



Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

March 2026

From the Pastor's Desk:

"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." —Václav Havel

Too often we look at the season of Lent as a time to "give things up" or focusing solely on our shortcomings. But this year, I challenge us to see Lent differently: as a subversive journey toward hope. In a world that feels increasingly heavy, Lent isn't about adding to our burdens. It's about clearing away the clutter to see the "bright sadness" of the season... the belief that even in the desert, something is blooming.

Lent is a 40-day trek through the wilderness. While the world tells us to consume, hustle, and ignore the pain of others, this season invites us to do the opposite. Instead of just giving up chocolate or coffee, let us give up hopelessness.

Hope isn't a passive wish; it's a disciplined spiritual practice. It's the audacity to believe that the story doesn't end on Good Friday. As we move toward the cross, we remind ourselves that:

- † **Rest is Resistance:** Taking time for silence is a way to reclaim our humanity from a "production-first" society.
- † **Community is Life-giving:** We don't walk the wilderness alone. We carry each other's baggage.
- † **Justice is Possible:** Every act of kindness and every stand against oppression is a seed of the Resurrection planted today.

Here are some new Lenten Practices to consider:

- † **Fast from Apathy:** Trade indifference for intentionality. Engage with a local justice initiative or learn about a neighbor's struggle.
- † **Feast on Affirmation:** In a culture of critique, make it a point to offer radical, life-giving encouragement to those around you.
- † **Lament as Liberation:** We cannot reach true hope without acknowledging what is broken. Use this time to grieve the injustices in our world, knowing that God is in the weeping.

May this Lenten Season be a blessing and bring you new hope!

Blessings,

Pastor Katie



**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**

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/05 – Donna Alban
- 04/07 – Stanley Hamilton
- 04/10 – Jean Simmons
- 04/15 – Jessica Larson
- 04/16 – Micky Calabrese
- 04/18 – Wayne Sanders
- 04/21 – Ron Larson



MARCH ANNIVERSARYS

- 03/14 – Pastor Katie & Ken Grim

APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

- 04/01 – Robert & Debbi Miller
- 04/03 – Marge & David Bailey
- 04/15 – Sue & Doug Myers
- 04/27 – Jackie & Micheal Kulp

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
April Newsletter– Monday, March 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



Meeting Dates – some by Zoom

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



HELPING HANDS MARCH

Greeter for the month of March:

Belva LaMotte

Ushers for the month of March:

Deb Persinger/Sandy Sanders

Lay Readers:

- March 01 – Sue Myers
- March 08 – MB Brainerd
- March 15 – Shana Clark
- March 22 – Marge Bailey
- March 29 – MB Brainerd

Media Operator

- March 01 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
- March 08 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- March 15 – Elwin Wagner/Sue Myers
- March 22 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- March 29 – 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
- 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

Worship Schedule: March

Lenten Theme: Longing for Wholeness

March 1 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Ancient Testimony Psalm 121
 From where does my help come?

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

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

The Message *Blessings!*

March 8 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Modern Testimony Genesis 17: 1-7
Life Goes On, Howard Thurman

Ancient Testimony
Water in the wilderness

Ancient Testimony John 4:5-42
The Samaritan Woman at the Well

The Message *The Living Waters Flow*

March 15 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Modern Testimony
Spring, Mary Oliver

Ancient Testimony Ephesians 5:8-14
Live as children of light

Ancient Testimony John 9:1-41
The man born blind
The Message *Amazing Grace*

March 22 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Modern Testimony Inspired by Psalm 48, Longing for Justice — Merryl Blair, Australia

Ancient Testimony Ezekiel 37:1-14
The dry bones of Israel

Ancient Testimony John 11:1-45
The raising of Lazarus

The Message *Amazing Grace*

**March 29 – Palm Sunday
 Welcome New Members**

Ancient Testimony Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
The Passover praise psalm

Ancient Testimony Matthew 21:1-11
Jesus enters Jerusalem

The Message *from the manger to the cross*

March 7, 2026



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.

Join us for an Awe Walk on Sunday, March 22 after worship!

Each month we will set aside time for an "Awe Walk." This is more than a stroll; It is a practice of shifting our focus to the vastness of the world around us. We would like to make this one of the spiritual disciplines of this church

An Awe Walk is a moving meditation!

Here is why we do it and what it brings to the community:

1. Shifting Perspective

Psychologically, "awe" is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends our current understanding. For a church activity, this helps us realize that while their problems are real, they serve a God who is much bigger. It shrinks the ego and expands the spirit.

2. Finding the Divine in the Ordinary

We often wait for "mountaintop experiences" to feel connected to faith. An awe walk trains the eyes to see the miraculous in:

- The intricate patterns on a leaf.
- The vastness of the sky.
- The resilience of a weed growing through a sidewalk.
- The sound of wind through the trees.

3. Improving Mental & Physical Well-being

Studies show that awe walks specifically help reduce stress and increase feelings of compassion. By quieting the "noise" of daily life, you create mental space to actually hear that "still, small voice" often mentioned in spiritual practice.



GIFT CARDS

Spring is on it's way and what better way to get ready for those Spring projects – purchase your gift cards now for Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, Target, etc – anywhere you like to buy your spring cleaning or sprucing up supplies.

Orders go in the 1st Sunday of every month. Contact Sue Myers at 443-375-6788 or wsmdem@comcast.net for more information or to place your order.

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.

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.



2026 Schedule

	Friday 7pm	Saturday 6pm
June	5 th Hudson Valley Renegades	6 th Hudson Valley Renegades
	19 th Hub City Spartanburgers	20 th Hub City Spartanburgers
July	3 rd Brooklyn Cyclones	4 th Brooklyn Cyclones
	10 th Jersey Shore Blueclaws	11 th Jersey Shore Blueclaws
	31 st Wilmington Blue Rocks	
August		1 st Wilmington Blue Rocks
	14 th Bowling Green Hot Rods	15 th Bowling Green Hot Rods
	28 th Asheville Tourists	29 th Asheville Tourists

Tickets are \$11 each for a group of 10+ Please contact Sandy Sanders 443.974.6723 if interested in attending a game and inform Sandy which date(s) are best for you. These tickets go fast so please let Sandy know asap.



What's Happening with ONA at Trinity

In February we were delighted by Ashby's AI composition of a song of affirmation and welcoming everyone just as we are. As we journey through lent, we continue with sharing and singing a hymn of affirmation on the 3d Sunday of the month and welcome having anyone who wants to share a song or moment of affirmation. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Katie, or Hannah, to set up a Sunday that works for you.

Once Spring arrives, and we no longer need to worry about digging ourselves out of a snowstorm, Lucy's former parishioner and friend – Alta Horn – will visit 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. Also, we're planning a few small gatherings, both at the church building and hosted at Trinity member homes, to share our thoughts, questions, and concerns about becoming an ONA church.

The ONA taskforce team will meet next on Sunday March 8, 2026, after worship. Anyone who is curious about ONA and wants to join our conversation is ALWAYS 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, Ashby, Tiffany, and MB.

Peace and Blessings! -- MB Brainerd



On Wed February 11th, 9:00-11:30 a.m., the Carroll County Health Department mobile "Health on Wheels" (HOW) came to Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Church, to provide direct care and

health information, as well as distribute bags filled with integrated health resource info for services available across Carroll County, to the *community residents* waiting in line for the Wed morning food distribution at Immanuel Lutheran Church. They return Wed Feb 25, and Wed March 11. Health services and information resources range from getting Flu Vaccine (provide insurance info and ID), Tetanus shot, Respiratory Illness Prevention, Blood Pressure screening, Naloxone training & distribution to prevent death from Opioid overdose, STI Screening, HIV & Hep C Testing.

Any questions? Please contact either MB Brainerd or Sandy Sanders.



Nonviolence Resistance Training 3.0 ROLE PLAY: An Experiential Workshop Saturday April 11, 1-4pm Location TBD

The Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice (CCIARJ) is planning a free 3-hour Nonviolence Resistance Organizing training: **ROLE PLAY: An Experiential workshop**, on **Saturday, April 11, 1-4p.m.** Location TBD. Those who have not attended the introductory training can still attend the April 11 training, so long as they complete some foundational reading and/or watch an introductory video.

The Nonviolence Resistance training 3.0, limited to 30 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

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WITH STUDIOS AT DOWNTOWN



DROP IN YOGA

Saturdays at 9 AM
1 HOUR CLASS

APRIL 11
MAY 2, 16 & 30
JUNE 13
JULY 18
AUGUST 8 & 22
SEPTEMBER 19



*trinityuccmanchester.org &
studiosatdowntown.com*

WHERE: TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
3229 YORK ST, MANCHESTER, MD 21102

\$5 per class Please bring your mat and join us!
All levels welcome | Chair adaptations offered

Trinity United Church of Christ
Receipts and Disbursements

	Jan 26	Jan 26
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Offering	4,028.50	4,028.50
Loose Offering	60.00	60.00
Communion Offering	55.00	55.00
Improvement Fund	195.00	195.00
Food Ministry	70.00	70.00
	4,408.50	4,408.50
Total Income	4,408.50	4,408.50
Gross Profit	4,408.50	4,408.50
Expense		
Administrative	11,201.65	11,201.65
Mission & Outreach	158.74	158.74
	11,360.39	11,360.39
Total Expense	11,360.39	11,360.39
Net Ordinary Income	(6,951.89)	(6,951.89)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Cemetery	(250.00)	(250.00)
Int/Div/CGD Income	4.26	4.26
Fundraising / Building Imp	98.50	98.50
	(147.24)	(147.24)
Total Other Income	(147.24)	(147.24)
Other Expense		
Transfers		
Transfer to General Account	6,000.00	6,000.00
Transfer from End. Fund-General	(6,000.00)	(6,000.00)
	0.00	0.00
Total Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	(147.24)	(147.24)
Net Income	(7,099.13)	(7,099.13)

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Second Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Consistory 6pm Bed Time Stories 7pm	5 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	6 World Day of Prayer	7 Remember to change your clocks
8 Third Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawls Daylight Savings Improvement Fund Offering Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	9	10	11 Bed Time Stories 7pm	12	13	14
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m. One Great Hour of Sharing offering Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Bed Time Stories 7pm	19 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m. Awe Walk after Worship Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	23 April Newsletter articles due	24	25 Bed Time Stories 7pm	26	27	28
29 Sixth Sunday in Lent Palm/Passion Sunday 10:30 a.m. New Members Fellowship Following Worship Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	30	31	Church office: Open 9 – 1pm Monday and Tuesday Always subject to change. Each Week Children's Church during worship			

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P. O. BOX 38
MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



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Office Hours: 9am - noon
Monday and Tuesday subject to change
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