

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

February 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

“Lord, I would run for you, loving the miles for your sake. I would climb the highest tree to be that much closer.”

-Mary Oliver

Over the last six months, you've heard me quote the poet Mary Oliver often in my sermons. During her lifetime and now after, her words have moved people of faith on their personal spiritual journeys. In her poem, “Coming to God: First Days,” she speaks to the lengths seekers will go to connect with the Holy One.

Sometimes, we think of seekers as being those who are disconnected from Christianity or those who have not yet become believers. Yet, Oliver, herself, was a person of deep and abiding faith and would have considered herself a lifelong seeker. I, too, am a seeker.

If we are honest, I think most of us are on a lifelong quest to connect with God. Sometimes that connection is clearly visible, while at other times, we might feel remote from God, our bond with the Creator obscured by life's very real and trying circumstances. It is not that God is not always with us, but that sometimes life interrupts our clarity; it can pull our consciousness away from the profound awareness that we are not alone.

In scripture, we read, “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1). The psalmist was constantly seeking God. Throughout

the Bible, we can see that there are times when the awareness of God's presence is clearer than others, but we also see that the psalmist continues the vital task of *seeking* God. In Psalm 9, we are reminded that what matters isn't that we are always awakened to Divine presence, but that we *continue to look for it*. “You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you” (v. 10).

As I write this column, we have just had the first real snowstorm of 2022. It's easy to look outside and see the light reflecting off the snow. On days like this one, brightness shining all around, it's easy to forget winter's very real lack of sunshine and life. Many struggle with seasonal depression this time of year, particularly when it's cold and grey and there's no pretty snow reflecting the sunlight we all so desperately need for our well-being. But just as we are reminded by the psalmist of God's real and abiding presence in our waking and our seeking, we should be encouraged that the sun is shining above the clouds, even if its warmth on our faces is hidden. As we continue through the coldest time of year, we should hold onto the assurance that after the long months of winter, comes the new life of spring when we, like the psalmist and “like the wanderer” in Oliver's poem, can finally quiet the unnecessary noise around us enough to once again find solace in God's presence which is always around and within us, whether we know it or not. Stay strong in the Lord, friends. Onward.

Pastor Jessica



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/04 – Carolyn Brooks
 2/06 – Eva Gebhardt
 2/09 – Sam Martin
 Bryce Davidson
 2/11 – Isaac Townsley
 2/12 – Michelle Stevens
 2/14 – Robert Saunders
 2/15 – Donna Miller
 2/17 – Penny Ludwig
 2/19 – Leslie Brooks
 2/25 – Samuel Carter
 2/26 – Margaret Bailey
 2/28 – Robert Miller

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/02 – Dorothy Gardner
 3/05 – Mason Brown
 3/09 – Sandra Sanders
 3/15 – Nichole Saunders
 3/18 – Andrew Wagner
 3/30 – Arlene Nott
 3/31 – Colby Wagner



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/24 – Judy and Leon Miller

MARCH ANNIVERSARYS

3/13 – Shirley and James Wood

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. Currently, she is working primarily from home due to the rise in COVID cases in our county.

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 21



February Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, February 2, @ 7pm
 Worship Committee – Thursday, February 17, @ 6pm
 PPR – TBA



HELPING HANDS FEBRUARY

Greeter for the month of February:

Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of February:

Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

Feb. 06 – Robert Miller
 Feb. 13 – Sue Myers
 Feb. 20 – Marge Bailey
 Feb. 27 – Amy Schultz

Media Operator:

Feb. 06 – Karen Haines/MB Brainerd
 Feb. 13 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
 Feb. 20 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
 Feb. 27 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Sanders

Children’s Church for the month of February

February 6, 2022: Leslie Brooks
 February 20, 2022: Amy Schultz

Congregational Meeting, January 30, 2022

On Sunday, January 30, 2022, immediately after the regular Sunday service, we will hold our Annual Trinity Congregational meeting. All committees will give their annual reports, and then the congregation will be asked what does Trinity mean to you? We will have an open discussion on how congregants feel Trinity is filling their spiritual needs.

COVID-19 Protocol Trinity UCC

With Covid-19 cases on the rise, in order to protect the most vulnerable among us, 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.

Worship Schedule: February 2022

February 6, 2022 – Fifth Sunday Epiphany

10:45 a.m.

Theme – Stepping Forward Amidst Uncertainty

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11

February 13, 2022 – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

10:45 a.m.

Theme – Sermon on the Plain

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26

February 20, 2022 – Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

10:45 a.m.

Theme – The Golden Rule

Scripture: Genesis 43:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38

February 27, 2022 – Transfiguration Sunday

10:45 a.m.

Theme – Astounded at the Greatness of God

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-43a

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee meets on January 26th. Next date to be determined.

January 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Previous Minutes: December 01, 2021 minutes were accepted

Treasurer's report: Report submitted by Sue Myers displayed several large unplanned expenses for 2021, these included New Computer, New Copier, Boiler repair, final payment of for the new roof. The good news is gains on investments almost match our 2021

deficit. In conversation we discussed Stewardship planning. Treasurer's report was accepted

Pastor's Report:

Committee Reports

Property: Doug Rhoten reported the flower bed is completed. It is still in the works with Risk Management to repair the fire alarm ground fault. Sanctuary heat thermostat has been replaced. Discussions about reviewing BGE service contract which expires in June 2022.

Finance: Treasurer Sue Myers reminded of our expected deficit in 2022

Personnel No Report

Evangelism: No report.

Christian Education: Report submitted by Leslie Brooks. Amy Schultz organized and led Children's Church for our Advent season 2021. Amy provided balsa take home ornaments for each week to be painted by the group. Amy and Leslie will be planning for the lessons for 2022 and the possibility of VBS this summer 2022.

Worship: Worship Committee supported the following activities and events: Advent and Christmas Worship Services Dec 5, 12, 19, 24 Eve, 26, Jan 2; Dec 21 Longest Night Service via Zoom, Communion celebrations: Dec 5, 24, Jan 2.

Caring Ministry: Delivered Christmas gifts and gift cards to TUCC's sponsored family.

PPR: Meeting will be January 26, 2022

Unfinished Business / Updates

Latest Covid Protocols: We voted to continue in person worship with mask required and to keep the 3 front pews empty

2022 Consistory Members: One more person is still needed.

Congregational Meeting: Will be held January 30. 2021 immediately after the regular service, in

person and via Zoom, where people will be able to stay and hopefully others can join via ZOOM or Facebook. We do not want it to just be going over our Annual Reports. Possibly some open dialog about where we are or changes people would like to see.

New Business

2022 Consistory Officers

President: Robert Miller / Vice President: Doug Rhoten

Treasurer: Sue Myers / Assist Treasurer: Debra Miller

Secretary: Debra Miller / Assistant Secretary: Leslie Brooks

2022 Consistory Committee Assignments

Personnel: Doug Rhoten & Belva LaMotte

Finance: Sue Myers

Property: Doug Rhoten & Doug Myers

Evangelism: Belva LaMotte

Christian Education: Leslie Brooks & Amy Schultz

Caring Ministry: Debra Miller & Karen Haines

Worship: Temporary Liaison – Pastor Jessica

PPR: Robert Miller / Leslie Brooks

Rental Space: Rental contract is being written.

Shrove Tuesday: A decision was made not to have Shrove Tuesday this year

Next Meeting: Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 02, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Food Bags for Backpacks **2021-2022 School Year**

Trinity UCC continues our Food Bags for Backpacks donation program for Manchester Elementary School. 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 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, dining out, clothes, travel, movies, etc. It's easy and it's rewarding! Last year we had 10 participants and received \$853 to support our fundraising.

Orders will be submitted the 2nd Sunday of the month and you'll receive your cards the 3rd Sunday. If you 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, Body Wash, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Shampoo, Tomato Sauce, Diapers Sizes 2,3,4,5,6



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



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

Happy Valentine's Day



Christian Education

February Newsletter Christian Education

Children's Church is the first and 3 third Sunday of each month.

February 6, 2022: Leslie Brooks

February 20, 2022: Amy Schultz

Lent begins Wednesday March 2, 2022, and our time will reflect the Lord's Resurrection.

March 6, 2022: Leslie Brooks

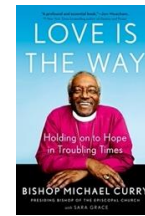
March 20, 2022, Amy Schultz

Lexi Larson will be assisting as scheduling allows.

We are 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 and the month they will be available in 2022.

We welcome anyone who would like to assist and contribute time to our youth and the special times we are planning, this includes activities and vacation bible school. Please contact Leslie Brooks or Amy Schultz

Church-Wide Read!



Calling all readers! Do you love to read? Are you looking for a little extra spiritual nourishment? Do you like book clubs but have no time to attend? Then Pastor Jessica has good news for you! Beginning in February, we will do a church-wide read. Every 3-4 months, we will pick a book. Then, you'll read at your own pace. After we've had some time with the book, we will meet for one Zoom session as a group to discuss what we loved/learned/wondered about as we read our selected book.

We'll start with Bishop Michael Curry's "Love is the Way" and meet at the beginning of May to discuss. Please contact Pastor Jessica for more details! Let's celebrate our gift of literacy with spiritual nourishment!

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Dec 21	Jan - Dec 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	155.00	805.00
Loose Offering	422.00	864.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	1,270.00
Regular Offering	5,945.00	61,572.14
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	25.00
Total Income	6,547.00	64,536.14
Expense		
Educational Ministries	25.43	531.32
Evangelism	0.00	821.41
General	1,922.94	27,192.07
Personnel	6,810.74	85,679.80
Property	0.00	3,042.56
Music	0.00	1,224.00
Worship	327.97	1,450.36
Total Expense	9,087.08	119,941.52
Net Ordinary Income	(2,540.08)	(55,405.38)
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	(5,653.50)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	1,930.45
Fundraising	1,646.38	(20,795.45)
Special Offerings Received	1,085.00	3,611.00
Total Other Income	2,731.38	(4,808.77)
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	778.83	2,352.00
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	778.83	2,352.00
Net Other Income	1,952.55	(7,160.77)
Net Income	(587.53)	(62,566.15)

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Consistory 7pm	3	4	5
6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls	14 	15	16	17 Worship Committee 7pm	18	19
20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags	21 March Newsletter articles due President's Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 Transfiguration Worship 10:45 am	28	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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3229 York Street
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Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
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