

# 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

## March 2022

### ***From the Pastor's Desk***

“For you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

-Genesis 3:19

In the book of Genesis, God reminded the first human that he was made from dust and would one day return to it. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are imposed on our foreheads as we take in those same words and contemplate our own fragility and need for God's saving grace. We are reminded of where we come from so that we may continue to move forward toward redemption.

Lent is a time of contemplation, prayer, fasting, and giving back. It is a time when our faith calls us into deeper relationship with God as we travel with Jesus toward the cross and resurrection. We begin with Ash Wednesday when ritual calls us back to the dust (from) whence we came so that we might begin to unfasten ourselves from the things of this world that keep us at a distance from the Holy One. At that point, many of us choose to give something up, to make a sacrifice by abstaining from something as a form of fasting. In that way, we remember Jesus's sacrifices and fasting for 40 days as he was tempted in the wilderness.

Last year, some of the people in my life made a point of not giving something up for Lent because, they said, “we've given up too much already.” For me, this was a misunderstanding of the reasons why we sacrifice for this prescribed period. The things we gave up (and are still giving up, in many cases) to protect one another from catching a potentially deadly virus had a purpose that was different from the Lenten practice, which calls us to fast from something specific and thereby draw us closer to God. Many of my friends instead decided

merely to take on a spiritual practice rather than engage in any kind of fasting. I decided to do both.

While I still stand by my assessment of the differences between the enforced “giving up” of the COVID years and the voluntary sacrifice associated with Lent, there is wisdom in taking on spiritual practices during Lent. Ultimately, the purpose of a Lenten sacrifice is to draw us closer to God—and those spiritual practices we took on for 40 days certainly had the same impact.

So, my message to you for this month is that if giving something else up seems too hard for this time in which we live, then I would invite you to take something on. Engage in meditation daily. Learn a new form of prayer (perhaps using Protestant prayer beads). Set aside fresh, dedicated time each day to read scripture or pray the Psalms. Begin to keep a gratitude journal in which you jot down a few things you're thankful for each day. Go for a walk outside every day in God's creation, intentionally engaging in the practice of being present with what God has created (taking note of what you see, hear, and smell). Light a candle each day as you think about those in your life who need prayer. Begin a journal of your spiritual journey. Read a Lenten devotional each day. Join us for a Lenten exploration of *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. If you aren't currently attending worship, make a commitment to show up for all 6 Sundays of the Lenten journey. Whatever you choose, let it connect you with the Spirit and draw you into deeper connection with the One who created you, sustains you, and who will one day call you home. Onward.

*Pastor Jessica*



**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

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 4/05 – Donna Alban
- 4/07 – Stanley Hamilton
- 4/13 – Edward Phelps
- 4/15 – Jessica Larson
- 4/16 – Nathan Schultz
- 4/18 – Wayne Sanders  
Ron Larson
- 4/28 – Jasmine Carter  
Amy Schultz
- 4/29 – Megan Marchand



**MARCH ANNIVERSARYS**

- 3/13 – Shirley and James Wood

**APRIL ANNIVERSARYS**

- 4/01 – Debra Miller and Robert Miller
- 4/03 – Marge and David Bailey
- 4/15 – Sue and Doug Myers

**Contacting the Pastor and the Church Office**

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

Pastor Jessica plans to be in the church office on Tuesday and Thursday and will continue to work from home the rest of the week. This remains subject to change.

She is off on Friday (her Sabbath day) and Saturday.

For non-emergencies, please call the church at (410) 374-2727. Please notify us of any hospitalizations in the congregation.

**Church Communications Submission Dates**

- Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
- April Newsletter– Monday, March 21



**March Meeting Dates Zoom**

- Consistory – Wednesday, March 9, @ 7pm
- Worship Committee – Tuesday, March 15 @6pm
- PPR – Wednesday, March 23, @ 7pm



**HELPING HANDS MARCH**

**Greeters for the month of March:**

- March 02 – Belva Lamotte
- March 06 – Robert Miller
- March 13 – Belva Lamotte
- March 20 – Robert Miller
- March 27 – Robert Miller

**Ushers for the month of March:**

- Deb Persinger

**Lay Readers:**

- March 02 – Robert Miller
- March 06 – Jackie Nave
- March 13 – Robert Miller
- March 20 – Marge Bailey
- March 27 – Sue Myers

**Media Operator:**

- March 02 – Karen/Sandy
- March 06 – Elwin/Sue
- March 13 – Elwin/Sue
- March 20 – Karen/Sandy
- March 27 – Karen/Sandy

**Children’s Church for the month of March**

- March 06, 2022: Leslie Brooks
- March 20, 2022: Amy Schultz/Lucy Brady

## **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, **mask are required**. 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: March 2022**

**March 2, 2022 – Ash Wednesday (7pm)**  
**Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

**March 6, 2022 – First Sunday in Lent**  
**Theme – God in the Darkness**  
**Scripture: Exodus 13; Matthew 22**

**March 13, 2022 – Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Theme – Dark Emotions**  
**Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-11; Matthew 11:28-30**

**March 20, 2022 – Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Theme – Eyes of the Blind**  
**Scripture: Acts 9:1-9; Matthew 6:25-34**

**March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Theme – Entering the Stone**  
**Scripture: Psalm 139:7-16; Mark 4:26-29**

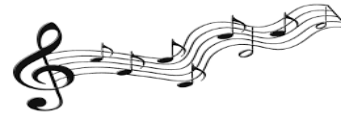


### **Get Involved in Worship**

As COVID numbers continue to decline and we feel safer in worship, we are seeking more volunteers to serve in various roles. If you are interested in serving as a lay reader, media operator, greeter, or usher, please let Pastor Jessica know. Even if you are unable to make it to worship in person, there are ways you can serve as a reader from home. Many hands make much lighter work for everyone!

### **Pastor Parish Relationship Committee**

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee meets on met on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will meet again March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The content of these meetings is confidential.



### **Cammeron's Music Notes**

Greetings,

Hope all is well. Spring is coming soon. We will soon celebrate Easter. A time to reflect on Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It's necessary that we reflect on our own life's. We have experienced joy and pain. Some of us have experienced life-threatening illness or tragedy. However, God was able to resurrect us.

During, the time of Lent and Resurrection Sunday, let's reflect on Jesus' goodness, mercy and love. I will listen to songs like: *Because He Lives, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Oh the Blood of Jesus, The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power, The Old Rugged Cross, Down at the Cross and He Decided to Die*. Those songs mentioned will be my reflection of how EXCELLENT Jesus is to us all.

My suggestion is to find songs that will allow you to reflect on Jesus' goodness, mercy and love.

Side note: If you have any song suggestions for church service, please email me at [cammeron.williams86@gmail.com](mailto:cammeron.williams86@gmail.com). If you would like to participate in the Easter service, please let me know.

Thank you and God Bless  
Cammeron



## February 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights

**Previous Minutes:** January 05, 2022, minutes were accepted

**Treasurer's report:** Manchester Fire Dept. thanked us for opening our Sanctuary in the event it was needed for Gary Epley's funeral. We also received a thank you from Hoffman Homes for the donation that was sent.

**Pastor's Report:** Beginning to offer to meet with members masked and socially distanced at the church (in the fellowship hall). When the temps are 60+ will offer to visit homebound members outside at their homes. Planned and led funeral and graveside service for Alice Hann. Planning a Baptism service for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Developed and kicked off Church-Wide read series (beginning with Bishop Michael Curry's *Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times*).

### **Committee Reports**

**Property:** Doug Rhoten reported the flower bed is completed and paid for with a donation. Risk Management has repaired the fire alarm.

**Finance:** Treasurer, Sue Myers advised we received donations to the Memorial Fund in honor of Alice Hann. The Contract has been signed and we are receiving funds from the rental space

**Personnel:** Discussions on possibly reviewing and revising the music budget.

**Evangelism:** No report.

**Christian Education:** Leslie Brooks advised ordered and received 20 books for youth to participate in Easter Service with the Lord's Prayer. Books will be given to all youth in person or delivered to households. VBS Program "FOOD TRUCK" on a roll with God, planning for mid to late July.

**Worship:** Pastor Jessica will temporarily be the liaison with the Consistory and will facilitate the Worship Committee meetings and Sandy will take minutes. Sandy will schedule the Worship Assignments. Pastor Jessica is considering a series during Lent on the gift of how we walk through the dark or get through difficult times. Ash

Wednesday, March 2, discussed in person service, possible "drive thru". Lenten Bible Study, no decision made at this time. Holy Week, discussed possible service on Maundy Thursday (April 14), also discussed Easter Vigil Saturday (April 16). Next Worship Meeting Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**Caring Ministry:** Received one request and referred them to HSP and NESAP

**PPR:** Meeting will be March 23, 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.

### New Business

**Pastor's Microphone:** Still working on why the mic cuts out during children's time, until we figure it out a stand is in the front of the Sanctuary with the handheld mic for the Pastor to use.

**Pastors Installation:** Save the Date, installation of our Pastor will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

**Cross / Walkway Dedication:** Discussions for possible spring / summer dedication if Covid positivity percent continues to decline.

**Next Meeting:** Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 09, 2022, at 7:00 pm via Zoom



### Food Bags for Backpacks

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month and you'll receive your cards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. If you would like more information please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, [wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto: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



### **Morning Prayers:**

Join Pastor Jessica on "Facebook LIVE" each **Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m.** for a short devotional and prayer time together. Find us on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](https://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



### **Christian Education**

#### **March 2022 Newsletter Christian Education**

Children's Church is the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

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

March 6, 2022: Amy Schultz

March 20, 2022: Leslie Brooks and Lucy Brady

April 3, 2022: Leslie Brooks

April 17, 2022 Amy Schultz

(Helpers TBD)

Worship bags for our youth are now available for all youth on for the opposite weeks of children's church. The bags have crafts and other unique items Kids keep the contents inside and return the bags to be refilled. Eventually each young person will design their own bag to keep, and it will house

items that they have chosen. Pick up your bag on the way in look for your name or age group.

We have begun our own “book club” by reading and distributing the book “THE MOST IMPORTANT PRAYER OF ALL: Stella learns the Lord’s Prayer by Adam Hamilton. Understanding this prayer concludes with participation in Easter Services. Each child receives their own copy. If you would like a copy(ies) to pick up or delivered to your home, Call the office, or contact Leslie [lcbrooks1011@outlook.com](mailto:lcbrooks1011@outlook.com)

Final Dates for Food Truck VBS are July 26 to July 29. It will be in the evening.

Amy is spearheading Earth Day and children’s church will begin a yearlong mission in reflection of this.

After Easter we will be traveling all over the world with Passport to Peace.

Leslie has begun the researching a large screen TV for Children’s Church and future events.

We continue to have printed activities, crayons, and clipboards available very Sunday. Our Thanks to Diane who keeps this up to date.

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

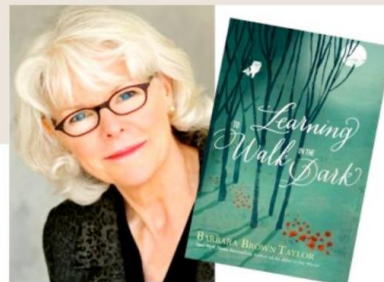
ASH WEDNESDAY  
*March 2*



Two Ways to Participate:

- Ashes-to-Go (11am and 6pm)
- In Person and Facebook LIVE 7pm

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

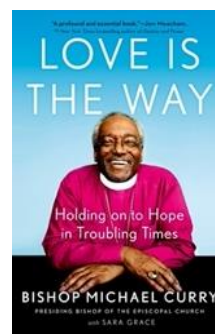


Thursdays at 7pm on ZOOM  
MARCH 3-APRIL 7

Beginning March 3, we will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm via Zoom to discuss Barbara Brown Taylor’s book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. The book “seeks to rehabilitate what we have learned to fear—the dark” by reflecting on how we live our lives when the light isn’t shining so brightly on us. Taylor teaches us how to rethink the “dark” and develop a spirituality that works not just in the bright light of day, but also at nighttime.

If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Jessica for a book and the Zoom information.

### Church-Wide Read!



There’s still time to get in on our church-wide read. In February, we began reading a book together as a church. This is how it works: Every 3-4 months, we will pick a book. Then, we’ll read at our own pace. After we’ve had some time with the book, we will meet for one Zoom session to discuss what we loved/learned/wondered about as we read our selected book.

We’re currently reading Bishop Michael Curry’s “Love is the Way” and will meet at the beginning of May to discuss.



Shred Event 2022

## SAVE THE DATE

The community shred event hosted by Manchester Trinity United Church of Christ is returning on **May 12 from 5-7 pm** at the church.

Bring all those papers and records you have saved for two years to disappear. The Shred Mill will be providing the equipment and personnel to do this safely and securely by driving through

Good will donations will be accepted and used towards funding VBS.

We will be asking for only 8 sponsors at 25.00 each to be listed with the advertisements to offset the cost of the truck. We have already had 3 businesses reserve spots. If you know a business that wants a lot of advertising for a wee bit of money, contact Leslie as there is only 5 spots left.



## Vacation Bible School 2022

FOOD TRUCK PARTY... On a roll with God

**July 26,27 28 and finale with local Food Trucks on July 29. Times To be determined.**

Ready to cook up some fun? Food truck Party invites children of all ages to get on a roll with God as a parade if Food trucks roll into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party.

“At the center of the Food truck Party is a special truck called “On a Roll.” Here kids (or chefs) will learn from the food trucks top Chef along with DJ cupcake about the Daily specials (daily learnings) which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches sus to turn to God to meet our needs.”

A donation of 25.00 will provide a t-shirt and CD for each participant along with all the fun and games and lessons from both the old and New Testament.

Volunteers for one or all four evenings are needed and appreciated.

Contact Leslie, Amy or the office.



Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

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	<u>Jan 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Communion Offering	25.00
Loose Offering	118.00
Miscellaneous	10.00
Regular Offering	5,662.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	5,815.00
Expense	
General	4,622.21
Personnel	10,418.82
Property	315.16
Music	349.00
Worship	300.00
	<hr/>
Total Expense	16,005.19
Net Ordinary Income	(10,190.19)
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Cemetery	(105.00)
Fundraising	364.25
Special Offerings Received	250.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Income	509.25
Other Expense	
Special Offerings Disbursed	267.98
Transfers	0.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Expense	267.98
Net Other Income	241.27
Net Income	<hr/> <hr/> <u>(9,948.92)</u>



## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Morning Prayers 8 am Facebook	2 Ash Wednesday 	3 Lenten Book Study 7pm Zoom	4 World Day of Prayer	5
6 First Sunday In Lent Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	7	8 Morning Prayers 8 am Facebook	9 Consistory 7pm	10 Lenten Book Study 7pm Zoom	11	12 Don't forget to change your clocks
13 Second Sunday In Lent Worship 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	14	15 Morning Prayers 8 am Facebook  Worship Committee 6 pm	16	17 Lenten Book Study 7pm Zoom  St. Patrick's Day 	18	19
20 Third Sunday In Lent Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags	21 April newsletter articles due	22 Morning Prayers 8 am Facebook	23 PPR Meeting 7pm	24 Lenten Book Study 7pm Zoom	25	26
27 Fourth Sunday In Lent Worship 10:45 am One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	28	29 Morning Prayers 8 am Facebook	30	31 Lenten Book Study 7pm Zoom	Church office: Open 9- 1 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.	

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

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

March

## 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](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)  
Web site: [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

*Ash Wednesday*



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

