**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.

Trinity United Church of Christ

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Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry, Interim Pastor

**Trinity United Church of Christ**

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**“ Reconciliation” in St. Michael’s Cathedral, Coventry, England**

**July 14, 21, 28, August 4, & 11, 2019**

**The Ministry of Reconciliation –**

**Truth, Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

*“All this is from God, who reconciled*

*us to God’s self through Christ and*

*gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

(2 Corinthians 5:18)

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

**The Ministry of Reconciliation –**

**Truth, Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

One of God’s gifts to us, even though we are sometimes unforgiving and hurtful people, is the gift of reconciliation. With reconciliation come the parallel gifts of **truth-told-to-love** and **forgiveness that brings healing**. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul is saying, as Christians or people of faith, we do not do any or all of this by ourselves.

Achieving forgiveness in our relationships is both **“communal”** work and **relational**. We are not the sole processors of the whole truth. Mpho Tutu, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu, says “whether one offers or receives forgiveness, neither has the whole truth; absolute truth rests with God.” Tutu’s book, *The Book of Forgiving* (published by Harper One), will be one contemporary source for this series.

**What then is reconciliation?** It is the **“restoration of right relationships,”** which is the outcome of the work of forgiveness and reconciliation. This work requires the truth to be told and to be heard — all in the name of love and grace and compassion for each other. This ministry of making relationships right will be the focus of our worship in July and the first part of August. The texts from Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), selected lessons from the gospels, and from what could be called the “continuing texts” (contemporary readings and poetry) of Henri Nouwen and others will serve as the basis for this worship series.

For more information contact Pastor Gerry Hanberry at 301-788-6546 or email at pastortucc@comcast.net

**July 14** — **The Ministry of Reconciliation: Truth**

* Readings: Psalms 85, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, John 3:17-21, John 8:31-38
* Pastor Hanberry’s Sermon: “Telling the Truth in Love”

**July 21** — **The Ministry of Reconciliation:**

**Telling Truth to Power**

* Reading: Matthew 10:40-42
* Pastor Hanberry’s Sermon: “A Table of Reconciliation”

**July 28** — **The Ministry of Reconciliation: Forgiveness,**

**Part 1**

* Readings: Genesis 33:11, Psalms 32, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, Luke 6:27-42
* Pastor Hanberry’s Sermon: “The Forgiveness Project”

**Aug 4** — **The Ministry of Reconciliation: Forgiveness,**

**Part 2**

* Readings: Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20, 21-22,

& 23-35

* Pastor Hanberry’s Sermon: “The Forgiveness Process - A Way of Life”

**Aug 11** — **The Ministry of Reconciliation:**

**Reconciliation Completed**

* Readings: Joel 2:23-27, Psalms 30, Matthew 5:21-26
* Pastor Hanberry’s Sermon: “Right Relationships: The Future Secured”

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**VBS at Trinity UCC**

**July 21 – 26**

**6:30 – 8:45 pm**

**Register online at our website**