

**Trinity United Church  
of Christ**  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
**Longing for Wholeness**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**10:30 am**  
**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*** *“Love is the name for our  
pursuit of wholeness, for our desire to be complete.”*  
*~Plato~*

***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**

Shana Clark

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**People: We begin our Lenten journey, led by the Spirit.  
Let us be willing to enter into even the most  
uncomfortable places.**

One: In those forty days, and in that difficult place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

**People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,  
even into the uncomfortable choices.**

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we  
will be led by our Christ,  
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

**\*Passing of the Peace: Seeds**

One: In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering our Jesus' sacrifice, that he is the Bread of the World. We remember how Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness, and the temptations we face to look for sustenance elsewhere. We are reminded that through Christ our needs are fulfilled.

*Light one candle*

**All: As the days lengthen and we begin to plant seeds for  
the future harvest, may we remember how Christ  
became broken for us, and that through Christ we will  
hunger no more. In the name of Christ, with whom we  
journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.**

**\*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: “On a Hill Far Away” #195 NCH**

**Prayer of Approach** based on Genesis 2

One: God, help us say no when the voices speak of building up investments in the things of the world when you want us to invest ourselves in the ways of heaven.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God, help us say no to what the world tells us we need in the gathering up of more and more stuff when you want us to let go of the stuff and rely on you instead.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God, help us say no to the easy answers and quick fixes when you long for us to take a lifetime to live and explore the questions.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God help us say no to using power and money to deal with the problems of hunger in our community when you wish we would live in a more equal relationship with those who are hungry throughout the world.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God help us say no to the easy way the world wants that involves no pain or hardship when you call us to carry crosses and trust the love that bears all.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God help us say no to conflicts that show humanity at its worst in violence and repression when you know we can live into ways that demonstrate the overflowing blessings of your love and the abundant grace of humanity.

**All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you**

One: God help us say no to a faith that speaks empty words and is shown by hollow actions when we know of a word that brings the fullness of life and is carried by actions shaped by justice, mercy and love.

**All: O God of Blessings, help us say no to the world and yes to you. Always and forever. Amen.**

~silence is kept

**Growing Disciples**

**\*Jesus Remember Me Taizé (REPEAT)**

Children are dismissed for Children’s Church

***WE HEAR GOD’S WORD***

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

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

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

**The Message** *Tempting!* Pastor Katie

**\*Hymn of Grace “Be Now My Vision” #451 NCH**

***WE RESPOND IN LOVE***

**Invitation to Generosity**

**\*Choral Response “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (verse 1)**  
**88 (Voices Together)**

**\*Blessing Our Gifts**

**All: Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

## The Lord's Prayer

**\*Closing Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**  
**#37 (Living Church) (requested by Marge Bailey)**

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

#### **\* Benediction**

One: God, send us out into Your world  
to be a people who choose Your way of love.  
Whether we go into a garden or wilderness  
we go with You.

**Many: May we discern what will help and what will harm,  
empowered to nurture and not neglect.**

One: Help us to live as Your people  
choosing to turn toward love each and every day.  
Amen

#### **Prelude to Service**

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

### ***GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!***

#### **Worship Notes and Resources**

**Adapted from** <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2>, / <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/> and <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>, Microsoft Word - Lenten Candle Lighting Liturgy Year A

The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

#### **Leadership**

Katie Penick  
Hannah Matthews  
Shana Clark

Pastor  
Director of Music  
Lay Reader

Deb Persinger  
Sandy Sanders  
Hannah Matthews  
MB Brainerd

Worship Committee

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Worship at Trinity UCC for March 1, 2026**

**Ancient Testimony** Genesis 12:1-4a7  
*God's blessing on Abram*

**Choral Response** "Thy Word"

**Ancient Testimony** John 3:1-17  
*Christ's mission to save the world*

**The Message** *Blessings!*

#### **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

**April Newsletters - Monday, March 23**

#### **Meeting Dates by Zoom**

Consistory – Wednesday April 1 @ 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

Family Baptist Church

Joanna Garber

Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity

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

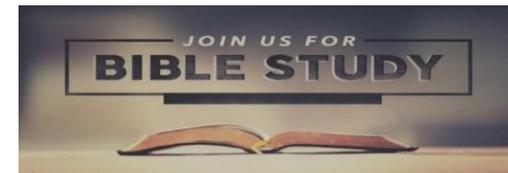
Ronnie Williams

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: [pastorkt143@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkt143@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

