

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

December 2024

From the Pastor's Desk:

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor..." (Isaiah 61:1-2)

On the shore of the Jordan, Isaiah proclaims that the One who is coming will give those who mourn garlands of flowers, the oil of gladness, and the mantle of praise. Here we are in the midst of the advent season and joyful anticipation fills the air: on the shores of the Jordan and on the shores of the Monocacy. God's beautiful promises greet us.

The year of the Lord's favor - a time when the light bursts forth and shines upon each of God's children. All of us! Joy fills the air and those who need God's presence the most will find sustenance in the Spirit of the Lord.

Through the ages, the people have waited for God, and we are still waiting. We look to the promises found in scripture... we look for signs of God's presence in our lives... we try to save ourselves... we try to save each other. But the truth is, nothing can change without God.

But, we are reminded of a holy time. One night in Bethlehem, a star shined bright. A light broke through the darkness. A few years later, a witness comes forward and testifies: "Look!" John the Baptist tells us, "this is the one we have waited for." "Look," cry the angels, "We bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people!" "Look at the baby boy!" say the shepherds, "and praise God!"

Look, look all around and you will see the signs of God's loving presence among us. The presence of God is here among us... we find it in this man, Jesus, who lived 2000 years ago. And God's presence continues here, 2000 years later. God is still beside us and with us and for us, forever and ever. Amen

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

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
 01/18 – Norman Greenholtz
 01/20 – Charlene Rhoten
 01/23 – Nancy Koerner
 01/24 – David Bailey
 01/25 – Clara Hemlock

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
 January Newsletter– Monday, December 16th

Contacting the Pastor and 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

Pastor Katie Sabbath Day will be on Fridays!
She will not be available on that day. If there is
an emergency text, her @ 240-418-8028



Meeting Dates – some by Zoom

Consistory – Wednesday, December 4 @7pm
 Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month
 @ 3:30.

HELPING HANDS DECEMBER

Greeters for the month of December:

Dec. 01 – Belva LaMotte
 Dec. 08 – Sandy Sanders
 Dec. 15 – Belva LaMotte
 Dec. 22 – Belva LaMotte
 Dec. 24 – Belva LaMotte
 Dec. 29 – Sandy Sanders

Usher for the month of December:

Dec. 01 – Deb Persinger
 Dec. 08 – Deb Persinger
 Dec. 15 – Sandy Sanders
 Dec. 22 – Deb Persinger
 Dec. 24 – Deb Persinger
 Dec. 29 – Deb Persinger

Lay Readers:

Dec. 01 – Jackie Nave/Kulp
 Dec. 08 – Sue Myers
 Dec. 15 – Moriah Marr
 Dec. 22 – MB Brainerd
 Dec. 24 – Sue Myers
 Dec. 29 – Moriah Marr

Media Operator

Dec. 01 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 Dec. 08 – Karen Haines/Moriah Marr
 Dec. 15 – Elwin Wagner/MB Brainerd
 Dec. 22 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
 Dec. 24 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 Dec. 29 – Karen Haines/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, Jeff Brooks mom
 Jeff Brooks and family by Leslie Brooks
 Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks
 Janie Dell, friend of Karen Price
 Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity
 Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie
 Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz
 John Hansen
 Ash Van Nuys

Freeman Palmer, CAC Conference Minister
Kathy Peters and family
Mary and George Pietsch
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Wendi Saltsman, friend of Belva LaMotte
Ken Plummer
Jean Simmons
Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price
Gina Tollini
Rev. Debra Wilcox
Family of Judi Wilcox
Shirley Wood

Worship Schedule: December
Advent Worship Theme – Miracles, Signs and Wonders

Dec. 1 = Hope

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
Message – A New day

Dec 8= Peace

Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
Message – Fire and Soap

Dec 15= Joy (Lucy is preaching)

Dec. 22= Love

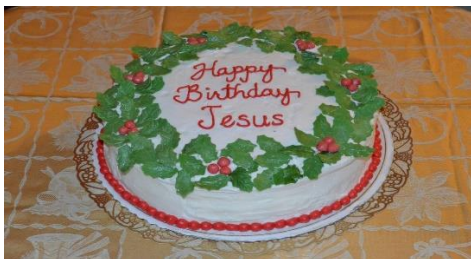
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45
Message – Mary Knew

Dec. 24 – Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 29

Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52
Christmas Carol hymn sing



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



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.



Book Club returns for Advent!

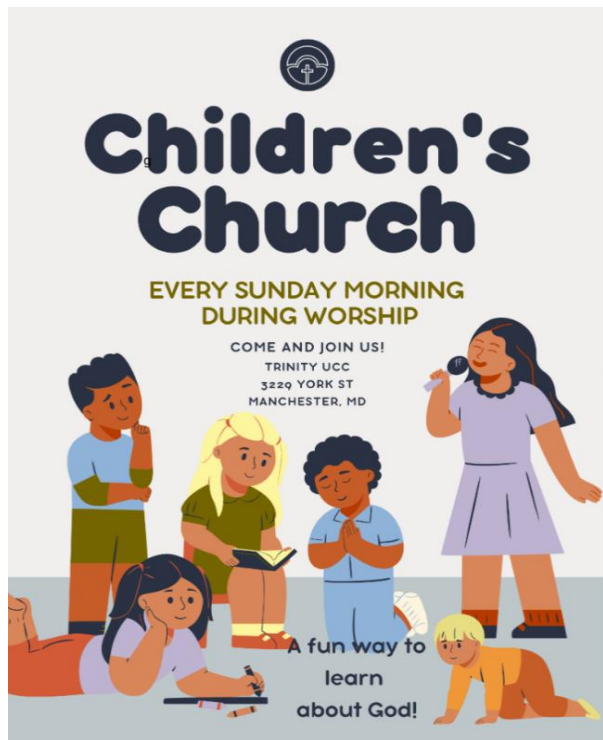
We will read *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation* by Will Willimon

From the book cover: "In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way!"

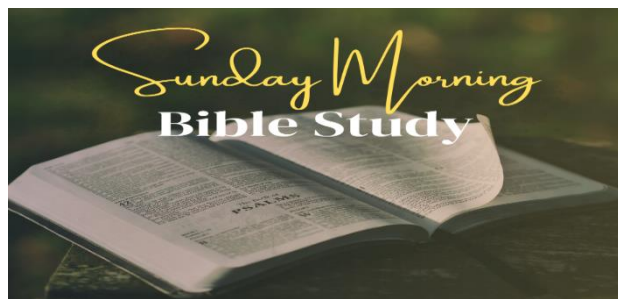
Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested.



Tuesday Bible Study at 10 am – focus on how Jesus is introduced to us in each gospel
In person and zoom



Bedtime stories on
Wednesday at 7 pm.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Studies that combine scripture and poetry
December - "The Poetry of Advent: An Advent Companion to Mary Oliver's 'Devotions.'"

Zoom links are available for all Bible Study

Trinity United Church of Christ

Consistory Updates

Consistory Meeting – 11/6/24

Sue Myers reported that giving is lower than budgeted for this year. We transferred \$7,500 from endowment to general checking to cover general expenses.

Consistory reviewed the results and comments from the World Café. There were several new ideas for moving forward as a congregation.

Special thanks to everyone who donated for Harvest Home – 205 lbs. of food, etc went to NESAP. We are preparing for our annual Giving Tree. We are sponsoring two families this year.

Sue Myers is updating the current safe church policy.

We plan to develop a master calendar for the year blocking out dates and having everyone know what is going on. Post publicly.

Elwin, Belva and Leslie are stepping down at the end of the year. We will need a new Consistory President.



PLANET GREEN RECYCLE

RAISE FUNDS BY RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES



Help our environment AND raise funds for Trinity

Bring your used ink cartridges to the church and place them in the designated box at the main entrance.

We will send them to Planet Green for recycling.

The church will receive \$1 for each commonly used cartridge and 25¢ for each non-qualifying cartridge.

You may request a free shipping label at www.planetgreenrecycle.com if it more convenient for you to mail your cartridges.

Be sure to use the church's ID # 32554 for Trinity's fund-raising efforts. Thank you in advance to everyone who participates!



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

We will be placing 3 orders for gift cards during December – 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15. 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. You can also purchase eGift cards that can be loaded to you phone and used immediately.

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.

OTHER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We continue our efforts to raise funds to support our general operating expenses. If you haven't gotten your Trinity mug, please consider, these are very durable, and are dishwasher safe! Only \$10.00!

Watch for other opportunities throughout the newsletter.

2025 BUDGET MEETING

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/8/24, immediately following the church service to discuss and vote on the 2025 financial budget.

A summary of our budget is shown below:

Income	\$ 70,000
Expenses:	
Educational	850
Evangelism	1,700
General	31,818
Personnel	90,686
Property	5,500
Music	1,025
Worship	1,950
	<u>133,529</u>
Deficit	<u><u>\$(63,529)</u></u>

BUY A BRICK
CAMPAIGN



**Pathway to Prayer-Good News...
EXTENDED!!! Buy a brick is open for
the rest of the year.**



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 17th** with gift ideas for you to purchase, wrap and bring into church. NESAP recommends the cost of each gift should be around \$30.00. Please return wrapped gifts by **December 15th**. Place the gift tag you removed from the tree on the gift.

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. Contact Sandy Sanders with questions 443-974-6723.



Coffee Mugs We would love to share your morning over a cup of your favorite beverage! Help support our fundraising efforts by purchasing a Trinity UCC coffee mug – only \$10.



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 \$10.00, 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 Sunday, 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: _____



Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Service

**Wednesday, Nov 27 at 7pm
Westminster United Methodist Church
165 E Main St, Westminster, MD 21157**

The Westminster Ministerium invites the Trinity UCC-Manchester congregation to join them in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service, Wednesday Nov 27 at 7pm. If you are interested in carpooling from Trinity UCC – Manchester, contact Pastor Katie Penick.



The CCHD Health on Wheels Mobile Unit came to Trinity UCC-Manchester on Friday November 8, 10am-Noon – and this time had FLU VACCINES available, along with STI testing, blood pressure monitoring, NARCAN (naloxone) Administration training to prevent deaths from Opioid overdose, and information on the ACCESS Carroll integrated healthcare program [[10 Distillery Drive, Suite 200 Westminster, MD 21157](#)] and info on the 988 suicide/crisis line. The next Mobile Health on Wheels at Trinity UCC will be in January 2025.



**Blues Christmas
and Homeless Memorial Service**
Saturday, December 21, 2024, 7:00pm

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
17 Bond St. Westminster, MD

Service focusing on facing the challenges of the holiday season including anxiety, grief, or sadness; and remembering homeless people who have died in our community this year. At the conclusion of the service, Brenda Meadows, Executive Director of The Shepherd's Staff, will include a reading of names as a memorial for local homeless individuals who have passed away over the past year.

Co-sponsored by The Shepherd's Staff, Carroll County Citizen Services, Carroll County Health Department, Access Carroll, Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Westminster Ecumenical Ministerium, Westminster Police Department, Westminster United Methodist Church at Center and Main, Westminster Church of the Brethren, Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists, Grace Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ and other community organizations that serve the homeless.



ONA UPDATE

Every third Sunday through the next 6 months, a member of the congregation or a guest will provide a "Moment of Affirmation" following the Passing of the Peace. In January, we plan to invite everyone to participate, on Sundays before worship, in a Bible Study with Scriptural Lens on Becoming ONA.

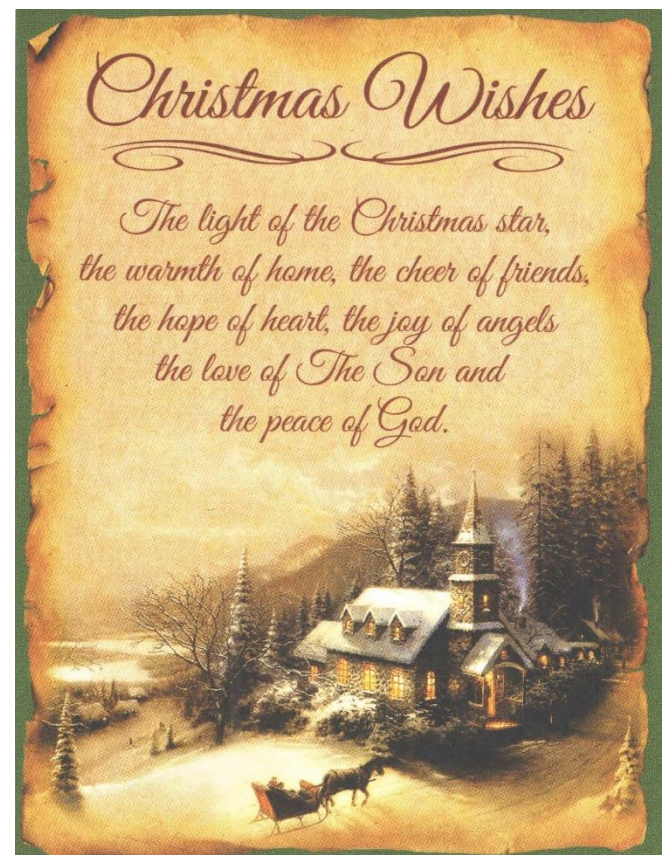
Also – for more information on becoming a **TRULY welcoming church, no matter who you are or where you are in life** – there is ONA-related literature in the dedicated Crossroads Info Area, located on and above the desk just beside the kitchen entrance to the fellowship hall.



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



Reverse Advent Calendar- sharing our blessings with others. During the month of December, we will be collecting nonperishable food items for NESAP's Food Pantry. This calendar is a suggestion of items to donate each day during the month. The donations will be blessed the first Sunday in January. Boxes are available in the social hall for your use.

December 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Spaghetti & pasta sauce	2 Tomato sauce/paste	3 Macaroni & Cheese	4 Stuffing	5 Cranberry Sauce	6 Applesauce	7 Oatmeal
8 Cereal	9 Breakfast/granola bars	10 Tuna	11 Canned Pasta	12 Chili	13 Canned Meat	14 Canned Potatoes
15 Canned Carrots	16 Canned Mixed Vegetables	17 Canned Yams	18 Hamburger Helper	19 Muffin Mix	20 Brownie Mix	21 Cake Mix & Frosting
22 Boxed Potatoes	23 Canned Fruit	24 Baked Beans	25 Rice	26 Rice/Pasta Sides	27 Juice	28 Ramen Noodles
29 Cup of Soups	30 Soups	31 Pudding/Jello				



TRINITY T-SHIRT ORDERS

We are taking orders for our newly designed t-shirts! Contact
Sandy Sanders to place an order or with any questions @

443-974-6723

SIZING:

- Adult Sizes: S M L XL XXL
- Youth Sizes: S M L XL

COST:

- Adult Shirts: \$20 each
- Youth Shirts: \$15 each

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 24</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Childrens' Church	0.00	50.00
Communion Offering	51.89	518.30
Loose Offering	145.00	1,012.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	1,019.12
Regular Offering	3,949.07	53,223.75
Total Income	<u>4,145.96</u>	<u>55,823.17</u>
Gross Profit	4,145.96	55,823.17
Expense		
Educational Ministries	162.01	998.22
Evangelism	96.29	1,463.75
General	1,984.18	27,099.86
Personnel	6,670.61	70,188.41
Property	343.09	2,807.65
Music	165.00	1,167.80
Worship	273.94	1,319.07
Total Expense	<u>9,695.12</u>	<u>105,044.76</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(5,549.16)	(49,221.59)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Care Fund Activity	0.00	(626.31)
Cemetery	(500.00)	(5,388.00)
Interest/Dividend Income	0.00	820.15
Memorial Fund	0.00	9,850.69
Fundraising / Building Imp	225.80	(1,095.98)
Special Offerings Received	230.06	2,142.67
Total Other Income	<u>(44.14)</u>	<u>5,703.22</u>
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	160.89	1,339.29
Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>160.89</u>	<u>1,339.29</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(205.03)</u>	<u>4,363.93</u>
Net Income	<u>(5,754.19)</u>	<u>(44,857.66)</u>

December 2024

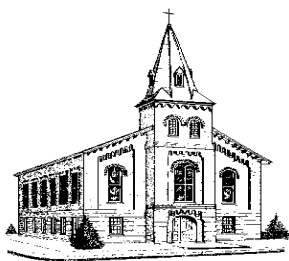
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. worship Holy Communion Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom	2	3	4 Consistory 7p.m. Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	5	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. worship Holy Communion Prayer Shawls Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Congregational/Budget meeting following worship	9	10 Bible Study 10a.m. at Trinity and by Zoom	11 Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	12	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Poinsettia order form due Fellowship after Worship	16 January Newsletter articles due	17 Bible Study 10a.m. at Trinity and by Zoom	18 Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	19	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Christmas Fund Offering	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Fellowship to follow service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28
29 First Sunday After Christmas Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom	30	31 Bible Study 10a.m. at Trinity and by Zoom	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)
(Email) trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net
Web site: www.trinityuccmanchester.org

