

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

December 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

As I write this, it is a few days before Thanksgiving, but I am already surrounded by Christmas decorations and displays. Salvation Army bells already ring, carols waft through the air; the season is already upon us. As we anticipate this holiday season, I would ask what is it that would make the perfect gift for you and your family. We spend a lot of time looking for just the right gift to give to others whether spouses, significant others, children, co-workers and friends. We look to make that gift be special and meaningful. Sometimes we will spend a great deal of time just to find that special gift.

Here at Trinity, we have opportunities to give. This year we will celebrate "A Year of Generosity," as we explore the various ways we give back to God and one another. Our gifts of food fill stomachs and souls; our prayer shawls offer warmth and comfort and each year we ensure that a local family's hopes and dreams for Christmas are fulfilled.

This is also a time of anticipation for us. Throughout Advent, we will be looking at the times and concerns of the early church and the times of Jesus' birth. They too were difficult times with many worries. What amazes me is that it was in such times that God chose to come to us. That God gave us the greatest gift that any of us could ever have and that was God's own child. God gave us the gift of forgiveness. Jesus was born and lived so that he could offer himself in the ultimate act of forgiveness. What a special gift we have been given; greater than any gift we could buy. In the midst of our shopping, I would like to encourage everyone to spend some time reflecting on what it means for us to receive such a gift. Maybe the perfect gift might be to seek out someone and to share forgiveness with them. What would the world look like if we no longer held onto past hurts but shared the love Jesus commanded us to show to one another. We are called to forgive others as God has forgiven us. Spend some time thinking about that special person that you need to ask for forgiveness and extend the opportunity for reconciliation. That is what God has done in Christmas to us.

May this Christmas be a joyous occasion. May you find the peace of God's grace be with you. For in Jesus is that perfect gift for us all, we need no other.

May this holiday season be a blessing to you and your family,

Pastor Katie



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 – Doug Rhoten
 12/11 – Laci Saunders
 12/17 – Annika Matthews
 12/19 – James Price
 12/27 – Amy Miller

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

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
 January Newsletter– Monday, December 18

Contacting the Church Office

For a non emergency call the church office
 410- 374-2727.
 In case of Pastoral Emergency call Pastor
 Katie 240-418-8028



Meeting Dates

Consistory – Wednesday, December 6 @7pm
 Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month
 @ 3:30.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

"If you have any hidden talent, can knit or
 crochet, please consider helping our shawl
 ministry." Perhaps you have a neighbor or friend
 with time on their hands. I will be happy to
 answer any questions about the ministry.



HELPING HANDS DECEMBER

Greeter for the month of December:

December 03 – Belva LaMotte
 December 10 – Sandy Sanders
 December 17 – Robert Miller
 December 24 – Belva LaMotte
 December 24 – Leslie Brooks
 December 31 – Sandy Sanders

Usher for the month of December:

Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

December 03 – Amy Schultz
 December 10 – MB Brainerd
 December 17 – Leslie Brooks
 December 24 – Sue Myers (morning service)
 December 24 – Robert Miller (evening serv.)
 December 31 – Jackie Nave Kulp

Media Operator:

December 03 – Elwin Wagner/MB Brainerd
 December 10 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
 December 17 – Moriah Marr/Sandy Sanders
 December 24 – Moriah Marr/Sandy Sanders
 December 24 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 December 31 – Moriah Marr/MB Brainerd

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

Prayers are needed for our World at this
 difficult time. Please give Pastor Katie or
 Secretary Diane the names of all those in
 need.

Prayer requests:

Carolyn Brooks, by Leslie Brooks
 Jeff Brooks and family by Leslie Brooks
 Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks
 Dorothy Benedict, friend of Belva LaMotte
 Anna Butch, friend of Sue & Doug Myers
 Nathan Cox, son of Lucy Brady
 Russell Fuhrman, friend of Leon & Robert Miller
 Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity
 Matt Goon, cousin of Karen Price
 Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz
 James Penick, Pastor Katie's father
 Mary and George Pietsch
 Leah, friend of Donna Alban

Carol Sheffler, friend of Belva LaMotte
Martha Tallent, Pastor Katie's Godmother
Claire Vey, member of Trinity
Robert Yeoman, friend of Pastor Katie



Worship Schedule: December 2023

Advent theme is Journey to Bethlehem

Dec 3 - Traveling with Hope

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

Message- In-between Times

Dec 10 - Traveling Faithfully

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

Message - Preparing the Way

Dec 17 - Traveling Joyfully

Lucy Brady is doing the Message

Dec 24 - Traveling Expectantly

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Message - reading from Parable of the Birds

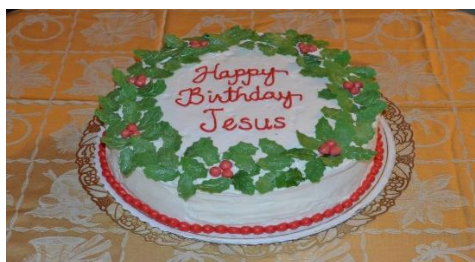
Christmas Eve- At the Manger

Lessons & Carols

Christmas One - New Beginnings

Revelation 21:1-6, Luke 2:22-40

Message - Entering into a new Season



"We will be having a fellowship to celebrate the birth of Jesus, after the candlelight evening service on Sunday December 24th"

Trinity UCC Christmas Giving Tree

The holiday season is fast approaching; TUCC has plans to assist with help for families again this year. NESAP will be providing us with the needs of at least one family with younger children. Once we receive the information, we will have gift tags available for our congregation beginning **Sunday, November 26th** with gift ideas for you to purchase, wrap and bring into church. NESAP recommends the cost of each gift should be around \$30.00.

TUCC is a small and mighty church and our congregation always finds a way to help families in need and for that we are blessed and thankful for bringing smiles and comfort to others during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. God Bless and thank you once again for your support. Deb Miller / Care Fund Chairperson

November 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's report: Sue advised we have "Ministry Outreach" funds of \$500.00 to use before the end of December.

\$540.00 was raised for New Life for Girls. To reduce costs we have a new PO Box #38. Sue is awaiting corrected bill for the downspout repair as it was less than the check from the insurance company, once received she will return the additional funds to the insurance company.

Pastor report: There were several special services this month, including World Communion Sunday (October 1), Blessing of the Pets (October 8), Children's Sabbath with testimony and music provided by New Life for Girls (October 15), and Harvest Home (October 29).

Stewardship Sunday (now called Generosity Sunday) is scheduled for November 12th and will kick off "A Year of Generosity." Each month, a different person will be asked to talk to the church for a few minutes about how Trinity has changed their lives.

This month, the Central Atlantic Conference held its Annual meeting in Frederick. Pastor Katie was on the planning committee and Rev. Lucy Brady shared her storytelling gifts during the opening worship service. Immediately after the Annual Meeting, the Catoctin Association held its Fall Meeting. Both Pastor Katie and Sue Myers are members of the Association Council, which plan and coordinates the Fall Meeting.

Upcoming Events

November 12 – Generosity Sunday
November 19 – All Saints Sunday
November 24 – Black Friday Events
December 03 – First Sunday of Advent

Committee Reports

Property: Doug M advised cost for Tevis to replace the boiler is \$34,367.00 we are still waiting on the cost to convert the sanctuary units to include heat. We have a lot to think about and need additional estimates.

Finance: Discussions and approval of the 2024 Budget, congregational vote is scheduled for December 10, 2023

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: Belva reported we had fellowship, Sunday, October 15th after the service that included New Life for Girls.
We will be having muffins for fellowship Sunday, November 19th

Trinity will have open house on Black Friday, November 24th after the lighting of the Crèche, all are welcomed, we will serve cookies, hot chocolate and coffee

Christian Education: Leslie, Amy, Nate and Hannah joined the Little Free Food Pantry “Not Quite a Full K” walk on Saturday, October 28th, to raise funds for the pantry.

Rocktober: Painting rocks every Sunday in October for sharing in TUCG Prayer Garden during the month of November.

Fundraising: Leslie advised the kickoff of the “Pathway to Prayer”; new brick program the cost

is \$100.00 per inscribed brick which will be laid into our prayer garden walkway.

Working on the Bingo Fundraiser, basket ideas to raffle off during the 2024 bingo, you can support a basket, make a basket, check with Leslie for some ideas.

Also considering having another paint night after the holidays.

Worship: Pastor Katie advised they are planning all the way through Advent.

Generosity Sunday, will be the 4th Sunday of each month, asking people to speak about “Because of you – Church changes lives”

All Saints Sunday, Robert and Pastor Katie will alternate saying names of those who have passed, Hannah will ring the bell for each name, and candles will be lit.
December 3rd, Advent Journey, BBC reporter will recite Mary and Joseph’s journey to Nazareth.
Next Meeting, TBD

Caring Ministry: Debbi Miller is working with NESAP to adopt a family or families for the holiday season. Tags will be added to TUCG Giving Tree on Sunday, November 26th... Deb is also getting a list of 25 most needed items NESAP is in need of to support families in our community for a “Reverse Advent Calendar”

PPR: No planned meetings at this time

Unfinished Business / Updates

Christmas Eve Services: Trinity will have a morning service at 10:45 am and an evening service at 6:30 pm

Crossroads Team continues meeting and finding ideas to strengthen Trinity

Longest Night Service: TUCG will join St Paul’s UCC in Westminster, Thursday, December 21st

Harvest Home: Non-Perishable food items collected will be donated between NESAP and Immanuel Lutheran

Health on Wheels: Consistory voted to move forward to the next step, it will be beneficial to the community

New and Continuing Business:

We will be decorating the church after worship on Sunday, November 19th

Reverse Advent Calendar begins December 1st; a list of recommended items needed for NESAP will be available at that time.

Next Meeting – Thursday – December 07, 2023 at 7:00 via Zoom



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We will be placing 2 orders for gift cards during **December – 12/3 and 12/10**. This will allow for you to place gift card orders for giving to others and for using yourself to purchase your personal needs. With over 500 retailers participating I'm sure you can find your favorite grocery store, department store, restaurant, etc. And during the holiday season you can find denominations of \$5 and \$10 cards.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information, or if you'd like a list of the various retailers, please contact Sue Myers, 443-375-6788, wsmdem@comcast.net.

2024 BUDGET MEETING

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on **Sunday, 12/10/23**, immediately following the church service to vote on the 2024 financial budget. A summary of our budget is shown below:

Income	\$ 72,000
Expenses:	
Educational	1,150
Evangelism	1,700
General	31,338
Personnel	93,409
Property	4,000
Music	925
Worship	2,275
	<hr/>
	134,797
	<hr/>
Deficit	<u>\$ (62,797)</u>

All of our expenses go towards fulfilling our various ministries. When allocating the line item budget information above into the various ministries, our funds are used in the following way:

Education	22%
Outreach	27%
Worship	51%

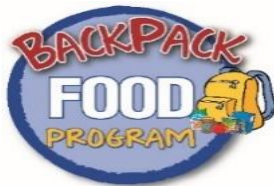
The general operating budget above does not include the funds we collect throughout the year that support our various ministries 100%.

Community Outreach

Each year we adopt a family under the guidance of NESAP. We have provided the family with gifts and a meal to help them enjoy the holiday season. This year, **in addition** to helping a family, we have been given the opportunity to share our Christian love with approximately 20 students that are enrolled in the US Forest Service/Dept of Labor Job Corps in Harper's Ferry, WV. We will be partnering with 3 other local UCC churches to provide for \$50 Amazon gift cards that will be given to the students. Additional funds will be used to purchase clothing, shoes and personal hygiene products for the students. This is a wonderful opportunity to help disadvantaged young people who have committed to making their lives better.

Donations of any amount will be accepted and pooled together to purchase the Amazon cards through our Scrip program. As our young people

learned last year in VBS, every little bit helps. If you wish to participate in this ministry please designate your donation as JOB CORPS. Donations can be made on line or with a check or cash and should be received by **December 10** so we can purchase the cards in time to be delivered to Harper's Ferry. Please contact Sue Myers if you have any questions.



Food Bags for Backpacks & Snack Packs for Classrooms

Thanks to those who helped pack the food-bags for November, Donna Alban, Penny Ludwig and Shirley Wood, also a thank you to Belva LaMotte for creating and printing the cards.

Trinity UCC continues our Food Bags for Backpacks donation program for Manchester Elementary School. Trying to be as careful as possible, we will once again just ask for monetary donations. Please mark "Food Bags" on any checks or giving envelopes that you wish to go to this program. Thank you, your support is greatly appreciated.

Additional Partnership with MES (Manchester Elementary School)

Trinity UCC will continue a monthly assistance program that we started in 2022 with MES to provide snacks for students who are on early or late lunch schedules. Students who have early lunch may need an afternoon snack and those students having late lunch may need a midmorning snack. Our program will provide large boxes of Cheerios in 10 homerooms for students who may not have brought a snack from home. Many of these students are those who are on the FARM (Free and Reduced Meal) Program who could use our support.

Update: Trinity has a new P.O. Box number 38.

Please correct your address files.

Thank You!



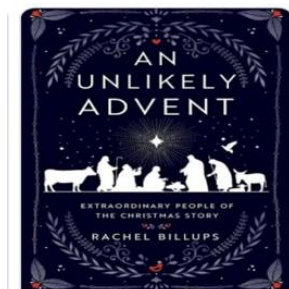
Inclement Weather

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

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

An Unlikely Advent by Rachel Billups



A four week read about extraordinary people of the Christmas story. A fabulous read.

Group discussions

11/28/2023

12/05/2023

12/12/2023

12/17/2023 (in person finale)

Pastor Katie will be ordering books for those who want to participate.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It's time to order your poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. They are available in **red only**. The cost is \$7.00 each for small 12-15" tall or \$15.00 for large 20" tall. Checks should be made payable to: Trinity U.C.C. and payment must be included with your order. The deadline for placing an order is Friday, December 15th. Orders should be given to Deb Persinger or Sandy Sanders.

I / We wish to sponsor flowers for Christmas.

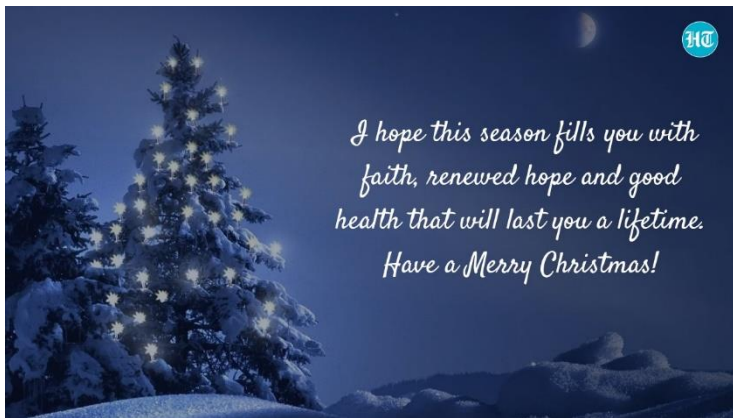
Name:

Red: _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:



*I hope this season fills you with
faith, renewed hope and good
health that will last you a lifetime.
Have a Merry Christmas!*



It's Official!! Trinity UCC to Host the CCHD Health on Wheels Program!

On Wed Nov 15, Consistory President Robert Miller, Sandy Sanders, and MB Brainerd met with Cindy Dotterer, the Mobile Health Clinic Program Supervisor, to confirm that TUCC will meet the requirements of being a Health on Wheels host site, and Robert signed the MOA for hosting the CCHD Health on Wheels Program. The mission of the program is to bring needed health services to the rural areas of Carroll County, especially important for those who have difficulty finding transportation into Westminster. To start off, we have scheduled two Fridays in January (January 12 and January 26) from 10am – 1pm, and we hope to host the clinic every month on the second and fourth Fridays. Anyone, regardless of insurance, income, or residency (including those who have no permanent address or are homeless) is welcome to come to the clinic. The clinic is prepared to provide the five services most in demand. Screening and testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and Hepatitis C, Peer support for substance abuse/addiction, and flu vaccinations. Other services include blood pressure screening and information and referrals to other services. Reproductive Health services and WIC appointments as well as Naloxone/Narcan training and distribution and smoking cessation programs and oral cancer screening will be available in the future.



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDER 2023**

DATE	GIFT
Sunday, December 3, 2023	Instant Potatoes / Canned Potatoes
Monday, December 4, 2023	Jell-O / Pudding
Tuesday, December 5, 2023	Cereal / Oatmeal
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Stuffing
Thursday, December 7, 2023	Applesauce
Friday, December 8, 2023	Muffin Mix
Saturday, December 9, 2023	Mac & Cheese
Sunday, December 10, 2023	Tomato Sauce / canned Tomatoes
Monday, December 11, 2023	Soups
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	Baked Beans
Wednesday, December 13, 2023	Hamburger Helper
Thursday, December 14, 2023	Breakfast Bars Juice/Drinks
Friday, December 15, 2023	Tuna
Saturday, December 16, 2023	Gravy
Sunday, December 17, 2023	Canned Pasta
Monday, December 18, 2023	Jelly / Peanut Butter
Tuesday, December 19, 2023	Pasta
Wednesday, December 20, 2023	Side Dishes
Thursday, December 21, 2023	Brownie Mix/ Cake Mix / Frosting
Friday, December 22, 2023	Green Beans
Saturday, December 23, 2023	Corn
Sunday, December 24, 2023	Peas

Pop top cans are preferred!

Add your gift to a decorated box each day. These are the top suggestion list, you may add what ever you wish to give. Boxes are available in the fellowship hall.

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Oct 23	Jan - Oct 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income	4,778.38	57,637.93
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	484.85
Evangelism	75.00	631.34
General	1,089.83	25,603.86
Personnel	5,405.49	57,375.05
Property	1,252.00	2,981.85
Music	0.00	509.67
Worship	207.16	1,805.41
Total Expense	8,029.48	89,392.03
Net Ordinary Income	(3,251.10)	(31,754.10)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Insurance Claim	3,148.55	3,148.55
Cemetery	0.00	(3,808.50)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.03	954.41
Memorial Fund	0.00	1,200.00
Fundraising	314.35	7,727.39
Special Offerings Received	891.25	3,056.04
Total Other Income	4,354.18	12,277.89
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	220.94	2,471.47
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	220.94	2,471.47
Net Other Income	4,133.24	9,806.42
Net Income	882.14	(21,947.68)

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent 10:45am Holy Communion Children's Church 10am	4	5 ADVENT BOOK STUDY	6 Midweek Boost at noon	7 Consistory 7pm	8	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 10:45am Children's Church 10am Congregational Meeting following Worship	11	12 ADVENT BOOK STUDY	13 Midweek Boost at noon	14	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 10:45am Children's Church 10am Blessing of Foodbags ADVENT BOOK STUDY	18 Jan. Newsletter articles due	19	20 Midweek Boost at noon	21 Worship Comm 3:30pm Blue Christmas @St. Paul's UCC	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:45am Children's Church 10am Evening Worship 6:30pm	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve First Sunday After Christmas 10:45am Children's Church 10am	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday and Tuesday. Always subject to change.					

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
P. O. BOX 38
MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



3229 York Street
P.O. Box 38
Manchester, MD 21102

Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday and Tuesday subject to change
410-374-2727 (Church office)
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