



TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 2

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

FEBRUARY, 2024

General Information

Sunday Service
9:00am

Fellowship Time
10:00am

Sunday School
10:30am

Office Hours
Mon.—Fri. 9am-1pm

Telephone
717 637-2233

Church e-mail
info@trinityucchanover.org



Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for spring-time. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

Cross of Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us Wednesday evening, February 14 at 7:00pm for a time of quiet reflection and the imposition of ashes as we begin Lent. All are welcome!



Greetings in Christ,

It is my first day as your new pastor at Trinity. I begin with much anticipation for a bright future firmly believing that God has brought us together for ministry. I am grateful to God for this calling and look forward to getting to know you and the ministries in Christ we share. As I paused to reflect further upon this sentiment, the words of the Psalmist came to mind: "Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name, make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!'" (Psalm 66:1-3a). Today, these words come alive in me as both prayer and proclamation of what God has done in our lives by bringing us together for a future filled with hope.

So as we move into this new season together, know that God has been with us all along, making a way for what has now come to fruition. For our Trinity friends who may have been away for a while, I invite you to come and see what God is doing here at Trinity. There is a new spirit in the air that comes along with all things being made new again.

May Christ's grace and peace be with you all!

Pastor Steve

Highlights from January Mission & Outreach Meeting

- Discussed and approved a \$250 donation for York/Adams Safe Home. They will each get \$125 for the use of buying cleaning supplies for their facilities.
- Will sponsor a food drive for *God's Meal Barrel* to start the first Sunday of February and run until the second week in March.
- Discussed making a monetary contribution to *Roots for Boots* or possibly *Wounded Warrior Project*. This money will be earmarked for a motorized wheelchair for a vet. Waiting for more info.
- Discussed how we can assist with the new YWCA building project. Will obtain more info.
- Will sponsor a neighborhood meal on February 7, at 6p.m. Signage will be put out on Walnut St. Menu will be spaghetti, salad, applesauce, and drinks. M&O will ask members from the congregation who will be attending if they would like to provide desserts.
- M&O will start to assemble "Hygiene Kits" in March. These will go to *Church World Service* for use around the world. The church family will be notified about this the first Sunday of March. They have been very supportive of these types of events.
- The team members reviewed the mission statement which will be published in the annual report.
- Trinity T-shirts will be available in the coming months, both long and short sleeved.
- The team is still discussing how we can help *Hoffman Home* students who have aged out of the facility and need assistance in moving their personal items to a new location. Possibly suitcases, bins, etc.



Thank You!

Well, I thought I would just quietly fade into the background of the congregation with a joyous service of carol singing on December 31st as my last Sunday as Bridge Pastor. Obviously you had other thoughts. Thank you for Fellowship Hour after service on the 31st (I was told there would not be Fellowship Hour). The cake was beautiful and tasty. The very generous 'love offering' was a surprise beyond measure. Your kind words were (are) appreciated.

You are so generous and we are grateful.

Pastor Ken and Joyce



february

anniversaries

Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
6	Jeffrey and Sandra Frock	54	16	Ted and Allison Orman	16
7	Leonard & Elizabeth Stambaugh	20	17	Donald and Peggy Jamison	46
9	Kirk & Bonnie Raubenstine	45	24	Donald & Carolyn Harman	17
16	Leroy and Patricia Markle	62	27	Carol and Neil Kessel Jr.	54

Note: *If your anniversary was omitted, please contact the office to update your records.
Thank you.*

Annual Meeting & Reports

Annual reports are now available in the narthex extended. The annual meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 11 following worship. Installation of new consistory members for 2024 will take place during worship on Feb. 4. The new consistory members are: John Coulson, Lorene Crooks, Dave Snyder, & Barb Williams.



Evelyn Strausbaugh	February 17
Betty Geiger	February 19



Alton M. "Toby" Fogle
Gordon J. "Gordy" Dubs

<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
August 5, 1936	December 14, 2023
July 20, 1934	December 21, 2023



We wish to convey our sincerest appreciation for your warm, heartfelt expressions of sympathy after the passing of Gordon (Gordy).

*Sincerely,
Kathy Dubs & family*

February	4	11	18	25
		Transfiguration Sunday	Lent 1	Lent 2
Consistory Team	6&3	1&4	2&5	3&6
Worship Leader	Yvonne Dickert	Albert Day	Bill Foreman	Grant Reichart
Altar Flower Sponsor	Open	Bartlett	Angel	Open
Chancel Flower Sponsor	Open	Open	Open	Open
Bulletin Sponsor	Wilson	Turner	Open	Williams

Please call the church office to schedule a flower or bulletin dedication for any available date.

Trinity United Church of Christ

116 York Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Change Service Requested



Trinity's Mission Statement: *Trinity United Church of Christ strives to be a warm, caring family of Christian believers. Our calling is to witness and strengthen the Christian faith through meaningful worship, Christian education, and Christian living in the home, the community, and the world.*

Trinity Staff:

Rev. Steven Ostendorf, Pastor

Mike Blottenberger, Admin. Assistant

Betsy Bristol, Secretary

Sue Seidenstricker, Director of Music

Tony Brallier, Ali Geiman, & Ruth Weaver, Sextons

Trinity Nursery School, Tina McCole, Director

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**For March Newsletter Articles
February 15, 2024**