

# Trinity United Church of Christ

3229 York St, PO Box 38,

Manchester, MD 21102

410 374-2727

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

**Trinity Times**

**March 2025**

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## ***From the Pastor's Desk:***

As winter winds blow, I am thinking about the glimpses we get of new life. In the coming days, we might see a crocus peeking out through the snow or the morning songs of birds heralding new beginnings. Before we know it, we will gather for Easter services and sing out our praises of God's resurrection promises. But first we need to prepare. Lent is the period of 40 days (not counting Sundays which offers a Sabbatical from Lenten practice) starting on Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday.

The number 40 is important to the stories of our faith.

- The flood that destroyed the earth was brought on by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Israelites spent 40 days in the wilderness before reaching the promised land.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting in preparation for his ministry.

People often give things up for Lent as a way to symbolically unite ourselves to the mystery of Jesus' own temptation in the desert. It is also a time to reflect on your own priorities in your life, and to realign your will with God's own.

This year, I plan to reframe this idea. Instead of giving something up, I plan to start a new spiritual practice to reset my life.

My Lenten practice plan for this year is something I'm calling "the ToE of Lent." I plan to send a *Text of Encouragement* to someone each day from Ash Wednesday until Easter. I believe this will be an enriching and helpful way to enhance my prayer life.

If you want to do something new too, but are not sure ToE is the Lenten practice for you, here are some other ideas.

You can join Trinity in "40 things for 40 days," as you collect and donate 40 items of your gently used clothing to NESAP. We will bless our offerings on Easter.

You can start a prayer or gratitude journal. Or you can start walking or doing yoga. Spend 20 minutes in silence with God each morning (and get some exercise while you're at it). Maybe you can carve out time for Bible study (You can join one of the groups at church or study it at home).

Perhaps you can clean your house and donate things you don't need that could benefit others. Declutter and get rid of all the stuff that you don't really need. A cleaner space will not only help your mental health, but it will help you kick the habit of holding onto material things.

Whatever you choose to do, make sure it is something that will connect you to God and one another. Who wants to join me as we enter into a new time of spiritual growth? I look forward to hearing about your Lenten journeys!

Blessings,

*Pastor Katie*



**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
- 04/18 – Wayne Sanders
- 04/21 – Ron Larson
- 04/29 – Meghan Marchand



**MARCH ANNIVERSARYS**

- 03/13 – Shirley & James Wood
- 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 24<sup>th</sup>

**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 – Thursday, March 6 @ 6pm  
Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month  
@ 3:30.



**HELPING HANDS MARCH**

**Greeters for the month of March:**

Belva LaMotte

**Usher for the month of February:**

Deb Persinger

**Lay Readers:**

- Mar. 02 – Sue Myers
- Mar. 05 – MB Brainerd
- Mar. 09 – Sylvia Calabrese
- Mar. 16 – Shana Clark
- Mar. 23 – MB Brainerd
- Mar. 30 – Sue Myers

**Media Operator**

- Mar. 02 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- Mar. 05 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
- Mar. 09 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- Mar. 16 – Elwin Wagner/Sandy Sanders
- Mar. 23 – Karen Haines/Sandy Sanders
- Mar. 30 – 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:**

- Mike Brooks, cousin of Jeff Brooks
- Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity
- Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie
- Bonnie and Norman Greenholtz
- Ash Van Nuys
- Leah, friend of Donna Alban

Wendi Saltsman, friend of Belva LaMotte  
Jean Simmons  
Becky Smith, niece of Karen Price  
Gina Tollini  
Shirley Wood

**March 9, 2025**



**Worship Schedule: March**

**Transfiguration Sunday  
March 2, 2025**

**The Light Has Come**

**First Reading** Exodus 34:29-35

*Moses' face shines!*

**Second Reading** Luke 9:28-43a

*Jesus is transfigured*

**The Message** ONA Panel Discussion

Special Guests: Ayden Almoney, Jennifer  
Fuss, Judy Gaver, Calvin Livingston

**Ash Wednesday  
March 5, 2025 6:30 pm**

**For God's Sake!**

**First Reading** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Return to God*

**Second Reading** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*The practice of faith*

**Prayer Stations**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**First Sunday of Lent  
March 9, 2025**

**For God's Sake!**

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*Offerings of Thanksgiving*

**Second Reading** Luke 4:1-13

*Jesus is tempted*

**The Message**

*Dwelling in the Shelter of God's Love*

**Second Sunday of Lent  
March 16, 2025**

**For God's Sake!**

**First Reading** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*God's Covenant with Abram*

**Second Reading** Luke 13:31-35

*Lament over Jerusalem*

**The Message** Open Invitations

**Third Sunday of Lent  
March 23, 2025**

**For God's Sake!**

**First Reading** Isaiah 55:1-9

*An Invitation to Abundant Life*

**Second Reading** Luke 13:1-9

*Parable of the Fig Tree*

**The Message** Wacky Gardening

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 30, 2025**

**For God's Sake!**

**First Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*

**Second Reading** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*The parable of the forgiving father*

**Message** "I'll be Waiting!"



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

"If you have any hidden talent, can knit or crochet, please consider helping our shawl ministry." Perhaps you have a neighbor or friend with time on their hands. I will be happy to answer any questions about the ministry.



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



**Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.**  
Exploring the Heart of Jesus  
@Trinity and by Zoom

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

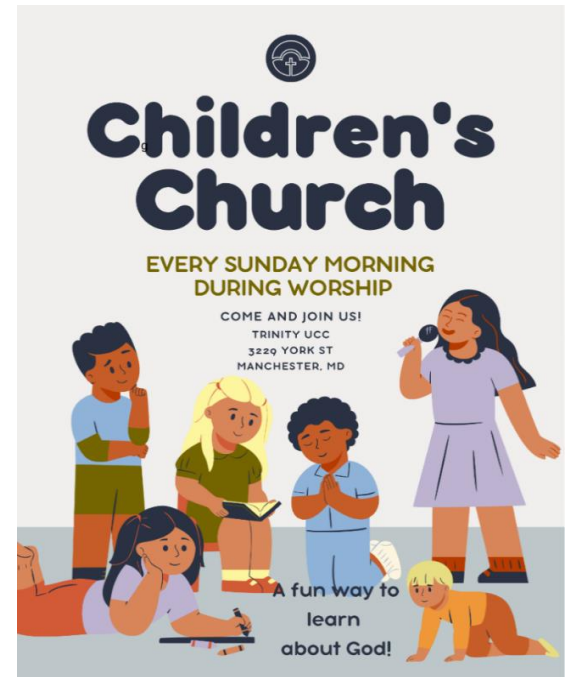
**For Lent, we will take a break from Tuesday bible study and have book club on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.**



**Book Club returns for Lent! Meet @ 7pm**

The book club will be meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. We will read *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia M Campbel and Christine Coy Fohr, This will be hybrid. Those who gather tin-person will have a shared meal.

Please let Pastor Katie know if you are interested.



**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
**Consistory Updates**

**Consistory Meeting Feb 5 at 6pm**

**Treasurer's Report – Sue Myers**

Can we close the music fund checking account and transfer the balance of \$871.34 to the general fund? approved

Received a \$250 donation for California wildfires

**Pastor's Report**

Ashby will lead a meditation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month

Special O&A bible study February 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> after worship, light lunch provided



## Unfinished Business / Updates

Committees should start their own recruitment now.

Safe Church Policy update by Sue Myers – Attending a Zoom seminar on the 25<sup>th</sup>

Sandy Sanders volunteered to be the assistant to Sue Myers as Treasurer.

Hannah Matthews volunteered to be the assistant to Shana Clark as Secretary.

## New Business

Lenten offering collected will be donated to NESAP and Immanuel Food Distribution (if federal funding is cut, it will be devastating to all these community programs).

Health Mobile on March 18, 2025 but are asking to be paired up with another event such as the Food Distribution at Emmanuel for future events.

Devotional for April 2, 2025 Marge Bailey.

Easter Flower questions direct to Deb Persinger or Sandy Sanders.

Lenten Challenge – for 40 days take out 1 piece of clothing that you no longer use, place in a bag, then return to Trinity who will donate to NESAP.

The Shepherd's Staff hosts a coat drive that we should be involved with.

Lenten Book Study “Meeting Jesus at the Table” every Tuesday during Lent starting March 11, 2025 @ 6pm available at Trinity and Zoom.



*Shrove Tuesday*

## Shrove Tuesday

Please join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Dinner on **March 4, 2025** from 5-7 p.m. The menu also includes doughnuts, applesauce, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Hope to see you there.

## Lenten Challenge

Lent for 2025 starts on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and ends on Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. This period represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and is a time for us to reflect, fast, and give penance as we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Here is our challenge. Each day during Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it in a trash bag.\* At the end of Lent, bring your bag(s) of items to church to donate to someone who can really use them. The donations will be taken to NESAP.

\*There will be bags available at the front entrance to the church beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>. You may use your own bag(s) but please nothing larger than the 13 gallon size. Please contact Sandy Sanders with any questions. 443.974.6723 Thank you!



## Ash Wednesday

Join us Ash Wednesday, **March 5, 2025** service at 6:30 p.m.



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.  
Contact Sue Myers at 443-375-6788 or  
[wsmdem@comcast.net](mailto:wsmdem@comcast.net) for more information or to  
place your order.

### **LENTEN OFFERING**

Each year we take up an offering during Lent to support a special mission or project.

One of our commitments to our community is to help families with food insecurities. This year we will be splitting our contributions between NESAP and Immanuel Lutheran Food Distribution.

If you donate on-line, simply select the Lenten Offering option. For those of you that still have offering envelopes you should find the Lenten Offering envelope in your box or you can pick up a special Lenten envelope at church next to the offering plates in the upstairs narthex. Or you can simply mail a check and write Lenten Offering in the memo line.

### **BINGO**

**HOLD THE DATE!!** Trinity UCC will be holding their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual cash bingo on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lineboro Vol Fire Hall. More information to follow!

If you are interested in helping please contact Sue Myers. But more importantly, we hope you are interested in playing. Call your friends and neighbors and start getting a group together for a fun filled evening!

**BUY A BRICK  
CAMPAIGN**



**Pathway to Prayer-Good News...  
EXTENDED!!! Buy a brick is open for  
the rest of the year.**



### **Becoming an ONA Congregation**

*“Open & Affirming (ONA)” is the United Church of Christ’s (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.*

On February 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, the Trinity ONA team sponsored two after-worship lunch-Bible Studies with “Scriptural Lens on Becoming ONA.” On the first Sunday of March, as part of our worship service, a panel of five people will share their experiences of becoming an ONA church. Since September, on the 3<sup>d</sup> Sunday of the month, Trinity Church members have shared with us personal “Moments of Affirmation,” and why a “welcoming and affirming” church is personally important to them.

The process of discerning whether to become an ONA Covenant Church takes time – some churches take years for discernment. Before we at Trinity even consider taking a vote, all active members will be invited to complete a survey, in which you will be asked whether you would feel comfortable voting to adopt the following draft ONA covenant statement:

***“Inspired by God’s Grace, and United in the Holy Spirit and Christ’s Love, we declare Trinity United Church of Christ to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) church. We invite people of every race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, economic circumstance, and physical and mental ability into the worship, rites & sacraments, fellowship, and leadership of our church. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”***

And, if you're NOT comfortable with saying "Yes," the survey will provide a space for you to write-in what questions or concerns you have, and what additional information you need, before you feel that you can vote "Yes" to becoming an ONA church.

This is all so that when the time comes to vote, the ONA taskforce will already know, from the survey and conversations, that at least 90% of active members will vote yes, the threshold for a church to qualify as an ONA church.

The ONA Taskforce is composed of Pastor Katie, Lucy Brady, MB Brainerd, Leslie Brooks, Tiffany Folk, Ashby Haines, Pam Marchand, Moriah Marr, and Hannah Matthews. We welcome your questions and appreciate each and everyone who participated in the February ONA bible studies!



**SHEPHERD'S STAFF'S EASTERBASKET DRIVE!**

Join us on Tuesday March 18 10-Noon when we will be assembling Easter Baskets for Children of Carroll County that we will contribute to The Shepherd's Staff Easter Basket Program!! And please bring small baskets or buckets (new or used!!) with folding handles and items to be included in the basket/bucket to Trinity no later than March 18.

**Items such as:**

- |                |               |           |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Coloring Books | Brain Teasers | Crayons   |
| Toiletries     | Small Toys    | Snacks    |
| Shower Puffs   | Baby Wipes    | Candy     |
| Bubbles        | Card Games    | Yo-Yo's   |
| Baby Rattles   | Play Dough    | Teethers  |
| Story Books    | Craft Kits    | Christian |

The completed baskets will be blessed at the March 23 Sunday Worship Service, before taking over to The Shepherd's Staff, who will distribute to the children of Carroll County.



**MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC AT TRINITY!  
MARCH 18 10-NOON!**

**WHILE YOU'RE HERE assembling Easter baskets on March 18**, take advantage of the Mobile Health Clinic which will be at Trinity on March 18 from 10am-Noon. Get your blood pressure checked, learn how to administer NARCAN to prevent death from Opioid overdose, and pick up literature on all the free and low-cost integrated health resources available in the County.



**Coffee Mugs We would love to share your morning over a cup of your favorite beverage! Help support our fundraising efforts by purchasing a Trinity UCC coffee mug – only \$10.**





## Easter Flower Sponsor Sheet

### Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

As is our tradition, we would like to decorate the sanctuary with spring flowers on Easter Sunday. We are asking for sponsors to help defray the costs incurred by the church. We are pleased to offer a variety of plants this year and will be taking orders during the month of February. The nursery needs our order by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Please give your order and payment to Deb Persinger or Sandy Sanders no later than **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Flower	Description	Color	Cost	Number	Subtotal
<b>Hyacinths</b>	Purple, 1 bloom, 4 ½" pot	N/A	\$6.00		
	3 blooms, 6" pot, available in Purple, pink or white		\$12.00		
<b>Tulips</b>	6" pot, available in yellow, red or pink (6 blooms)		\$12.00		
<b>Lilies</b>	Traditional, white, fragrant, single stem, 4-6 blooms	N/A	\$15.00		
	Dutch Asiatic, non-fragrant, 3 stem, multiple blooms, available in white or yellow		\$15.00		
<b>Combo Pots</b>	Filled with colorful annuals, 6" pot (variety of 8 different annual flowers)	N/A	\$11.00		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt. Due: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



Trinity United Church of Christ  
Receipts and Disbursements

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	<u>Jan 25</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Regular Offering	4,626.91
Communion Offering	56.89
Improvement Fund	110.00
Food Bags	117.22
Miscellaneous	25.00
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Total Income	4,936.02
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Gross Profit	4,936.02
Expense	
Administrative	13,845.39
Mission & Outreach	107.74
Worship	352.49
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Total Expense	14,305.62
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Net Ordinary Income	(9,369.60)
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Cemetery	(150.00)
Interest/Dividend Income	4.45
Fundraising / Building Imp	118.50
Special Offerings Received	250.00
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Total Other Income	222.95
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Net Other Income	222.95
	<hr/>
Net Income	<u><u>(9,146.65)</u></u>

## March 2025

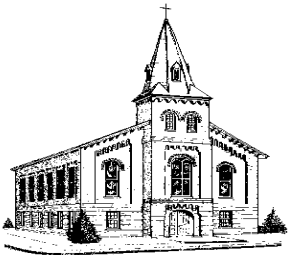
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b> Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. worship Children's Church during worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Fellowship following Worship	3	<b>4 Bible Study</b> 10a.m. at Trinity and by Zoom  <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 5-7 p.m.	<b>5 Ash Wednesday service at</b> 6:30 p.m.  <b>Bed Time Stories 7pm</b> by zoom	<b>6 Consistory</b> 6pm	7	<b>8</b>  Daylight Savings Time Begins
<b>9 First Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Blessing of Prayer Shawls	10	<b>11 Book Club 7pm</b>	<b>12 Bed Time Stories 7pm</b> by zoom	13	14	15
<b>16 Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom Fellowship following Worship	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18 Book Club 7pm</b>	<b>19 Bed Time Stories 7pm</b> by zoom	<b>20 First Day of Spring</b>	21	22
<b>23 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom	<b>24 April Newsletter articles due</b>	<b>25 Book Club 7pm</b>	<b>26 Bed Time Stories 7pm</b> by zoom	27	28	29
<b>30 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Adult S,S, 9:15am @Trinity & zoom One Great Houe of Sharing Offering	31	<b>Church office:</b> Open 9 – 1pm Monday and Tuesday. Always subject to change				

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P. O. BOX 38  
MANCHESTER, MD 21102

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Monday and Tuesday subject to change  
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