

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

December 2022

From the Pastor's Desk:

In this advent season, we wait in hope as we look forward in expectation of the incarnation of God in Jesus, born of Mary all those years ago. In the church, the month of December means the season of Advent, but in the secular world, we've already moved onto Christmas. Along with the "joy of the season" come certain stressors to which few of us are immune. Society calls us to speed up into the hustle and bustle of the season. Perhaps the growing darkness makes us want to rush through it even more quickly, so that bright sunny days can return. Yet, in the church, we are called to slow down and mindfully, spiritually approach the coming of the Light into the world.

The contrast between our secular and spiritual lives is a stark one that is almost never more visible than it is this time of year. But God's call to us is to embody the teachings and ministry of Christ not just in the church, but especially outside of it.

To be "clothed in Christ," as we become in baptism, does not mean to shrug our "Christ-clothes" off when we exit the church house. It is not a righteous or holy disguise we can change into and out of at a whim. Rather, our "Christ-clothes" are a part of the fabric of our very being, clothing we should wear with grace and compassion as we seek to live into our call to carry the light into the world.

As you read through the newsletter, you will notice that, though this season is characterized by waiting, the church is not idle. We've got quite a bit going on throughout the month including our *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes* worship series and book study. Later, we'll spend some contemplative time together via Zoom from our homes on the Longest Night, and then gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 24. Yes, we are waiting, not never are we idle.

Typically, in these newsletter columns, I offer a reflection for you to ponder. Recently, however, I read a poem shared by a colleague that spoke to the meaning of Advent better than any words I could share with you this month.

A poem by the Rev. Rachel Poolman:

Advent Hope

*In the beginning
in the place of nothingness
came a whisper
of hope*

*In the beginning
in the all subsuming darkness
came a piercing
of light*

*In the beginning
in the echoing void
came the breath
of love*

*The advent of Christ
reissues the everlasting invitation
to each and everyone
in every time and place
to add their voice
to the eternal song
of justice, love and peace
that begins and ends
with God*

May your advent season be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love!

Pastor Jessica



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01/05 – Earl LaMotte
Doug Myers
O’Neil Rivera
- 01/06 – Claire Vey
- 01/18 – Norman Greenholtz
- 01/20 – Charlene Rhoten
- 01/23 – Nancy Koerner
- 01/24 – David Bailey



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/31 - Pastor Jessica and Donna Ashcroft

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
January Newsletter– Monday, December 19

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.

DAYS OFF SCHEDULE: Pastor Jessica will be off on Friday (her Sabbath day) and Saturday. She plans to be in the church office Tuesday and/or 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, Dec. 7 @ 7pm
Worship Comm - Wednesday, Jan. 11 @ 6pm
PPR – Wednesday, January 18 @7pm



HELPING HANDS DECEMBER

Greeters for the month of Dec:

- Dec. 04 – Belva LaMotte
- Dec. 11 – Robert Miller
- Dec. 18 – Belva LaMotte
- Dec. 24 – Sandy Sanders

Ushers for the month of Dec:

Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

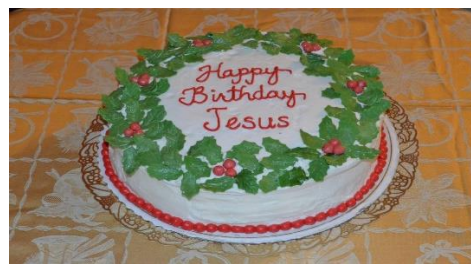
- Dec. 04 – Sue Myers
- Dec. 11 – Jackie Nave-Kulp
- Dec. 18 – MB Brainerd
- Dec. 24 – Robert Miller

Media Operator:

- Dec. 04 – Karen Haines/MB Brainerd
- Dec. 11 – Karen Haines/MB Brainerd
- Dec. 18 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
- Dec. 24 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers

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.



"We will be having a fellowship to celebrate the birth of Jesus, after the service on Saturday December 24th"

Announcement

Last year, I was blessed to preach at Trinity on Epiphany Sunday and you may recall I invited each of you to take a paper Star with a word on it. You were to carry it home and put it in a place where you could see it every day during the upcoming year.

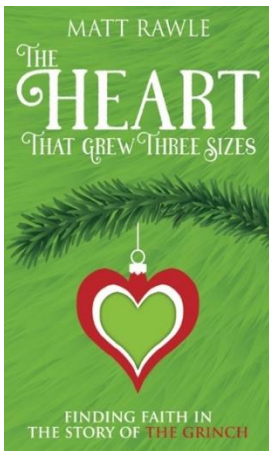
If you have kept your Star word, I invite you to bring it back on **January 8th** to share how your word became a message from God, an epiphany, in your life.

Blessings,
Lucy



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



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.

Worship Schedule: December 2022

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.*

December 11, 2022 – Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: 1 John 1:5-10; Luke 1:26-38

Theme: When Light Shines

December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Romans 12:17-21; Matthew 1:39-56

Theme: When Joy is Our Song

December 21, 2022 – Longest Night Service

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4

Theme: God, Shelter Us

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Worship

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

Theme: God Among Us

**Communion will be celebrated.*

ONLINE ONLY - December 25, 2022 – Christmas Day

Go to facebook.com/manchesterucc **for a prerecorded Christmas Offering!**

**No In-Person Worship Christmas Day*

“Welcome to Our New Music Director”

We are very happy to welcome David Holland to our Trinity UCC family.

David is our new Music Director, replacing Cammeron Williams who resigned due to how busy her personal life has become.

Please take the opportunity to say hello to David, a biography of David will be forthcoming.

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met on November 16 and will meet again on January 18. 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.



Trinity Christmas Giving Tree 2022

Let us begin by thanking everyone in advance for supporting the family that Trinity has adopted this holiday season. Trinity is sponsoring a local family in need. This family of 6 is a grandfather who has custody of 5 grandchildren ranging in ages 5 to 15. NESAP has helped the grandfather regularly with food and has gotten to know them.

Instead of gifts we are asking for \$25.00 gift cards to give to the children so that they can go shopping with the grandfather for clothing, or an age-appropriate gift. For more information on specific stores, we are seeking gift cards. Please contact Debbi Miller on cell phone 443-487-1843. If you are able to help support this mission you can purchase gift cards through Sue Myers, or make a monetary donation, making your check out to Trinity UCC and noting it is for the giving tree family.

Gift cards need to be to Deb Miller by Sunday, **December 18th**.

Thank you and God Bless

TUCC Care Fund / Debbi Miller and Karen Haines



Longest Night at Trinity UCC

The Longest Night worship service (some churches call it Blue Christmas) originated years ago in churches around the world. The purpose of the service is to acknowledge our need for healing and hope when grief, illness and discord are present in our lives.

This simple service which will be held on Tuesday, **December 21** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Pastor Jessica will lead a meaningful service which will include silence, quiet music, and words to ponder. Maybe you won't attend for yourself alone, but will bring a friend with you as well? An email with the Zoom link will be e-mailed prior to the 21st.



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

“Overwhelmed with joy!” Matthew 2:10

Offering date December 18, 2022

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



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!

November 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Pastors report: Pastor Jessica reported she attended Catoctin Council Meeting, worked with other ministers to plan the Fall Catoctin Council Meeting.

Pastor Jessica presided over Trinity member Shirley Zumbrun's funeral and graveside service on October 31, 2022.

Began "Faithful Five" devotionals on Thursdays, these are recorded live and shared on Facebook.

Performed Pet Blessings on October 9th.

Pastor Jessica will be off January 01, 2023 and January 08, 2023, we should have worship to show from the conference for those days.

No worship Christmas Day will have a pre-recorded Christmas themed "Faithful Five" devotional, scheduled to post on Facebook at 10:45 am.

Annual Congregational Meeting and Stewardship Month are both in January.

Longest Night Service is December 21st.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's report: Sue submitted her report cash funds available to cover current expenses is dwindling, general checking has \$3,900 and the endowment checking has \$6,300.

Our tenant is moving out 11/15 so we will no longer be receiving the \$300 monthly rent.

She had to transfer \$8,000 from the endowment checking to the general checking to cover regular expenses, may have to transfer another \$3,000-\$4,000 by end of year.

Property: Doug M will be painting the outside doors on the parking lot side.

Doug R reported alarm system batteries have been replaced

Finance: No report.

Personnel: Discussions on new Music Director

Evangelism: : Belva reported, on Black Friday we will be serving coffee, hot chocolate, and handing out a selection of bagged cookies.

Belva also reported Happy Birthday Jesus cake and drinks will be served after Christmas Eve Service.

Christian Education: Leslie reported Worship Bags are available when there is no youth time. Children's Worship Bulletins will continue to be printed and placed on clipboards.

Acolyte training is going well

Asking congregants to help with youth time after Advent; goal is to have a team of leaders.

Trinity Advent Youth Schedule: Meeting weekly each Sunday, November 27th, December 4th, 11th, 18th (there is no service on Christmas Day December 25th)

Nathan will be helping hand during Advent

Worship: Hymn Auction ongoing.

All Saints Sunday – November 6th

Veterans Sunday – November 13th

Reign of Christ Sunday – November 20th

Advent Series – The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes, Grinch themed sermons for the adults, starts November 27th. The Pastor is working on ideas for the children's lessons. Pastor Jessica will line up families to light the Advent Wreath each week
Longest Night Service – December 21st, the meditative service will be held via Zoom.

Christmas Eve – December 24th 6:30 pm. No Christmas Day worship at Trinity.

Next Worship Committee Meeting – November 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Caring Ministry: Giving Tree with gift tags will be set up this year the Sunday after Black Friday. NESAP is always in need of food for their pantry. They are also in need of items that food stamps do not cover, i.e., laundry detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant, bath soap or shower gel, shampoo and conditioner, feminine products. We have a collection basket in the front of the church if you have items you can donate.

PPR: Meeting on November 16, 2022

Unfinished Business/ Updates

2023 Consistory Members - No Consistory Members are needed at this time

MES Classroom Snacks - "Mid-Day Munchies for Munchkins" are being purchased

New Business

No new business

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



Trinity Youth Club/Children's Church

Trinity Youth and Children's Church meet every Sunday during Advent

December 18

All youth and their guests are invited to enjoy the Grinch movie during the in person meet up of our book club after worship. More details to be announced.

Worship bags

Worship bags will return in January of 2023 for the youth on the Sundays when there is not a gathering time of youth. There will be 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.

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.

2023 Preview:

Children's Church will be on the first and 3d Sunday of the month. Extra activities are being planned for our youth of all ages. Finishing up our Old Testament with Holy Moly, we will be ready to start our Lenten learnings. Amy will be the Leader of our Christian education program moving forward in 2023 and Leslie will be assisting her as co-leader. We are putting together a collective of congregant volunteers to help with Youth times. It will only require your help once every 2 months or so. Blessings, Leslie and Amy

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

You have 2 more chances to order gift cards for the holidays through our Scrip program. Orders will be placed on 12/4 and 12/11. If you have any questions or would like to place an order please contact Sue Myers at wsmdem@comcast.net or 443-375-6788. Thanks!

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. A summary of the budget is listed below:

	<u>Proposed 2023 Budget</u>
Income	\$ 66,000
Expense	
Educational Ministries	1,450
Evangelism	1,500
General	28,764
Personnel	100,088
Property	3,000
Music	2,150
Worship	2,750
Total Expense	<u>139,702</u>
Deficit	<u>\$ (73,702)</u>

As in previous years, we are running at a deficit. We have worked to cut the budget this year by almost \$1000 and continue to look at cost saving measures. Our plans are to make up the deficit through focus on fundraising events, increased giving, and transfers from investment accounts.



Thanks to those who helped pack the food-bags for November, 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 November, 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.

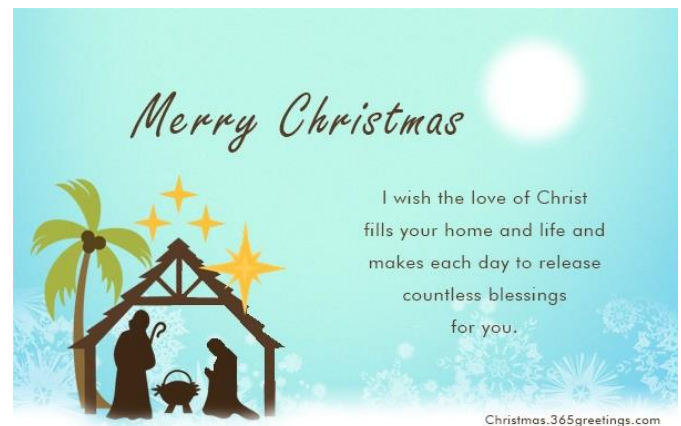


Inclement Weather

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

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

	<u>Oct 22</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Rental Income	300.00	2,700.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	485.03
Communion Offering	80.00	516.00
Loose Offering	105.00	702.02
Miscellaneous	25.00	55.00
Regular Offering	5,698.00	54,296.24
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	425.25
Total Income	6,208.00	59,179.54
Expense		
Educational Ministries	177.99	1,083.29
Evangelism	162.60	577.07
General	4,337.20	23,923.39
Personnel	5,523.07	69,974.56
Property	0.00	3,250.66
Music	1,000.00	2,049.00
Worship	13.73	1,656.39
Total Expense	11,214.59	102,514.36
Net Ordinary Income	(5,006.59)	(43,334.82)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	(500.00)	(5,770.18)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	777.24
Memorial Fund	0.00	375.00
Fundraising	313.70	3,288.59
Special Offerings Received	125.40	2,683.27
Total Other Income	(60.90)	1,353.92
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	250.30	2,402.88
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	250.30	2,402.88
Net Other Income	(311.20)	(1,048.96)
Net Income	(5,317.79)	(44,383.78)

December 2022

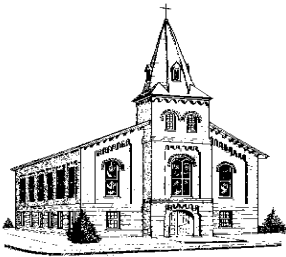
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am</p> <p style="color: #0070C0;">Children's Church</p>	5	6	7 Consistory 7pm	8	9	10
<p>11 Third Sunday of Advent Worship 10:45 am Blessing of the Prayer Shawls</p>	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 10:45 am Blessing of the Foodbags</p> <p style="color: #0070C0;">Children's Church</p>	19 January newsletter articles due	20	21 Longest Night Service by 6:30pm Zoom	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 pm
<p>25 Christmas Day <u>No in Person Worship</u></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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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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Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
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