

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

January 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

Earn all you can. Save all you can.

Give all you can.

-John Wesley

Here's the dirty little secret about being a pastor that we don't talk about: we're human. We don't have all the answers and we can't reasonably claim we do (though some have tried!). This is especially true where stewardship and money are concerned. In seminary, we don't spend hours of course work on stewardship (though perhaps we should). We don't go into this line of work expecting to make much; what we expect, is simply to serve.

When it comes to talking about stewardship, the truth is that many of us fall short of the expectation that we can sway our fellow Christ-followers to give with financial extravagance because we struggle to give with financial extravagance ourselves.

I believe that the best any of us can do when we consider our giving is to try to think of why we go to church that will inform us on why we give to the church. Given those reasons, we might then rethink how much we're giving. Giving out of gratitude to God and God's community is precisely the right spirit.

A year ago, our tireless, phenomenal treasurer, Sue Myers, ordered a book for us from the UCC Still Speaking Writer's Group called, "On Giving." The tiny book contains helpful little nuggets for rethinking stewardship and giving. One of the most effective pages of the book was written by Matt Laney: "If you want to encourage others to give generously, it's critical to know why you give."

Laney provides his list.

"I give to church because:

- It's where I experience the transforming presence of God.
- It's where I am reminded who God is and who God calls me to be.
- It's the only community I know where different generations (or races, or income levels, or...) come together. [...]
- The church community makes me a better person, and together we are making the world a better place. [...]
- The music, the message, the people—it's all about God's justice and unconditional love!
- It's fun! I love being part of the church and seeing it thrive."

These are some of the reasons Laney gives, which also happen to align with mine. To this list, I would add some of my own:

- I want my children to know the love of God in God's beloved community.
- When we get it right: there's no place like church!

This month, as we approach our annual congregational meeting, we will have stewardship moments during worship when folks can share why they give. I would encourage you, friends, to make your own "Why I Give" list. It might surprise you to sit down and have a real think about your whys and see what God's Spirit may stir in your heart.

Pastor Jessica



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02/04 – Carolyn Brooks
- 02/06 – Eva Gebhardt
- 02/11 – Isaac Townsley
- 02/14 – Robert Saunders
- 02/15 – Donna Miller
- 02/17 – Penny Ludwig
- 02/19 – Leslie Brooks
- 02/25 – Samuel Carter
- 02/26 – Margaret Bailey
- 02/28 – Robert Miller



02/ 24 – Judy and Leon Miller

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
February Newsletter– Monday, January 23

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 is off on Friday (her Sabbath day) and Saturday. She plans to be in the church office Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, working from home on Monday/Wednesday.*

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

Meeting Dates - Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, Jan. 4 @ 7pm
Worship Comm - Wednesday, Jan. 11 @ 6pm
PPR – Wednesday, January 18 @7pm



HELPING HANDS JANUARY

Greeters for the month of Jan:

- Jan. 01 – Leslie Brooks
- Jan. 08 – Robert Miller
- Jan. 15 – Belva LaMotte
- Jan. 22 – Leslie Brooks
- Jan. 29 – Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of Jan:

- Jan. 01 – Deb Persinger
- Jan. 08 – Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 15 – Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 22 – Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 29 – Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

- Jan. 01 – Robert Miller
- Jan. 08 – Leslie Brooks
- Jan. 15 – Sue Myers
- Jan. 22 – Jackie Nave Kulp
- Jan. 29 – MB Brainerd

Media Operator

- Jan. 01 – Karen Haines
Sandy Sanders
- Jan. 08 – Karen Haines
Sue Myers
- Jan. 15 – Elwin Wagner
MB Brainerd
- Jan. 22 – Elwin Wagner
MB Brainerd
- Jan. 29 – Elwin Wagner
Sandy Sanders

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

Worship Schedule January 2023

January 1, 2023 – First Sunday After Christmas

Lay Leadership Sunday and Central Atlantic Conference Worship
Scriptures: TBA

January 8, 2023 – Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
Guest Preacher: Rev. Lucy Brady

January 15, 2023 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Theme: Come and See
**Installation of Consistory Members*
**Communion will be celebrated.*

January 22, 2023 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 12:23
Theme: Follow Me

January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12
Theme: Blessings and Humility

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.



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



Christmas Giving Tree 2022

Saying thank you is not enough, we want to express gratitude for the overwhelming support you have given to a local family in need. Christmas will certainly be brighter for a family of 6 we sponsored this year. Please know that your generosity lessened the worries of disabled grandfather on how he would provide food and gifts to the five grandchildren in his custody. God Bless you all. TUCC Care Fund / Debbi Miller and Karen Haines



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!

December 2022 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Previous Minutes: November 02, 2022 minutes were accepted

Pastors report: Pastor Jessica reported she continued doing “Faithful 5” devotionals on Thursdays. Attended meetings of Consistory, PPR, and Worship Committee. Checked in with Christian Ed and met with David briefly each week. Pastor did reading at Crèche lighting on Black Friday. Began Coffee Hour on Sunday’s before church once per month.

Continuing Ed/Professional Development -
Attended Central Atlantic Conference board meeting. Took Boundary Awareness Trainings, and planning 2 more to complete that part of her continuing ed requirement.

Working week of December 26th but will be off Sunday, January 1st. Vacation from January 2-9. Lucy will preach January 8 (Epiphany).

Committee Reports

Treasurer’s report: Sue reported she moved \$2,500 from the Endowment acct to checking to cover expenses and will probably need to move more funds because we are not bringing enough monies in to cover them.

Property: Doug M mentioned the bushes on Church Street side need to be trimmed, Herb Ritz will be contacted.

Herb Miller is checking the heating system because the Pastor’s office is hotter than it should be.

Finance: No report.

Personnel: No report, but held discussions on using the music cd’s.

Evangelism: Belva reported, at least 65 people attended fellowship on Black Friday
She also reported Happy Birthday Jesus cake, fruit and drinks will be served after Christmas Eve Service.

Christian Education: Trinity Youth and Children’s Church meet every Sunday during

Advent. The stories of Joseph and his coat were covered. January will begin with Ruth.

Amy will be the Christian-Ed lead in 2023. Leslie will be co-lead.

Asking congregants to help with youth time after advent to spread the work around, goal is to have a team of leaders

Leslie is planning a fund raiser shred event and a craft class for Easter, will be open to all church members. Space will be limited and cost is approximate cost \$35.00

Worship: Pastor Jessica will work with David on the music for Advent. A verse from the hymn, “*Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel,*” will be sung following each lighting of the Advent wreath candles.

Longest Night Service, December 21st via Zoom
Christmas Eve - “*Silent Night*” will be sung in a circle around the sanctuary, no worship on Christmas Day

Next Worship Committee Meeting – January 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Caring Ministry: Giving Tree gift tags are now on the tree in support of a local family Trinity is sponsoring for the holidays.

PPR: Next meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Unfinished Business/ Updates

2023 Budget – Consistory approved in November, and being presented to congregation for a vote Sunday, December 11th in sanctuary after service

New Business

2023 Consistory Installation – Sunday, January 15, 2023

Covid Protocol – Changing from Masks
Recommended to Masks Optional

Congregational Meeting and Fellowship after church, Sunday, January 25, 2023

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Sausage,
Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Next meeting – Wednesday – January 11, 2023, 2022 at 7:00 via Zoom



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We will be going back to our regular schedule of ordering gift cards on the 1st Sunday of every month. Thank-you to all that participated in this program in 2022 – we raised _____ from the gift cards that were purchased!

We hope you will continue your participation in 2023 and if you haven't yet begun, please contact Sue Myers at wsmdem@comcast.net or 443-375-6788 to find out how you can! Thanks!

2023 BUDGET MEETING

On 12/11/22 we held our annual budget meeting, and the budget passed. Now, going forward, we ask that everyone be prayerful in giving of their time, talents and finances. Those three, along with several fundraising events we are planning, will help us continue with fulfilling our commitment to community.

B-I-N-G-O

We are planning a bingo night once again! It will be held May 13th! More information to come in future newsletters but hold the date! And if you are contact Sue Myers.



Trinity Youth Club/Children's Church

Trinity Youth and Children's Church met every Sunday during Advent.

The youth completed their own Advent wreath on the area bulletin board. They also made ornaments and gave them out to others for Joy.

For Love, they added messages, pictures, and names to Christmas cards for those not able to make it to worship.

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

*Thank
You*

Thank you to Pastor Jessica, for the delicious cinnamon rolls. Sue & Doug for the nice gift and to the Congregation for your gift. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you, Diane.



Food Bags for Backpacks & Snack Packs for Classrooms

Trinity UCC is continuing to send food bags as well as snack packs each month to Manchester Elementary School. The individual food bags are put into the backpacks of students on the Free and Reduced Meal Program selected by the school administration.

The 10 snack pack boxes are distributed to 10 home rooms to be available for any student needing a snack, since some students have lunch as early as 10 AM and others as late as 2PM. To contribute to either of these programs just mark Food Bags or Snack Packs on your contribution. Thank you for all your 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



David W. Holland, Director of Music

Rev. David Witherspoon Holland is the son of the late Captain Ralph Douglas Holland II and Kharyn Leigh Ware and is a native of Philadelphia, PA. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his savior at 7-years old, and was baptized at his home church, Star of Hope Baptist Church of PA. David has served in various capacities in the religious and nonprofit space for most of his life and has been privileged to oversee various departments and programs across denominational and secular areas. He is the founder of the nonprofit organization ISAA (The Institute for the sustainment of Africans and Asians) and uses his platform to facilitate the message of Christ through education and intervention. In the words of his late mentor, Dr. Verolga Nix, David's conviction is that "we must serve God in Excellence and holiness because God is excellent, and God is holy." He prides himself in the facility of this message throughout all aspects of his life and maintains that only what we do for Christ will last. David is currently matriculating at Morgan State University and is a music piano performance major. He is also enlisted in the United States Army and upon completing his degree, will commission as a Second Lieutenant. His hobbies are word search and science fiction, and he aspires to, someday, become a master sommelier.

Let's Get Healthy in 2023- News from the Carroll County Health Department

Did you know that Type 2 Diabetes can be delayed or even prevented? The Carroll County Health Department has a free program that can help prevent the onset of Diabetes and its complications. The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) is a year-long lifestyle change program that addresses what we eat, when we move, how we sleep, and how we respond to stress.

Learn more about this program and other community resources at our library sessions:

- January 17th North Carroll Library Branch, 2255 Hanover Pk. Hampstead, MD 21074 at 6:00 pm
- January 27th Mount Airy Library Branch, 705 Ridge Ave. Mount Airy, MD 21771, at 3:00 pm
- February 22nd Eldersburg Library Branch, 6400 W. Hemlock Dr. Eldersburg, MD 21784, at 6:30 pm

We currently offer a virtual version of the DPP program and will offer in-person and zoom classes in 2023. A new Zoom session begins March 9th.

For more information, visit cchd.maryland.gov or contact Amanda Pyne at amanda.pyne@maryland.gov, 410-876-4421, or Lauren Harrison at lauren.harrison@maryland.gov, 410-876-4819.

Weight loss support with TOPS

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) can help you reach your weight-loss goals by providing you with the tools, information, support, and accountability you need to be successful.

TOPS weight loss support gives you the freedom to follow a meal plan that works for you — and support to help you stick to that plan.

TOPS meeting times:

- Tuesdays at 9:00 am (beginning January 10, 2023) at Carroll Hospital: Shipley Room, Westminster
- Wednesday at 5:30 pm (beginning January 11, 2023) at St. Paul's UCC, 17 Bond St. Westminster

For more information, contact Laurie Stover at 410-876-4981 or laurie.stover@maryland.gov or visit cchd.maryland.gov.

If Trinity has 8-10 members who are interested in learning more about these programs, a representative from the CCHD will come and provide an information session. Please let Sandy Sanders know if you are interested in either program.

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Nov 22	Jan - Nov 22
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Rental Income	150.00	3,150.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	485.03
Communion Offering	27.00	543.00
Loose Offering	45.00	747.02
Miscellaneous	268.94	323.94
Regular Offering	5,003.50	59,324.74
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	425.25
Total Income	5,494.44	64,998.98
Expense		
Educational Ministries	99.11	1,301.75
Evangelism	8.48	585.55
General	812.50	24,736.48
Personnel	7,471.61	77,326.82
Property	245.00	3,495.66
Music	0.00	2,049.00
Worship	0.00	1,656.39
Total Expense	8,636.70	111,151.65
Net Ordinary Income	(3,142.26)	(46,152.67)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	0.00	(5,770.18)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.01	777.26
Memorial Fund	978.22	1,353.22
Fundraising	218.90	3,507.49
Special Offerings Received	25.00	2,708.27
Total Other Income	1,222.13	2,576.08
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	218.61	2,621.49
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	218.61	2,621.49
Net Other Income	1,003.52	(45.43)
Net Income	(2,138.74)	(46,198.10)

January 2023

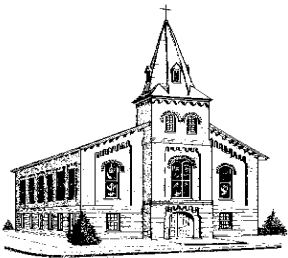
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day First Sunday after Christmas Day Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	2	3	4 Consistory 7pm	5	6 Epiphany	7
8 The Baptism of Christ Worship 10:45 am Lucy Brady Preaching Blessing of Prayer Shawls	9	10	11 Worship Comm 6pm	12	13	14
15 Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am Children's Church	16	17	18 PPR 7pm	19	20	21
22 Third Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am	23 February newsletter articles due	24	25	26	27	28
29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am	30	31	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm 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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