

Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Trinity Times

September 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

New Beginnings, Extravagant Welcome, and the Joy That Finds Us

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)*

Beloved,

As we move into this new season, I find myself returning to the quiet truth that God is always beginning a new thing. Even when the world feels heavy and our spirits feel stretched thin. God is still creating, still calling, still opening doors we didn't know were there.

New beginnings arrive in unexpected ways. They come like manna: small, daily, and enough. They come like a whisper directing us to "turn this way." They come like a hand extended to a stranger that tells them "you belong here." They come like grace: unexpected, unearned, and extravagant.

And that extravagant welcome is at the heart of who we are called to be. Paul reminds us, "*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*" (Romans 15:7). Scripture keeps telling us that God's welcome is not cautious or limited. It is not given just to the deserving or the early arrivers. God's welcome is wide enough for the weary, deep enough for the questioning, strong enough for the hurting, and joyful enough to gather us all in. This is the welcome we rejoice in; not because life is easy, but because God's love is real.

As a church, we are living into a new beginning of our own. We are listening for what God is shaping among us. We are opening our doors wider. We are learning to rejoice not only in what God has done, but in what God is doing right now. We find God in our worship, in our community, in our shared courage to love boldly.

So as we step forward, may we:

Rejoice in the new beginnings God is unfolding. Even the small ones. Even the quiet ones.

Rejoice in the extravagant welcome we have received. And offer that welcome with generosity and joy.

Rejoice in the Spirit who keeps nudging us forward. Toward justice, toward compassion, toward hope.

Beloved, may this season bring you renewal, courage, and the deep assurance that God is already ahead of us... preparing the way, widening the welcome, and filling our days with reasons to rejoice!

Blessings,

Pastor Katie



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/09 – Ronald Zumbrun
 09/10 – Elijah Miller
 09/17 – Haylee Clark
 09/19 – Lexi Larson
 09/20 – Ezra Krawczyk
 09/22 – Logan Nave
 09/23 – Pastor Katie
 09/27 – Lily Saunders
 09/30 – Kenneth Reed

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/06 – Cindy Reed
 10/07 – Gloria Nethkin
 10/10 – Alex Loren
 10/11 – Lorne Hemlock
 10/12 – Kelly Rhoten
 10/18 – Sylvia Calabrese
 10/22 – Patricia Warner
 10/23 – Madison Hudgins
 10/25 – Andrea Loren, Ashby Haines
 10/26 – Sue Myers
 10/29 – Lane Saunders
 10/30 – Fynn Krawczyk
 10/31 – Leon Miller, Livi Saunders



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/03 MariBeth and Sam Brainerd
 09/08 Karen and James Price
 09/17 Lorne and Kelsey Hemlock
 09/28 Michelle and Elwin Wagner

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/01 Sarah and Jeff Krawczyk
 10/04 Karen and David Haines
 10/11 Leslie and Jeff Brooks
 10/14 Nickie and Rob Saunders
 10/31 Belva and Earl LaMotte

Church Communications Submission Dates

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
 October Newsletter – Monday, Sept. 21

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 – Tue. Sept. 8 @ 6pm

Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month
 @ 3:30.



HELPING HANDS SEPT

Greeter for the month of Sept: Belva LaMotte
Ushers for the month of Sept:

Deb Persinger/Sandy Sanders

Lay Readers:

Sept 06 – MB Brainerd
 Sept 13 – Shana Clark
 Sept 20 – Sue Myers
 Sept 27 – Marge Bailey

Media Operator

Sept 06 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 Sept 13 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
 Sept 20 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
 Sept 27 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

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

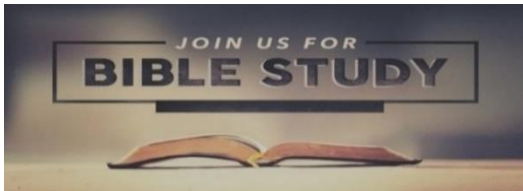
Prayer requests:

Carolyn Brooks
 Keith Fredrick, friend of Donna Alban
 Owen Garber
 Donna Geiman

George Harman, nephew of Karen Price
Robert Miller
Ash Van Nuys
Jennifer Penick
Gordon Persinger
George Pietsch
Marc Pulido
Leah, friend of Donna Alban
Margaret Mary Shine, niece of Lucy Brady
Jean Simmons
Becky & Willy Smith, niece of Karen Price
Dan and Terry Smith
Rae Smith
Finley Maven Snyder, granddaughter of Karen Price
Gina Tollini
Chantel Wilson, sister of Cindy Piazza
Josie Wilson
Nora Renee Winters
Shirley Wood

Prayer List

As a church family we are all about praying for one another. We hope those prayers have helped in some small way. If you, your loved one, friend or neighbor are no longer in need of prayers please let us know to keep our list more manageable.



Upcoming Bible Study: *UnClobber* by Colby Martin

Exploring Scripture, Welcome, and New Beginnings

On September 20th at 9:30, we will begin a six part Bible study rooted in Colby Martin's book *UnClobber*. This is a thoughtful and compassionate exploration of the so-called "clobber passages" often used to exclude LGBTQ+ people from the full life of the church. Martin invites readers to look again—carefully, faithfully, courageously—at Scripture and at the expansive welcome of God.

This study is for anyone who seeks understanding of our Open and Affirming (ONA) journey and longs for a deeper understanding of the Bible. Come if you seek a more generous theology and want to grow in love. These sessions are for anyone who believes the church is at its best when its welcome is wide!

Together, we will explore:

- ∞ Our own spiritual journeys
- ∞ how Scripture has been interpreted and misinterpreted,
- ∞ how context shapes meaning,
- ∞ how God's extravagant welcome shows up again and again,
- ∞ and how we can rejoice in a faith that makes room for all.

Whether you're new to conversations about inclusion or have been walking this road for years, you are welcome. Bring your questions, your curiosity, your hope, and your courage. Light refreshments will be offered.

Please let Pastor Katie know if you need a copy of the book.

Rejoice in the Welcome Sunday — You're Invited!

Rejoice in the Welcome Sunday on September 13th! We will celebrate the wide, joyful, boundary-breaking welcome of God, and we want *you* to be part of it. This is a day to gather, to rejoice, to embrace new beginnings, and to welcome new members into our church family.

Bring a friend. Bring a neighbor. Bring someone who needs a reminder that God's welcome is real and wide and meant for them.

During worship, we will celebrate the gift of community, rejoice in the welcome we've received, and commit ourselves again to offering that welcome boldly and joyfully.

After worship, we'll continue the celebration with a shared meal. Come to the table where stories are exchanged, friendships deepen, and everyone

has a place. Whether you're new, returning, or long-rooted here, this is a Sunday to come and be nourished in every way.

Come rejoice. Come be welcomed. Come help us widen the circle.

We can't wait to celebrate with you

SAVE THE DATE!

We are having a potluck meal on **Sunday 9-13** following our **"Rejoice in the Welcome"** service. Please bring a dish to share. This will take the place of our regular fellowship which would have been 9-20-26.

Carroll County Interfaith Alliance

The Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice (CCIARJ) is hosting a Progressive Dinner on **Saturday, October 10th**. We will have appetizers at the Islamic society of Westminster, soup at the Church of the Brethren, and dessert at St. Paul's UCC. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors and learn more about their traditions. Our church is a member of CCIARJ, so please plan to support this event. Stay tuned for more information! Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested.



Gift Cards

Just a reminder, gift cards are ordered the 1st Sunday of every month! You can place your order in the offering plate at church or email Sue at wsmdem@comcast.net or text/call 443-375-6788. Your cards will be available by the following Sunday.

Fall Community Market

Our next big event is just a few weeks away. There will be vendors and yard sellers, animal rescuers, fire safety table, bake sale, hot dog sales, kids games, face painting, etc. So much to do!!! The date is **September 19th 8am – 1 pm**. There is still time to rent a space if you have some things sell or just come out and enjoy the day and

see what bargains you can find! Contact Sandy Sanders or Sue Myers for additional information. See the flyer attached to the back of the newsletter.



Fall Book Study

Colby Martin. *UnClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*

The ONA Taskforce meets monthly, usually after worship on the second Sunday of the month. 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, Ashby, Tiffany, and MB.

In addition, we continue to invite volunteers to share their Sunday worship "Moment of Affirmation" and also welcome hymn/song suggestions for a "song of affirmation." Please speak with Pastor Katie to schedule the Sunday that works for you.



The Carroll County Health Department mobile unit **"Health on Wheels" (HOW) team** is next scheduled to come to Trinity on Wednesday September 9th, 9:00-11:30a.m., during the same time frame that Immanuel Lutheran Church distributes food bags. The HOW team sets up the mobile unit right outside the Trinity church building entrance on Church Street, to provide direct care and health information, including oral health examinations.

ALL Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment needed!! Health services and information resources range from Respiratory Illness Prevention, Blood Pressure screening, Flu and Tetanus Shots, Naloxone training & distribution to prevent death from Opioid overdose, STI Screening, HIV & Hep C Testing. Also, a dentist is now a part of the health team that comes out with the Health on Wheels mobile unit, available to check you out for oral health!! (For the vaccines and immunizations, please bring your insurance card and ID).

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

The Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice (CCIARJ)



NEXT CCIARJ Nonviolent Resistance Training 4.0: Stepping into Leadership Saturday September 26, 1-4p.m.

The next Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice (CCIARJ) free 3-hour Nonviolence Resistance training (Stepping into Leadership 4.0) a second **ROLE PLAY Experiential workshop**, will be held at the Islamic Society of Carroll County in Westminster on Saturday September 26 from 1-4p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn, discuss, and practice the 6 principles and 6 steps of Nonviolence Resistance, both in a civil rights context as well as one on one with whom we may hold opposing political, social, and/or religious views.

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," the workshops follow the Kingian school of resistance training and organizing, which combines the principles of Peace, Nonviolence, and Justice.

If you are interested in attending this or other future nonviolence resistance organizing workshops, contact MB Brainerd or Pastor Katie, and/or for more information, email ccinterfaithalliance4@gmail.com



Bedtime stories on Wednesday at 7 pm.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bed Time Stories 7pm	3 Bible Study at 6:30 PM	4	5
6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Transgender Adult Support Group 6:30 – 8:30pm	7 Labor Day	8 Consistory 6pm	9 Bed Time Stories 7pm	10	11	12
13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m. Rejoice in the Welcome Sunday Potluck Meal following Worship Blessing of the Prayer Shawls	14	15	16 Bed Time Stories 7pm	17 Bible Study at 6:30 PM	18	19 Fall Community Market @Trinity 8am-1pm
20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Transgender Adult Support Group 6:30 – 8:30pm	21 October Newsletter	22	23 Bed Time Stories 7pm	24	25	26
27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Awe Walk	28	29	30 Bed Time Stories 7pm	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
Receipts and Disbursements

	Jul 26	Jan - Jul 26
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Offering	3,953.34	34,482.94
Loose Offering	0.00	182.00
Communion Offering	60.76	449.56
Improvement Fund	200.00	1,215.00
Food Ministry	0.00	354.48
Miscellaneous	0.00	264.75
Total Income	4,214.10	36,948.73
Gross Profit	4,214.10	36,948.73
Expense		
Administrative	7,682.56	76,687.39
Community Care	0.00	317.02
Faith Formation	0.00	16.50
Mission & Outreach	25.00	2,356.41
Worship	177.50	1,004.79
Total Expense	7,885.06	80,382.11
Net Ordinary Income	(3,670.96)	(43,433.38)
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Organ Fund Income	0.00	530.41
Cemetery	(450.00)	(1,500.00)
Int/Div/CGD Income	4.62	422.70
Fundraising / Building Imp	120.89	2,719.28
Special Offerings Received	0.00	400.00
Total Other Income	(324.49)	2,572.39
Other Expense		
Special Offerings Disbursed	0.00	100.00
Transfers		
Transfer to General Account	3,500.00	41,000.00
Transfer from Fundraising	0.00	(3,000.00)
Transfer from End. Fund-General	(3,500.00)	(38,000.00)
Total Transfers	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	100.00
Net Other Income	(324.49)	2,472.39
Net Income	(3,995.45)	(40,960.99)

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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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