

# Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

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

## Trinity Times

## February 2020



### LET'S TALK SERMON SERIES

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

► **February 9** – Theme: Living a Fulfilling Life

► **February 16** – Theme: “Concerning Things That Matter Most...”

► **February 23** – Theme: Transfiguration of Jesus

► **February 26** – Ash Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

**Note: Watch for a new brochure and news about worship at Trinity during Lent and Easter 2020**



### Food Bags for Backpacks Project

Trinity UCC is preparing to start our seventh year of donating “Food bags for Backpacks” to Manchester Elementary School. February donations are due at the church by Sunday, **February 16**. 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.



### 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 if the building will be closed in the following possible ways:

1. Calling the church at 410 374-2727 (The voice mail message will only be changes if the decision was made to close.)
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



### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2/04 – Carolyn Brooks
- 2/06 – Eva Gebhardt
- 2/09 – Sam Martin  
Bryce Davidson
- 2/12 – Michelle Stevens  
Lori Drumheller
- 2/14 – Robert Saunders
- 2/17 – Penny Ludwig
- 2/19 – Leslie Brooks
- 2/26 – Margaret Bailey
- 2/28 – Robert Miller



### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2/24 – Judy and Leon Miller

### **Contacting the Pastor and the Church Office**

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

**DAYS OFF SCHEDULE:** In February, Pastor Gerry will alternate days off with Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please check the callendar for his days off.

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
- March Newsletter– Monday, February 17



### **HELPING HANDS FEBRUARY**

**Offering Stewards** Doug Rhoten and Marge Bailey

**Greeters are:** Doug and Charlene Rhoten.

**Offering Ushers are:** Doug and Charlene Rhoten.

### **Lay Readers:**

- February 2 – Robert Miller
- February 9 – Sue Myers
- February 16 – Marge Bailey
- February 23 – Leslie Brooks

### **Acolytes:**

- February 2 – Lane Saunders
- February 9 – Laci Saunders
- February 16 – TBA
- February 23 – Lily Saunders

### **Projector Operator:**

- February 2 – Sandy Sanders
- February 9 – Elwin Wagner
- February 16 – Karen Haines
- February 23 – Elwin Wagner
- February 26 – Sue Myers

### **Children's Church Leaders:**

- February 2 – Nickie Saunders
- February 9 – Karen Price
- February 16 – Sandy Sanders
- February 23 – TBA

### **February Meeting Dates**

- Consistory – Wednesday, February 5 @ 7pm
- Worship Committee – Thursday, February 6 @ 5:45 p.m.



### **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

At Trinity United Church of Christ  
Wednesday, **February 12, 9 and 23**  
@ 6:45 – 8pm



*Shrove Tuesday*

“Join us for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Dinner.

**On Tuesday, February 25, 2020** from 5 to 7 pm.  
Menu also includes doughnuts, applesauce, orange juice and coffee.”

Marge Bailey  
Fellowship Committee

**February 26 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary**

## Pastor Gerry's Column

Last night, waiting for sleep to come, I was thinking about this Lenten season—starting with Shrove Tuesday (Feb 25) and Ash Wed. (Feb 26) and how it could be different, more spiritual, more honest this year. All I could think of was the oft quoted declaration: “Lent is a journey.” That’s got something to do with the journey Jesus takes as he preaches and teaches and heals his way to Jerusalem. What other way is there for Lent to be more spiritual than to think of the time in these days as if you are traveling with Jesus. Then, indeed, Lent is a journey, but what kind of journey?

Also, in my head, in the middle of the night, I am playing with the theme for this coming Lent and while ‘journey’ is strong, the idea that the Lenten scriptures include a number of powerful stories of Jesus’ life, final journey to Jerusalem and his trial, crucifixion, death and resurrection and that these are our stories too. Big Question: Where does my story fit into those Jesus-Lenten stories?

I finally did get to sleep only to be interrupted by weird dreams, dreams which turned eventually into being wide awake with all the symptoms of the winter/cold related blahs, tiredness and even a little depression...what followed is way too much information for this public column. Needless to say, I hope the way the night turned out is no indication of how my Lenten journey will turn out.

As the scampering noises of Jake and Elwood (the Blues Brothers), our two cats, nudged me awake this morning, I remembered: Journey takes our feet a-walking; journey stories move us; stories inspire us to improve; stories involve memory and witness. Upright but steadying myself on the bedpost, I looked at Pat, my wife, in her early morning deep sleep and I remember: the big story of our love and lives together. I remember the big story of my own life’s transformations.

As sleep cleared from my eyes, I remembered: these are the days of our lives. They are all that we have; let’s make good use of them. Let’s find the way our stories merge with the stories of God’s saving actions in our lives.

I suppose the ultimate hope is that we will travel along in the footsteps of Jesus – from his journey from his baptism by John to 40 days in the desert, to the temple, to the garden in desperate prayer, to the hill called Golgotha, and ultimately to resurrection morning. For sure, the footprints we leave behind will tell the story of our shared journey this Lent. May the journey bring us—each of you and all of us—closer to the One who gives us the journey in the first place.

Faithfully, Pastor Hanberry

### WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY **Trinity United Church of Christ** **Manchester, Maryland** **Worship Schedule – 10:45 a.m** **February 2 – February 26, 2020**



### **LET'S TALK SERMON SERIES**

#### **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’”

With these three weeks of February (9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) we will explore what lies in store for us in the texts and stories of the Bible lessons for the Revised Common Lectionary.

#### **February 9 – Theme: Living a Fulfilling Life**

- Texts: Isaiah 58:1-9a (False and True Worship) Matthew 5:13-20 (Salt and Light/The law and the prophets)
- Sermon: “Renewal...What Does that Look Like?”

**February 16 – Theme: “Concerning Things That Matter Most...”**

- Texts: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (On Divisions in the Church); Matthew 5:21-37 (Concerning Anger, Adultery, Divorce, and Oaths)
- Sermon: “What Matters Most to You These Days?”

**February 23 – Theme: Transfiguration of Jesus**

- Texts: Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9
- Sermon: TBA

**February 26 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

- Texts: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



**Lexi's Notes**

If you attended the annual meeting on Sunday, Jan 26, you will read my Annual Report in which I outline the many exciting developments of our music program. What you won't hear, however, is the fact that I finished it just hours before the deadline! As I type this (two days late!), I still have to schedule Projector Operators for February!! I am, however, working on organization this year, intentionally developing systems to organize both my personal and professional life. Pray for me and my colleagues who are pulling their hair out right now!!

*Happy Valentine's Day*



**Miracles Or Metaphors:  
Does It Really Matter?**

**A Bible Study for Inquiring Minds**

**Five Wednesdays**

**6:45 – 8:00 p.m.**

**February 12– 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

#### **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

#### **January 2020 Consistory Meeting Highlights**

The monthly meeting of the consistory members was held on January 02, 2020

**Minutes:** December 2019 minutes were accepted as written

**Treasurer’s Report:** Sue Myers shared December report, it was accepted as written. Sue reported investment gains were enough to cover our deficit and contributions received were more than budgeted, and expenditures were less than budgeted. Pat Hanberry paid for bathroom paint. Weekly Bible study will begin again January 15th.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Gerry submitted his monthly report. He completed 6 pastoral visits. He had meetings with Central Atlantic Conference staff members Rev Freeman Palmer and Rev Audrey Price. Their discussions covered how to support smaller churches in their searching for part-time pastors

**Property:** Ron Zumbrun presented estimate from Robert G Miller for bathroom replacement windows, a motion was passed to accept their proposal

**Finance:** Sue Myers reported an increase in insurance to \$6,125 per year an 11% increase.

**Personnel:** NO REPORT

**Evangelism:** Marge Bailey reports they will help and set up food for congregational meeting.

**Christian Education:** No report

**Worship:** We reviewed committee report submitted by MariBeth Brainerd, next meeting is January 9.

**Caring Ministry:** The menu is being planned for the Cold Weather Shelter; we serve a meal and provide check in on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PPR:** No report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Officer and Committee for 2020 were assigned
- Congregational Meeting: January 26, 2020

#### **New Business:**

- Web Site updates: Pastor Gerry and Diane will work on best way to keep site up to date.
- Pastoral Leadership Timeline: Pastor Gerry presented a timeline/flowchart that lays out the steps necessary to develop our church profile and begin search and call process for a new pastor. Pastor Gerry’s contract of 2 years ends in April 2020, but he will stay and continue to guide us through this process.

**Next Meeting:** Wed, February 5, 2020 at 7:00

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### Scrip Gift Cards

Support Trinity UCC! Use gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings. Pay with gift cards and support Trinity at the same time. Physical gift cards and eGift cards can be used for gas, groceries, eating out, clothes, travel, movies, etc. It's easy and it's rewarding! Last year I purchased cards every month for Weis, Sheetz, Dick's, Starbucks, Amazon, etc, etc and was able to donate \$257 to TUCC!

Orders will be submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month and you'll receive your cards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. If you haven't participated in the program and would like more information please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, [wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net).

### B-I-N-G-O

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual cash banquet bingo will be held on Saturday May 16, 2020 at the Manchester Activities Building. This year we will be trying something a little different. The costs for the games will be separate from the cost of food. Doors and kitchen will open at 4:30 and the games will begin at 6:30. We plan on having meals of hot roast beef or turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetable. Plus a la carte items – soup, bbq, hot dogs, french fries, mozzarella sticks, etc. So you can choose what you'd like. And of course there will be desserts and snacks!

Stay tuned for more details and tell your friends to save the date!

### Cold Weather Shelter Update

Trinity has delivered over fourteen bags of clothing and toiletry items to the CWS in Westminster, this included seven large garbage bags. Your generosity has been greatly appreciated. We will continue to deliver items to the shelter as they are brought in. This season over 100 individuals have used the shelter to get out of the winter weather and the items donated allow staff to pass out warm sweatpants, sweatshirts, jackets, socks, gloves and all the other cold weather items needed to stay warm.

Salina Duncan, new to HSP has joined working at the shelter this season. She shares the following. *Last week, after a young man lost his significant other, he shared with me that most of his family is deceased. I imagined how different my life would have been at age 27 (the age I was when my first child was born) without the loving support of my family.*

*I am a new employee at HSP, working evenings at Cold Weather. I have never struggled with mental illness or addiction. I have a Master's degree and have been blessed with stable employment from the time I was legally allowed to work. Last year, my life was turned upside down as I entered a new phase I never imagined I would be in, a single mom with no home. Fortunately, I am blessed with an incredibly supportive family who has taken me in. Homelessness can touch anyone.*

*Thank you Trinity for supporting the homeless community in our backyard.*

### 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/creamer/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



January 24, 2020

Dear Sunday School members:

Thank you for the thoughtful and cute Christmas basket you sent me, delivered by Pastor Gerry. I loved everything in the basket and it was so appreciated.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

God Bless,  
Carolyn Brooks

P.S. Thank you too, Pastor Gerry

## **BUS TRIP TO SEE "QUEEN ESTHER"**

Where – Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster PA.

When – Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Cost - \$110.00 Per Person (Includes bus, show & family style lunch at Good & Plenty Restaurant after the show)  
Children (ages 4-12) - \$70.00  
(Tip for bus driver Not included)

Time – 8:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

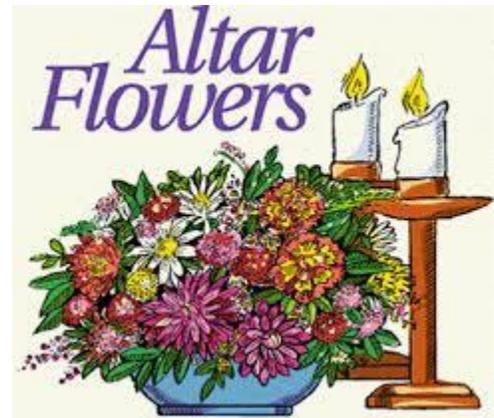
**1<sup>st</sup> Pickup** – 8:15 a.m. at rear of Kohl's  
Parking Lot. Westminster, MD

**2<sup>nd</sup> Pickup** – 8:45 a.m. at Lazarus UCC Church  
5101 S. Church St. Lineboro, MD.

For Reservations – Call Mary Jane Graft  
410-374-4478

Make Check Payable to: Church Women United  
Of Carroll Co.

Mail Check by: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Mary Jane Graf  
5115 S. Church St.  
Lineboro, MD 21102



### Dedicating Flowers as a Part of Worship

There are a number of options for dedicating flowers in honor of a loved one, and having the flowers placed on the Altar and/or elsewhere in the Sanctuary:

- ✚ A vase of arranged flowers
- ✚ A single rose in a bud vase
- ✚ Cut flowers that you will bring in and arrange in a vase

Please sign up on the flower dedication sign-up sheet that is pinned to the bulletin board in the lower narthex and specify your selection. Diane, the church secretary, will call you to arrange the flower order. If you want to bring cut flowers to be placed on the altar rather than order an arrangement from one of the local florists that will make a flower delivery to the church, please contact a member of our altar committee - Deb Persinger at 410-746-5475 or Sandy Sanders at 443-974-6723. For more information regarding ordering and dedicating flowers please call Diane, the church secretary, at 410-374-2727. Thank you!!

## February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> Holy Communion Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am	3	4  <b>PASTOR GERRY OFF</b>  AA meets 8:30 pm	5  Consistory 7pm	6  Worship Committee @ 5:45 pm  Choir 7:30pm	7	8
<b>9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b> Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls	10 Church Office opened	11 <b>Church office Closed</b>  AA meets 8:30 pm	12 Church Office opened  Bible Study 6:45 – 8:00 pm	13 Church Office opened  <b>PASTOR GERRY OFF</b> Choir 7:30pm	14   <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15
<b>16 Six Sunday after Epiphany</b> Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Food for Foodbags due	17 President's Day  March Newsletter articles due	18  <b>PASTOR GERRY OFF</b>  AA meets 8:30 pm	19  Bible Study 6:45 – 8:00 pm	20  Choir 7:30pm	21	22
<b>23 Transfiguration</b> Worship/Children's Church 10:45 am Blessing of Foodbags	24 Church Office opened	25 Church Office opened  Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner 5-7pm	26 Church Office opened  Ash Wednesday	27  <b>PASTOR GERRY OFF</b>  <b>Church office Closed</b>  Choir 7:30pm	28	29

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

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	Dec 19	Jan - Dec 19
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	152.00	1,792.00
Loose Offering	364.00	1,912.80
Miscellaneous	145.00	485.00
Regular Offering	8,114.00	73,635.00
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	960.00
Total Income	8,775.00	78,784.80
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	1,338.75
Evangelism	33.00	1,572.94
General	2,072.45	22,660.14
Personnel	7,198.68	89,005.22
Property	(61.83)	3,195.31
Music	150.00	468.00
Worship	207.00	1,436.90
Total Expense	9,599.30	119,677.26
Net Ordinary Income	(824.30)	(40,892.46)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Endowment	77.06	1,875.06
Cemetery	0.00	(3,995.33)
Interest/Dividend Income	3.84	735.79
Memorial Fund	0.00	(611.21)
Fundraising	2,137.54	21,928.56
Special Offerings Received	257.00	2,096.31
Total Other Income	2,475.44	22,029.18
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	372.00	2,046.31
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	372.00	2,046.31
Net Other Income	2,103.44	19,982.87
Net Income	1,279.14	(20,909.59)

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

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



3229 York Street  
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Manchester, MD 21102

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Web site: [trinityuccmanchester.org](http://trinityuccmanchester.org)

WHAT IS  
**SHROVE  
TUESDAY?**

