

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

February 2026

From the Pastor's Desk:

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)*

As I write this, I am surrounded by coverage of the latest violent shooting in Minneapolis. It seems as if each day brings more bad news and hardship. The world feels like it's shifting beneath our feet. The news is heavy and our own burdens feel like they might tip the scales, the answer rarely comes in a grand gesture or a loud proclamation. It comes in the quiet, radical practice of love.

Our faith reminds us that the darker the night, the brighter a single candle shines. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the weight of the world right now, remember that you do not have to carry it alone.

Love is the light that the darkness cannot overcome. It is the soup brought to a sick friend, the grace given to a tired spouse, and the prayer whispered in the middle of the night. We show love when we respond to one another with empathy, patience and kindness. We show love when we respond to one another as Jesus responds to us. As we navigate these days, let us cling to the promise of Romans 8:38-39: nothing—no trouble, no hardship, no power—can separate us from the love of God.

In 1 John 4:18, we are reminded that "perfect love drives out fear." This doesn't mean the world becomes less scary; it means that our response to the world changes. Love in troubled times isn't just a feeling—it is a decision to be the "calm in the storm" for someone else. Whether it's a phone call to a lonely neighbor or a patient word during a tense conversation, these small acts are the threads that hold our community together.

This month, let us look for the "quiet opportunities." Let us be the evidence of God's love that our neighbors are looking for.

Blessings,

Pastor Katie



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/04 – Carolyn Brooks
02/06 – Eva Gebhardt
02/08 – Cody Calabrese
02/09 – Sam Martin
02/14 – Robert Saunders
02/17 – Penny Ludwig
02/19 – Ken Grim
02/26 – Margaret Bailey
02/28 – Mark Gardner
Robert Miller

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02 – Dorothy Gardner
03/09 – Sandy Sanders
03/15 – Nickie Saunders
03/17 – Shana Clark
03/18 – Andrew Wagner
03/19 – Jen Garmer
Cannon Warfield
03/31 – Ian Clark
Colby Wagner



FEBURAY ANNIVERSARYS

02/ 24 – Judy and Leon Miller

MARCH ANNIVERSARYS

03/14 – Pastor Katie & Ken Grim

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
March Newsletter– Monday, February 23

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 – Tuesday, February 10 @ 6pm
Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month
@ 3:30.



HELPING HANDS FEBRUARY

Greeter for the month of February:

Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of February:

Deb Persinger/Sandy Sanders

Lay Readers:

Feb. 01 – Sue Myers
Feb. 08 – Marge Bailey
Feb. 15 – MB Brainerd
Feb. 22 – Shana Clark

Media Operator

Feb. 01 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
Feb. 08 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
Feb. 15 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
Feb. 22 – 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:

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
 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

Worship Schedule: February

Theme for the Season After Epiphany:
 Unfolding Possibilities!

Feb. 1 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading Corinthians 1:18-31
The wisdom and power of God

Second Reading Micah 6:1-8
What God requires of us

Third Reading Matthew 5:1-12
Blessed

Message *Blessings and Honor*

Sacrament of Communion

Feb. 8 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading Corinthians 2:1-16
God's Wisdom revealed through the Spirit

Second Reading Isaiah 58:1-12
The fast that God chooses

Third Reading Matthew 5:13-20
Salt and Light

Message *Salty Love*

Feb. 15 – Transfiguration Sunday

First Reading Psalm 99
Worship upon God's holy hill

Second Reading Exodus 24:12-18
Moses enters the cloud of God's glory

Choral Response "Thy Word"

Third Reading Matthew 17:1-9
Christ revealed as God's Son

Th The Message *the bright cloud of unknowing*

Meditation with Ashby

Theme for Lent: Longing for Wholeness
Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday

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

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

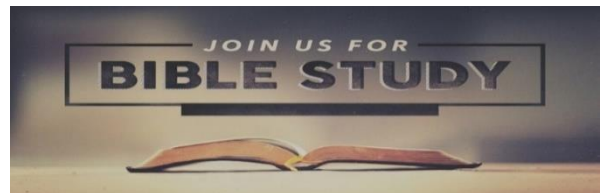
The Message *Dust and Ashes*

Feb. 22 – First Sunday of Lent

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!*



Sunday Morning Bible Study
at 9:30 a.m.

@Trinity and by Zoom

Zoom links are available for all Bible Study



Bedtime stories on Wednesday at 7 pm.

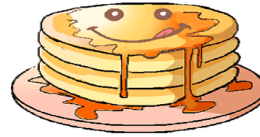
Bible Study

A new Bible Study is beginning soon, with our first session on **Thursday, February 5th at 6:30 PM**, meeting both in person and remotely. This study will explore some of the earliest, pre-orthodox layers of Christianity by focusing on Marcion, a figure long labeled a heretic but increasingly recognized by modern scholars as the first person to assemble a structured Christian collection of scriptures. Rather than creating new writings, Marcion selected and arranged texts he believed preserved the authentic message of Jesus and Paul. His canon—the *Evangelion*, a single gospel representing an early form of Luke, and the *Apostolicon*, a set of ten Pauline letters—is the earliest organized Christian scripture known to history. Many scholars argue that later, proto-orthodox versions of Luke and the Pauline letters show expansions when compared with the forms Marcion used. The text we'll be using for the study is *The First New Testament: Marcion's Scriptural Canon* by Jason D. BeDuhn, which provides a scholarly reconstruction of Marcion's scripture.

We'll be reading this reconstruction directly, letting Marcion's *Evangelion* and *Apostolicon* speak for themselves without being filtered through later theological interpretations. While the focus of the study is on Marcion's own texts, our first session will briefly explore the path that leads to him—from Jesus and the Essenes, through Middle Platonism and Paul, and ultimately to Marcion's place within these early, pre-orthodox layers of the tradition. As part of that background, we will also take a brief look at the five major "orthodox hijacks," moments when religious institutions backed by imperial powers reshaped earlier spiritual traditions—so we can better understand the historical pressures that shaped early Christianity and Judaism. This foundation will help us understand the religious world in which Marcion worked and the earlier traditions he drew from, so that as we read his texts, we can recognize the spiritual currents that shaped them and the historical forces that set the stage for his bold vision of the gospel.



Fellowship February 15th following worship!



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday

Please join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Dinner on **February 17** from 5-7 p.m. Menu also includes doughnuts, orange juice, applesauce, coffee and tea.



Join us Ash Wednesday, **February 18, 2026** service at 6:30 p.m.



GIFT CARDS

Just a reminder that our gift card program runs all year. If you haven't taken advantage of this please see Sue Myers for a list of retailers that offer rebates. We order cards the 1st Sunday of the month and you will receive them no later than the following Sunday. It's a simple way to help Trinity raise funds and it makes your shopping and/or gift giving a little easier and more secure.

FUNDRAISING

We are looking for your input. Should we hold another cash bingo this year? If so, we NEED a chairperson. If you are interested in chairing this fundraiser, please reach out to Sue Myers and she can explain what is needed. Thanks!

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.



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 United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Dec 25	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Offering	5,352.43	59,848.81
Loose Offering	1,325.00	1,627.00
Communion Offering	46.89	630.79
Improvement Fund	100.00	2,050.00
Food Ministry	45.76	730.84
Rental Income	100.00	200.00
Childrens' Church	30.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	606.95
Total Income	7,000.08	65,744.39
Gross Profit	7,000.08	65,744.39
Expense		
Administrative	10,897.95	118,817.24
Community Care	118.89	539.39
Faith Formation	(10.00)	623.94
Mission & Outreach	1,368.73	5,739.19
Worship	261.00	1,959.29
Total Expense	12,636.57	127,679.05
Net Ordinary Income	(5,636.49)	(61,934.66)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Grant Income	875.00	3,500.00
Cemetery	(50.00)	550.00
Int/Div/CGD Income	27,468.84	28,249.74
Fundraising / Building Imp	277.18	4,595.45
Special Offerings Received	100.00	1,501.90
Total Other Income	28,671.02	38,397.09
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	280.00	1,561.91
Transfers		
Transfer to General Account	5,000.00	50,000.00
Transfer from Fundraising	0.00	(5,000.00)
Transfer from End. Fund-General	(5,000.00)	(45,000.00)
Total Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	280.00	1,561.91
Net Other Income	28,391.02	36,835.18
Net Income	22,754.53	(25,099.48)



**Trinity
United Church of Christ**

Valentine's Party

***You're invited for intergenerational fun to
celebrate this season of love!***

**FEB
14**

**3229 York St
Manchester, MD**

1-3PM

***Join us for crafts, games and special treats that
show love of God, one another and creation!***

February 2026

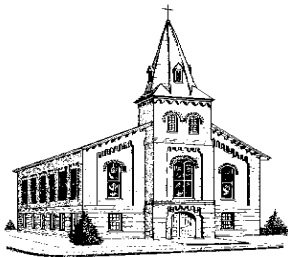
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:30 a.m. Communion Congregational Meeting Following worship Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	5 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	6	7 Breakfast Club 10am
8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:30 a.m. Blessing of Prayer Shawls Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	9	10 Consistory 6pm	11 Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	12 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	13	14 Breakfast Club 10am Valentine's Day Valentine Party at Trinity 1-3 pm
15 Transfiguration 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following worship Easter order forms due Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	16 <i>President's Day</i>	17 Shrove Tuesday 5-7pm	18 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.	19 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Breakfast Club 10am
22 First Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	23 March Newsletter articles due	24	25 Bed Time Stories 7pm by zoom	26 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Breakfast Club 10am

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MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday and Tuesday subject to change
410-374-2727 (Church office)
(Email) trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net
Web site: www.trinityuccmanchester.org

