

# 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**

**November 2022**

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

“Let the word of Christ dwell in richly... and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” – Colossians 3:16

After all that we have experienced since the dreaded word COVID entered our collective vocabulary, it is easy dwell on all we have lost. And who could blame us, really? Prior to this, pandemics were so uncommon that the mere thought of all we needed to do to stay safe overwhelmed us such that so many turned away from any guidance at all. One of the hardest losses for many church goers was singing in worship. To date, there are still churches where singing either hasn't returned to the sanctuary or is so restrained it has lost its power.

Not having grown up consistently going to church, my experience with music in worship is varied. Most of what I experienced were hymns sung to organ or piano, stripped down of all the flash we see in contemporary evangelical churches today. For those who find God in such churches, all that flash can represent the awesome power of God, engaging the senses in uniquely modern ways. Songs and hymns in this case, become an event unto themselves, one that I have rather happily avoided in the smaller UCC churches of my formal ministry years. The quieter presentation of a small congregation joined in song accompanied by a single instrumentalist might seem less effective by comparison to more ostentatious productions. Yet, I know what it meant for churches to get back to singing “after” the pandemic because I know how bereft parishioners were at its absence. It's been a joy to return singing to our sanctuary, despite

the growing pains we experience as we find our footing.

There's a long history of song in worship and celebration of the Divine. Humans have a unique ability among land-dwelling animals in God's kingdom to raise their voices in song with rhythm and meaning that can be felt in varied circumstances. Unlike the rest of the animal kingdom, we are unique in our desire to lift songs of lament in hard times. We don't stop singing because it's tough. If anything, painful situations make us sing louder. We sing when we are jubilant as at a rock concert or as sorrowful as at the funeral of a beloved grandparent. People united in song at protests during the movement for Civil Rights in the United States in the 60's just as they do when they gather for the eucharistic sacrament, feasting together at Christ's table.

Perhaps we cannot play music, carry a tune in the sturdiest of backpacks, or don't know all the hymns of our churches. Even still, we know the power of song to unite and fortify us. That's why we desired so greatly for the return of song in our worship. It's back now, friends, so we should do as Paul commanded and again be moved by the hymns we sing to God with gratitude in our hearts! Our hymn auction is ongoing and open to all who wish to hear a beloved hymn as we gather to worship the God who loves us more than we can imagine. In this month of thanks, lift your voices gratefully with me in song. Let us follow in the steps of our Christian forebearers remembering the power of God's most gracious gift of music.

Onward in song!

*Pastor Jessica*



### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/06 – Gordon Persinger  
 11/08 – Jamie Scheeman  
           Jackie Kulp  
 11/10 – Norma Lee Reed  
 11/18 – R. Michael Miller  
 11/20 – Karen Haines  
 11/30 – Benjamin Krawczyk  
           Judy Miller

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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



### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

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

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

12/31 - Pastor Jessica and Donna Ashcroft

### **Church Communications Submission Dates**

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday  
 December Newsletter– Monday, November 28

### **Contacting the Pastor and the Church Office**

To reach Pastor Jessica in an emergency, please call her at 240-285-9357 (cell). She can also be reached by email at [pastortuccmd@gmail.com](mailto:pastortuccmd@gmail.com).

**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 mornings and works from home on Monday/Wednesday.\*

\*This is subject to change. Please contact her if you would like to set up a visit.

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



### **Meeting Dates - Zoom**

Consistory – Wednesday, Nov. 2 @ 7pm  
 Worship Comm - Wednesday, Nov. 22 @ 6pm  
 PPR – TBA



### **HELPING HANDS NOVEMBER**

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

Nov. 06 – Belva LaMotte  
 Nov. 13 – Robert Miller  
 Nov. 20 – Belva LaMotte  
 Nov. 27 – Robert Miller

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

Deb Persinger

#### **Lay Readers:**

Nov. 06 – MB Brainerd  
 Nov. 13 – Sue Myers  
 Nov. 20 – Robert Miller  
 Nov. 27 – Amy Schultz

#### **Media Operator:**

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

### **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!"

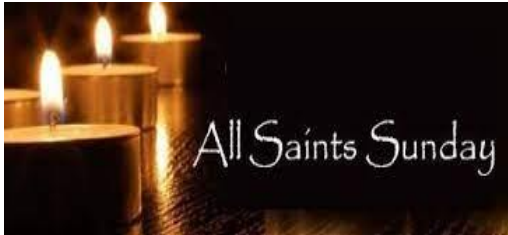
Simply choose a hymn, gather a donation, and "bid" on a Sunday (first come, first served).

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 is available in the narthex.



**Don't forget to change your clocks**  
**Saturday, November 5th**



### **Calling All the Saints!**

Sunday, **November 6** is All Saints Sunday. In memory of those saints in our lives who have gone on before us, we are calling for everyone to **e-mail**

**(office.trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)** or **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 13, 2022**, during worship, we will take some time to honor our present and former service members. You are invited to send or 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 6:15pm on Friday, **November 25** (Black Friday) for the lighting of our magnificent crèche. This year, we are getting back to tradition. As she did last year, to mark the occasion, Pastor Jessica will offer a reading of the Nativity Story from the gospel. Cookies and hot cocoa will be served inside as we finally open our doors to the community for this momentous night. Bundle up and join us for this special event!

### **2023 BUDGET MEETING**

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on **Sunday, 12/11/22**, immediately following the church service to vote on the 2023 financial budget.

### **Pastor Parish Relationship Committee**

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



### **Faithful Five**

Each Thursday, be on the lookout for Pastor Jessica's weekly "Faithful Five" devotional time to be shared via our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

## Worship Schedule: November 2022

### **November 6 – All Saints Sunday/22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

\*Communion will be celebrated.

### **November 13, 2022 –Veteran’s Sunday/23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

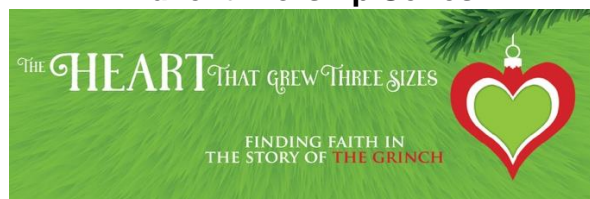
Scripture: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Luke 20:27-38

### **November 20, 2022 – Reign of Christ/24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Scripture: Psalm 121; Luke 18:1-8

\*Communion will be celebrated.

### **Advent Worship Series:**



### **November 27, 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Scripture: Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 2:1-7

Theme: When Everything is Wrong

### **December 4, 2022 – Second Sunday of Advent**

Scripture: Isaiah 60:3-6; Matthew 3:7-12

Theme: When Christmas Isn't Christmas

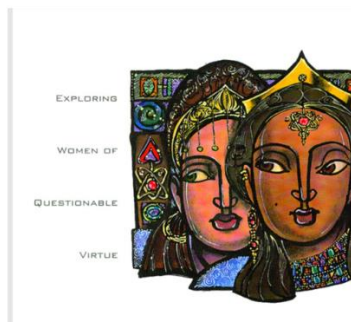
\*Communion will be celebrated.

## **Bad Girls of the Bible Study**

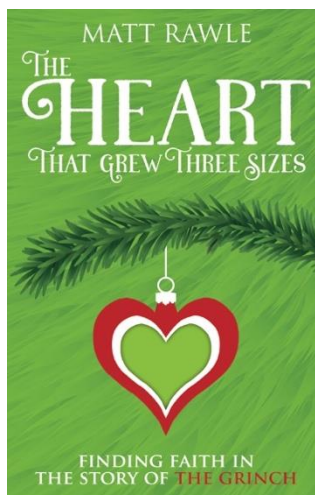
*Bible Study:*  
**BAD GIRLS  
OF THE BIBLE**  
BASED ON THE BOOK

*by Barbara J. Essex*

**TUESDAYS 7PM  
VIA ZOOM  
OCT 4-NOV 8**



**\*Final weeks: November 1 & 8\***



## **Advent Bible Study**

Join us at 7pm via Zoom on Thurs December 1, 8, and 15 and **in person** after worship on *Sunday* December 18, for *The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes*. This Study will expand on themes highlighted in worship each Sunday in Advent. It's a wonderful, hopeful, enjoyable series. You do not want to miss it!

\*Please let Pastor Jessica know ASAP if you are interested in participating so that she can secure a book for you.



## **Trinity Christmas Giving Tree 2022**

The holiday season is fast approaching we have plans to sponsor one family this year. NESAP will be providing us with the needs of a single parent family with 2 or 3 younger children. Once we receive the information, we will have gift tags available for our congregation to purchase, wrap and bring into church. Due to Covid if anyone prefers not to shop, we are also accepting monetary donations to the Care Fund and we will shop.

TUCC is a small and mighty church and our congregation always finds a way to help families in need and for that we are blessed and thankful for bring smiles and comfort to others during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. God Bless and thank you once again for your support. Debbi Miller / Care Fund Chairperson



### **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!

### **October 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights**

**Pastors report:** Pastor Jessica reported she has started doing "Faithful 5" devotionals, recorded "Live" and shared in text form (aiming for once a week)

Attended meetings with Consistory, Christian Ed, Worship Committee, PPR, and continued meetings with Cammeron.

Advent Planning: "The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes" "The Grinch Series will be the theme for Advent. Pastor Jessica will be taking the Advent course, "The Christmas Stories with John Dominic Crossan"

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's report:** Sue submitted her report, it was accepted as written

**Property:** Altar safety railings, Doug R reported it would cost about \$5,000.00 for wood railings. Sue is thinking Wayne may have some ideas; she is going to check with Sandy. Yearly Fire Alarm System Inspection, Risk Management said since they just did the panel that we could wait until next year to begin the inspections

**Finance:** Sue is working on the 2023 budget. Sue will have the preliminary budget by our next Consistory Meeting. Notice to the Congregation on November 20, 2022, and vote on December 11, 2022.

**Personnel:** Plans to meet clarifying and updating the Music Minister Contract

**Evangelism:** Belva reported 29 attended fellowship in celebration of the Cross Walk Prayer Garden dedication. Everyone enjoyed the meal which consisted of chicken salad sandwiches, ham salad sandwiches, potato chips and several fruit trays. Belva would also like to extend a special thank you to all who donated food, helped with set up and clean up.

**Christian Education:** Leslie reported Worship Bags are available when there is no youth time. Acolyte training has begun. October began Trick or Trade the story of Jacob and Esau. The youth created their own style of lanterns with milk jugs, candles and fairy lights.

Trinity Youth Schedule: October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> (Advent starts November 27<sup>th</sup>), December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>)

Nathan will be helping hand during Advent.

**Worship:** David will substitute for Cammeron during the month of October.

St Francis Sunday / Pet Blessing, October 09, 2022. (Pet blessings starting at 1:00 pm in the church parking lot, treats will be offered). Hymn Auction continues.

All Saints Sunday, November 06, 2022, a bowl will be filled with sand and small candles to be lit and Cammeron will sound a chime at the time each candle is lit.

Veterans Sunday, November 13, 2022, requesting pictures of veterans be sent via email to be incorporated into power point presentation.

**Caring Ministry:** Working with NESAP on plans to adopt a single parent family with 2 or 3 small children to sponsor during the Thanksgiving Food, Christmas Food and Christmas Gifts.

**PPR:** Next meeting date TBD (to be determined)

### **Unfinished Business/ Updates**

Blessing of the Pets will be Sunday, October 9, 2022 beginning at 1:00 PM

## **New Business**

Bells Across America: Robert will ring the bell at 10:00 am Sunday, October 09, 2022 for 1 minute to honor firemen who have passed away.

Black Friday – November 25<sup>th</sup>: Belva will find out when the town is lighting the Christmas Tree, we will plan to light the Crèche shortly after the town tree lighting and open our doors providing cookies, hot chocolate and coffee.

2023 Consistory Members: No new members are needed at this time.

Discussions planning on more frequent fellowships

Exterior doors, parking lot side, need painting.

Next meeting – Wednesday – November 02, 2022 at 7:00 via Zoom

long mural of these and upcoming fabulous creations.

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.

Acolyte training is going well, and the acolytes will be placed on the worship schedule with the reader for that service.

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 and Amy



## **Christian Education Newsletter**

### **Trinity Youth Club/Children's Church**

#### **Trinity Youth meeting schedule**

- November 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Advent starts Nov 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Trinity Youth and Children's Church meet every Sunday during Advent

#### **Worship bags**

Worship bags are ready for the youth on the Sundays when there is not a gathering time of youth. There are extra bags for guests or if someone has forgotten theirs. Inside each bag is a special bulletin with the code for online Christian games. Diane will continue to print the Children's Worship Bulletins and placed them on the clipboards, only the bulletins in the worship bags are different and have the game code.

We want our youth to decorate and enhance their area with their own created art works. We have so much talent and creativity. Kids are making Harvest crafts and we plan on creating a 10-foot-



#### **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.

Select from 750+ popular brands, with options for eGift cards (available immediately), physical gift cards, and reloadable gift cards. No extra money spent. No wasted value. You pay \$50 for a \$50 gift card.

For every gift card purchased, Tucc receives earnings up to 20%. The earnings come from the gift card brand you are purchasing—their way of supporting organizations and communities like ours.

For the holiday season we will be placing gift card orders on **11/13, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11**. If you haven't participated in the program and would like more information, or if you'd like a list of the various retailers, please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, [wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net).



Thanks to those who helped pack the food-bags for October, Donna Alban, Penny Ludwig and Shirley Wood, also a thank you to Belva LaMotte for creating and printing the cards.

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. Thanks to those who helped pack the food-bags for October, Donna Alban, Penny Ludwig and Shirley Wood, also a thank you to Belva LaMotte for creating and printing the cards.

### **New Partnership with MES (Manchester Elementary School)**

Trinity UCC has begun a new monthly assistance program with MES to provide snacks for students who are on early or late lunch schedules. Students who have early lunch may need an afternoon snack and those students having late lunch may need a midmorning snack. Our program will provide boxes of snacks in 10 homerooms for students who may not have brought a snack from home. Many of these students are those who are on the FARM (Free and Reduced Meal) Program who could use our support.

### **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!**



### **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



### **FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

... Message from NESAP...

**EMPTY SHELVES IN FOOD PANTRY –** Our Food Pantry is in critical need of food. Please help us by donating food items that are **NOT EXPIRED**. As of 10/10/22 the Pantry is in need of the following items for our food sets. Juice, rice, spaghetti, canned pasta, dried beans, pasta sides, mac & cheese, brownie mix, yams, cup of soups, canned tomatoes, jelly, pudding, stuffing, cranberry sauce, applesauce, hamburger helper, breakfast bars, oatmeal, canned chicken, canned carrots, gravy, cake mix, frosting, muffin mix, canned potatoes, cereal, canned corn, canned peas, canned green beans, toilet paper, paper towels & hygiene products such as body wash, bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste, detergents, feminine products.

**WE DISTRIBUTE MANY FOOD SETS TO FAMILIES IN NEED WEEKLY AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP! THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

TUCC family, if you are able to donate items there is a collection basket in the front of the church marked NESAP.

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

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	Sep 22	Jan - Sep 22
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Rental Income	300.00	2,400.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	485.03
Communion Offering	55.00	436.00
Loose Offering	42.02	597.02
Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00
Regular Offering	5,076.55	48,598.24
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	425.25
	5,473.57	52,971.54
Total Income		
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	905.30
Evangelism	191.46	605.93
General	742.61	19,487.19
Personnel	5,995.34	64,451.49
Property	0.00	3,250.66
Music	0.00	1,049.00
Worship	56.95	1,451.20
	6,986.36	91,200.77
Total Expense		
Net Ordinary Income	(1,512.79)	(38,229.23)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	0.00	(4,520.18)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	337.46
Memorial Fund	0.00	375.00
Fundraising	1,660.50	4,248.56
Special Offerings Received	220.00	2,557.87
	1,880.50	2,998.71
Total Other Income		
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	420.19	2,152.58
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	420.19	2,152.58
Total Other Expense		
Net Other Income	1,460.31	846.13
Net Income	(52.48)	(37,383.10)

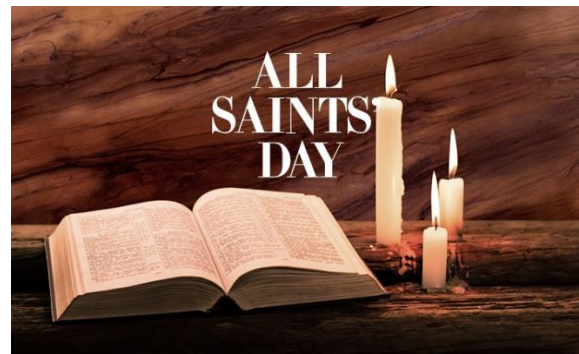


## November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ALL Saints Day	2 Consistory 7pm	3	4	5 Don't forget to change your clocks
6 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost All Saint's Sunday Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:45 am Blessing of Prayer Shawls	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Reign of Christ Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags	21	22 Worship Comm 6pm	23	24 	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Worship 10:45 am	28 December Newsletter articles due	29	30	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.		

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MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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