of any hospitalizations in the congregation.

December Meeting Dates

Consistory – Wednesday, December 5 @ 7pm



HELPING HANDS DECEMBER

Offering Stewards are Michelle Wolfgang-Fantone and Karen Haines.

Deacons at the door are Robert Miller and Marge Bailey.

Greeter is Elwin Wagner.

Offering Ushers are Sandy Sanders and Elwin Wagner.

Lay Readers:

December 2 – Sharon Bonner
December 9 – Lorne Haines
December 16 – Candice Welsh
December 23 – Robert Miller
December 24 – Sharon Girvin-Davison
December 30 – Sue Myers

Acolytes:

December 2 – Alex Fantone
December 9 – Laci Saunders

December 16 – Lily Saunders
December 23 – Adriana Brown
December 24 – Alex Fantone
December 30 – Mason Brown

Projector Operator:

December 2 – Sue Myers
December 9 – Candice Welsh
December 16 – Elwin Wagner
December 23 – Sandy Sanders
December 24 – Elwin Wagner
December 30 – TBA

Children's Church Leaders:

December 2 – Karen Price
December 9 – Michelle Wolfgang-Fantone
December 16 – Nicole Saunders
December 23 – Sue Myers
December 24 – No children's church
December 30 – Karen Price

Left Over Sanctuary Carpet Remnants

There are several pieces of leftover carpet and padding from the sanctuary carpet project. These sections are stored in the area behind the upper balcony. Anyone who could use any of these pieces, please feel free to take them.

Locking of Side Entrance Doors

Due to Safety and Security concerns beginning Sunday, November 18, 2018 the two side entrances to Trinity and the door to the office will be locked at the time Sunday Services begin.

Sometime in the future, as the logistics are determined, the front door may also be locked when Sunday Services begin.

This is all being done to ensure safety of our Sunday School Children, Teachers and Congregation as we gather to worship and celebrate.

Food Bags for Backpacks Project

Trinity UCC is preparing to start our fifth year of donating "Food bags for Backpacks" to Manchester Elementary School. October donations are due at the church by Sunday, **December 9**. Items may be placed in the box in the Sunday School Room. You may also write a check to Trinity UCC and note Food Bags for Backpack Project in the memo line.

Interim Pastor's Column

These are exciting times in our lives! The music of Advent and Christmas is everywhere we go. Lights sparkle in the night on houses and trees. The stores and malls are filled with shoppers and lookers and walkers. Children, parents and grandparents alike are full of anticipation about Christmas. Players are rehearsing for Christmas pageants and Christmas Eve worship services. Families are planning holiday trips to be with friends and other family members on ski trips. Wow! What exciting days these are for so many.

That's how it is for most of us in these magic days of December. However, for others this is a time of heightened anxiety and worry about the long cold nights of winter. How long will the fuel oil last in the furnace tank before the heat goes off? What happens when the next home mortgage is missed again? Will the car that's already making noises that sound like it will stop any minute finally come to a halt in middle of rush hour traffic and leave me stranded. Or will my laptop on which I am writing this column "decide" to shutdown or "restart" right in the middle of the previous sentence about a car stalling in traffic? Yes, my computer did just that: shut down and re-started right in the middle of my writing this column –didn't crash—and after re-starting, this document showed up again, just as I left it, waiting for more tapping on the keys.

If that sort of "re-starting" were that easy for those who live on the edges of an economy that is working well for the rest of us, the anxieties of another long cold winter would be reduced to just a blip on the computer screen of our lives. But in the real world for many right in our midst, living day to day, paycheck to paycheck, just isn't that easy.

During a period of over 15 years, which ended in 2016, during December and early January, I was always preoccupied with preparations for our annual January work trips to our partner church in Honduras. Those trips to be with our friends in Honduras were exciting, inspiring and I was always filled with a sense of hope for the world. Because of the welcome we received by the poorest of the poor with whom we lived and worked helping to build safe and secure houses in

the tiny villages of Finca Ocho and Brisa del Sur, my faith was renewed and strengthened. The people there received us with open arms and hearts and thus they were more hopeful because of our work with them. I must confess, I miss those trips and the experiences of leading 12-15 people there each January and July. Some of those folks are part of Trinity UCC: Sandy Sanders, Sharon Girvin-Davison and Logan Nave.

Some of those folks who might have received us into their lives are mostly likely part of the "caravan of migrants," traveling the hard journey across the rough terrain of Mexico in these days. I simply hold them in my heart and prayers in these days. I pray for all who are involved in, have impact upon or who are in positions to help or aid the ultimate outcome of the process. May this Advent and Christmas bring some comfort and joy to their lives.

May all that we do all that we can to help fill the gap between what is and what the people of Honduras would hope for in the future. We used to go to Honduras to make the exciting activities of December – Advent and Christmas – more meaningful for us and more worthwhile for the days ahead; may it still be so for us and them in these days. Faithfully, Pastor Hanberry



Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergencies, the decision to close the church will be made two hours before worship/meetings/workday begin. You can find out whether or not the building will be open in the following possible ways:

1. Calling the church at 410 374-2727 (The voice mail message will reflect the decision to close or remain open.)
2. Checking your email. (Those with email will receive a message.)
3. Listening to WBAL 1090 AM
4. Receiving a call through the phone tree



Our Only HOPE

December 2-30, 2018

Advent at Trinity UCC – 2018

THEME: “The Good News Gift of Advent

A song released way back in 1983 by the Canadian country music star, Anne Murray, **still today in 2018** stirs in us the desire, if not a deep need, for “a little good news today” in our lives. In one verse and the chorus, Murray sings,

*There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story's one more than I can stand
Just once how I'd like to see the headline say
"Not much to print today, can't find nothin' bad to say", because*

*Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part
of town
Nobody OD'ed, nobody burned a single buildin'
down
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to
die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today*

The headlines in 2018: ♦♦ ‘opioid epidemic kills almost 100 Americans each day’ ♦♦ ‘Chicago Battles Its Image As Murder Capital Of The Nation’ ♦♦ ‘Shooter Kills 11 at Tree of Life Synagogue’ ♦♦ 'This Is Not Liberation': Life In The Rubble Of Raqqa, Syria’ ♦♦ “Think your pastor’s preaching is ‘too political’? Try listening to Jesus” ♦♦ ‘Disunity in Politics Erodes Our Democracy’

How do we as people of faith respond? How does the church respond? How do we talk about these headlines and challenges as we come to the end of 2018 and as we enter a new Christian calendar in the season called, ‘Advent’? Is there any good news to share? How we keep HOPE alive?

Yes, there is good news in Advent and Christmas, and by this theme -- “The Good News Gift of Advent”– we will explore the reasons, lots of reasons, that we re-claim the power of Advent in our lives. **What is the gift of Advent this year?** It is a gift we need more than ever: Hope, Peace and Courage. Drawing mostly on three texts from the gospel of Luke, we will explore these three gifts we surely need as 2018 comes to an end: **Hope, Peace and Courage.** Join us for worship for “the gift of Advent and the gift of Christmas.

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 during this Advent and Christmas Season. Invite a friend to make this journey with you.

Dec. 2 – First Sunday of Advent – 10:45 a.m.
Theme: “The Good News Gift of Advent: HOPE!”
Scriptures: Jer 33:14-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
Luke 21:25-36
Sermon: “Hope or Humbug?” or
“Who Got It Right? Scrooge or Bob Cratchit?”
Advent Candle: HOPE

Dec. 9 – Second Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.
Theme: “The Good News Gift of Advent: PEACE!”
Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13 &
Luke 3:1-6
Sermon: “Out of a Dried-Up Stump”
Advent Candle: PEACE

Dec. 16– Third Sunday of Advent – 10:45 a.m.
Theme: “The Good News Gift of Advent: LOVE AND COURAGE”
Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:39-45
Sermon: “Courage that Overcomes Fear” or
“Sometimes Courage is All We Have”
Advent Candle: LOVE

Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.

Theme: "The Good News Gift of Advent: JOY!"

Program of Christmas Music on the Xylophone,

Featuring Jeanna Duranko, Composer, Song Writer, Singer

Advent Candle: JOY

The Good News Gift of Christmas

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m.

Theme: "The Good News Gift of Christmas"

– Service of Candles and Carols

Scriptures: Isaiah 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; & Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "The Gift That Keeps On Giving"

Dec. 30 – First Sunday After Christmas – 10:45 a.m.

Scriptures: Isaiah 63:7-9 Ps 148; Luke 2:22-40 (Jesus presented in the Temple)

HYMN SING SUNDAY --- Christmas in Carols and Songs!

The Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. It provides means to directly assist those who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

Funds are used for pension and health insurance supplementation for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees, Christmas "thank-you" gift checks for retired clergy and lay employees, and finally for emergency grants for active/retired clergy and lay employees for unexpected expenses (large medical bills or home damage caused from natural disasters).

This year's theme is **The Light Is Surely Coming**. Prayerfully consider supporting this year's appeal on December 23, 2018.



Lexis Notes

Though the familiar tune tells us, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," December often feels like a rat-race. Between rushing around your brick-and-mortar or digital marketplace to find the perfect gift for all your loved ones, to prepping holiday meals or preparing to have your house inundated with guests, to frantically finishing final exams and papers, it's all we can do to keep our heads above water until that coveted time of relaxation and fellowship: Christmas Day. I hope that this December, worship at Trinity can be a time where we are reminded not of the increased commerce brought about by an empty sense of "holiday cheer," but of the true, invaluable gift we remember during Advent: The coming of a child, a holy child, sent to redeem us from our fearful and violent nature and to show us the true meaning of compassion.

November 2018 Consistory Meeting Highlights

The monthly meeting of the consistory members was held on October 03, 2018

Minutes: October minutes were approved as written.

Pastoral Evaluation and Discussion: Using the Interim Pastoral Contract as a guide, a discussion provided feedback for Pastor Gerry.

Treasurer's Report: October report was distributed and accepted as written.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gerry submitted his monthly report. He is continuing to work with Diane to add content to the website and pictures may be sent to the office or Pastor Gerry. On November 14th he will be attending a cultural diversity program at Manchester Valley. Pastor Gerry proposed inviting a guest to perform a Christmas concert during Sunday morning service on December 23rd and he would like to pay one half as a gift to Trinity.

Property: Parking lot paving and lines are completed. Shrubbery will be trimmed so all parking spaces can be used. Battery has been replaced in front door.

Finance: Preliminary budget was discussed. The total projected budget for 2019 is \$125,061. On November 25th, budget will be presented to congregation and then voted on December 9th.

Personnel: No report.

Evangelism: Our last fellowship dessert social was October 28th, the committee is organizing snacks and drinks for Painting Fundraiser on Sunday November 11 and providing cookies and hot chocolates for Black Friday open house on November 23 at 6:00 pm

Christian Education: Michelle reports using new curriculum.

Worship: Dates for decorating, Sunday November 18th for Black Friday and Sunday, November 24th for Advent and Christmas will be published so people can plan to stay after church to help.

Caring Ministry: We are working with NESAP for our Holiday Giving Tree and Thanksgiving. We are getting volunteers lined up to help staff, prepare and serve a meal at the Cold Weather Shelter on November 29.

Fundraising: All 26 tickets have been sold for the Paint Party, November 11

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lazarus Songfest: 188 people attended and \$2,680 was collected in offering and Lazarus rounded up to \$3,000.

Black Friday: Pastor Gerry will be lighting the crèche this year.

Consistory Retreat: Scheduled for Wednesday, November 14th from 5:30 -9:00 with all consistory members attending.

2019 Consistory members: All current members are continuing on consistory for 2019

Apostle's Creed: There was a request to use the Apostle's Creed more in services.

New Business:

Church Safety: Discussion was held revisiting the recommendation of locking doors during Sunday services. We will work on protocol to lock the side doors after service begins and also monitor the front door after the service begins.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm

2019 Budget

The Consistory has approved a preliminary budget for 2019. We will hold a special congregational meeting after worship on December 9th for discussion/vote of the budget. Copies of the preliminary budget will be available December 1st.

Scrip Gift Cards

The holidays are approaching and what better time to start taking advantage of our Scrip Gift Card program. Purchasing gift cards through Scrip for your shopping convenience is an easy and secure way to make purchases on-line and at the store.

There are over 400 retailers that participate in the Scrip program. Here's how it works – you purchase gift cards to be used for gifts or your everyday purchases – groceries, gasoline, movies, shopping, dining out, etc. The retailers give Trinity a rebate for the cards you purchase (ranging from 1 – 13%) and you receive the gift card at the face value ordered. There is no additional cost to you – for example if you purchase a \$25 gift card to Weis, you pay \$25 and Trinity will receive \$1.25 (5% rebate) from the program. At the end of the year you will receive a statement showing the amount of the rebate that Trinity received, which allows you to use the rebate amount as a possible charitable deduction on your tax return.

We usually order the cards on the 2nd Sunday of each month. However with the holidays approaching we will be ordering more frequently. Orders will be placed on the following dates:

- 12/2/18
- 12/9/18

Cards arrive on the Wednesday/Thursday following order date so if you need them before the next Sunday just let Sue Myers know. Also, feel free to offer this to co-workers, relatives, neighbors. WE are also set up for e-cards so if you need something in a hurry just call Sue for assistance. If you have any questions or need a list of retailers please contact Sue Myers at wsmdem@comcast.net or 443-375-6788 or look on line at www.ShopWithScrip.com.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Paint Night

Our 2nd annual paint event was a huge success! Our instructor, Whitney Kidd, did a wonderful job keeping 26 painters on task. Be sure to check out our Facebook page to see some of the results! Thanks to all that provided the delicious snacks and to all those that participated. Proceeds for our building fund from this event totaled \$560.

Bricks

Looking for that special holiday gift – consider purchasing a brick (or 2) in honor or memory of a loved one or for your own family.

The brick walkway/cross garden, which is used by members, and town residents as well, are in desperate need of repair. In order to help cover the cost we will be selling bricks that you can have engraved in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, with your own family name, or whatever you choose to say. The engraving will be up to 3 lines with 14 characters per line. The cost of the engraved brick will be \$100. If you would like to include a symbol there will be an additional \$25 charge.

If you are interested in purchasing a brick please contact Karen Price or Sue Myers or fill out the form included with your newsletter. If you need additional copies or the form just let us know. We are opening this up to the general public also so if you know of someone that might be interested in purchasing a brick please let us know.

Bingo – Save the Date

The fundraising team will be holding their 2nd annual Banquet Bingo at the Manchester Activities Building on April 27, 2019.

Cold Weather Shelter – Most Needed Items

The following gently used or new clothing in all **Adult Sizes** but **especially** Women's M, L, XL, and Men's L, XL, XXL.

Winter Coats, Fleece Jackets

Hooded or Crew Neck Sweatshirts

Sweatpants – Great need

Warm Hats, Snow gloves, T-shirts – white or color

Thermal shirts/long underwear

Warm Men's and Women's **Socks**

New: All Adult sizes of:

Men's Boxers – Great need

Women's underwear, Bras (could be gently used)

School size backpacks (gently used or new)

Blankets/sheets – twin size only

Towels/washcloths (gently used or new)

Food/Misc Items:

Coffee/creamer/sugar

Individually wrapped bars and other to go breakfast /lunch items, Hand warmers

Razors – double blade preferred

Deodorant, Body wash – small sizes

Shampoo/conditioner – small sizes



Poinsettia Order Form

It's time to order your poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

They are available in red and white.

The cost is \$11.00 each. Checks should be made payable to: Trinity U.C.C. and payment must be included with your order.

The deadline for placing an order is Sunday, December 9.

If you have any further questions, please see Sharon Girvin-Davison.

I / We wish to sponsor flowers for Christmas.

Name: _____

Red: _____ White: _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

BUY A BRICK AND BE A PART OF TOMORROW

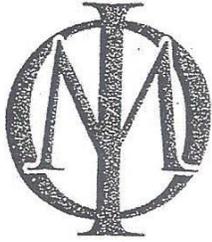


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2 3/8" thick

4" x 8" brick, with up to
3 lines of inscription,
14 letters or spaces or
punctuation on each line.



Please double-check the spelling and wording on your order, as your brick will be engraved EXACTLY as it appears above.

FINAL APPROVAL _____ (your initials)

Please fill out one order form for EACH brick. Photocopy if necessary.

ORDERED BY (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please include your phone number in case engraving verification is needed.

Enclose completed form and check for \$100 payable to Trinity UCC, P O Box 730, Manchester, MD 21102.

Thank you for becoming part of tomorrow!

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Oct 18	Jan - Oct 18
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Childrens' Church	0.00	40.00
Communion Offering	142.00	1,385.00
Loose Offering	20.00	1,531.26
Miscellaneous	15.00	230.00
Regular Offering	6,380.25	56,715.25
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	1,205.00
	6,557.25	61,106.51
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	3,733.35
Evangelism	60.00	1,617.20
General	611.78	16,888.87
Personnel	9,743.86	67,294.98
Property	0.00	2,432.68
Music	0.00	121.08
Worship	46.00	1,536.86
	10,461.64	93,625.02
Net Ordinary Income	(3,904.39)	(32,518.51)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Endowment	450.25	2,604.54
Willing Workers	0.00	(3,375.61)
Cemetery	(287.96)	(4,008.59)
Memorial Fund	0.01	50.10
Fundraising	(11,311.50)	(48,431.53)
Special Offerings Received	136.00	1,819.00
	(11,013.20)	(51,342.09)
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	252.17	1,598.17
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	252.17	1,598.17
Net Other Income	(11,265.37)	(52,940.26)
Net Income	(15,169.76)	(85,458.77)

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Worship/Children's Church 10:45am	3	4 AA meets 8:30pm	5 Consistory 7pm	6 Choir 7:30pm	7	8
9 Second Sunday of Advent Worship/Children's Church 10:45am Blessing of Prayer Shawls Food for foodbags and Poinsettia orders are due	10	11 AA meets 8:30pm	12	13 Choir 7:30pm	14	15
16 Third Sunday of Advent Worship/Children's Church 10:45am Blessing of Foodbags	17 January newsletter articles due	18 AA meets 8:30pm	19	20 Choir 7:30pm	21 Longest Night Service 7pm @ Immanuel Lutheran Church	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship/Children's Church 10:45am Christmas Fund Offering	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm No Children's Church	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27 Choir 7:30pm	28	29
30 First Sunday after Christmas Worship/Children's Church 10:45am	31 New Year's Eve	Notes: Church office opened: Mon, Tue, Thur, (9am – 1pm) Except where noted.				

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
P. O. BOX 730
MANCHESTER, MD 21102
ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



3229 York Street
P.O. Box 730
Manchester, MD 21102
Office Hours: 9am – noon
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
410-374-2727 (Church office)
(email) trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net
Web site: trinityuccmanchester.org

