

# Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

[www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

**Trinity Times**

**December 2025**

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## ***From the Pastor's Desk:***

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)*

The story of Christmas is not just a quaint tale of a baby in a manger; it is a radical affirmation of God's presence in the most unexpected and vulnerable places. The true spirit of the season calls us to action. The heart of the Christmas message is that the Incarnation brought the divine to be present in *all* of life, especially in our shared humanity and our call to justice.

This year, let us take the words of Howard Thurman to heart: "The work of Christmas begins" when we leave the comfort of our worship spaces.

**To find the lost:** Reaching out to those marginalized by society, ensuring everyone has a home and a family within our community and beyond.

**To heal the broken:** Advocating for mental health resources, supporting one another through grief, and working for a world where all can find wholeness.

**To feed the hungry:** Engaging in the Reverse Advent mission and addressing the systemic issues that cause food insecurity.

**To release the prisoner:** Reflecting on justice and mercy, working for a more equitable judicial system.

**To rebuild the nations:** Promoting peace, understanding, and collaboration across communities and the globe.

**To bring peace among people:** Fostering difficult conversations with grace and a commitment to shared human dignity.

**To make music in the heart:** Cultivating joy, gratitude, and wonder, and recognizing the simple sweetness and goodness of life that points to the divine.

The Christmas story reminds us that God chooses to be "with us"—Emmanuel—in the flesh and blood of our daily lives. The challenge, and the blessing, is to carry that love and light into a world that still knows darkness. May we all strive to make God's justice roll down like never-ending waters, not just at Christmas, but in every season. May your Christmas be filled with blessings! *Pastor Katie*



### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

12/02 – Doug Rhoten  
 12/03 – Tiffany Folk  
 12/11 – Laci Saunders  
 12/17 – Annika Matthews  
 12/19 – James Price  
 12/27 – Amy Miller  
 12/28 – Abigail Krawczyk

### **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 29



### **Meeting Dates – some by Zoom**

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

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



### **HELPING HANDS DECEMBER**

#### **Greeters for the month of December:**

Belva LaMotte/Gloria Nethkin

#### **Usher for the month of December:**

Deb Persinger

#### **Lay Readers:**

Dec. 07 – MB Brainerd  
 Dec. 14 – Marge Bailey  
 Dec. 21 – Shana Clark/Sylvia Calabrese  
 Dec. 24 – Sue Myers  
 Dec. 28 – MB Brainerd

#### **Media Operators**

Dec. 07 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers  
 Dec. 14 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders  
 Dec. 21 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers  
 Dec. 24 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders  
 Dec. 28 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders

### **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:**

Joanna Garber  
 Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity  
 Shannon Gettman, daughter of Diane  
 Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie  
 Norman Greenholtz  
 Sandy Hall, sister of Deb Miller  
 Jerry Krebs, friend of Deb Persinger  
 Michael Kulp  
 Ash Van Nuys  
 Jennifer Penick  
 Gordon Persinger  
 George Pietsch  
 Marc Pulido  
 Leah, friend of Donna Alban  
 Jean Simmons  
 Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price  
 Kathleen Stevens  
 Gina Tollini  
 Ronnie Williams  
 Nora Renee Winters  
 Shirley Wood

## **Worship Schedule: December**

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Sanctuary: Room for All

**December 7, 2025**

*Meditation of the Week:* "There is peace even in the storm." ~Vincent van Gogh~

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

*A ruler brings justice and peace*

Second Reading Matthew 3:1-12

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

The Message New Growth

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Sanctuary: Room for All

**December 14, 2025**

*Meditation of the Week:* "We need Joy as we need air. We need Love as we need water. We need each other as we need the earth we share.." ~Maya Angelou~

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

*The desert blooms*

Second Reading Matthew 11:2-11

*The messenger of Christ*

The Message

*Woodrow Kennington Creates Almost a Miracle*, written by Katherine Patterson and told by Rev. Lucy Brady

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

Sanctuary: Room for All

**December 21, 2025**

*Meditation of the Week:* "All guests who arrive should be received as Christ, for he himself will say, 'I was a stranger and you took me in.'" ~ Saint Benedict of Nursia~

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

## *The sign of Emmanuel*

Second Reading Matthew 1:18-25

*Our God is near*

The Message Visions and Dreams

Christmas Eve: Light

Sanctuary: Room for All

**December 24, 2025 @ 6:30 pm**

*Meditation of the Week:* "Where there is faith, there is love; Where there is love, there is peace; Where there is peace, there is God; And where there is God; there is no need." ~Leo Tolstoy~

Lessons and Carols

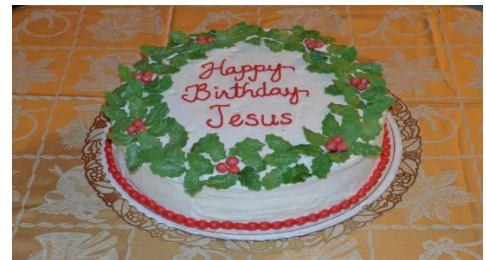
First Sunday of Christmas

Sanctuary: Room for All

**December 28, 2025**

*Meditation of the Week:* "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." ~Buddy the Elf~

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing



"We will be having fellowship to celebrate the birth of Jesus, after the candlelight evening service along with beverages and light snacks, on Wednesday, December 24th"

## **Advent Bible Study**

The light of the world: a guide to advent

Tuesday Dec. 2 at 6pm

each Tuesday through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Media Help Wanted**

The media team is looking for persons to assist with the live stream of our Sunday services on the church's Facebook page.

You do not need to commit to every Sunday. Our current operators, Karen & Elwin will provide training and support.

Please see Sandy Sanders, Karen Haines or Elwin Wagner for more information.

Thank you in advance for considering to help with this valuable piece of our worship service.

## **CONSISTORY MINUTES**

After careful consideration and discussion, we have decided to discontinue summarizing the Consistory minutes in the monthly newsletter. If you would like to have a copy of the approved minutes they will be available in the narthex or you can request a copy by email or regular mail. Please email by emailing [office.trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:office.trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net) or call 410-374-2727.

## **Altar Flowers**

A local florist, Manchester Florists, is available to fill our altar vases. The cost is \$15 per vase and there is no delivery fee. Please contact Sandy Sanders (443-974-6723) if you are interested in sponsoring fresh flowers in memory or in honor of someone or some special occasion, A single vase can also be filled which we will place on the organ.

## **Coat Drive**

Throughout the winter months, we will have a designated box in the lower narthex to collect clean, gently used winter coats. The coats will be taken to NESAP on a weekly basis. All sizes, children and adults are welcomed. Please drop your donation(s) in the box. Please contact Sandy Sanders (443)974-6723 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your donation(s)!



## **SCRIP GIFT CARDS**

We will be placing 2 more orders for gift cards 11/30 and 12/14. This will allow 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](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net).

## **2026 BUDGET MEETING**

We will be holding a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/7/25, immediately following the church service to discuss and vote on the 2026 financial budget. A summary of our budget is shown below:

Income	\$ 70,000
Expenses:	
Admin & Payroll	124,440
Community Care	620
Faith Formation	750
Mission & Outreach	5,791
Worship	2,555
	134,156
Deficit	<u><u>\$ (64,156)</u></u>

Detailed copies of the budget are available at church, or Sue Myers can email or mail you a copy.



### What's Happening with ONA at Trinity

ONA met on Nov 9 after worship. Through the fall, on the 3d Sunday of the month, we are singing a hymn of affirmation. We also welcome having anyone who wants to share a moment of affirmation to speak with Pastor Katie to set up a Sunday that works for you.

On Thursday Nov 20, St. Paul's UCC, 17 Bond St in Westminster, is holding its annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service at 7p.m. MB and Hannah will be going – let them know if you want to carpool with them from Trinity.

On Sunday December 14 Lucy's former parishioner and friend – Alta Horn – will be visiting us to tell her story of her own spiritual transformation, as she found herself changing in her outlook and understanding of God's word, going from opposing becoming an ONA church to supporting and voting to approve her church's ONA covenant statement.

The ONA taskforce team will meet next on Sunday January 4, 2026 after worship. Anyone who is curious about ONA and wants to join our conversation is welcome to attend. Also, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the ONA Taskforce team members: Pastor Katie, Pastor Lucy, Hannah M., Ashby H., Tiffany F., and MB Brainerd.

Peace and Blessings!

MB Brainerd  
Co-Chair, Trinity ONA Taskforce

On Wed October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Carroll County Health Department mobile health clinic came to Trinity's south parking lot to distribute bags filled with integrated health resource info for services available across Carroll County, as well as assorted health paraphanelia to the *community residents* waiting in line for the Wed morning food distribution at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Health services and information resources range from getting Flu Vaccine (provide insurance info and ID), Respiratory Illness Prevention, Blood Pressure screening, Naloxone training & distribution to prevent death from Opioid overdose, STI Screening, HIV & Hep C Testing. The next mobile health clinic will be sometime in early 2026 when we expect that the mobile unit will also be here, with clinicians available to provide services. We'll keep you informed!! **Any questions? Please contact either MB Brainerd or Sandy Sanders.**



### Nonviolence Resistance Training Part 2:

**Taking the 6 Principles & 6 Steps of  
Nonviolence Resistance and Putting them into  
Practice!!**

**Saturday Jan 24 1-4pm**

At the Exploration Commons at 50 East,  
Westminster Branch of CCPL

The Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice (CCIARJ) is planning a free 3-hour FOLLOW UP nonviolence resistance and organizing training on Saturday January 24, 1-4p.m. It will be held at the Exploration Commons



at 50 East, Westminster Branch of CCPL, 50 E. Main Street, Westminster. Those who have not yet attended the introductory training can still attend the “follow up” so long as they complete some foundational reading and/or watch an introductory video.

The Nonviolence Resistance training, limited to 50 participants, will be conducted by Dr. Pam Zapardino and Dr. Charlie Collyer, co-directors of the Common Ground on the Hill “Ira & Mary Zepp Center for Nonviolence and Peace Education.” Pam and Charlie are fully certified trainers following the Kingian school of resistance training and organizing, which combines the principles of Peace, Nonviolence, and Justice.

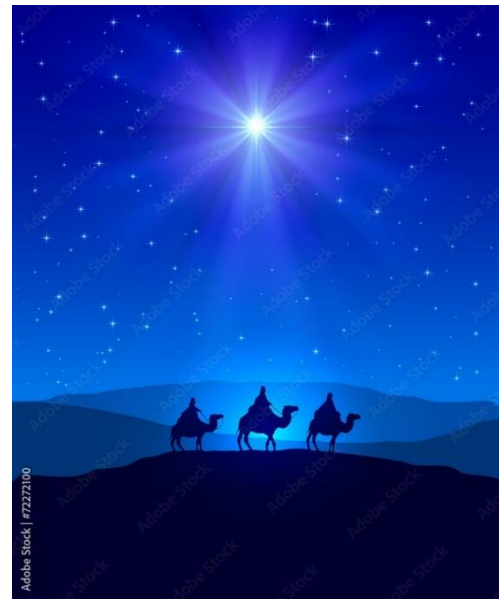
If you are interested in attending this next step in putting nonviolence resistance into practice, contact MB Brainerd or Pastor Katie, or email [ccinterfaithalliance4@gmail.com](mailto:ccinterfaithalliance4@gmail.com)



### **Inclement Weather**

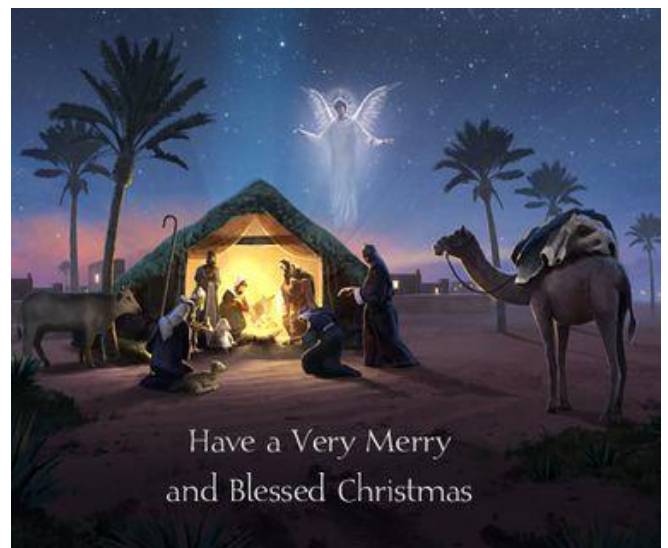
In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergencies, the decision to close the church will be made two hours before worship/meetings/workday begin. You can find out whether or not the building will be open in the following possible ways:

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



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Epiphany Saturday**  
**January 10, 2024 -- 11am–3pm**  
(Snowstorm Cancellation date Jan 17)

Coming in the door you'll find hot coffee, tea, juice, and donuts, and a full day of Intergenerational Activities, Decorating Star Cookies, Nature Walk, Face Painting, Epiphany Prayer Stations, Chalking the Doors, Making Snow-globes, Meditation & Prayer, Coloring Mandalas, “Star Words”, Trinity-UCC Family History & Artifacts, & Lunch (including Vegetarian & Gluten-free)! Everyone Welcome – All Generations -- Invite your Friends!!





## 2025 Poinsettia Order Form

**It's time to order your poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary  
for Christmas.**

**The plants are available in red and white and 3 sizes as outlined  
below.**

**Checks should be made out to Trinity UCC. Payment is due  
when you order. The deadline for orders is December 1, 2025.  
Please give your order to Deb Persinger or Sandy Sanders.**

Description	Color	Cost	Number	Subtotal
Small, ~4.5 " pot, red only	N/A	\$7.00		
Medium, ~6.5" pot, 1 plant branched, 5+ blooms, red or white		\$10.00		
Large, ~7.5" pot, 2 plants branched, red or white		\$16.00		

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number of plants:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Join Us For Our Meet & Greet with Santa



**Detailed Services llc &  
Trinity United Church of  
Christ holiday event.**

**LOCATION: Trinity United  
Church of Christ 3229 York  
Street Manchester Md  
21102.**

**DATE: Saturday,  
December 6<sup>th</sup> ,2025**

**TIME: 1pm-3pm**

**Meet Santa get a  
gift and enjoy a  
yummy treat at  
this fun family  
event.**

**Things to look  
forward to :**

- Photo with Santa.
- One gift per child attending our event.
- Snacks and drinks will be provided.

We will not have a photographer at this event. Please bring your own camera or the event leader will provide you with a photo.



# **Donations for Meet and Greet with Santa at Trinity United Church of Christ by Detailed Services llc**

## **What we need from the Volunteers:**

- Gift wrappers (a few people to help wrap gifts before the event)
- Time during event
  - I. Help coordinate line for gifts
  - II. Help coordinate line for photos
  - III. Help to set up snacks and drinks
  - IV. Help to set up area for Santa

## **Donations needed:**

- Gift wrap
- Tap
- Scissors
- Toys(Amanda can get a pallet of toys) cash donations will be accepted but not mandatory.
- Snacks (Christmas cookies or cupcakes)
- Drinks (milk, juice, water) individuals
- Plates, napkins, plastic ware ,etc.

**Amanda will be holding a Christmas Cleaning Raffle to help pay for some of the event .**



## Christmas Give Back Raffle

Detailed Services llc is partnering this holiday season with Trinity United Church of Christ to hold a event for children in the Manchester area. We have selected two elementary schools in the area and spoke with the guidance counselors to get us in contact with families in need of help this holiday season. Detailed Services llc will be holding a raffle to help with the cost of this event.

HELP US GIVE BACK

### Raffle Information :

- \$50 Donation For each spot
- SPOT NUMBERS 1-20
- Only 20 chances being sold
- Winner get a 9am-3pm cleaning with AMANDA FROM DETAILED SERVICES LLC .

### Prize :

**One scheduled 9am-3pm cleaning provided by Amanda at Detailed Services llc.**

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 2025

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

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

	<u>Oct 25</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 25</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Offering	4,907.97	49,619.90
Loose Offering	5.00	292.00
Communion Offering	51.89	527.01
Improvement Fund	120.00	1,825.00
Food Ministry	76.10	608.92
Rental Income	0.00	100.00
Childrens' Church	0.00	20.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	330.00
Total Income	<u>5,160.96</u>	<u>53,322.83</u>
Gross Profit	5,160.96	53,322.83
Expense		
Administrative	11,729.50	100,371.96
Community Care	0.00	420.50
Faith Formation	0.00	605.25
Mission & Outreach	1,000.00	4,182.66
Worship	144.80	1,589.34
Total Expense	<u>12,874.30</u>	<u>107,169.71</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(7,713.34)	(53,846.88)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Grant Income	0.00	2,625.00
Cemetery	(300.00)	750.00
Interest/Dividend Income	4.60	667.00
Fundraising / Building Imp	119.76	4,220.36
Special Offerings Received	300.00	1,491.90
Total Other Income	<u>124.36</u>	<u>9,754.26</u>
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	0.00	1,281.91
Transfers		
Transfer to General Account	6,000.00	42,000.00
Transfer from Fundraising	0.00	(5,000.00)
Transfer from End. Fund-General	(6,000.00)	(37,000.00)
Total Transfers	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,281.91</u>
Net Other Income	<u>124.36</u>	<u>8,472.35</u>
Net Income	<u>(7,588.98)</u>	<u>(45,374.53)</u>

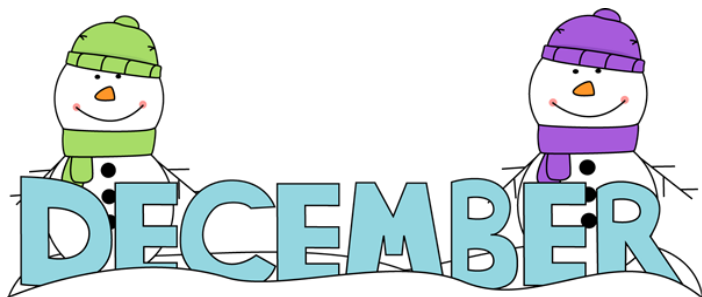


## December 2025

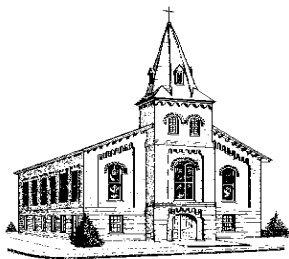
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Poinsettia orders are due	<b>2</b> Advent Bible Study 6pm	<b>3</b> Consistory 6pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Meet and Greet Santa 1-3pm
<b>7</b> Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:15 Congregational meeting after worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Advent Bible Study 6pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:15 Blessing Prayer Shawls	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Advent Bible Study 6pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:15 Fellowship after Worship Christmas Fund Offering	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Advent Bible Study 6pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship Service 6:30 pm Fellowship to follow worship	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> First Sunday After Christmas 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:15 Christmas Carol Hymn Sing	<b>29</b> January Newsletter articles due	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday and Tuesday. Always subject to change.  <u>Each Week</u> Children's Church during worship		

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](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)  
Web site: [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org)

