**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, 3229 York St., Manchester, MD 21102, e-mails: [pastortucc@comcast.net](mailto:pastortucc@comcast.net) [trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net); 410-374-2727 [www.trinityuccmanchester.org,](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org,) &  **Facebook**

**Trinity United Church of Christ**

**Manchester, Maryland**

**Worship Schedule – 10:45 a.m**

**January 5 – February 2, 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”**

**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

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 SERMON SERIES**

**January 5 – February 2, 2020**

**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’”