

# 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**

**September 2022**

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

"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt."

- Frederick Buechner  
From *The Hungering Dark*

On August 15, 2022, American writer, poet, preacher, and theologian Frederick Buechner died at the age of 96. Buechner's writings have been influential for many ministers who have made their way from a life in the secular world to a life with God—especially if they entered this profession full of doubt and questions.

Buechner invited us to allow faith and doubt to exist beside one another. He saw doubt not as the opposite of faith, but rather as a part of it. For those who hold onto our faith despite our doubts, his work is especially meaningful.

In the wake of his passing, I was reminded of the quote above, which speaks of the potential impact of our interactions with others. There is no such thing as a meaningless life or empty interaction with another human being. What we do matters. Who we engage with makes a difference. How we behave toward others has ripple effects.

Many of you know that the death of Frederick Buechner wasn't the most significant loss in my August. My grandfather, Carlton "Fuzzy" Coon, passed away peacefully on August 12 at the age of 89. Pop-pop, as I called him, was not a man of the faith. He didn't go to church every Sunday. In fact, I don't remember him ever going to church

unless there was party in the fellowship hall. He didn't talk about God. His impact on my faith was different than Buechner's. Believe me when I say, however, that it was no less substantial. Pop-pop didn't teach valuable lessons with words; he taught them through his example.

When I was a teenager, family friends went through a crisis: the father was diagnosed with cancer and his wife was forced to take odd jobs to pay the bills as he underwent treatment. One day, his wife told my mom that they had received an anonymous gift in the mail. She was perplexed because she could not think of where this mysterious money came from or who she had to thank for it. That money made all the difference for their family, keeping them afloat until the husband returned to work. Years later, remembering this anonymous gift, they, too, were able to help someone who had fallen on hard times. God only knows how far the ripples extended beyond that.

Years later, we found out that it was my grandfather who had donated the money. He saw a need, had the means to help, and gave generously because he knew what it was like to need help in challenging times. For him, it was a small gesture, but for the family, it made all the difference.

When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), he ended with an instruction: "Go and do likewise." Is someone in trouble? Can you help? This month, I ask that you remember the words of Buechner or the example of Fuzzy as you engage with others. What you do matters. Go and do likewise.

*Pastor Jessica*



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 09/09 Ronald Zumbun
- 09/10 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
- 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
- 10/30 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 Tuesday/Thursday and working from home on Monday/Wednesday. \*This is subject to change.

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 19



### Meeting Dates - Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, September 7 @ 7pm  
Worship Committee – Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ 6pm  
PPR – Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ 7pm



### HELPING HANDS SEPTEMBER

#### **Greeters for the month of Sept:**

- Sept. 04 – Belva LaMotte
- Sept. 11 – Sue Myers
- Sept. 18 – Belva LaMotte
- Sept. 25 – Robert Miller

#### **Ushers for the month of Sept:**

Deb Persinger

#### **Lay Readers:**

- Sept. 04 – Robert Miller
- Sept. 11 – Amy Schultz
- Sept. 18 – Jackie Kulp
- Sept. 25 – Leslie Brooks

#### **Media Operator:**

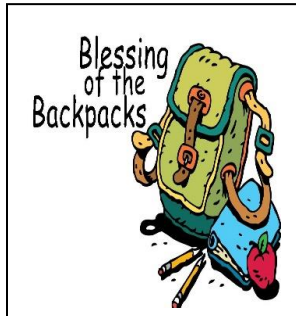
- Sept. 04 – Karen Haines/Sue Myers
- Sept. 11 – Karen haines/Sandy Sanders
- Sept. 18 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- Sept. 25 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers



### *Return to 10:45 am Worship*

Beginning **September 11**, we will return to Worship at 10:45 am.  
Children's church will be on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month  
Communion is the first Sunday each month.

### **Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks** **September 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45**



### **Worship Schedule: September 2022**

**September 4, 2022 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Movie: Sleeping Beauty vs. Maleficent**

Theme: Knowing the Whole Story

Scripture: Genesis 15-16; Proverbs 18:17; Luke 19:1-10

**September 11, 2022 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, Rally Day**

Theme – Molded by the Potter

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139; Luke 14:25-33

**September 18, 2022 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Guest Preacher – Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, Associate Conference Minister

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Luke 6:1-13

### **People's Choice Sermon Series:**

**September 25, 2022 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

People's Choice Sermon Series Begins!  
Theme and Scriptures: To Be Determined

### **People's Choice Series**

Is there are particular topic or scripture you'd like to hear a sermon about? Maybe you have always had a question about something in the Bible or about God, but haven't wanted to ask.

Well, now's your chance to be heard! Beginning September 25, Pastor Jessica will offer a "People's Choice" worship series based on **your** suggested questions/scriptures/themes.

You can offer your ideas directly to Pastor Jessica or do so anonymously by placing them in her mailbox (outside the church office) at any time. Please submit your ideas and suggestions prior to Sunday, September 18 to be considered.\*

*\*Pastor Jessica will do her best to incorporate all suggestions, but cannot promise all will be covered. The Holy Spirit ultimately decides what gets preached!*

### **Going once, going twice: It's a Hymn Auction!**

Do you have a favorite hymn you'd like to hear in worship? This fall, you will have the opportunity to hear it. You are invited to a silent hymn "auction!"

Simply choose a hymn, gather a donation, and "bid" on a Sunday (first come, first served).

Cammeron and Pastor Jessica will work together to ensure you hear that hymn during worship on your selected Sunday.

An auction bid (sign-up) sheet will be available in the narthex beginning September 1!

## Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met on July 20. We will meet again September 27. The content of these meetings is of a confidential nature in order to facilitate a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregation. These meetings continue to be positive, fruitful discussions.



## Trinity UCC Prayer Garden Dedication/ Cross Walk

Please join us for the dedication of our beautiful prayer garden, featuring our new brick walkway, planter and hand hewn wooden cross.

This dedication will be held on **Sunday, October 02, 2022 at 12:00 noon** immediately following our regular Sunday service.

This dedication is to recognize and thank all those who purchased brick back in 2020 and also those who contributed to the building of the original cross and flower garden.



## Morning Prayers: Hiatus

Morning Prayer time with Pastor Jessica will be on hiatus for the month of September.

Be on the lookout for once weekly "Faithful Five" devotional time to be shared via our Facebook page beginning this month!

Find us on Facebook –

[www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

## Trinity UCC Covid Protocol

**- While masks are no longer required, we strongly recommend that you wear a mask while inside the building, particularly if you are unvaccinated or immunocompromised.**

**- You are welcome to sing in worship, however, we ask that family groups remain socially distanced from one another in order to limit exposure.**

**We appreciate everyone's understanding these last two years of pandemic and joyfully look forward to what's to come!**



## Cammeron's Music Notes

Greetings to all,

Fall is soon coming. School time is here. This is the most wonderful time of the year! My first year as a Music Teacher in a public school, I have anticipated on what to teach students about music. I love working with kids and finding ways to get them interested in music. The VBS at Trinity was the best experience for me. I was able to be in the background teaching children the songs and dance moves. I found complete joy knowing that I had a children's choir to lead.

I am grateful to have opportunities to direct choirs because that is my passion. I hope that I can gather children and adults at Trinity to build a choir. I would love to hear the harmonies of voices, feel the connection of one another, and to depend on each other to help balance the spiritual sounds of gospel music.

The joy of directing, teaching and composing music is my passion. I am glad that Vacation Bible School allowed me to show you this summer.

Be Bless  
Cammeron

## **August 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights**

Previous Minutes: July 21, 2022 minutes were accepted with two corrections

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Jessica reported Sheresa Simpson-Rice (Association Conference Minister) will be preaching on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. Church Wide Book read, "*Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*" planning to meet with her Aug 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.

September:- Confirmation classes begin. October 2 or 9 – St. Francis Sunday and Pet Blessing, October-November Worship Series: People's Choice. October-November Bible Study: *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara Essex

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's report:** Sue reported Payroll reflects negative due to "Quick Books" pulls out the day before it hits the employees direct deposit accounts.

VBS to be adjusted refunded to Leslie vs Donations

**Property:** Doug Rhoten spoke with Peter Allen who is still looking into our options for Altar railings.

A discussion was held and it was approved for Risk Management to perform an annual certification inspection on our Fire Alarm System at the cost of \$600.00

**Finance:** No Report

**Personnel:** No Report.

**Evangelism:** Belva reported 30-35 snacks were prepared in advance and made available each of the four nights for Vacation Bible School (VBS). Everyone enjoyed Manna & Worms, Flour and Oil, Fruit Pizza & Trail Mix. Also in additional support MJ's Café` donated soft pretzels

**Christian Education:** Leslie reported no Trinity Youth on Sundays in August; start back up on Sept 4, 2022, and Sept 11<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day which will begin Sparkhouse Holy Moly curriculum for Trinity Youth.

Worship bags need to be finished and brought on Rally Day so we can fill them with Christian goodies.

New sign to be made for Trinity Youth Club area (formerly Children's Church) and will be meeting on the following Sunday's: September 4, (11 Rally Day), 18, October 2, 16, November 6, 20, Advent starts Nov 27, December 4 and 18.

**Worship:** Hope to incorporate the youths' participation in the worship service.

August at the Movies: Disney Edition (No Youth Club in August)

8/7 Moana- Theme: Healing a Broken World

8/14 Beauty and the Beast- Theme: Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

8/21 Encanto- Theme: Communication is Key

8/28 Sleeping Beauty vs. Maleficent Theme:

Knowing the Whole Story

Rally Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> will include blessing of the backpacks.

Pastor Jessica offered the idea of a "Hymn Auction" as a fund raiser

**Caring Ministry:** No Report

**PPR:** Next Meeting to be determined

### **Unfinished Business/ Updates**

Cross/Walkway Dedication is scheduled immediately following Sunday Worship service October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon

Stewardship Planning:

- What kind of "Fundraisers" would the congregation like to have?

- Consideration for renting out more church space

- Dedicated drive to meet a specific goal

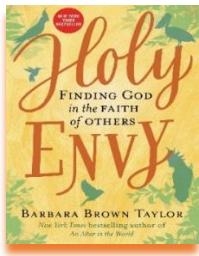
### **New Business**

Service Time Change – Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup> service will begin at 10:45

Blessing of the Pets – October 2<sup>nd</sup> or October 9<sup>th</sup>

Next meeting – Wednesday – September 07, 2022 at 7:00 via Zoom





### **Church-Wide Read!**

It's not too late to join our church-wide read: *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. This book helps us explore how we might find commonality across lines of religious difference so that the distance between us and "the other" might not be so wide.

We will meet September 21 at 7pm via Zoom.

Please let Pastor Jessica know if you need help getting a copy of the book!



### **Christian Education Newsletter Trinity Youth Club**

Get ready for Rally Day Sunday September 11 – Blessing of the backpacks as we kick off a new school year.

New videos from Holy Moly for Trinity Youth Club during Children's Church time on the first and third Sunday of every month. The big screen tv is amazing to watch the stories from the Old Testament told by Holy Moly figures.

We need about 2 dozen clean empty gallon size milk jugs with lids by the end of September for a super-secret project later in the fall. There is a box labeled Jugs in the Youth area of fellowship hall to put them in. Thank you 😊

ART works needed..... We want our youth to decorate and enhance their area with their own created art works. We have so much talent and creativity.

Books for all ages FREE, FREE, FREE... please take any books from our bookshelves in the youth area of the fellowship hall and enjoy them at home. We have way too many books and want to share them anyway we can besides the little free library.

### **Trinity Youth meeting schedule**

- Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> RALLY DAY.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>
- November 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Advent starts Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Worship bags**

Worship bags will be finished decorating on September 4 at Youth Time, so we can fill them. Bring yours in Rally Day (September 11, 2022) if it is at home. They will be ready by September 25<sup>th</sup> service, along with the Children's Worship Bulletins that are printed each week and placed on the clipboards.

We love any volunteers to help with our club, projects and events coming up. Email us at [trinitychristianeducation2727@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychristianeducation2727@gmail.com) or check in with us at worship.

Sincerely, Leslie, Amy, and Lucy

### **Vacation Bible School: FOOD TRUCK PARTY, on a roll with GOD.**

Twenty kids and 12 + volunteers and parents came to FOOD TRUCK PARTY July 26 – July 29.

Bible stories, music, dancing, crafts, snacks and collecting for our missions kept us all very busy and joyful for the four evenings. On Friday evening we had real food trucks in the lot and many community members came and enjoyed our party as well.

The kids and congregation raised \$ 518.67 by the little goes along way penny and change drive for local food insecurity, and donated 113 lbs. of food, filling 19 bags, to NESAP. Thank you everyone who helped make this a huge success.

Pastor Jessica, Cammeron, Belva, Sandy, Sue, Debbie, Marge, Amy, Tiffany, Leslie, Shay, Lucy, Jeff, Robert, Diane, Donna, and Pam. God Bless you.

The verse we all knew by heart at the end of the week.

**Give us this day our  
daily bread.**

**Matthew 6:11**



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### Raise Right / Scrip Gift Cards

This month I'm going to demonstrate how much Tucc earns from folks buying gift cards. Let's say on a monthly basis I purchase the following cards. These will be used to pay for groceries, gasoline, prescriptions and health products, and household items.

		<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Total earnings</u>
Weis	5%	\$ 100.00	\$ 5.00
Sheetz	3%	\$ 100.00	\$ 3.00
CVS	6%	\$ 100.00	\$ 6.00
Walmart	2.5%	\$ 100.00	\$ 2.50
		<u>\$ 400.00</u>	<u>\$ 16.50</u>
			12
			<u>\$198.00</u>

Let's assume we have 20 family units willing to purchase gift cards on a monthly basis.  $\$198 \times 20 = \$3,960$  that Tucc could raise in 1 year with no effort. I know everyone does not spend \$400 a month on food, gas and supplies but even at \$200 a month we would be close to \$2,000.

Please consider taking part in this program.

Orders go in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or [wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net).



Fall begins September 22, 2022



### 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, usher, or helping with children's church**, 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!



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.



### **FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

Food, cleaning supplies, personal care items or gift card donations may be dropped off at the Food Pantry during store hours. Stop in the Thrift Store and ask a staff member to assist you.

Canned potatoes, canned pasta, oatmeal, jelly, pasta sides, pasta sauce, gravy, rice sides, cups of soup, baked beans, mac & cheese, paper towels, toilet paper, soap bars.

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

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	Jun 22	Jan - Jun 22
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Rental Income	300.00	1,500.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	485.03
Communion Offering	25.00	338.00
Loose Offering	5.00	553.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00
Regular Offering	4,416.19	32,963.19
VBS Donations (Educational)	100.00	250.00
	4,846.19	36,119.22
Total Income		
Expense		
Educational Ministries	418.49	748.45
Evangelism	200.00	414.47
General	2,694.95	16,151.22
Personnel	6,351.14	43,359.22
Property	463.00	2,718.16
Music	600.00	949.00
Worship	215.00	1,244.25
	10,942.58	65,584.77
Total Expense		
Net Ordinary Income	(6,096.39)	(29,465.55)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	(750.00)	(2,270.18)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.01	337.44
Memorial Fund	0.00	375.00
Fundraising	322.75	1,907.04
Special Offerings Received	100.00	1,799.20
	(327.24)	2,148.50
Total Other Income		
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	184.00	1,632.39
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	184.00	1,632.39
Total Other Expense		
Net Other Income	(511.24)	516.11
Net Income	(6,607.63)	(28,949.44)



## September 2022

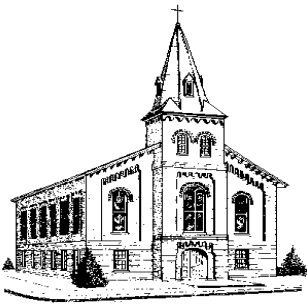
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church office:</b> Open 9 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.				1	2	3
<b>4 Thirteenth</b> Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion <u>Worship 10 am</u>  Children's Church	<b>5</b> Labor Day  Church Office Closed	6	<b>7</b> Consistory 7pm	8	9	10
<b>11 RALLY DAY</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost <u>Worship 10:45 am</u>  Blessing of the Backpacks	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>18 Fifteenth</b> Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am Guest Preacher Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice  Children's Church Blessing of the Prayer Shawls	<b>19</b> October Newsletter articles due	20	21	<b>22</b>  Fall begins	23	24
<b>25 Sixteenth</b> Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am	26	<b>27</b> Worship Comm 6pm  PPR 7pm	28	29	30	

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P. O. BOX 730  
MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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