



Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

January 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

We all have memories from our childhoods. If we're fortunate, we remember fondly family trips, school events, holidays, birthdays, and many things in between. Some of us kept journals or have photo albums we can return to during nostalgic moments in later years. None of our stories start at birth and then stop until we're in our 30s—none of us, that is except for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have two gospel accounts of Christ's birth and four filled with details of his ministry, But there is only one story from his childhood that we are privy to, told to us in Matthew 2:19-23 and Luke 2:39-50.

In this story, Jesus is a twelve-year-old boy on a trip to Jerusalem with his family for a Passover feast. When adolescent Jesus lingers after his family has left, they retrace their steps and return to the temple to find him teaching full-grown men! As a mother of young boys, I read this passage and Mary's anxiety leaps off the pages at me. What on earth was Jesus thinking? Perhaps only fellow adolescent boys can fully answer that question. His response is almost a bit too human pre-teen: "Why were you searching for me?" Brave kid, responding to his mother that way! Of course, as much as Jesus is fully human, we know, too, that he is fully divine. In this moment, we see hints of that divinity as he notes there is nothing to worry about because he is, after all, in his Father's house.

His question in many ways echoes the question posed to the women outside the empty tomb: Why

do you search for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). "Why do you search" is a question we all must ask ourselves at one point or another in our lives. At first, the answers to these questions seem obvious. Mary searches for Jesus as a mother searches for a lost son. The women search for their loved one the way we all search for loved ones who have passed on from this life to the next. But the question isn't so simple; it begs us to dig deeper: Why do you search?

Throughout our lives of faith, we are presented with big questions that challenge and, if we let them, deepen our faith. Faith, as you know, is a practice developed over time. Faith doesn't just drop from the sky, it's not easy. Faith is not certainty. Faith is more than mere belief. Faith consists of components of both belief and doubt. Faith asks big things of us, just as Jesus does in this passage. Faith requires us to search for wisdom from the deeper well which God has provided. Faith requires us to seek.

Jesus sits with the men in the temple and then before his parents asking tough questions—perhaps the toughest of them all is also the simplest: Why do we search? We have just come through a joyous season and are entering into a new year. As we seek the risen Jesus in the new year, perhaps we will also let Jesus seek, find, and use us for his purposes. Perhaps we will let Jesus "take the wheel" just long enough to open up new roads for our lives, faith, and church community.

Pastor Jessica



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01/05 – Earl LaMotte
Douglas Myers
- 01/06 – Claire Vey
- 01/18 – Norman Greenholtz
- 01/20 – Charlene Rhoten
- 01/23 – Nancy Koerner
- 01/24 – David Bailey

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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARYS

- 2/24 – Judy and Leon Miller

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 always subject to change. She works 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.

Pastor Jessica’s vacation

Pastor will be on vacation starting December 26th thru January 2nd and January 10th thru 17th. Contact Robert Miller for pastoral care 410-374-4455.

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
February Newsletter– Monday, January 17



January Meeting Dates Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, January 5 @ 7pm
Worship Committee – Tuesday, January 18 @ 6pm
PPR – Wednesday, January 26 @ 7pm



HELPING HANDS JANUARY

Greeters for the month of January:

Robert and Deb Miller

January 2

Ushers: Deb Persinger

January 9

Ushers: Sandy Sanders

January 16

Ushers: Deb Persinger

January 23

Ushers: Deb Persinger

January 30

Ushers: Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

- Jan. 02 – Robert Miller
- Jan. 09 – Belva Lamotte
- Jan. 16 – Jackie Nave
- Jan. 23 – MB Brainerd
- Jan. 30 – Marge Bailey

Media Operator:

- Jan. 02 – Karen Haines & Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 09 – Karen Haines & Sue Myers
- Jan. 16 – Karen Haines & MB Brainerd
- Jan. 23 – Elwin Wagner & Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 30 – Elwin Wagner & MB Brainerd

Children's Church Leaders for the month of January

Amy Schultz and Leslie Brooks

Annual Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting: January 30, 2022 immediately after service, people will be able to stay and hopefully others can join via ZOOM or Facebook

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.

Worship Schedule: January 2022

January 2, 2022 – Second Sunday After Christmas

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

Guest preacher: Rev. Lucy Brady

Holy Communion

January 9, 2022 – Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

January 16, 2022 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5, Luke 4:14-21

Guest preacher: Rev. Lucy Brady

January 23, 2022 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Luke 4:14-21

January 30, 2022 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Cor. 13, Luke 4:21-30

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee plans to meet on January 26th, prior to the annual meeting.

December 2021 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Previous Minutes: November 03, 2021 minutes were accepted

Treasurer's report: November report was submitted by Sue Myers. A \$50,000 CD has matured and been moved to the Endowment account. A \$56,000 deficit is expected for the year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jessica shared her detailed report. An outreach letter was sent with budget report. She is working on the Facebook calendar to keep it active with posts, led Prayer service for association on November 10th.

Children's Time during Advent will be about Christmas around the world, outside crèche was lit on Black Friday. She would like to have moments in January where people share what the church means to them and why they support the church.

Committee Reports

Property: Doug Rhoten reported the brick has been chosen for the flower bed and the mason hopes to start work next week. Also Risk Management will return to confirm problem is with board and will then order the part.

Finance: Proposed budget information was reviewed distributed, voting will take place on December 12th at the end of service. Annual reports should be sent to Sue by January 15.

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: 50 packets of cookies were purchased and handed on Black Friday.

Christian Education: No report

Worship: Pastor Jessica has ordered an attachment for her mic. Much of the decorating has been completed for Advent. The pew candles will be installed on December 19th after church and be taken down the next week if we have enough people to help. The remaining decorations will come down January 9th after church. Balsam ornaments have been purchased and will be given out Christmas Eve.

Upcoming services include Longest Night via ZOOM Dec 21 at 6:30, Christmas Eve Service at

6:30. Christmas Cantata (music only) December 26. Pastor Lucy will be preaching on Jan 2 and 16 while Pastor Jessica is on vacation. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Caring Ministry: A box is in place for Toys for Tots for new unwrapped toys need to be delivered to Savannah Seal by December 16th. We have received a family from NESAP, Deb Miller is the contact person to get gifts or make monetary donation.

PPR: Meeting will be January 26

Unfinished Business / Updates

2022 Consistory Members: Amy Shultz will join consistory. One more person is needed to get 8 members.

Latest Covid Protocols: We plan to keep our protocols in place.

Black Friday/ Lighting of Crèche: About 50 people attended lighting. Cookies were purchased and distributed to visitors

Christmas Eve Service: Service of lessons and carols will begin at 6:30. LED candles will be used so people are not removing masks to blow out candles.

Congregational Meeting: January 30. 2021 immediately after service, people will be able to stay and hopefully others can join via ZOOM or Facebook

New Business

Installation of Consistory Members: January 9, 2022

Next Meeting: Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

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

Trinity UCC has restarted 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.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

The holidays are over but fundraising is not. You can still use gift cards for your own personal purchases and support Trinity UCC! For example, some of the regularly purchased gift cards include Sheetz, Walmart, Weis, CVS. These are just a few of the local vendors that participate.

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



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



A Thank You from TUCC Care Fund

Debbi Miller and Karen Haines want to extend a huge thank you to our Trinity Congregation for you continuing support for the Cold Weather Shelter and Christmas Giving Tree. Providing food to feed the homeless at the shelter and purchasing Christmas gifts to bring joy to struggling families. Throughout the year members of Trinity give so graciously give to fill the shelves at NESAP helping NESAP meet the needs of those less fortunate than us. God has truly blessed us to continue TUCC's Commitment to Community and we thank you for your love of support. Deb & Karen



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



Christian Education

Newsletter Christian Education

Children's Church

Amy Schultz has led Children's Church Advent season 2021. Learning of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in conjunction with the lighting of the candles of the Advent wreath.

Visit the area downstairs to see what our youth have been up to. Wreaths for Thanksgiving, Ornaments for decorating and many new verses from the bible are shared.

The Community Rock Garden at The Cross garden has 2 trays to place rocks in, anyone can make one or take one. Children's church participants have been busy creating additions.

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 and the month they will be available in 2022.

Amy and Leslie will continue the Children's Church Activities into 2022 on the first and third Sunday each month.

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

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Nov 21	Jan - Nov 21
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	60.00	650.00
Loose Offering	40.00	442.00
Miscellaneous	50.00	1,245.00
Regular Offering	4,065.00	55,332.14
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	25.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Income	4,215.00	57,694.14
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	447.06
Evangelism	0.00	821.41
General	1,968.57	25,122.88
Personnel	6,319.50	78,724.23
Property	0.00	3,042.56
Music	947.00	1,224.00
Worship	215.08	1,122.39
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expense	9,450.15	110,504.53
Net Ordinary Income	(5,235.15)	(52,810.39)
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	(200.00)	(5,653.50)
Interest/Dividend Income	336.07	1,930.45
Fundraising	297.25	(22,441.83)
Special Offerings Received	316.00	2,526.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Other Income	749.32	(7,540.15)
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	118.04	1,573.17
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Other Expense	118.04	1,573.17
Net Other Income	631.28	(9,113.32)
Net Income	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	(4,603.87)	(61,923.71)

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 Second Sunday after Christmas Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	3	4	5 Consistory 7pm	6 Epiphany	7	8
9 The Baptism of Christ Worship 10:45 am Installation of Consistory members	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Blessing of Prayer Shawls	17 February Newsletter articles due	18 Worship Comm 6pm	19	20	21	22
23 Third Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am Blessing of Foodbags	24	25	26 PPR Meeting 7pm	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am	31	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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Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
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