

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

January 2020



LET'S TALK SERMON SERIES

- ▶ **January 5 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Worship”**
- ▶ **January 12 – Theme: “The Language We Use in the Sacrament of Baptism”**
- ▶ **January 19 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Reading and Understanding the Bible”**
- ▶ **January 26 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Talking About Discipleship”**
- ▶ **February 2 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion”**

Congratulation to our newly elected Consistory members.

As is the custom of the United Church of Christ, on Sunday, **January 12, 2020** we will install our consistory for 2020. Leslie Brooks, new member of the Consistory, will be ordained as a new deacon and the Consistory of Trinity UCC will be installed for service for the year 2020.

Please join us for this service of worship.

Those serving on this year's consistory include: Marge Bailey, MariBeth Brained, Leslie Brooks, Karen Haines, Debra Miller, Robert Miller, Sue Myers, and Doug Rhoten.

Food Bags for Backpacks Project

Trinity UCC is preparing to start our seventh year of donating “Food bags for Backpacks” to Manchester Elementary School. January donations are due at the church by Sunday, **January 19**. Items may be placed in the basket in the lower narthex. You may also write a check to Trinity UCC and note Food Bags for Backpack Project in the memo line.

Sunday, January 26

Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon

We will have our annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon after Sunday worship.

You are asked to contribute as follows:

Last name begins with A – J: meat

Last name begins with K – R: vegetable

Last name begins with S – Z: dessert



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/05 – Earl LaMotte
Douglas Myers
1/06 – Claire Vey
1/07 – Scott Drumheller
1/08 – Pastor Gerry Hanberry
1/18 – Norman Greenholtz
Julie Dallas
1/20 – Charlene Rhoten
1/23 – Nancy Koerner
1/24 – David Bailey

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.

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
February Newsletter – Monday, January 20

January Meeting Dates

Consistory – Wednesday, January 2 @ 7pm
Worship Committee – Thursday, January 9
@ 5:45 p.m.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concerns

Prayers for Leslie and Jeff Brooks. Jeff is recovering at home after an extended stay in the hospital in Harrisburg, PA. Cards may be sent to: 6446 Brodbeck Rd. Glen Rock PA. 17327.

Prayers are needed for Arlene Nott. She recently was in the hospital and is home now. Cards may be sent to: P.O. Box 159, Locust St., Manchester MD 21102.

HELPING HANDS JANUARY

Offering Stewards Robert and Debra Miller.

Greeters are: Robert and Debra Miller.

Offering Ushers are: Robert and Debra Miller.

Lay Readers:

January 5 – Sue Myers
January 12 – Karen Haines
January 19 – Robert Miller
January 26 – MariBeth Brainerd

Acolytes:

January 5 – Mason Brown
January 12 – Adriana Brown
January 19 - TBA
January 26 - TBA

Projector Operator:

January 5 – Sandy Sanders
January 12 – Elwin Wagner
January 19 – Karen Haines
January 26 – Sue Myers

Children's Church Leaders:

January 5 – Karen Price
January 12 – Sandy Sanders
January 19 – Sue Myers
January 26 – TBA

Save the Date

Wednesday Night Bible Study

At Trinity United Church of Christ

Starting: Wednesday, **January 15 @ 6:45 – 8pm**

Installation of consistory members – Sunday,
January 12.

Congregational meeting/luncheon Sunday, January 26.

Trinity will be lead worship at Longview Nursing Home. **Sunday, January 26 at 1:30.** Help would be appreciated. Please let Pastor Gerry know if you are available.

Pastor Gerry's Column

Can you imagine? We end the decade of the "teen's" and enter the decade of the 20's. Does this mean, perhaps, that we're going up some? Maturing? Entering a period of more purposeful work and productivity? Not sure there's a relationship between the maturation process of young people and the changing of the decades, but let's hope.

The Advent and Christmas season we're just concluded seemed to have more energy than in the past. Our Christmas Eve service was beautiful as we enjoyed the music and scriptures, singing "Silent Night" while lighting candles. It was a Christmas Gift sort of night for us at Trinity UCC.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you will read the announcement of a new Bible study series on the miracles of Jesus. There is always more to the miracles than meet the eye, on a first reading. The miracles offer us the signs and symbols of Jesus' deep-faith messages of the miracle stories. Come and join us on Wednesday evenings starting January 15.

Our worship series beginning January 5 will draw our attention to how worship shapes and informs our faith. For many, worship is the one hour devoted to God in their lives. Our hope for this series is that that one-hour devoted to worship will be deepened and enriched.

Let us begin 2020 with a continued sense of excitement and enthusiasm. Let us be engaged in the life of Trinity Church in ways that make us glad we part of this faith journey—a journey we take together.

Faithfully, Pastor Hanberry

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

**Trinity United Church of Christ
Manchester, Maryland
Worship Schedule – 10:45 a.m**

January 5 – February 2, 2020



LET'S TALK SERMON SERIES Nicholas Sparks, prolific fiction writer, says "*I do not use profanity in my novels. My characters all go to church.*" For Sparks, if we "go to church," the language we use to talk about life and the church requires a certain degree of decorum and dignity. Even so, the language we use to talk about church is fraught with debate and conflict and disagreement. Still, in the 21st Century, church people can't/don't agree on the same language to use in its worship, in its reading the sacred texts from the Bible. The "inclusive language" wars continue even in the year, 2020. What difference does it make if one refers to "God" as "he" or "father" or "Abba" or "father/mother God" or other more gender-neutral words? While words are powerful and loaded with significant meaning for some who worship together on a Sunday morning, other folks are quite comfortable with more traditional language of the Church. In this five-sermon series, we will "unpack" and "explore" the varied meanings we give to the language to talk about church, and how we might come to terms with a shared/common understanding of the language we use in worship, in reading the Bible, being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and in how we approach the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Come, even bring a friend, and join us at Trinity UCC for worship in these days of the New Year: 2020.

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW WE TALK ABOUT CHURCH—THE LANGUAGE WE USE IN:

- Worship
- Baptism
- Reading and Understanding the Bible
- Talking about Being a Disciple of Jesus
- Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

January 5 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Worship”

- Texts: Psalm 150; Colossians 3:12-17
- Sermon: “The Rhythm and Language of Worship”

January 12 – Theme: “The Language We Use in the Sacrament of Baptism”

- Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; & Matthew 3:13-17
- Sermon: “I Baptize You in the Name of...”

January 19 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Reading and Understanding the Bible”

- Texts: Psalm 119:97-105; Isaiah 40:8; & John 1:1-18
- Sermon: “The Inclusive Language Wars”

January 26 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Talking About Discipleship”

- Texts: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; & Matthew 4:12-23
- Sermon: “The Marks of Discipleship”

February 2 – Theme: “The Language We Use in Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion”

- Texts: Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; & Luke 22:14-23
- Sermon: “Welcome to the Table: ‘The Gifts of God for the People of God’”



Miracles Or Metaphors: Does It Really Matter?

A Bible Study for Inquiring Minds

Five Wednesdays

6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

January 15 – February 19, 2020

One of the Famous Healing Miracles by Jesus: The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus:

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart: get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again," Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and following him on the way (Mark 10: 46-52, NRSV)

What are reasonable people to make of a story like this?

Some people might say: “In the world as we know it, in the world we live in, no measure of religious faith can reverse retinal detachment or macular degeneration or whatever else we might imagine as the medical problem of blind Bartimaeus. That's

just impossible.” **And then others might say,** “this story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, who was blind, is just one of Jesus’ many healing miracles in the gospel. It says it in the Bible; therefore, this story is real and true. Might not be a ‘medical intervention,’ per se, but Mark reports the story and I believe it.

Others might suggest these healing stories in the gospels are really more metaphorical, much more spiritual metaphor than medical science or real physical healing.

With these varied explanations and beliefs, we might ask ourselves the ‘so what?’ question: Miracles or Metaphors? Does it Really Matter?

In a five-part Bible Study series starting Wednesday, January 15, we will explore this dilemma, this deep Biblical and theological question. Join us; bring a friend or neighbor.



Five Miracles of Jesus:

- Changing water into wine
- Healing Blind Bartimaeus
- Feeding the 5000
- Raising Lazarus

- Healing at

Bethzatha

Jan. 15 -- Changing Water into Wine at Cana

- John 2: 1-11
- First of Jesus’ ‘miraculous signs’ at Cana, Galilee
- Different miracle from the first ones in the other gospels

Jan. 22 -- Healing Blind Bartimaeus

- Mark 10:46-52 and Matthew 20:29-34 and Luke 18:35-4
- Jesus meets Bartimaeus on the roadside near Bethsaida
- Classic story of Jesus asking one to say what they want

Jan. 29 -- Feeding the 5000

- John 6:1-5; Matt 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17

- Related to the “*I AM the bread of life*” statement of Jesus
- Significant because story is in all four gospels

Feb. 12 – Raising Lazarus from the Dead

- John 11:1-44
- In John, the last miracle before Jesus’ passion story
- Lazarus is the brother of Mary and Martha

Feb. 19 -- The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

- John 5: 1-18
- Jesus heals man crippled for 38 years
- One of the ‘seven signs’ in John



Lexi’s Notes

As I sit down to write this, I am still wrapping up last minute preparations for Christmas Eve worship at Trinity, and have barely begun to think about my plans for Christmas Day. I hope that by the time you read this, we all will have had some time to rest, be with family, and enjoy the beauty of this special season without worrying.

Reflecting on the past year, I feel it has been one of tremendous personal and professional growth for me. Each day I feel closer to God, and I have discovered, over and over this year, the true meaning of the words, “with God all things are possible.” I hope that as we gather for worship and song and spiritual renewal each week in 2020, each of you can feel just a bit of this truly wonderful and amazing gift!

December 2019 Consistory Meeting

Highlights

The monthly meeting of the consistory members was held on December 04, 2019

Minutes: November consistory minutes (November 6 and November 24) were accepted as written.

Treasurer’s Report: Sue Myers shared November report, it was accepted as written. Total income and expenses are on track as expected for the year. \$40,000 has been transferred this year from endowment into general fund

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gerry submitted his monthly report. The Interim Planning Team will meet in January, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) report was reviewed, and Carroll County Housing Summit 2020 information was presented. Weekly Bible study will begin again in January

Property: Restroom window estimates are coming. New cigarette butt container has been purchased. Locks have been placed on closets in nursery area

Finance: Thank you notes have been received from Tree of Friends and Rising Above Addiction.

Personnel: Yearend meetings with Lexi and Diane have been completed. Diane requests newsletter and bulletin articles be given in a more timely fashion. New members will be placed on the personnel committee in January.

Evangelism: Black Friday turnout was good. December 8th will be a fellowship Sunday. Refreshments will be provided for the Longest Night Service on Saturday December 21st and Happy Birthday cake, fruit and beverages will be served on Christmas Eve.

Christian Education: Discussion concerning shut-ins and the possibility of using Children's Church time to prepare baskets for members who are unable to worship with us

Worship: MariBeth Brainerd presented committee report. Next meeting will be December 11th. MB expressed thanks to people who helped with cleaning and decorating.

Caring Ministry: Debra Miller has NESAP gift tags have been placed on the tree. In January we will plan for our evening of service at the Cold Weather Shelter.

PPR: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Electrician is finished, plaque installed. Flowers will be planted in spring and a dedication will be planned for spring.

- Doug Rhoten will replace Ron and Leslie Brooks will join consistory, replacing Michelle Wolfgang-Fantone. Installation will be January 12, 2020.

New Business:

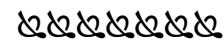
- Congregational Meeting: January 26, 2020
- SWOT: Pastor Gerry reviewed results gathered from Imaging Our Future Sunday. The planning team will use this information as they proceed to the next phase.
- Bingo: Facilities have been reserved for May 16, 2020.
- Merchandiser: Christmas Eve ad will run in Merchandiser on December 18.
- Longview Nursing Home: Pastor Gerry has signed up for six services, every other month starting in January. We plan to invite people from the congregation to join in this ministry.
- Employee Christmas Bonus: A motion was passed to provide a bonus to secretary, music director and former housekeeper (Randy Miller).

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 02, 2020 at 7:00 pm.



12. 24. 2019

Dear Trinity Friends,
Thank you to the consistory for the generous gift for Christmas. All the cards and gifts. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness. Have a wonderful Christmas and safe New Year!
God Bless, Diane



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Scrip Gift Cards

Thank you to all that participated in our monthly fundraiser – Scrip Gift Cards – and especially to those that offered our program to their co-workers!! For 2019 we made over \$700 just from folks purchasing gift cards to be used either personally or as a gift to someone else. We will go back to the regular schedule of sending in orders on the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you haven't participated in the program and would like more information please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, wsmdem@comcast.net.

B-I-N-G-O

Our 3rd annual cash banquet bingo will be held on Saturday May 16, 2020 at the Manchester Activities Building. We are still working on the details but save the date and watch for more information to follow. Get those daubers ready!!

Cold Weather Shelter

Thank you for your donations for the cold weather shelter, each week for the past month we have dropped off one or two bags full of needed items, warm coats and fleece sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, underwear, t-shirts, and toiletries. The number of people seeking shelter overnight is increasing as the weather turns colder. The average number was 24-27 in the beginning of December, we expect that number may be near 40 when we serve a meal and help with check in on Thursday, January 30th. We will also be providing a meal on the last evening the shelter will be open, Tuesday, March 31st. Each week we receive an email sharing information from the Cold Weather Shelter. In a recent note, Clare Kazak, program coordinator shared two stories of the compassion of the guests reaching out to help each other.

One older gentleman, who has been staying at the shelter every night, finds it physically very challenging to set up his sleeping area. Each evening, someone else always steps up and takes it upon himself to do this, making sure the cot is setup and made up with sheets and blankets so that this particular man can get some rest.

On a recent evening, I overheard a conversation between two of our men. One older gentleman with a walker that was missing a wheel and another younger man who had just started a job. The newly employed individual was examining the walker. After he assessed the situation, he said that he would pay for the repairs that are needed as soon as he receives his first paycheck. Fortunately, a caring community member has already provided a replacement walker that will be given to this gentlemen this evening but the offer was certainly genuine and heartfelt.

Please let Karen Haines or Deb Miller know if you would like to join us on our service evenings when we have an opportunity to share compassion and make a difference.

Cold Weather Shelter Donation Suggestions

Sweatpants – Men's M, L, XL, XXL are the **Most needed items** at shelter

New Underwear – **Men's boxers** or **boxer briefs (HUGE NEED)** and women's styles as well as new or gently used bras

Sweatshirts – hooded or regular, fleece tops

Winter Coats—especially larger sizes **Hats**—warm

Gloves – warm/weatherproof preferred

Thermal shirts/long underwear

T-shirts (new or gently used)

Socks – warm men's and women's

Backpacks – school sized, new or gently used

Belts – gently used are fine

Blankets/sheets – twin sized only, sorry no comforters

Food/misc. items:

Coffee/creamers/sugar

Individual wrapped breakfast/snack to-go items

Lip balm, Deodorant

Razors – double blade preferred

Hand warmers – very much appreciated during the extreme cold spells



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. 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.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 Consistory 7pm	3	4
5 Second Sunday after Christmas Holy Communion Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am	6 Epiphany	7 AA meets 8:30 pm	8	9 Worship Committee 5:45pm	10	11
12 The Baptism of Christ Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls Installation of Consistory	13	14 AA meets 8:30 pm	15 Bible Study 6:45 – 8:00 pm	16	17	18
19 Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Food for Foodbags due	20 Church office opened February Newsletter articles due	21 Church office opened AA meets 8:30 pm	22 Church office opened Bible Study 6:45 – 8:00 pm	23 Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 Third Sunday after Epiphany Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Blessing of Foodbags Congregational Meeting Trinity leading worship @ Longview Nursing Home 1:30 p.m.	27 Church office opened	28 Church office opened AA meets 8:30 pm	29 Church office opened Bible Study 6:45 – 8:00 pm	30 Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed	

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	198.00	1,640.00
Loose Offering	52.26	1,548.80
Miscellaneous	5.00	340.00
Regular Offering	5,757.00	65,521.00
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	960.00
Total Income	6,012.26	70,009.80
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	1,338.75
Evangelism	0.00	1,539.94
General	1,157.23	20,485.69
Personnel	5,267.34	81,955.54
Property	60.89	3,257.14
Music	133.00	318.00
Worship	(19.23)	1,229.90
Total Expense	6,599.23	110,124.96
Net Ordinary Income	(586.97)	(40,115.16)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Endowment	0.00	1,798.00
Cemetery	0.00	(3,995.33)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	731.95
Memorial Fund	(611.29)	(611.21)
Fundraising	53.45	19,791.02
Special Offerings Received	0.00	1,839.31
Total Other Income	(557.84)	19,553.74
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	0.00	1,674.31
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	1,674.31
Net Other Income	(557.84)	17,879.43
Net Income	(1,144.81)	(22,235.73)

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MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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