

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

Leave the roads;
take the trails.
-Pythagoras

Our reflective Lenten journey has begun. We have again entered a wilderness section of our holy path, one which is winding and calls on us to examine our spiritual health. On Ash Wednesday, ashes were imposed on our foreheads as we contemplated our fragility and were reminded of our need for God's saving grace.

During worship, we will discuss themes of grace, justice, poverty, empathy, love, and revolution, ultimately culminating in the hope we have because of the resurrection. In times of proverbial or literal darkness, hope is exactly what we need, and yet sometimes comes in short supply.

The story of Jean Valjean in Victor Hugo's classic novel, *Les Misérables*, will provide us with ample material on which to think and reflect. Even if you don't yet know the story and missed our film screening on February 19, this timeless story will be accessible to you. In a time of wide disparity between those who have and those who have not, it should resonate loudly.

As we begin our Lenten religious observance, we will see signs of spring and Easter all around us. That can make it hard to "get into the spirit" of the wilderness season. We want the hope that renews itself as the weather warms and signs of life are born all around us. After coming out of the difficulties of the pandemic, I think we can all agree that we want more hope.

But, the good news is that the season of Lent does not call on us to abandon all hope. We might even say it requires more hope, because we aren't in a time characterized by it. Who would want to draw deeper into the wilderness if the promises of Easter weren't there at the end of it? Moses and the Israelites did not enter the desert with no expectation that there would be an exit; they walked through that parched, uncertain land fueled by a vision of the Promised Land and accompanied by the power of the Spirit.

Yes, Lent is reflective, penitential, challenging, and figuratively devoid of light. Yet, throughout it all, the Spirit of the living God never leave us. We are called off the clearly marked roads of religious practice and onto rocky, bare trails. Perhaps that seems scary, but it needn't be. When we are missing the usual signs that guide us, we must turn back to reliance on the Holy Spirit, trusting that the God who brought us into the desert is the same God who will bring us through it.

Psalm 37:5 tells us to commit our ways to the Lord, trusting that God will act. Divine action does not cease as we make our way through the season of prayer, fasting, and giving. If we trust the Spirit to do what the Spirit does in this season, we should find that God's movement and voice is never more present and clear than when we have become still and sought God's presence in earnest. May we allow ourselves to see and hear God as clearly on the rocky trail as we do on the open road.

Peace,

Pastor Jessica

*Happy
Birthday*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02 – Dorothy Gardner
03/09 – Sandy Sanders
03/15 – Nickie Saunders
03/18 – Andrew Wagner
03/19 – Jen Garmer
03/31 – Colby Wagner

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/05 – Donna Alban
04/07 – Stanley Hamilton
04/15 – Jessica Larson
04/16 – Nathan Schultz
04/18 – Wayne Sanders
Ron Larson
04/28 – Jasmine Carter
Amy Schultz

*Happy
Anniversary*

MARCH ANNIVERSARYS

03/13 – Shirley & James Wood

APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

04/01 – Debra Miller and Robert Miller
04/03 – Marge and David Bailey
04/15 – Sue and Doug Myers
04/27 – Jackie and Michael Kulp

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
April Newsletter – Monday, March 27

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 (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, March 1 @ 7pm
Worship Comm - Thursday, March 22 @ 6pm
PPR – Wednesday, March 22 @ 7pm



HELPING HANDS MARCH

Greeters for the month of March:

March 05 – Belva LaMotte
March 12 – Robert Miller
March 19 – Belva LaMotte
March 26 – Robert Miller

Ushers for the month of March:

Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

March 05 – Robert Miller
March 12 – Sue Myers
March 19 – Jackie Nave Kulp
March 26 – MB Brainerd

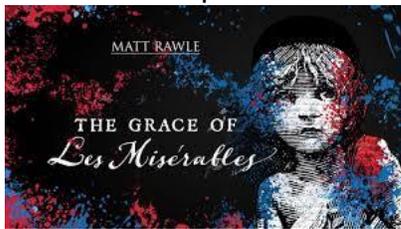
Media Operator

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



Worship Schedule Lent 2023

Lenten Worship Series:



The Grace of *Les Misérables*

February 26, 2023 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 1:18-25; Matt 4:1-11

Theme: Receiving Grace

March 5, 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; Luke 16:1-15

Theme: Understanding Justice

**Communion will be celebrated*

March 12, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11; Matt 25:41-46

Theme: Responding to Poverty

March 19, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13; John 3:1-17

Theme: Defining Love

March 26, 2023 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

Theme: Modeling Empathy

April 2, 2023 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Scriptures: Zechariah 9:9-10; Mark 11:1-11

Theme: Shaping Revolution

April 6, 2023 – Maundy Thursday

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17; 31b-35

Theme: Last Supper

**Communion will be served*

April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday

Scriptures: Gen 1:1-2:4a; Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: Finding Hope

**Communion will be served*

April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31

Guest Preacher:



Join Pastor Jessica Sunday, March 19 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.**

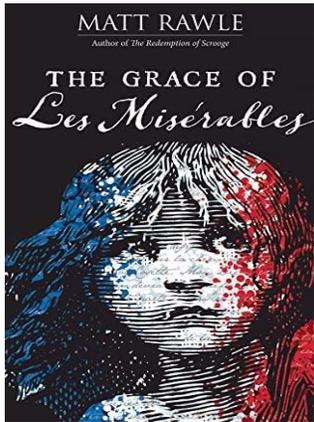


LENTEN OFFERING

Each year we take up an offering during Lent to support a special mission or project. This year we will be splitting our Lenten offering between NESAP in Hampstead, MD and the relief efforts for those in Turkey and Syria suffering from one of the strongest earthquakes in over 100 years. As of Feb.13 over 36,000 people have been killed not to mention all the survivors struggling to find food, water and basic amenities.

Please prayerfully consider your donation this year to help those in our community and those in other parts of the world. If you donate on-line, simply select the special offering option and put Lenten Offering in the note section. For those of you that still have offering envelopes you should find the Lenten Offering envelope in your box or you can pick up a special Lenten envelope at church next to the offering plates in the upstairs narthex. Or you can simply mail a check and write Lenten Offering in the memo line.

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.

- Throughout Lent, our worship services will carry the themes of Les Mis as a common thread each week, weaving our way to Easter Sunday.
- 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 or e-mail Pastor Jessica and she will be happy to get one for you.



On March 19th One great Hour of sharing offering will be collected



Faithful Five

Periodically, Pastor Jessica's "Faithful Five" devotional time will be shared via our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC



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!

February 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Pastors report: Pastor Jessica reported she was able to do a few in person visits and checked in with members via phone and e-mail.

Continued doing "Faithful 5" devotionals on Thursdays.

Planned and led worship for Jan 15, 22, 29.

Continued Coffee Hour once per month.

Began planning for Lenten and Easter seasons.

Presided over "celebration of life " for Larry Rohrbaugh (Sat. 21st)

Taking a Lent study / planning week the first week of February, (Thu Feb 02 / Wed Feb 08). Lucy Brady will fill on Sunday, February 5th..

Bible Study begins March 2nd, *The Grace of Les Misérables* by Matt Rawle will be used.

Coffee Hour is February 26th before Sunday service

Committee Reports

Treasurer's report: Sue reported the Cemetery Fund will last Trinity at least 20 years; we cannot use those funds for anything except the cemetery. She also reported the cost of utilities have increased this year due to price not to usage. She also needed \$3,500.00 from the endowment to cover expenses

Property: Doug reported we have someone coming to look at the furnace due to the office heat keeping the offices hotter than the thermostat is set.

Fire extinguishers are being serviced and recharged

Finance: No report.

Personnel: A meeting was held with David Holland where he was informed (due to budget constraints) we would not be extending his contract beyond the February 12, 2023 probationary period

Evangelism: Belva reported 29 people attended the Congregational Meeting.

Planning time to say goodbye after service Sunday, February 12th for David Holland our Music Director
Planning Shrove Tuesday

Christian Education: Leslie and Amy reported Children's Church will continue being held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Acolyte training is ongoing.

February 5th and 19th Old Testament Holy Moly Continues.

March 5th and 19th April 2nd, and 16th Lessons of Lent and Holy Week.

Amy is heading up Earth Day gathering/activities on Saturday April 22

Worship: Ash Wednesday Service starts at 7:00 in the Sanctuary
Lenten Services are being planned.

Caring Ministry: No Report

PPR: Next meeting is Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Unfinished Business/ Updates

Web-Page: We had discussions about information being missing from our Trinity's Web-Page and talked about different options on getting necessary info to our secretary to better utilize the internet.

Consistory Meeting Devotionals: We added more names to the monthly devotional sign up sheet for our ,meetings.

Shrove Tuesday: Belva reported she has enough volunteers to help with the meal.

New Business

Ash Wednesday: Service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00. Pastor Jessica will also have a drive through imposition of ashes at 11:00 am in the church parking lot.

Rental Space: Discussions on how to advertise we have office space, use of the fellowship hall and our beautiful sanctuary.

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



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Spring is on it's way and what better way to get ready for those Spring projects – purchase your gift cards now for Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, Target, etc – anywhere you like to buy your spring cleaning or sprucing up supplies.

Orders go in the 1st Sunday of every month.

Contact Sue Myers at 443-375-6788 or wsmdem@comcast.net for more information or to place your order.



March 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:

March 5th and 19th, **April 2nd, and 16th**
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.



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



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

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	<u>Jan 23</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Communion Offering	5.00
Miscellaneous	122.00
Regular Offering	<u>5,793.00</u>
Total Income	5,920.00
Expense	
Educational Ministries	9.76
Evangelism	7.22
General	5,209.66
Personnel	10,396.13
Property	550.00
Music	609.67
Worship	<u>150.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>16,932.44</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(11,012.44)
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Memorial Fund	575.00
Fundraising	674.70
Special Offerings Received	<u>25.00</u>
Total Other Income	1,274.70
Other Expense	
Special Offerings Disbursed	270.31
Transfers	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>270.31</u>
Net Other Income	<u>1,004.39</u>
Net Income	<u><u>(10,008.05)</u></u>

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.			1 Consistory 7pm	2 Bible Study 7pm zoom	3	4
5 Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion Children's Church Lenten Offering	6	7	8	9 Bible Study 7pm zoom	10	11 Don't forget to change your clocks
12 Third Sunday in Lent Blessing of Prayer Shawls	13	14	15	16 Bible Study 7pm zoom	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Fourth Sunday in Lent Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	20	21	22 Worship Comm 6pm PPR 7pm	23 Bible Study 7pm zoom	24	25 Children's Fundraiser 2-4pm Cross Board Class
26 Fifth Sunday in Lent	27 April Newsletter articles due	28	29	30 Bible Study 7pm zoom	31	

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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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