

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

November 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

There's a lot of talk these days about science vs. faith. Many people seem to be on one side of the debate or the other. Some scientists claim their work disproves the existence of God. Some people of faith claim they don't trust scientists, insisting that God will protect them from all harm even a deadly, invisible virus—forgetting that is something God never promises.



Since I grew up fascinated with biology and chemistry and with the dream of healing people, I believed in science, too, and was frustrated when church leaders dismissed my questions. Could the God who gave us such curious minds, capable of insight, observation, and knowledge, really expect us not to use those gifts? Was it not God who told humankind to name the creatures (Gen. 2:19)? Did God not ask us to observe creation and consider its wisdom ("Go to the ant... consider her ways," Prov. 6:6)? Exodus tells us that those imbued with the Spirit of God are capable of intelligence, knowledge, and craftsmanship to do what needs to be done to survive and thrive in the world. Knowledge is a Spiritual gift; science is a part of that.

Science and religion are only as incompatible as we make them. We live in a time when science is making possible technological advancements that were a mere fevered dream even as few as ten years ago. We might think that these advancements are something to be feared—and there is wisdom in caution—but if the church does not embrace them, we risk being left behind.

For decades, the church has complained that young people were abandoning God and capitulating to secular culture. Yet the fastest rising "religious" group in the United States refer to themselves as "spiritual but not religious" (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/06/more-americans-now-say-theyre-spiritual-but-not-religious/>). This suggests to me that young people aren't abandoning *God*, but are rather *leaving behind a church that no longer speaks in ways that are relevant to their lives.*

Trinity is a church whose bold vision is one seeking to grow into a "**vibrant, diverse community,**" and we cannot do this without embracing those for whom science and spirituality coexist peacefully. We cannot become who it is God is calling us to be without thinking about the justice issues young people (and Jesus!) are so committed to. We cannot be the Body of Christ without showing the compassion and vision Jesus displayed throughout his life, death, and resurrection. We cannot fully live into our claim to love people where they are if we do not also meet Millennials and Generation Z where they are.

As we look toward the future, we see many young people rejecting church because too many churches draw a line between faith and science, between God and justice. Let us be a church that erases that line and embraces the blending of faith, justice, and science. Let us be a church that meets all people where they are no matter what their age or interests are. Let us be a church committed to helping people find their spiritual footing. Let us believe in a God who is still speaking, not just to people who believe exactly as we do, but also to those who see God in non-traditional spaces, in the beauty of the sciences and pursuit of justice for all people!

Pastor Jessica



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/06 – Gordon Persinger
 11/08 – Jackie Nave
 Jamie Nave
 11/10 – Norma Lee Reed
 11/14 – Alice Hann
 11/18 – R. Michael Miller
 11/20 – Karen Haines
 11/29 – Adriana Brown
 11/30 – Benjamin Krawczyk
 11/30 – Judy Miller

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 – Doug Rhoten
 12/11 – Laci Saunders
 12/18 – Doris Phelps
 12/19 – James Price
 12/20 – Pastor Jessica Townsley
 12/27 – Amy Miller



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/15 – Shirley and Ron Zumbrun
 11/19 – Charlene and Doug Rhoten

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 in November Tuesday and Thursday, but subject to change. Working from the home office Mondays and Wednesdays.

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
 December Newsletter– Monday, November 22



HELPING HANDS NOVEMBER

Greeters for the month of November:

November – 7, 14, 21 - Sue & Doug Myers
 November – 28 – Sandy Sanders & Jackie Nave

November 7

Ushers: Marge Bailey

November 14

Ushers: Deb Persinger

November 21

Ushers: Deb Persinger

November 28

Ushers: Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

Nov. 07 – Belva LaMotte
 Nov. 14 – Jackie Nave
 Nov. 21 – Robert Miller
 Nov. 28 – Marge Bailey

Media Operator:

Nov. 07 – TBA
 Nov. 14 – MB Brainerd/Elwin Wagner
 Nov. 21 – TBA
 Nov. 28 – MB Brainerd/TBA

Children’s Church Leaders, Helpers:

Nov. 07 – Leslie Brooks, Lexi Larson
 Nov. 21 – Amy Schultz, Lexi Larson



November Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, November 3 @ 7pm
 Worship Committee – Monday, November 1 @ 6pm

2022 BUDGET MEETING

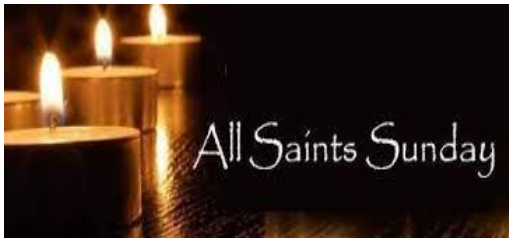
We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/12/21, immediately following the church service to vote on the 2022 financial budget.

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.



[Don't forget to change your clocks](#)



Calling All the Saints!

Sunday, **November 7**, is All Saints Sunday. In memory of those Saints in our lives who have gone on before us, we are calling for everyone to **bring in a photo of a loved one** so that we can remember them during worship. A special "All Saints" prayer will be said during worship with a time for lifting up the names of those pictured.



On **November 14, 2021**, during Sunday worship, we will take some time to honor our present and former service members. You are invited to bring in a photo of a loved one who serves to be displayed in the sanctuary. Join us as we recognize the extraordinary work of those men and women who have volunteered to serve our country so sacrificially. Trinity UCC thanks you!



Lighting of the Crèche

Join us in person or online at 6:45pm on Friday, **November 26** (Black Friday) for the lighting of our magnificent crèche. This year, our event will look slightly different, but will be no less meaningful. Due to COVID protocols, we will not serve refreshments or hold our usual open house. Instead, to mark the occasion, Pastor Jessica is planning to offer a reading of the Nativity Story from the gospel and offer a special prayer for the gathered community. Bundle up and join us for this special event!

Worship Schedule: November 2021

November 7, 2021 – All Saint's Sunday
10:45 a.m.

Week 4 - The Church: The Communion of Saints

Scripture: Acts 4:32-37; Matthew 28:16-20

November 14, 2021 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
10:45 a.m.

Week 6 - What's the UCC Got to Say?

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16; John 17: 20-25

November 21, 2021 – Reign of Christ,
10:45 a.m.

Scripture: Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Theme: Christ is King!

Holy Communion

Advent Worship Series: The Redemption of Scrooge

Join us each Sunday in Advent as we talk about the teachings of Jesus in the story of the great Charles' Dickens *A Christmas Carol!*

November 28, 2021 – First Sunday of Advent,
10:45 a.m.

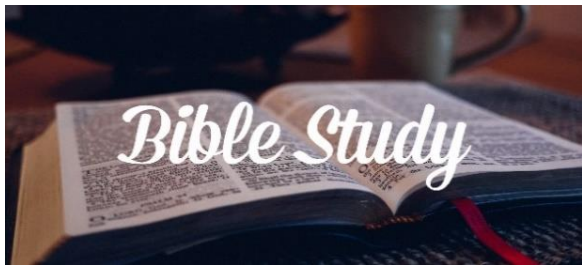
Scripture: Galatians 6:7-8;

Matthew 20:1-16

Theme: Bah! Humbug!

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee held a meeting on October 20, 2021. While the content of these meetings is confidential, we will announce the date of the next meeting when it has been scheduled.



Pastor Jessica would like to invite those interested to join her for our final few sessions on **November 10 and 17** via Zoom at 7pm. We are working through the *LISTEN UP! Bible Study of 1 Corinthians*. There's still time to get involved even if you have missed the other sessions. Please contact Pastor Jessica if you need more information or have questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Trinity UCC Christmas Giving Tree 2021

We are working with NESAP to provide us with a local family for us to support during this holiday season.

Due to Covid when we set up the Giving Tree you can take a tag, purchasing and wrapping the gift or if you prefer not to shop for gifts the Care Committee will shop for you. If making a monetary donation, please make the check out to Trinity UCC and note on the bottom of your check for Care Fund Holiday Gifts.

Through work and commitment from our small church community we will give light and bright smiles to a local family on Christmas morning. God Bless and thank you once again for your support.

Deb Miller 443-487-1843

October 2021 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Previous Minutes: September 01, 2021, minutes were accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jessica continues her outreach with members via phone calls and notes. Community engagement continues with Tuesday and Thursday morning devotions. Bible Study on 1 Corinthians has begun. Apostle's Creed Series will go from October 10-November 14. Pastor will work with Leslie to make video to share during Catocin Association's 40 Days of Prayer. On November 3rd we will stream Wednesday Prayer service. Advent and Christmas activities are being planned. Pastor Jessica will be on vacation the Sunday after Christmas.

Treasurer's report: September report was submitted by Sue Myers, she noted the biggest expense was property insurance.

Committee Reports

Property: The fire alarm is working but there is a ground fault, Doug will try to contact owner of company that did the installation to find where the ground is located so this can be fixed.

Finance: Cornerstone CD is maturing, committee is deciding what to do with money, may cash out CD and wait until market is better, then reinvest. Sue Myers is requesting budget information so budget can be prepared for next year and approved by congregation.

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: On Sunday, Sept. 12th, cookies were handed out after church to help celebrate youth Sunday in Trinity.

Christian Education: The Rock Garden project has been postponed, Leslie is planning on getting more rocks and paint. Christian Ed committee will be meeting with Pastor Jessica, and are hoping to make actives broader to appeal to older children.

Worship: Communion with pre-prepared elements proceeds smoothly. Music selections seem to be enjoyed by everyone. It was noted that when we have a guest pastor not wearing the lapel mic, we need to make sure the pulpit mic is

turned on and provide a mic at the communion table. Next meeting will be on Monday, November 1, 2021

Caring Ministry: No Requests

PPR: Meeting will be held on October 20th.

Unfinished Business

Dale Fantone Memorial Service: Pastor Jessica has a supporting role, Pastor Lucy will officiate.

Blessing of the Pets: Sunday, October 10th in the parking lot, Pastor Jessica will bless animals and distribute tags for collars.

Current Covid Protocol: People are supportive and following the recommended Covid Protocol of wearing a mask while in the church building to protect those most vulnerable.

New Business

2022 Budget: Sue Myers is requesting budget information so budget can be prepared for next year and approved by congregation.

2022 Consistory Members: Karen Haines term as Elder will expire at end of 2021.

Black Friday/ Lighting of Crèche: After town decides plans for Black Friday we will make decision about lighting of crèche.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 03, 2021 at 7:00 pm via zoom.



Food Bags for Backpacks

Trinity UCC has restarted our Food Bags for Backpacks donation program for Manchester Elementary School this school year. 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.



FUNDRAISING TEAM UPDATE

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

With the holidays approaching, what better time to support Trinity UCC! Use gift cards to make your on-line holiday purchases safer! Plus buy gift cards to give as presents to those that are hard-to-buy-for. With almost 300 retailers you shouldn't have a problem finding what you want.

For the holiday season we will be placing gift card orders on 11/14, 11/30, 12/5, and 12/12. If you haven't participated in the program and would like more information please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, wsmdem@comcast.net



NEEDS FOR NESAP

Instant Potatoes, Jell-O, Pudding, Stuffing, Mixed Veggies, Applesauce, Helper, Canned Chicken, Soups, Canned Potatoes, Gravy, Breakfast Bars, Juice/Drinks, Jelly, Pasta Sides, Canned Fruit, Brownie Mix, Breakfast Bars, Cake Mix/Frosting, Muffin mix, Mac & Cheese, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Shampoo, Diapers Sizes 4,5,6

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

NESAP'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE

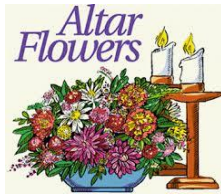
HAMPSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

ADMISSION: FREE

Come celebrate Christmas with NESAP. We will be holding our Annual Christmas Sale at Hampstead Baptist Church. (328 Hanover Pike, Hampstead, MD) This is a new venue for us and we are very grateful for the folks at the Hampstead Baptist Church for allowing us to hold our event there.



Christian Education

On November 7 and November 21, we will be finishing "Running the Race". A collection of 24 verses will have been introduced to our young attendees. They have talked about How God sticks with them, stays beside them and use their strengths to overcome obstacles. Breaking News!!! We will have Children's Church for all the Sundays in Advent.

The Community Rock Garden launched on October 17, 2021. We are painting rocks for sharing and have included 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). The Cross

garden has 2 trays to place rocks in, anyone can make one or take one. Now known as Rocktober and Rockvember; the time to put our artistry to work.

The children began learning about elements of worship and learned the symbolism of the light of Jesus. They look forward to hands exploration of the candle lighter and how it works.

There is a rocker and mat in the back of the sanctuary for small ones who need a quiet space to remain in worship.

We will be creating worship bags for each child for the opposite weeks of children's church. The bags will have a craft that can be completed in the pew during service and other unique items (age appropriate). Stay tuned for the full information.

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

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!!



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 –

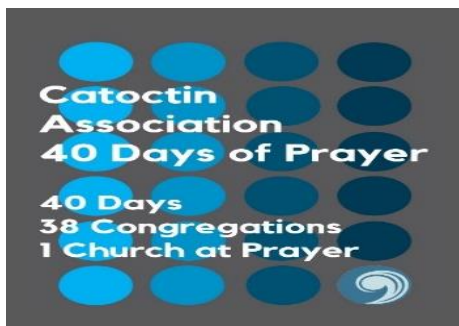
www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

TUCC Community Rock Garden

Its "Rocktober" and Jesus Rocks

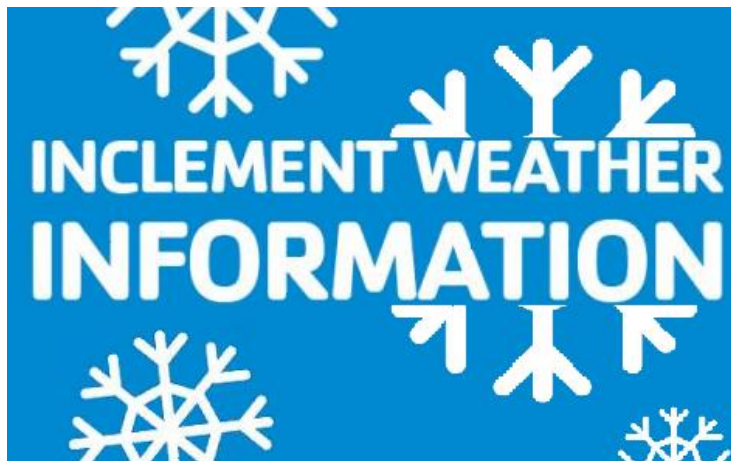
You can spread the faith and share the love with creating your own unique rocks for our garden. You can also take one with you and place it somewhere special. Ideas? - picture rocks, message rocks, funny rocks, prayer rocks and love rocks

Do you like painting? Turn the humble rock into works of art. Many of these rocks have the special mission of passing on kindness. Painting rocks and setting them in public areas spreads goodwill. One tiny little rock, one random act of kindness can help people connect and make a huge difference in our world.



40 Days of Prayer Update

On **October 6**, the Catoclin Association of the UCC kicked off its 40 Days of Prayer initiative. We will continue praying for each of our individual churches Monday-Saturday until the Spring Association Meeting on November 20. Trinity will be prayed for on **November 11, 2021**. Pastor Jessica will lead a service of prayer from Trinity on **November 17, 2021**, which will be streamed LIVE on the Catoclin Association's social media. Please join us in praying for Trinity and all the churches in our special covenantal bond!



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 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



Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Sep 21	Jan - Sep 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	60.00	530.00
Loose Offering	40.00	362.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	1,185.00
Regular Offering	3,765.00	46,092.14
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	25.00
Total Income	3,865.00	48,194.14
Expense		
Educational Ministries	28.48	447.06
Evangelism	188.20	621.41
General	2,753.03	21,982.85
Personnel	6,732.36	66,250.56
Property	93.25	3,042.56
Music	0.00	277.00
Worship	9.53	757.31
Total Expense	9,804.85	93,378.75
Net Ordinary Income	(5,939.85)	(45,184.61)
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	0.00	(4,053.50)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	1,180.37
Fundraising	404.75	(23,090.89)
Special Offerings Received	260.00	1,970.00
Total Other Income	664.75	(7,895.29)
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	0.00	1,347.23
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	1,347.23
Net Other Income	664.75	(9,242.52)
Net Income	(5,275.10)	(54,427.13)

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Worship Committee 6pm All Saints Day	2	3 Consistory 7pm	4 Choir 7pm	5	6 Remember to change your clocks
7 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion All Saints Sunday Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9	10 Bible Study 7pm	11 Choir 7pm <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13
14 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls	15	16	17 Bible Study 7pm	18 Choir 7pm	19	20
21 Reign of Christ Worship 10:45 am Holy Communion Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags	22 December newsletter articles due	23	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Church office closed	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent Worship 10:45 am	29	30	Church office: Open 9- 1 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.			

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P. O. BOX 730
MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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