



Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 730,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

April 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

"There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself."

-- Pope Francis

Spring is officially here! The flowers are blooming. Birds are chirping. Rain or sun, spring is a joyous time with more hours of sunlight and a renewed sense of hope that the dreary winter months have finally passed us by.

We're also approaching the renewal of our faith on the liturgical calendar in the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. This Lenten season, we explored some themes of our faith and how those can resonate through our culture (as in the case of *Les Misérables*). But we have also looked deeply at what those themes mean for how we act as people of faith.

As we approach the joy of Easter morning, we also recognize that our time together as pastor and congregation is nearing its close (though we aren't there just yet!). This can be a challenging time for pastor and people, but I have seen such love and care shown toward my family and myself that it is my great hope that not only will this time pass more easily than it might for some churches, but that it will ultimately be a blessing to us all. We are not a church moving into a new era because things are not going well, but because of blessings already bestowed and ones yet to come. Let us be of good cheer and of great joy as we look toward what's to come, even when uncertainty provokes a little anxiety. We can be assured that we aren't doing this alone.

That's why I have chosen to honor our last 8 weeks together (beginning on the Third Sunday of Easter, April 23rd) with a worship series that revolves around the Fruit of the Spirit.

According to Paul in his letter to the Galatian church, "the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness/generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." He contrasts this fruit with the works of the flesh, which include all the usual suspects that can drive our failings as human beings. Paul calls upon us as Christians not just to live by the spirit, but also to be guided by it—manifesting the fruit in our dealings with the other parts of God's good creation.

Often, we think about our Christian calling primarily in relation to how we work with God and with people. This spring, as you witness all the signs of new life around you and as you participate in Spirit-centered worship, I hope you will feel encouraged to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in your dealings with the rest of the natural world. All of God's creation are part of our good stewardship: from the animals that walk, swim, and fly, to the plants blooming and flowering everywhere, to the water which flows and sustains us. These gifts from God above are often honored in April for Earth Day, but we must remember to care for what God has graciously provided not just during humankind's "holidays," but all year round. Renewal is not a one-time event, it is a perpetual calling, a practice, and a gift.

Every blessing,

Pastor Jessica



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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/08 – Louise Ruby
 05/11 – Linda Hamilton
 05/15 – Eddie Blue
 05/20 – Ben Hamilton
 05/24 – Don Garmer
 05/25 – Elwin Wagner
 05/31 – Karen Price



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

MAY ANNIVERSARYS

05/01 – Norma and Ken Reed
 05/08 – Lucy Brady & Eddie Blue
 05/14 – Andrea & Alex Loren
 05/27 – Bonnie and Noman Greenholtz

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
 May Newsletter – Monday, April 24

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, April 5 @ 7pm
 Worship Comm – Tuesday, April 18 @ 6pm
 PPR – TBA



HELPING HANDS APRIL

Greeters for the month of April:

April 02 – Belva LaMotte
 April 06 – Belva LaMotte
 April 09 – Belva LaMotte
 April 16 – Amy Schultz
 April 23 – Robert Miller
 April 30 – Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of April:

April 02 – Sandy Sanders
 April 06 thru 30 – Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

April 02 – Robert Miller
 April 06 – Robert Miller
 April 09 – Robert Miller
 April 16 – Sue Myers
 April 23 – Amy Schultz
 April 30 – Jackie Nave Kulp

Media Operator

April 02 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
 April 06 – Sandy Sanders/Karen Haines
 April 09 – MB Brainerd/Elwin Wagner
 April 16 – Sandy Sanders/Elwin Wagner
 April 23 – MB Brainerd/Elwin Wagner
 April 30 – Sandy Sanders/Karen Haines



Easter Flower Order Form



The sanctuary will be decorated with lilies and tulips for Easter.
You may sponsor a flower in honor of or memory of someone for \$8.00.

Flowers will be available to take home after the service.

Choice of a tulip or a lily will be on a first come basis.

Please give your order to Debby Persinger or Sandy Sanders.

By April 5th.

Name: _____

Number of flowers: _____

Total amount: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Worship Schedule Lent 2023

Lenten Worship Series:



The Grace of *Les Misérables*

April 2, 2023 – Palm/Passion Sunday

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

Theme: Shaping Revolution

**No Communion this week*

April 6, 2023 – Maundy Thursday – 7pm

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: Lucy Brady

Fruit of the Spirit Worship Series



The Fruit of the Spirit Worship Series

April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35

Theme: Faithfulness

April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 5:13-20

Theme: Goodness



Join Pastor Jessica Sunday, April 23 at 10 a.m. for coffee hour.

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met on March 29. 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. Next meeting: TBA



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. Even though it has been almost 2 months since this disaster occurred, these people are still, and will be for years, in need of assistance.

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.



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!

March 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Pastor Jessica advised the consistory at the beginning of our meeting that the doors are closing for her spouse Donna to move to the US, and it would be easier for her to relocate to England. She also had advised she has a pastoral position waiting for her in England and will be relocating there in the near future. Her last date as Trinity's pastor will be on Sunday, June 11, 2023

Treasurer's report: Sue reported she moved \$5,000.00 from the Endowment acct to checking to cover payroll and expenses.

Pastors report:

Pastor Jessica planned and led worship Feb 12, 19 and 26th. Lucy Brady filled in on Feb 19th. Pastoral Care, Pastor Jessica reports she checked with members primarily via phone, zoom and e-mail this month. She did Ashes to Go and Ash Wednesday Service, Feb 22nd.

Coffee Hour continues once per month, Bible Study "Les Miserables" Thursday evenings via Zoom.

Committee Reports

Property: Doug Myers awaiting call back on when our boiler parts are due in. Robert is awaiting call back from organ repair guy

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: Belva reported Shrove Tuesday, February 21st there were about 50 people in attendance where we had pancakes, sausage, donuts, coffee, water, and juice. Belva also wants to express her appreciation for to everyone who helped make this successful and thank you to all who attended.

Christian Education: Amy and Leslie will continue the Children's Church Activities into 2023 on the first and third Sunday each month. Lessons of Lent and Holy Week / *March 5th* Stained Glass Cross and pick an item for I

Lent to practice at home and in school... *March 19th* Pray Poster and Sharing our Lenten Practice... *April 2nd* Palm Sunday- Holy Week pages and Wheel for Home.

Amy is heading up Earth Day gathering/activities on Saturday April 22 or Sunday April 23d.

Fundraising: Leslie reported Cross Board March 25th from 2-4 PM.

Shred Event is Thursday, April 27th from 5-7 pm, bring your documents to be shredded and make a monetary donation to Trinity.

Bingo, Saturday, May 13th, Manchester Fire Dept. Activities building.

Please share the news on these upcoming fundraising events.

Worship: Lent – Les Mis Theme – “The Grace of Les Miserables” by Matt Rawle will be used. Palm Sunday, April 2nd, no communion on Palm Sunday, Communion will be offered on Maundy Thursday, April 6th and Easter Sunday, April 9th. Easter Flowers: Lilies- Karen Price has agreed to purchase lilies and maybe some tulips from Walmart. Once the price is known we plan to offer congregants an opportunity to sponsor a flower(s) to help offset the cost to the church.

Next Worship Committee Meeting, Wednesday: March 22nd at 6 PM

Caring Ministry: No report

PPR: Next Meeting is Wednesday, March 22nd

Unfinished Business / Updates

Updating Trinity’s Web Page...

Monthly Devotional Sign Up Sheet... We still need August and September

Lenten Offering... 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

April Newsletter Articles... Due to Diane on or before Monday, March 27th

New and Continuing Business:

Music at Trinity checking to see if we can get the Canticles (example Doxology) on CD to use during worship service

Daylight Savings Time Change March 12th

Next Meeting – Wednesday – April 05, 2023 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.

FLOWERS

With Spring arriving, so is the beautification of our church grounds. Flowers to be planted outside will be arriving soon. If you would like to make a small donation to cover the cost just put “outside flowers” on the memo line. Thanks!

BINGO

Get those dabbers ready!! Trinity UCC and the Manchester Volunteer Fire Dept will be hosting a joint banquet bingo on May 13th! Cost is \$50 which includes dinner, a 6 pack of 20 regular games cards with cash prizes \$100 and 2 jackpot games with \$500 cash prize! Doors open at 4:30 – dinner at 5:30 – games at 7:00.

We will also have door prizes, filled themed baskets being raffled off, and of course baked goods for sale to snack on during the evening!

If you are interested in helping please contact Sue Myers. But more importantly, we hope you are interested in playing – for advance tickets call Sue 443-375-6788 or Trinka 443-375-2469. Call all of your friends and neighbors and start getting a group together for a fun filled evening!



April 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.

April 2nd, and 16th

Lessons of Lent and Holy Week

Watch for Earth Day happenings the weekend of April 22 and 23.

May 7th and 21st



The community shred event hosted by **Manchester Trinity United Church of Christ** is on **Thursday April 27 from 5-7 pm** at the church. We have teamed up with the SHRED MILL to provide the community the chance to securely destroy those papers and documents that have been piling up.

The Shred Mill will be providing the equipment and personnel to do this safely and securely by just driving through.

It is free for area residents and good will donations will help fund our Christian Education opportunities.



Baskets for Bingo Raffles

Trinity is providing fabulous baskets for the basket raffles at our Bingo on **May 13th**. We need donations to create more baskets. You can sponsor a whole basket, give a little, or even a gift certificate is appreciated. Donations of door prizes are loved also. (small items) We need at least 3 more baskets.

Sponsoring a whole basket is \$50.00.

Suggestions for more baskets are:

- Maryland Basket (crab certificate too)
- Wine Basket/ Wine and Cheese
- Basket of Cheer
- Basket of Non-alcoholic Cheer
- Barb-que basket
- Tool Basket
- Car Care Basket/Gas cards/Car wash/Auto detailing
- Dinner and Movie Basket.

We have these 7 baskets already:

- ❖ Grow your Garden.
- ❖ Home comforts
- ❖ Pet
- ❖ Baker
- ❖ Wellness
- ❖ Mystery
- ❖ Gift Cards Galore



Food Bags for Backpacks & Snack Packs for Classrooms

While our food bag and snack pack mission with Manchester Elementary School may not be as visible as other programs in our community, it is certainly just as important. Studies indicate that one in six children in the United States do not get enough to eat. The food bags program gives selected students in the FARM program (free and reduced meal) 12 food items each month to take home to supplement the family diet, while the snack packs program provides snacks in each classroom to be available for any child who may need an additional snack during the school day. The cost of the food bags program is about \$140 per month and the cost of the snack packs program is about \$150 per month. Each month we provide 300 items with the food bags program and about 400 items with the snack packs program.

Thank you for your continued support of these programs, any donation is greatly appreciated.

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Feb 23	Jan - Feb 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Communion Offering	35.00	40.00
Loose Offering	10.00	10.00
Miscellaneous	740.55	862.55
Regular Offering	6,397.00	12,335.00
Total Income	7,182.55	13,247.55
Expense		
Educational Ministries	28.79	114.33
Evangelism	279.06	286.28
General	1,558.38	6,888.29
Personnel	6,276.00	17,422.18
Property	271.85	821.85
Music	100.00	709.67
Worship	276.27	426.27
Total Expense	8,790.35	26,668.87
Net Ordinary Income	(1,607.80)	(13,421.32)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	0.03
Memorial Fund	300.00	975.00
Fundraising	740.00	1,414.70
Special Offerings Received	195.20	220.20
Total Other Income	1,235.20	2,609.93
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	315.93	586.24
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	315.93	586.24
Net Other Income	919.27	2,023.69
Net Income	(688.53)	(11,397.63)

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sixth Sunday in Lent Palm/Passion Sunday Children's Church Bible Study following Worship	3	4	5 Consistory 7pm	6 Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm	7 Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday
9 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Second Sunday of Easter Pastor Lucy Children's Church Blessing of Prayer Shawls Improvement Fund Offering	17	18 Worship Committee 6pm	19	20	21	22
23 Third Sunday of Easter Blessing of FoodBags	24 May Newsletter articles due	25	26	27 Shred Mill 5-7pm	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Easter	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

April

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Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
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