

Trinity United Church of Christ

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Trinity Times

May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

Nothing is impossible.

The word itself says, 'I'm possible!'

-Audrey Hepburn

This month, I am thinking about the ways in which God's Spirit, which resides within us, shows up. Paul had an idea of what it looks like when we are living according to the Spirit. He believed that when we put God first in all we do we manifest good fruit shining through in how we live.

Fundamentally, those attributes work (told in **(Gal. 5:22-23)**) work together to form the **Fruit of the Spirit** (singular), *not fruits* (plural), as is often incorrectly said. This is key to consider as we begin our last series together, during which we will discuss how they live within as beloved children of God. We aren't imbued with just one or two of these, though some of them may be more evident in our words and behaviors than others.

Looking through Paul's list, it might seem as if all these cannot possibly exist in us at the same time. As the angel said to Mary in Luke 1:37, "*But with God, nothing is impossible.*" Or, if you prefer a non-scriptural reference, see Audrey Hepburn's "I'm possible" quote above.

All things are possible. Yet, we are human, so there are moments when we have more patience than others or are more loving or kind. We might fail the test of faithfulness in our dealings with people or lack joy because of what's happening around us. Though the perfection of God's Spirit lives within us, we are still imperfectly human. I hope it is a relief to know that God knows this,

too. If God did not create us to be perfect beings, God certainly isn't expecting us to manifest God's perfection (that's not a characteristic of the Fruit of the Spirit, after all).

Even so, we must try to live more closely into the call to follow in Christ's footsteps. We know what that looks like because we've got four gospels (plus!), which give us examples. It's tempting to give into our worst instincts when all seems to be going awry or when life gets especially hectic. There were certainly moments when Jesus seemed to get frustrated or overwhelmed with what happened around him (flipping tables, anyone?).

When we think we don't have time for **faithfulness**, or for being **kind** or **loving** or **patient** or **controlled**; when we want to be anything but **good, gentle, joyful, or peaceful**—those are the moments we need to lean into the Spirit most. If you're having a hard time, there is no better cure than to make things easier for others. The fruit of the Spirit is contagious! It is what has kept The Way of Jesus alive and spreading for millennia. To receive good things, we must be willing to give them.

This month, I challenge you all to find little ways to manifest the fruit of the Spirit every day. Make a note of those moments and share them with one another that we all can be encouraged by the ways in which the Spirit is shining through you and into the world!

Every blessing,

Pastor Jessica



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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/02 – Bonnie Greenholtz
 6/03 – Sarah Krawczyk
 6/05 – Lucy Brady
 6/08 – Nathan Krawczyk
 6/09 – Kelsey Hemlock
 6/14 – Shirley Wood
 6/16 – Ralph Keeney
 6/19 – MariBeth Brainerd
 6/26 – Cammeron Williams
 6/30 – Harper Hemlock



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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/08 – Jamie and Chadd Schneeman
 6/15 – Sandy & Wayne Sanders

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
 June Newsletter– Monday, May 22

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 as needed, working from home on whenever possible for the next two months. Please contact her if you would like to set up a visit.



Meeting Dates - Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, May 10 @ 7pm
 Worship Comm – Tuesday, May 16 @ 6pm
 PPR – TBA



HELPING HANDS MAY

Greeters for the month of May: Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of May: Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

May 07 – Sue Myers
 May 14 – Robert Miller
 May 21 – Amy Schultz
 May 28 – MB Brainerd

Media Operator

May 07 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 May 14 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
 May 21 – Karen Haines/MB Brainerd
 May 28 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders

Save the Date

Fellowship would like to invite you to a "See You Later" luncheon for Pastor Jessica and her family. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after the church service on **Sunday June 11th**. We will be serving a make your own Salad, Homemade Breads (and the best part) a Red Velvet Vegan Cake.

Worship Schedule April 23-June 11

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

May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: James 1:17-27; John 14:1-14

Theme: Self-Control

May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:1-16; John 14:15-31

Theme: Patient and Gentle

May 22, 2023 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

Luke 24:44-53

Theme: Joy

May 29, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23

Theme: Peace

June 4, 2023 – Trinity Sunday

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:31-5:2; Matthew 28:16-20

Theme: Kindness

June 11, 2023 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: 1 John 4:7-21; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Theme: Love



Join Pastor Jessica Sunday, May 21 at 10 a.m. for coffee hour. Our last coffee hour with Pastor Jessica will take place outside at Christmas Tree Park before “Worship in the Park” at 10am on June 4.

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee met with Pastor Jessica for the last time on March 29. The content of these meetings is of a confidential nature to facilitate a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregation. The committee will resume in the future.



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!

April 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Pastors report: Pastoral Care this month, checked in with members in person, via phone, zoom and e-mails. Planned and led worship March 05, 12, 19, and 26th

Coffee Hour continues monthly, next one is Sunday, April 23rd before worship

Continued Lenten series
Presided over Arlene Nott's memorial service and prayed at luncheon
Looking ahead: Stewardship Sundays and Fundraising events

Treasurer's report: Submitted by Sue and accepted

Committee Reports

Property: Doug Myers awaiting call back for the boiler system

Robert reported Fire Alarm "Sanctuary beam" is periodically going off again

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: Belva is planning a goodbye luncheon on June 11th after Sunday Worship. Doug Myers will make contact to reserve a pavilion for Worship in the Park will be Sunday June 4th

Christian Education: Amy reported they are choosing things off the printed cross and discussing giving something up for Lent. Earth Day after worship on Sunday, April 23rd

There are no official plans for VBS

Fundraising: Leslie reported \$80.00 was raised from the Cross Board event. Shred Event is Thursday, April 27th from 5-7 pm, on Trinity's parking lot, bring your documents to be shredded and make a monetary donation to Trinity.

Bingo, Saturday, May 13th, Manchester Fire Dept. Activities building, raffle baskets are being made.

Please share the news on these upcoming fundraising events.

Worship: Maundy Thursday, April 6th service at 7:00 pm

Easter Season: "Fruit of the Spirit" Theme starts April 23rd. The message on June 11th (Pastor's last Sunday at Trinity) will be a theme on Love

Easter Flowers: Karen Price has agreed to purchase lilies and maybe some tulips, to sponsor these the cost will be \$8.00 each
Rev Lucy Brady will lead the service and provide the message on April 16th

Next Worship Committee Meeting, Wednesday: April 18th at 6 PM

Caring Ministry: No report

PPR: No planned meetings until we have a new pastor

Unfinished Business / Updates

We will revisit building use / rental in future

New and Continuing Business:

Query on use of the Memorial Fund, the Consistory voted unanimously these should be used within the church

Deb Miller will pick up carnations to be given out on Mother's Day, Sunday May 14th

Next Meeting – Wednesday – May 10, 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

The big fundraiser is approaching! Gather all your friends and family and come on out to support your church and local fire company! Our banquet bingo is on May 13th! Cost is \$50 which includes dinner (fried shrimp, ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable) 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 Trinkka 443-375-2469.



Christian Education May Newsletter

Winding down a fun-filled year for all ages with our Picnic in the Park on June 4.

Christian education will be on summer vacation until Rally Day this fall. We hope to have some activities for all ages this summer.

Love and Grace to all our youth and family.

Amy and Leslie

CROSS BOARD CLASS

On **SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023 from 2-4 PM** was a fun time to raise money with fantastic crossboards made by Penny, Donna, Sherri and Leslie

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



Food Bags for Backpacks & Snack

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.

The month of May will be the last month for these programs during this school year, but with your continued support we hope to begin again this coming September.

Thanks so much for your donations!



Worship in the Park June 4

The service begins at 10:45 am, followed by the annual church picnic Pot Luck Meal "Bring a Dish - Share a Dish"



Summer Worship Hours Begin on **June 11 @10:00 a.m.** (No Children's Church in the summer. Children's church will resume **Rally Day September 10th. @10:45 a.m.)**

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Mar 23	Jan - Mar 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Childrens' Church	40.00	40.00
Communion Offering	20.00	60.00
Loose Offering	80.00	90.00
Miscellaneous	80.00	942.55
Regular Offering	5,297.00	17,777.00
Total Income	5,517.00	18,909.55
Expense		
Educational Ministries	83.90	240.55
Evangelism	10.78	297.06
General	1,330.82	8,280.31
Personnel	5,965.98	23,388.16
Property	0.00	821.85
Music	200.00	909.67
Worship	0.00	426.27
Total Expense	7,591.48	34,363.87
Net Ordinary Income	(2,074.48)	(15,454.32)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest/Dividend Income	0.03	0.09
Memorial Fund	25.00	900.00
Fundraising	560.20	1,540.54
Special Offerings Received	476.70	746.90
Total Other Income	1,061.93	3,187.53
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	278.85	865.09
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	278.85	865.09
Net Other Income	783.08	2,322.44
Net Income	(1,291.40)	(13,131.88)

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Children's Church	8	9	10 Consistory 7pm	11	12	13 Bingo Doors open 4:30pm
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Blessing of the Prayer Shawls	15	16 Worship Committee 6pm	17	18 Ascension Day	19	20
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter Children's Church Blessing of Foodbags Coffee Hour 10am with Pastor Jessica	22 June Newsletter articles due	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday Wear RED Strengthen the Church Offering	29 Memorial Day Church office closed	30	31	Church office: Open 9am – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Always subject to change.		

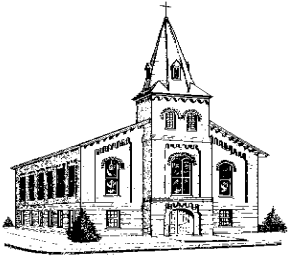
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