

# 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

February 2023

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

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

-Genesis 3:19

It's that time of year again, dear ones: time for our reflective Lenten journey to begin. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are imposed on our foreheads as we listen to those words and contemplate our own human finitude and fragility, reminded of our need for God's saving grace.

As I wrote last year at this time, "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." The ritual at its beginning calls us back to our creation and looks toward our future—a prompt to unhook ourselves from the things of this world that put us at a distance from our God.

As we journey together, we remember Jesus's sacrifices and fasting for 40 days as he was tempted in the wilderness. Many of us give something up for those 40 days. Curiously, Lent is longer than 40 days. 46 to be exact. Sundays do not count in our Lenten observance because Sundays are *always* "little Easter." They are not technically counted in our 40-day fast – so, if you give up chocolate for Lent, for instance, you could have a small piece on Sunday and not be breaking your Lenten fast. Each of us must weigh how we feel about how that may impact our

Lenten journey and decide whether to keep our fast on "little Easter" or not.

During Lent, our worship even gives something up: the word "Hallelujah." There will be no such utterances after Transfiguration Sunday (February 19), until we reach the bright shining glory of Easter morning. This much beloved Hebrew liturgical expression (spelled "alleluia" in the Greek) translates essentially as "praise the Lord." Why wouldn't we say "praise the Lord" during lent? This practice really goes back to the importance of emphasizing the penitential nature of the Lenten season. We are called to look inward at our where we have transgressed and fallen short of our calling as God's beloved children. Singing glory to God with choirs of angels carries with it a celebratory tone we, naturally, don't engage in during a season of reflection, repentance, seeking, and prayer.

What, if anything, will you give up for Lent? What practices might you take on? Maybe you will give up an indulgence that draws your attention from God to draw deeper into prayer and scriptural reflection. Maybe you will begin a meditation practice or *lectio divina*. Maybe it's time for a social media detox because you can think of no better time to give up toxicity in your life than Lent.

Whatever it is, may your Lenten observance be meaningful and may the Holy One who made you, loves you, and provides for you guide you ever nearer to the grace and mercy only God can give.

*Pastor Jessica*



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 03/02 – Dorothy Gardner
- 03/09 – Sandy Sanders
- 03/15 – Nickie Saunders
- 03/18 – Andrew Wagner
- 03/31 – Colby Wagner



02/ 24 – Judy and Leon Miller

03/13 – Shirley & James Wood

**Church Communications Submission Dates**

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday  
March Newsletter– Monday, February 20

**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 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.\*

She has a study week planned for Feb. 2-8 and will not be in the office, please contact the church office if you have pastoral concerns.

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

**Meeting Dates - Zoom**

Consistory – Wednesday, Feb. 1 @ 7pm  
Worship Comm - Thursday, Feb. 16 @ 6pm  
PPR – Wednesday, March 22 @ 7pm



**HELPING HANDS FEBRUARY**

**Greeters for the month of Feb:**

- Feb. 05 – Belva LaMotte
- Feb. 12 – Robert Miller
- Feb. 19 – Belva LaMotte
- Feb. 26 – Sandy Sanders

**Ushers for the month of Feb:**

Deb Persinger

**Lay Readers:**

- Feb. 05 – Robert Miller
- Feb. 12 – Sue Myers
- Feb. 19 – Jackie Nave Kulp
- Feb. 26 – Robert Miller

**Media Operator**

- Feb. 05 – MB Brainerd/Elwin Wagner
- Feb. 12 – Sandy Sanders/Elwin Wagner
- Feb. 19 – Sue Myers/Elwin Wagner
- Feb. 26 – MB Brainerd/Karen Haines

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon**

We will have our annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon after Sunday worship.

You are asked to contribute as follows:

Last name begins with A – J: meat

Last name begins with K – O: dessert

Last name begins with P – Z: veggie/side dish

## Worship Schedule February 2023

### **February 5, 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12; Matt. 5:13-20

Guest Preacher: Rev. Lucy Brady

*\*Communion will be celebrated*

### **February 12, 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

Scripture: 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

Theme: From the Heart

### **February 19, 2023 – Transfiguration Sunday**

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18; Matt. 17:1-9

Theme: Faith and Fear

### **February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday**

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6;  
16-21



The Grace of *Les Misérables*

### **February 26, 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Theme: Grace Received

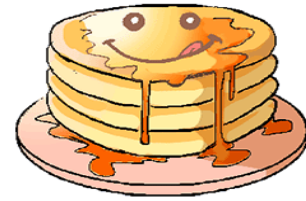
Scriptures: TBA



**Join Pastor Jessica Sunday, February 26 at 10 a.m. for coffee hour.**

### **Pastor Parish Relationship Committee**

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met 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. The next meeting March 22 @7pm.



### *Shrove Tuesday*

Hope you can join us for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Dinner.

**February 21** from 5 to 7 pm.

We will be serving pancakes, sausage, applesauce, orange juice & coffee.

Belva LaMotte  
Fellowship Committee



### **Ash Wednesday**

“Remember you are dust...”

To participate in Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>) this year, we will offer two options for receiving ashes:

- Pastor Jessica will be available outside at Trinity at lunch hour (**noon**) for a drive-thru blessing and imposition of ashes, *or*
- Join us at 7pm for a brief worship service.

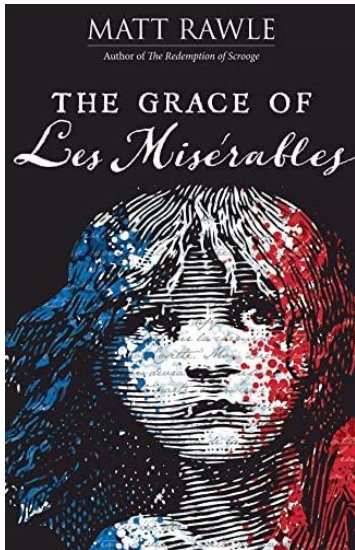


### **Faithful Five**

Each Thursday, be on the lookout Thursdays 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)

## Lenten Worship Series and Bible Study!



Join us throughout the season of Lent for a study of *The Grace of Les Misérables* based on the book by Matthew Rawle.

- We will kick off on **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** with a *screening* of the 2012 film following worship.
- Starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, **February 26**, our worship services will carry the themes of Les Mis as a common thread each week.
- Our bible study group will meet **Thursdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30** at 7pm via Zoom and close our study after worship on Palm Sunday (**April 2**) IN PERSON with a meal following worship.

If you would like a book, please see Pastor Jessica and she will be happy to get one for 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!

### January 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Previous Minutes: December 07, 2022 minutes were accepted.

**Pastors report:** Pastor Jessica reported she is continuing the Faithful Five Devotionals on Thursdays. Completed "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes" bible study with an in person gathering on December 18<sup>th</sup> with pizza and great discussion.

Preparing for Annual Congregational meeting (church vitality theme)

Celebration of Life for Larry Rohrbaugh, Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

Lent preparation ("The Grace of Les Mis" worship theme may do a different Lenten study.

Pastor will be on a Lent study / planning week for first week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer's report:** Sue reported she moved \$48,500.00 from the Fundraising and Endowment for the year. It was also noted our mutual funds loss was \$69,000 in 2022 we had a gain of \$69,000 in 2021 breaking us even.

**Property:** Doug M mentioned the bushes on Church Street side need to be trimmed.

**Finance:** No report.

**Personnel:** The Personnel Committee recommended not extending the Music Ministry Contract with David Holland, Due to low worship attendance, no longer having a choir and a large loss in 2022 of our endowment fund. The consistory voted unanimously end his contract on February 12<sup>th</sup>



**Evangelism:** Belva reported 20 to 25 people for Happy Birthday Jesus Cake and refreshments. Larry Rohrbaugh post funeral celebration of life will be held in Trinity's fellowship hall on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM.

**Christian Education:** No Report

**Worship:** No Report

**Caring Ministry:** No Report

**PPR:** Next meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 2023

### **Unfinished Business/ Updates**

2023 Consistory Installation – Sunday, January 15, 2023

Congregational Meeting and Fellowship after church, Sunday, January 29, 2023

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

### **New Business**

2023 Consistory assignments were determined  
Started the monthly devotional sign-up sheet for 2023

Next meeting – Wednesday – February 01, 2023, 2022 at 7:00 via Zoom



### **SCRIP GIFT CARDS**

Just because the holidays are over, you can still participate in purchasing gift cards. Most of us use them every month to buy our groceries, dining out/carryout meals, pharmacy items, etc.

We hope we can count on more of you participating in 2023! Let me know how I can help you get started - Sue Myers at [wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net) or 443-375-6788!

### **B-I-N-G-O**

We are planning a bingo night once again! It will be held May 13<sup>th</sup>! More information to come in future newsletters but hold the date! And if you are interested in finding out how you can help, please contact Sue Myers.



### **February 2023 Newsletter Christian Education**

#### **Children's Church and Trinity Youth**

Amy and Leslie will continue the Children's Church Activities into 2023 on the first and third Sunday each month. First quarter activities:

- **February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>:** Old Testament Holy Moly Continues.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>** Lessons of Lent and Holy Week

Acolyte training is continuing with Elijah during January. Marissa and Nathan will be covering February and March when Sadie is not available. Lay Readers help your acolyte bring in the light. Weston and Isaac are on the ready if needed.

#### **Fundraisers for our youth coming up:**

March 25, 2023 Saturday from 2-4 pm, all supplies and refreshments too.

**Cross Board class** with floral designer Brandy Smith of Forever Flowers and Gifts. Watch for sign up, class is limited to 20 people. Price will be 45.00 per person. Brandy makes and dyes sola wood flowers to enhance and create unique items. She will be instructing the class on putting the board together and adding a personal touch of color to your cross. Below is an example of a finished board.



To contribute to either of these programs just mark Food Bags or Snack Packs on your contribution. Thank you for everyone who has participated in this program!



**April 27, 2023, Thursday 5-7 pm with our friends from The Shred Mill**

**SHRED DAY**

Bring all those shred items and make a goodwill donation if possible. Free to the entire community

We welcome anyone who would like to assist and contribute time to our youth and the special times we are planning. Please contact Amy or Leslie to help.



**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.

**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



## 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:

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, visit [cchd.maryland.gov](http://cchd.maryland.gov) or contact Amanda Pyne at [amanda.pyne@maryland.gov](mailto:amanda.pyne@maryland.gov), 410-876-4421, or Lauren Harrison at [lauren.harrison@maryland.gov](mailto:lauren.harrison@maryland.gov), 410-876-4819.

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### 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](mailto:laurie.stover@maryland.gov) or visit [cchd.maryland.gov](http://cchd.maryland.gov).

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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

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	Dec 22	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Rental Income	0.00	2,850.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	485.03
Communion Offering	35.00	578.00
Loose Offering	2,130.00	2,877.02
Miscellaneous	735.00	1,118.94
Regular Offering	8,151.00	67,475.74
VBS Donations (Educational)	0.00	425.25
	11,051.00	75,809.98
Total Income		
Expense		
Educational Ministries	28.37	1,330.12
Evangelism	0.00	585.55
General	2,545.96	27,341.28
Personnel	7,782.26	85,109.08
Property	475.00	3,970.66
Music	0.00	2,049.00
Worship	200.00	1,856.39
	11,031.59	122,242.08
Total Expense		
Net Ordinary Income	19.41	(46,432.10)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	0.00	(5,770.18)
Interest/Dividend Income	27,142.51	27,919.77
Memorial Fund	1,000.00	2,353.22
Fundraising	749.03	4,256.52
Special Offerings Received	425.00	3,098.27
	29,316.54	31,857.60
Total Other Income		
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	389.13	3,035.62
Transfers	0.00	0.00
	389.13	3,035.62
Total Other Expense		
Net Other Income	28,927.41	28,821.98
Net Income	28,946.82	(17,610.12)



## February 2023

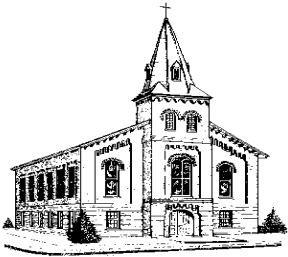
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Consistory 7pm	2	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion Worship 10:45 am. Pastor Lucy Children's Church	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:45 am. Blessing of Prayer Shawls	13	14	15	16 Worship Committee @6pm	17	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday Worship 10:45 am. Blessing of Foodbags  Children's Church	20 March Newsletter articles due	21 Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Dinner. 5 to 7 pm.	22 Ash Wednesday Drive thru @ noon for ashes/blessing Service @ 7pm  	23	24	25
26 First Sunday In Lent Worship 10:45 am. Coffee hour 10am with Pastor Jessica	27	28	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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Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
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· HAPPY ·  
*Valentine's  
Day*

