

**Trinity United Church  
of Christ  
Ash Wednesday  
Longing for Wholeness  
February 18, 2026  
6:30 pm  
In-Person Worship  
FB Live Streaming**

**The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:  
*We exist to Love people where they are and  
encourage them to grow in their relationship  
with Jesus Christ.***

*Meditation of the Week:* “Blessings sometimes show up in  
unrecognizable disguises.” ~ Janette Oke~

***WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD***

**Gathering**

*Feel the Spirit of the community.* Worship is a time of both shared  
community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to  
this sacred space to enjoy both the loving fellowship of our  
common faith and the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw  
closer to God.

**Prelude: Instrumental Music**

**Words of Welcome** Pastor Katie

**Announcements, Joys and Concerns** Pastor Katie

**\*Call to Community** *adapted from Joel 2* MB Brainerd

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion and let the people tremble,

**People for the day of the Lord is coming. The God of glory is  
near.**

One: Never has there been such darkness and never have we  
imagined such glory.

**People: The ruler of all ages will triumph with greatness and  
power.**

One: This is our God who is above all others. The earth quakes  
and the heavens trembles.

**People: The sun and the moon are darkened; the stars no  
longer shine.**

One: God’s voice utters and all hosts are commanded

**People: Truly, the day of the Lord is great. Who can endure  
it? Hallelujah! Only God can endure it!**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

**Many: And also with you**

*Pass a sign of God’s Peace to one another.*

**\*Opening Hymn: “Change My Heart, O God”** (repeat)  
**#373 (Worship & Rejoice)**

**We Bury our Alleluias** *adapted from Psalm 137 and Psalm 51*

One: Sisters and Brothers, tonight we begin our solemn  
journey of Lent. Since the earliest days of the church, the  
people have “fasted” from its most joyful song during this  
season of penance. Tonight we put away our alleluias –  
the song of the angels – until we proclaim it once again at  
the Dawn of New Life, Easter.

**All: By the rivers of Babylon—  
there we sat down, and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the willows there  
we hung up our harps.  
For there our captors  
asked us for songs,  
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,  
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”**

**How could we sing the Lord’s song  
in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:1-4)**

*You are invited to come forward and leave your alleluias  
in the cedar chest.  
We will reclaim them on Easter Sunday!*

One: Creator, reshape my heart,  
God steady my spirit.

**People: Do not cast me aside  
stripped of your holy spirit.**

One: Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.

**People: Creator, reshape my heart,  
God steady my spirit.**

One: Holy One, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.

**People: Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.**

One: Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.

**People: Holy One, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.**

**All: Create in me a clean heart! Amen**

### ***WE HEAR GOD’S WORD***

**First Reading** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 MB Brainerd  
*Return to God*

**Choral Response “Thy Word”** (sing 2 times)

**Second Reading** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Pastor Katie  
*The practice of faith*

**The Message** *Dust and Ashes* Pastor Katie

**\*Hymn of Preparation “Just as I am” #207 NCH**

### ***WE RESPOND IN LOVE***

**Invitation to Generosity**

**\*Choral Response “Doxology”  
by Amanda Udis-Kessler (Tune: #780)**

*Praise holy love that lives in all,  
Our source, our path, our sacred call.  
Enlarge the circle of our care  
To bless all people everywhere.*

**\*Blessing Our Gifts**

**All: Creator God, may the gifts we offer today be used to  
share your love with all – in our church, our community,  
and your world. Amen**

## **SERVICE OF ASHES**

### **Blessing of Ashes**

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are eternal, we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth. As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us of repentance and returning to you. Breathe into us again the breath of life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*You are invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes.*

*If you are at home, please use the ashes you have received from the church.*

*You may place ashes on your foreheads or hands in the shape of a cross; as you apply the ashes on yourself or one another, please say:*

One: Remember that you are God's beloved dust, and to God's beloved dust you shall return.

### **Centering Prayer**

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

### **Invitation**

One: Come, as we embark on the dawn of this new season.  
Come, as we reflect upon the dusk of our lives.  
Come, as we set aside our distractions and the concerns of our minds  
Come, as we focus on the heart of the matter.  
God of light and dust be with you,

**People: And also with you.**

One: Open wide our hearts:

**People: We open them up to our God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our creator.

**People: Even in the midst of the wilderness, we give God our praise.**

### **Prayer of Communion**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Meal**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: Even as we come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also give God our thanks for this meal. We give our gratitude that we have come together as one Body of Christ. In these next 40 days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the Christ's servant-leadership to our world. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn: "Abide With Me" #99 NCH**

## **MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH!**

**\* Benediction**

**Prelude to Service**

**\*Carrying the Light into the World**

**GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!**

## **Worship Notes and Resources**

**Adapted from** Ash Wednesday Worship Service Ideas | Faithward.org, re: Worship: Prayer: Psalm 51: 12-19, A Communion Liturgy for Ash Wednesday | Michelle L. Torigian  
The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

## **Leadership**

Katie Penick	Pastor
Hannah Matthews	Director of Music
MB Brainerd	Lay Reader
Deb Persinger	Worship Committee
Sandy Sanders	
Hannah Matthews	
MB Brainerd	

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Worship at Trinity UCC for February 22, 2026**

**First Reading**      Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
*Eating of the tree of knowledge*

**Second Reading**    Matthew 4:1-11  
*The temptation of Jesus*

**The Message**        *Tempting!*

## **Scrip Gift Cards**

Please consider taking part in this program.  
Orders go in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.  
See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or  
[wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net)

## **Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter**

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday  
**March Newsletters - Monday, February 23**

## **Meeting Dates by Zoom**

Consistory – Wednesday March 4 @ 6 pm  
Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

**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**

## **Budget Information:**

Amount needed from all sources each week to meet our budget: \$2,436.00.

**Giving for Last Week: \$1,094.37                      Attendance: 31**

**Care Fund/Building: \$35.00**

***We offer various ways to give – cash, checks, or on-line at our website [www.trinityuccmanchester.org](http://www.trinityuccmanchester.org). Your generous giving allows us to continue our ministries.***

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns**

Prayers are needed for our World at this difficult time and all those in need.

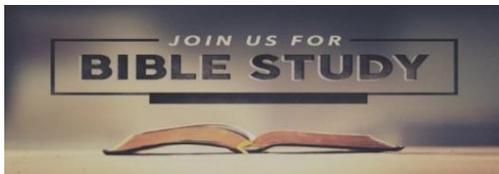
### **Prayer requests:**

Blue-Brady family  
Carolyn Brooks  
Annie Durnell  
Joanna Garber  
Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity  
Shannon Gettman, daughter of Diane  
Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie  
Sandy Hall, sister of Deb Miller  
George Harman, nephew of Karen Price  
Jerry Krebs, friend of Deb Persinger  
Michael Kulp  
Gloria Nethkin  
Ash Van Nuys  
Jennifer Penick  
Gordon Persinger  
George Pietsch

Marc Pulido  
Leah, friend of Donna Alban  
Beth Robert  
Jean Simmons  
Becky & Willy Smith, niece of Karen Price  
Dan and Terry Smith  
Randy Smith  
Kathleen Stevens  
Gina Tollini  
Ronnie Williams  
Nora Renee Winters  
Shirley Wood

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study **Thursday's at 6:30 PM** and will be alternate Thursday's meeting both in person and remotely.



**Sunday Morning Bible Study  
at 9:15 a.m.**

**@Trinity and by Zoom**

**Zoom links are available for all Bible Study**



**Bedtime stories on Wednesday at 7 pm.**

### **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)!

### **Lenten Challenge**

Declutter and help our neighbors! During Lent this year, we want to de-emphasize ourselves and emphasize our dependence on God. Almsgiving (materially giving to those in need) is one of the three pillars of Lent (the other two pillars are prayer and fasting). We can give in ways other than money. This year, we are calling Trinity members and friends to give up things around the house that we do not need. We can detach from "stuff" while helping others.

Here's the challenge: During the 40 days of Lent (every day but Sundays), find one thing each day you no longer need. It can be a kitchen item, clothing, a bike, etc. Go through your closets, drawers, basement and garage. We also will accept non-perishable foods. All donations will be blessed on Easter Sunday and donated to NESAP.

As we clear out our closets, we can also clear our minds. As we declutter, we can think about and pray for those who will be blessed by our donations.

### **Meeting**

We will have a new member meeting on **Saturday, March 21** after worship. New members will join on **March 28 (Palm Sunday)**



### **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 will be notified by a text message or phone call if the church will not be opened.

### **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.

Please pass on to any one you know in High School who may need community service hours.

### **Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information**

Pastor: the Rev. Katie Penick      Cell: 240-418-8028

E-mail: [pastort143@gmail.com](mailto:pastort143@gmail.com)

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – [trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net)

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

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC)

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

