

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

September 2021

“Groundhog Day”

By: Pastor Jessica

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him... When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...” -from Luke 24:13-35

The film *Groundhog Day*, is a beloved one from my childhood growing up in Pennsylvania where Groundhog Day, the holiday, was such a big deal. Many of you have no doubt seen the 1993 Bill Murray classic, in which a TV weatherman finds himself caught in a time-loop, waking up to face the same day over and over again. Perhaps that’s how we feel right now, in this strange time as we face a new variant and see that restrictions are beginning to resurface. Maybe we feel a bit like Bill Murray’s character, Phil, waking up to relive the same day again and losing hope. “It’s like déjà vu all over again,” as Yogi Berra famously said.

In this time, we might find ourselves discouraged much like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Their lives, like ours, had been turned upside-down, first by the teachings of Jesus and then by his death and resurrection. Only up to this point, they had not seen for themselves the risen Christ. The crucifixion shook the very foundations of what they believed in and had counted on. It happened quickly, much too quickly for them to process and understand.

But what they find along the way is that even in their struggle, they are not alone. Their struggle will unite them, it will bring them together around a life-changing message that they will carry into the world. God did not abandon them in their grief or their confusion, but gave them what they needed to get by.

Like the disciples, we are in the midst of struggle as this pandemic continues in our communities and around the world. Like the disciples, we face uncertainty in ways we had not imagined years ago. Every day feels curiously like *Groundhog Day* and at the same time, like something we’ve never faced before. And, like the disciples, we get to choose how we respond to it. We can let it unite us around love of neighbor and newfound appreciation for what parts of “life as we knew it” we have back. Or, we can let it divide us around questions of politics and frustration. We can choose the wisdom which tells us to proceed in hope and love our neighbors by doing the most caring thing. Or, we can charge forward in callous disregard for the life God holds sacred.

It gets better for Bill Murray’s character in the film, but only once he lets go of his despair and resolves to use his days wisely. Like him and like the disciples headed to Emmaus, we can choose to spend these Groundhog Days of our lives withdrawn in bitterness and despair or we can decide to spend our time doing what we can, with the resources available to us, to do good where we are. Let us choose the loving way and stumble across Jesus in our midst. Even as we move through the ongoing gloom and doom around us, let us work so that the only thing we experience again is the surely of waking up knowing that God is good and loving and with us.

In Peace, Pastor Jessica



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 09/09 Ronald Zumbrun
- 09/10 Patricia Hanberry
Elijah Miller
- 09/19 Lexi Larson
- 09/22 Logan Nave
- 09/27 Lily Saunders
- 09/29 Michael Phelps
- 09/30 Kenneth Reed

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/04 Lauren Rice
- 10/11 Susan Davidson
Lorne Hemlock
- 10/12 Kelly Rhoten
- 10/22 Patricia Warner
- 10/23 Madison Hudgins
- 10/25 Andrea Haines
Ashby Haines
Alexander Wolfgang-Fantone
- 10/26 Sue Myers
- 10/29 Lane Saunders
- 10/30 Fynn Krawczyk
- 10/31 Leon Miller
Livi Saunders



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 09/03 MariBeth and Sam Brainerd
- 09/08 Karen and James Price
- 09/17 Lorne Haines and Kelsey Hart
- 09/28 Michelle and Elwin Wagner

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/01 Sarah and Jeff Krawczyk
- 10/04 Karen and David Haines
- 10/10 Leslie and Jeff Brooks
- 10/14 Nickie and Rob Saunders
- 10/19 Penny and Ken Ludwig
- 10/25 Michelle and Dale Wolfgang-Fantone
- 10/30 Susan and Wayne Davidson
- 10/31 Belva and Earl LaMotte

Contacting the Pastor and the Church Office

To reach Pastor Jessica in an emergency, please call her at 240-285-9357 (cell).

DAYS OFF SCHEDULE: Pastor Jessica will be off on Friday (her Sabbath day) and Saturday. She plans to be in the church office Monday and Tuesday and working from the home office Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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
October Newsletter– Monday, September 20



HELPING HANDS SEPTEMBER

Offering Stewards: Belva LaMotte, Leslie Brooks
September 05

Greeters: Robert Miller, Deb Miller

Offering Ushers: Pam Marchand, Belva LaMotte
September 12

Greeters: Robert Miller, Marge Bailey

Offering Ushers: Amy Schultz, Deb Miller
September 19

Greeters: MB Brainerd, Deb Persinger

Offering Ushers: Sandy Sanders, Pam
Marchand

September 26

Greeters: Jackie Nave, MB Brainerd

Offering Ushers: Robert Miller, Deb Miller

Lay Readers:

Sept. 05 – MB Brainerd

Sept. 12 – Jackie Nave

Sept. 19 – Sue Myers

Sept. 26 – Marge Bailey

Media Operator:

Sept. 05 – Elwin Wagner, Karen Haines

Sept. 12 – Elwin Wagner, Sue Myers

Sept. 19 – Karen Haines, Sandy Sanders

Sept. 26 – Karen Haines, Sandy Sanders

Children's Church Leaders, Helpers:

Sept. 05 – Leslie Brooks, Lexi Larson

Sept. 19 – Amy Schultz, Lexi Larson



September Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, Sept. 1 @ 7pm

Rally Day and Blessing of Backpacks –

Sunday, Sept. 12

Worship @ 10:45 am

Fellowship following worship

Worship Committee – TBA

Reorganization of the Pastor Parish

Relationship Committee

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee held its second meeting on Wednesday, August 25 with Pastor Jessica. Future meetings dates are to be announced.



Return to 10:45 am Worship

Beginning **September 12**, we will return to Worship at 10:45 am.

Children's church will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

Communion is the first Sunday each month.

Thank you

Special Thanks

We want to give a big "Thank You" to Doug Myers who has volunteered to change the lettering on the outdoor sign. And especially thank Deb and Gordon Persinger who were previously changing the sign.



**WELCOME
BACK!!
Renew your
spirits!
Rededicate
your faith!**



American Red Cross

On Wednesday August 18th the Red Cross held a blood drive at Trinity.

There were 17 donors, and 15 pints of blood were collected.

Thanks to all who helped or donated blood to make this effort a success.

Trinity UCC Covid Protocol

With Covid-19 cases on the rise, primarily due to the new Delta variant, in order to protect the most vulnerable among us, including children who cannot yet be vaccinated and those who are immunocompromised, we strongly urge everyone to wear a mask inside the building at all times.

We appreciate everyone's understanding, and thank you, as we try to safely navigate through these uncertain and unpredictable times due to this pandemic.

Blessing
of the
Backpacks



And our
Educators!



Our Annual Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks will be held during our worship on **September 12 (10:45 a.m.)**. Anyone attending preschool through college, is invited to bring their backpack to worship to be blessed. In the service we will invite all to come forward – **INCLUDING ANY TEACHERS OR OTHER SCHOOL STAFF** – for a blessing. This is a great time to encourage and support, through our prayers and thoughts, those who are part of the educational/learning programs of the area.

Worship Schedule September 2021

September 5, 2021 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, Mark 7:24-37

Theme: Be Opened

September 12, 2021 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

Theme: Words Matter

September 19, 2021 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

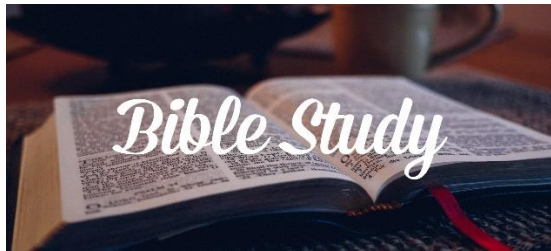
Scripture: Psalm 1, Mark 9:30-37

Theme: First in Caring

September 26, 2021 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

Theme: Prayer in Community



Pastor Jessica would like to invite all who are interested to join her on **September 8th** and **22nd** for a *LISTEN UP! Bible Study of 1 Corinthians*. The *LISTEN UP! Bible Study* series is not just about learning information about the Bible, but also, about listening for the voice of the Still Speaking God in our sacred scriptures. This study will prompt us to listen to the Bible, to our own questions and responses, and to honest sharing between members of our group. Our first meeting will be via Zoom at 7pm on **September 8th**. Please contact Pastor Jessica if you need more information or have questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Cammeron's Notes

SINGERS WANTED!!!!

SINGERS WANTED!!!!

SINGERS WANTED!!!!

Greetings Trinity UCC Family,

Do you miss congregational singing? Do you want to sing? Then, I am looking for you. As the Advent/ Christmas seasons arrives, we need voices to participate. I would love to have a season, where we have children and adults involved in the Music Ministry.

If you like to participate in the Music Ministry, please feel free to contact me at 410-235-5960 or cammeron.williams86@gmail.com.

****Allow your voices to be heard****

August 2021 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jessica continues her outreach with members and community engagement with morning devotionals and planning details for "Let Us Pray for You Ministry." She is planning future vesper service in August, VBS, confirmation classes and materials, possible fall Bible Study on "Justice for Christians", and other fall and advent Bible studies. She will also contact other groups such as New Life For Girls to share taped music.

Treasurer's report: July report was reviewed and accepted. Sue Myers reported total checking accounts balance of \$81,000. The Endowment checking has \$54,000 due to the cash out of a CD. The Endowment committee is looking to place \$30,000-\$40,000 of that amount into T. Rowe Price to earn more. Sue projected that we will run \$55,000 short of meeting our budget for this year as offering remains down. A discussion was held about holding a stewardship campaign. We will send out a 6-month statement to urge people to give.

Committee Reports

Property: Robert Miller reported our parking lot was relined at no cost by the landlord of the neighbors.

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: We discussed upkeep of the Little Free Library.

Christian Education: Leslie Brooks reported Children's Church began on August 1st and will continue on the first and third Sundays. She and Amy Shultz will share leadership along with Lexi Lawson or Pam Marchand assisting. Rocky Railway VBS begins August 10th. One of the activities will be starting a community rock garden.

Worship: The committee helped organize Sunday services including Communion on July 4 and August 1. Worship in the Park was held on July 25th. Vesper Service was canceled on July 29th due to severe weather / tornado watch.

Caring Ministry: No Requests

PPR: Meeting will be held on August 25th.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday August 18, 2021.

Unfinished Business

Distributing Monthly Newsletters: We have 21 to mail and print 8-9 extra to be available for folks to pick up on Sundays.

Covid Mask Protocol: A motion was passed to post the following new guidance. To protect those who are not vaccinated please wear mask until seated. If you are not vaccinated, please leave your mask on.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday August 18, 2021. Belva LaMotte and Robert Miller will be helping.

Service in Park: Planned for July 25, 2021 at 10:00.

New Business.

Weekly Bulletin Distribution: We discussed only mailing complete weekly bulletins to persons not attending service. We could start printing an announcement sheet for attendees and continue printing bulletins for the visually impaired.

Food Bags for Backpacks: Consistory approved starting up ministry again in September.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 01, 2021 at 7:00 pm via zoom.



FUNDRAISING TEAM UPDATE

HAMPSTEAD FARMERS MARKET

We would like to thank everyone that came out to support TUCC in one way or another – helping at the Market, cash donations, or just stopping by to say hi! If you had a chance to come by I think you'll agree it is a wonderful community market. It will continue during September, but TUCC will not be there selling sandwiches.

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!

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

FRIENDS OF NESAP PRESENTS

B I N G O

featuring Longaberger Baskets
& Vera Bradley Bags
(This event is not sponsored by Longaberger or VeraBradley)

Sat, September 11, 2021
Rain Date: Sun, Sept 12, 2021
Door open at 5:30pm | Games start at 7pm

Food Truck & pre-packaged snacks/drinks.
You can also reserve your seats in advance by visiting our store or by calling (410) 374-9099!
Tickets \$15 in advance & \$18 at the door
NO REFUNDS

American Legion Pavilion
4600 Legion Ln
Hampstead, MD 21074



We are a month away from our outdoor bingo event on September 11th at the American Legion in Hampstead. We still have tickets available and basket sponsorship opportunities. Whatever you can do to support this event would be appreciated. Tickets can be purchased at the NESAP store for \$15.00. You can also reserve a table for family and friends if you want to sit together. If you are able to sponsor a basket you can contact Connie at the store number 410-374-9099.

This is our first fundraiser in almost 2 years, please come out and support NESAP so we can continue to help our neighbors in need! ALL health department protocols will be adhered to for this event.



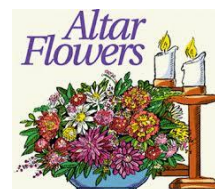
FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Instant Potatoes, Jell-O, Pudding, Stuffing, Ramen Noodles, Mixed Veggies, Paper Towels, Applesauce, Helper, Canned Chicken, Soups, Canned Potatoes, Breakfast Bars, Juice/Drinks, Shampoo, Jelly, Pasta Sides, Canned Fruit, Brownie Mix, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Diapers Sizes 4,5,6



Food Bags for Backpacks

Trinity UCC will restart our Food Bags for Backpacks donation program for Manchester Elementary School this September. Trying to be as careful as possible, we will once again just ask for Monetary Donations. Please mark "Food Bags" on any checks or giving envelopes that you wish to go to this program. Thank you, your support is greatly appreciated.



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!!

Rocky Railway VBS

8/10/2021 to 8/12/2021

Volunteers Leslie Brooks, Amy Shultz, Belva LaMotte, Pastor Jessica, Debbie Miller and MB Brainard led Elijah, Jackson, Marissa, Nathan, Weston, and Isaac in discovering that Jesus' Power helps us do hard Things, be good friends and gives us hope.

We stayed on track despite an ongoing heat wave and booming thunderstorms as we gathered each evening.

Each evening started off with a KidVid video and a bible story from Pastor Jessica.

We got wristbands to remind us to watch for God. The Rainbow after the Storm was a God sighting for all.

5 stars went to the snack time where all enjoyed Coal Crunch, Good friend fruit Pizza and Pretzel creations.

We all donated with our offering enough to support 3 alpacas and their families through the Kid-to-Kid Mission – Alpacas for Ecuador.

Everyone loved the games Noodle Relay, Alpaca Feet and Hover Ball.

MB provided musical instruments for all to play along with the songs. Mr. Jeff put the tape upside down on the bottom of the alpaca feet and they stuck to the carpet creating lots of giggles and "crunchy Feet"

At the end of the Worship Service on Sunday August 15, the VBS youth and others from Children's Church performed the signs and actions to the song "Same Power" as the final hymn. They did a magnificent finale.

Coal Crunch Recipe

- 3 cups mini marshmallows (Most marshmallows are allergy-friendly, but check ingredient lists to watch for things like wheat, milk, eggs, and if they may contain traces of peanuts.)
- 1½ tablespoons butter (To make a dairy-free version, simply use a vegan butter such as the options offered by the Earth Balance brand. This brand also offers a tasty vegan soy-free option if you need to stay away from soy.)
- 3 cups cocoa crispy rice cereal (Watch ingredient lists for traces of peanuts or other allergenic foods. At health food stores, it's possible to find dairy-free versions of cocoa crispy rice cereal, but if you can't find any, just use plain crispy rice cereal.)
- 1½ cups finely crushed Oreo cookies—roughly ²/₃ of a 14.3-ounce package (You can find gluten-free versions of Oreos at stores such as Walmart. Check ingredient lists to be sure. For dairy allergies, look for dairy-free crunchy chocolate cookies or brownie crisps.)
- 2 whole tubes of black gel food coloring (Use whatever amount makes the mixture look truly black.) Instructions:
 1. Finely crush the Oreo cookies in a large resealable plastic bag. Measure to make sure you have 1½ cups of crushed cookies.
 2. Put the marshmallows and butter in a large, microwave-safe mixing bowl, and heat in a microwave for 60 to 90 seconds.
 3. Stir the melted mixture until smooth, and add food coloring until you achieve a black color.
 4. Incorporate the cocoa crispy rice cereal and crushed Oreos.
 5. Let the mixture sit and cool for about five minutes.
 6. Scoop out ¼-cup-size portions onto a large piece of parchment paper. For preschool Crew snacks, scoop out 1/8-cup portions.
 7. Use another smaller piece of parchment paper held in your hands to shape each portion into a lumpy ball to look like coal.
 8. Allow all the pieces to cool on sheets of parchment paper for 20 to 30 minutes.
 9. Then place each piece of finished, cooled Coal Crunch into a resealable plastic bag



Christian Education

Children’s church is on the 1st and 3d Sunday of every month.

The children will have a separate time during the Sermon and rejoin the congregation for communion and closing prayers. We are running the race with Jesus and are exploring three verses from various sections of the Bible. Crafts, snacks, and prayers fill up our time also.

Stay on the look out for our Community Rock Garden to be launched in October. We will be painting rocks for sharing and will be inviting the congregation to join in. We want to make this a permanent mission of our youth. We will gladly accept any donations of Rocks (river rocks) and rock paints.

We welcome anyone who would like to assist and contribute time to our youth and the special times we are planning. Please contact Leslie Brooks or Amy Schultz via the new mailbox for the group and we will answer your questions, give you information, etc.

TrinityChristianEducation2727@gmail.com



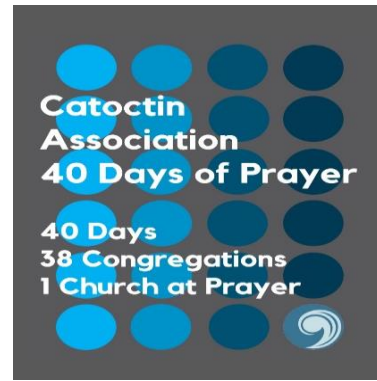
Announcement:

Join Pastor Jessica on “Facebook LIVE” each **Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m.** for a short devotional or thought for the day and prayer time together.

It’s a great way to connect to community throughout the week!

Facebook –

www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC



"Pray for us...that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ..."
Col. 4:3

Even Paul knew that the mystery of Christ, the Kingdom of God, was irrevocably tied to prayer.

The Catocin Association is 38 churches - a wide diversity of geography, faith, and practice, and yet one body.

On **Oct. 11**, we will launch 40 Days of Prayer, praying publicly for each congregation, by name. We want to kneel in prayer as one association in prayer for each other through 40 days, to practice our covenant commitments to each other to love and support one another as siblings in Christ, to strengthen and encourage each other as a new chapter of faith emerges in our region. More information to come!



Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Jul 21	Jan - Jul 21
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	60.00	410.00
Loose Offering	93.00	322.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	1,185.00
Regular Offering	4,545.00	36,810.14
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Income	4,698.00	38,727.14
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	287.62
Evangelism	175.32	297.22
General	681.99	18,417.50
Personnel	7,648.08	50,473.90
Property	1,772.31	2,949.31
Music	0.00	277.00
Worship	0.00	647.88
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expense	10,277.70	73,350.43
Net Ordinary Income	(5,579.70)	(34,623.29)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Grant Income	0.00	15,448.00
Care Fund Activity	0.00	100.00
Endowment	0.00	550.73
Cemetery	(800.00)	(3,253.50)
Interest/Dividend Income	66.78	1,180.37
Fundraising	629.23	(21,785.22)
Special Offerings Received	0.00	1,710.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Other Income	(103.99)	(6,049.62)
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	0.00	1,229.30
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Other Expense	0.00	1,229.30
Net Other Income	(103.99)	(7,278.92)
Net Income	<u>(5,683.69)</u>	<u>(41,902.21)</u>

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Consistory 7pm	2	3	4
5 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Worship 10 am Children's Church	6 Labor Day Church office closed	7	8 Bible Study 7pm	9 Choir practice resumes 7pm	10	11
12 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am Rally Day Blessing of Backpacks	13	14	15	16 Choir 7pm	17	18
19 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am Blessing of the Prayer Shawls Children's Church	20 October Newsletter articles due	21	22 Bible Study 7pm	23 Choir 7pm	24	25
26 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am	27	28	29	30 Choir 7pm	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.	

Happy
**LABOR
DAY**



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

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

September

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

