

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

January 2024

From the Pastor's Desk:

“God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

There's something special about the New Year. As you stand on the cusp between the past and the future, your imagination can soar. What will 2024 bring to you and your family? What are the possibilities that the future can hold? This is a time when many of us begin to make plans and resolutions for how we will improve our lives: 2024 will surely be the year that we all lose weight, exercise more, build lasting relationships with family and friends, pray more, drink less... the lists go on and on.

Looking back to last year – What resolutions did you make? How many were you able to keep? How many of your hopes and plans came to fruition? If you are like most of us, your success rate is low! Breaking resolutions is as much of a tradition as making them. But the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that everything has a season... everything happens in its own time. Our hopes and plans may not work the way we want them to, but God's hopes and plans continue. God knows us and has known us from the beginning: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” God tells Jeremiah. God knows us and God loves us... and God's plans for us are beyond our imagination!

So this New Year, as you form your personal plans and resolutions, take a moment to thank God for all the gifts we have already received and the dreams that God has for each of us.

May each of you have a Blessed and Happy New Year,

Pastor Katie



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



02/ 24 – Judy and Leon Miller

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, January 3 @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 JANUARY

Greeter for the month of January:

- January 07 – Sandy Sanders
- January 14 – Leslie Brooks
- January 21 – Robert Miller
- January 28 – Sandy Sanders

Usher for the month of January:

Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

- January 07 – Robert Miller
- January 14 – Sue Myers
- January 21 – Leslie Brooks
- January 28 – MB Brainerd

Media Operator:

- January 07 – Moriah Marr/MB Brainerd
- January 14 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- January 21 – Elwin Wagner/Moriah Marr
- January 28 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers

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
- Anna Butch, friend of Sue & Doug Myers
- 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: January 2024

Jan 7 - Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 69:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Message - Arise and Shine

Jan. 14 - Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:15

Mark 1:4-11

Message - Creative Waters

Jan. 21 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Mark 1:14-20

Message - Caught in Discipleship

Jan 28 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Mark 1:21-28

Message - Who Will Speak for Us?

December 2023 Consistory Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's report: Sue advised looking pretty good. First page of her report shows investments went up. The actual rain gutter repair cost was \$1,800.00 less than the original \$3,100.00 estimate, Sue will be returning the extra \$1,800.00 to the insurance company. She has spent \$26,000.00 from the endowment and needs an additional \$5,000.00 during December.

Pastor Report: Stewardship Sunday (now called Generosity Sunday) is scheduled for November 12th and kicked 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.

On November 19th, we remembered those who had passed away over the last year..

Pastor Katie continued to connect with members

through phone and home visits. Home communion can be offered to anyone who would like it.

The Crossroads group continues to move forward. One issue that emerged out of our Crossroads group is a desire to explore the ONA process. Pastor Katie also attended meetings for the Carroll County Ministerium, Communities of Practice, CAC Board of Directors: and the Catocin Association Council.

Upcoming Events:

December 21 – Blues Christmas at St. Paul's

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 6:30

Committee Reports

Property: Doug M reported broken window on Church St (a faux window with no longer used, no access to the sanctuary) was replaced with plexi-glass at the cost of \$360.00

Doug M reported Modern Comfort replaced the valve, consensus is the heat is working great. Doug M will hang the Christmas Eve banner Doug R will plow the parking lot if we get snow. We also discussed contacting Herb Ritz asking if Jeremy can spread salt during the week for ice as needed to prevent Diane or anyone else from falling as they enter the church.

Finance: There will be a congregational vote after worship, to approve the 2024 Budget on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Personnel: No Report

Evangelism: It was estimated around 100 people from the community stopped by for cookies, hot chocolate and coffee on Black Friday

Christian Education: There is washable red paint for everyone to coat on their palms and leave a handprint on the white canvas board.

Per Pastor Katie they are looking into joining a couple of other churches to have children's labs, more to come in the future.

Fundraising: We would like everyone to reach out to community businesses to consider purchasing a brick to add to Trinity's Pathway to Prayer walkway.

Worship: 12/03/23-12/24/23 Advent Readers have been scheduled

12/24/23 Christmas Eve Service

Communion will be served in the pews. Battery operated tea lights will be used for the singing of Silent Night.

01/07/24 Epiphany Sunday

01/07/24 Food collected during Reverse Advent Calendar for NESAP will be blessed.

01/07/24 New members will be joining the church, fellowship will be held after worship

01/07/24 Installation of the Consistory will be held.

Next Meeting: TBD

Caring Ministry: The "Giving Tree" is up, tags are attached to support the family we adopted this holiday season.

PPR: No planned meetings at this time

Unfinished Business / Updates

Health on Wheels 10:00 to 1:00 on Fri 01-12-24 & Fri 01-26-24

2024 Budget to be voted on 12-10-2023

2024 Consistory Assignments discussed

Date of 2024 Consistory Installation – January 07-2024

Next Meeting – Wednesday – January 03, 2024 at 7:00 via Zoom

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



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We will be going back to our regular schedule of ordering gift cards on the 1st Sunday of every month. Thank-you to all that participated in this program in 2023 – we raised over \$1,000 from the gift cards that were purchased!

We hope you will continue your participation in 2024 and if you haven't yet begun, please contact Sue Myers at wsmdem@comcast.net or 443-375-6788 to find out how you can! Thanks!

2024 BUDGET MEETING

On 12/10/23 we held our annual budget meeting, and the budget passed. Now, going forward, we ask that everyone be prayerful in giving of their time, talents and finances. Those three will help us continue fulfilling our commitment to community.



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

This Advent season we had the opportunity to show our commitment to community locally and not-so-local. In addition to our regular Giving Tree for a NESAP family, we collected canned goods through our reverse Advent calendar project that are being donated to NESAP, as well as a small monetary donation.

We also had the opportunity to participate with 3 other congregations to provide gift cards to the Job Corps program in Harpers Ferry, WV. The program provides training, housing, education, medical care, etc for low income youth, ages 16 - 24. On December 18, 2023, Pastor Katie Penick, Pastor Marty Kuchma (St. Paul's UCC) and myself delivered 31 Amazon gift cards which will be used in various ways. While most students were able to go "home" for Christmas, others were not. These students will be given gift cards as a way to show they are valued and not forgotten. The remaining gift cards will be used to provide needed supplies, clothing, etc. What a blessing to be able to be a part of this!



Food Bags for Backpacks & Snack Packs for Classrooms

A big thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this program in the past year. Whether you contributed monetarily, helped in packing the food bags, helped with delivery of the bags and snacks to MES, designed and created cards to insert into the food bags, and joined in blessing these items, your positive support has been critical to continuing the program that benefits children on the Free and Reduced Meal Program at Manchester Elementary School.

ONA: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH!

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34)

On Sunday December 10, Pastor Katie, Hannah Matthews, Leslie Brooks, Pam Marchand, and MB Brainerd met after worship for soup and conversation, to begin the journey of the ONA (Open 'N Affirming) discernment process for Trinity UCC in Manchester! Lucy Brady, Moriah Marr, and Amy Schultz were not able to attend this first meeting, but they were with us in spirit, and plan to join the core planning team. If anyone else would like to be part of the core planning

team, please speak to anyone of the team members.

In the ONA discernment process, we as a church will engage together in "grace-filled" conversations about how we can become a more inclusive church, and, in doing so, deepen our faith and expand our welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. As we move through the Winter into Spring, the core team will be engaging in 1:1 conversation with church members as well as planning numerous opportunities for the entire church to practice "grace-filled engagement," in which each person is treated as a beloved child of God, and we come to a renewed understanding of whom we are called to be, as the body of Christ. ONA discernment is a journey, that continues even beyond deciding, as a church, whether we will covenant with other welcoming churches, publicly covenanting to being a church that welcomes and loves everyone, without exception. Please feel free to talk with anyone of us if you have any questions about our faith-filled Trinity ONA journey.

(written by MB Brainerd)



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. Trinity is scheduled two Fridays in January (January 12 and January 26) from 10am – 1pm.



Coming Soon - January 2024

Children's Ministry Lab

For dynamic and interactive weekly faith formation for children.

Led by a Master teacher, the lessons will be on Zoom 2 times a week.

Renown "Sparkhouse" curriculum and content are the building blocks for this cultivation of faith for our children congregation and our own mentoring teachers. (Remember Holy Moly? That was from Sparkhouse)

Trinity will be collaborating with St Marks UCC and St Matthews UCC to make this happen. How exciting is this!!!!

There has been a laptop purchased for Christian Ed teachers and mentors to properly provide this service. We are getting wired!!! Big screen, DVD, Wi-Fi and now laptop.

Wrapping up the next few weeks is the handprint artwork being created by all in the congregation. Stop downstairs to get your print on the canvas. And if needed we will provide more. Bandit did a little pawprint too.

How to "tech" demos and workshops planned for 2024.

Where is my email?

I cannot get the Facebook service.

Zoom, Zoom

SHOW ME THE MONEY



This is the section to read about the fund raisers for our beloved Trinity.

Pathway to Prayer

The Brick Garden is open for new bricks to be inserted. Same company, same price: No inflation for remembrance or honoring a loved one or special person or pet. Order forms and pamphlets are available in the Narthex. This is open for 6

months and the dedication will be held in the spring.

There is a rumor that a new type of custom paint night is coming.

Big Bingo will be back in the late spring. Start brainstorming about the raffle basket(s) to be donated. Basket of cheer, Baker basket, Gardening, Barb-que, Gift card, and Pet goods are just a few ideas. I am doing a summer beach house theme.

Ideas for events, gatherings or such can be written or printed on paper and put in Leslie's Mailbox. I will contact you back. All suggestions welcomed.



Christmas Giving Tree 2023

Saying thank you is not enough, we want to express gratitude for the overwhelming support you have given to a local family in need. Christmas will certainly be brighter for a family of 3 we sponsored this year. Please know that your support is greatly appreciated, the family feels blessed and asked we extend a thank you to Trinity's congregation. God Bless you all. TUCC Care Fund / Debbi Miller and Karen Haines

Thank you!

I want to thank everyone for the cards and the gift from the congregation. I appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Diane

Mark your calendar

Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2024

On Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately after the regular Sunday service, we will hold our Annual Trinity Congregational meeting. This year we are asking everyone to make / bring their favorite dish to share as a pot luck meal. We will have our fellowship meal then afterwards all committees will give their annual reports, discussions and questions can be asked at that time.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Consistory 7pm	4	5	6
7 First Sunday after Epiphany 10:45am Holy Communion Children's Church 10am Consistory Installation	8	9	10	11	12 CCHD Health on Wheels 10am-1pm	13
14 Baptism of Christ 10:45am Children's Church 10am Blessing of the Prayer Shawls	15	16	17	18 Worship committee 3:30pm	19	20
21 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:45am Children's Church 10am Congregational meeting Fellowship following worship	22 February Newsletter articles due	23	24	25	26 CCHD Health on Wheels 10am-1pm	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:45am Children's Church 10am	29	30	31	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday and Tuesday. Always subject to change.		

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

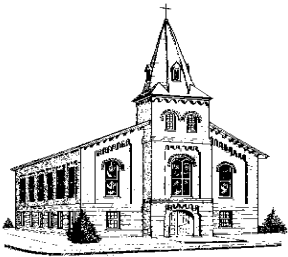
	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 23</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income	4,778.38	57,637.93
Expense		
Educational Ministries	0.00	484.85
Evangelism	75.00	631.34
General	1,089.83	25,603.86
Personnel	5,405.49	57,375.05
Property	1,252.00	2,981.85
Music	0.00	509.67
Worship	207.16	1,805.41
Total Expense	<u>8,029.48</u>	<u>89,392.03</u>
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	<u>4,354.18</u>	<u>12,277.89</u>
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	220.94	2,471.47
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>220.94</u>	<u>2,471.47</u>
Net Other Income	<u>4,133.24</u>	<u>9,806.42</u>
Net Income	<u><u>882.14</u></u>	<u><u>(21,947.68)</u></u>

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

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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**3229 York Street
P.O. Box 38
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**Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday and Tuesday subject to change
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