



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

JANUARY, 2025

Information:

Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

9:00am

Fellowship Time

10:00am

Sunday School

10:30am

Office Hours

Mon. - Fri. 9am - 1pm

Telephone

717 637-2233

Email-

info@trinityucchanover.org



Giving Your Best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone



MLK On What Really Matters

Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody."

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the "drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade." Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the "reordered priorities" of Jesus, who wants us to "be first in love."

As Jesus showed, "everybody can serve," King said. Your background or status doesn't matter, as long as you have "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."

Special dates

- New Years Day, *January 1, 2025*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2025*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2025*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2025*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18 - 25, 2025*



Greetings in Christ,

A new year will soon be upon us and with it, resolutions for how we hope to live in 2025. It is a secular ritual that surrounds us every new year. From my observations as a pastor, it is a commonly human wish to begin again and the change of the calendar seems to give us a clean break to do so.



Fortunately for Christians, the life of faith gives us the opportunity to renew ourselves and begin again each day. We find in 2 Corinthians 4:16 “So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” For the faithful this revelation encourages us begin again when we see some behavior or process is not working for us. The same can be said with our deep longing of spirituality. We can feel the range of connectedness to faith in God. Whether it be hardly connected to God, or the church community, or to our Christian discipleship. We can start again to renew our spirituality by being part of regular attendance, living the faith as Christ taught, and thanking God in our regular prayer-life and time of devotion. There are many ways to renew our spiritual connectedness when it comes to practicing our faith or having a relationship with God. Trust your heart and spirit to be a guide in discerning if you need to begin again in life or in faith. With God there is always a new day and new beginning.

Let us spend some time in the final week of 2024 and the first week of 2025 discerning what may need changing or improvement in our secular and non-secular (religious) lives. The discipline of reflection allows us to review as well as ponder anew, the direction of our lives and faith. It is a healthy and often helpful thing to do at regular intervals of time. Combine that with listening for the spirit to be your guide and you may just find yourself being renewed in mind, body and spirit day by day as the scripture proclaims.

May God bless us all with a sense of divine direction in 2025.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve



Praise and Thanks to God and to you, the Members of Trinity UCC!

As the new year begins it is a joy to be able to say we will have shared a year of ministry in Christ together on January 15th. Wonderful and amazing things happened in 2024 and I am grateful to you and to God for the blessings we have seen in ministry of Trinity Church. I gave an open invitation to folks to “come and see” what God is doing at Trinity and we were blessed with a solid response. Weekly attendance averages moved up by approximately 30 additional folks in attendance. We held four New Member Sundays taking in 27 members, some new and some either re-activating or restoring former memberships through Consistory approval. We even started a Children’s Church program with 8 teachers, team-teaching those that attend. Clearly there was an increased presence of the spirit and a new energy that has blessed us. Let us be thankful for what God has done and be encouraging to one another as we continue to grow in the life of faith at Trinity in 2025.

Pastor Steve



From the Care Team

We care about you! At Trinity UCC we want to know if you are sick or in the hospital, in need of prayer, or would like a visit at: home, the hospital, a rehab or nursing facility. We are not informed by facilities due to HIPPA privacy policies and heavily rely on you letting us know or having a family member or trusted friend call on your behalf. We are happy to give you the level of support you desire and will even keep your situation confidential if it is preferred. We aim to serve you with God's comfort, love, and compassion. If there is a desire for prayer or a visit, please contact the church office or leave a private message on the Pastor's voicemail.



Called to Care Group

Trinity has been blessed in the past to have a special committee of lay visitors that work along with the pastor to keep in touch with our shut-in members and those unable to attend due to health reasons. Mention of this group has come up in 2024 and we are now hoping to gauge the full interest of resuming this special ministry. Anyone interested in learning more about being a part of brightening another member's day through this group may speak to Pastor Steve about the different options of available participation. Perhaps you like to check on friends by phone or you love to send cards. Maybe you like to drop off a meal or stop-in to visit and bring some cheer or prayer. There are many things that fit within the realm of this ministry we would like to restore. Pray about how God may be calling or using you to extend God's love and Christ's peace within our church family.



Confirmation Anyone?

As we start 2025, I would like to assess what interest we have within the congregation in forming a Confirmation Class. The typical age range for students is 7th grade and up. It would be a commitment of four one-day retreats offered on Saturdays at the church. I am excited about the possibility of offering this event to our young people. Please contact the church office or leave a message with Pastor Steve with the names and contact information of potential students.

Highlights from December Mission & Outreach Meeting

- A movie night is being finalized for January 17, 6:30 p.m. using the new TV system in Fellowship Hall.
- Will have a Neighborhood Supper, Wednesday, February 12, at 6 p.m.
- A total of \$2,000 of hurricane relief money was sent to the UCC Relief Effort. This money was raised by congregational giving, “the jar” and M&O budget line donation.
- M&O will sponsor four more gift tags for Hoffman Homes.
- Long-sleeved TUCC t-shirts will be available for sale—monies benefiting M&O.
- Presented Luke Ostendorf-Snell with a \$500 check to support his airfare for his upcoming trip to Honduras for 1000 Schools Project.
- Presented Vic and Lorene Crooks with a check for \$800 to support their effort “Jacob’s Army” which benefits patients at the Hershey Medical Center.
- M&O will assemble 100 hygiene kits for Church World Service. This project begins in January.
- Discussed the possibility of helping the workers of Sign of the Horse who have been left jobless by a fire.
- Planning on another Jared Box project for June, 2025. This project aids children in the Hanover UPMC Hospital Pediatric Unit.
- Discussed the purchase of twin sheets/blankets for the HACC Shelter. This project is currently being researched.
- A mission statement has been compiled and presented for the updated policy manual.

Welcome New Consistory Members!

Please welcome the following new members to the 2025 Trinity consistory: Betsy Bristol, Kobie Klunk, Brad Eline and Elaine Albin. We thank outgoing members: Michael Sabaka, Brittany Breighner, Bunny Harman and Karl Albin for their service.



Dear Trinity Congregation and Friends,


Tricia, the children and I wish to thank you for your outpouring of love and kindness toward us during the Christmas holiday season. We have felt your warmth and joy and been deeply touched by your spirit and faith. May God bless each of you in the coming new year with hope, peace, and good health.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve*

 **JANUARY**
Anniversaries

Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
10	Mark & Nancy Cornbower	60	20	Veronica & Mitchell Mummert	7
13	Deborah and Steven Sauble	54			

If your anniversary was omitted, please contact the office to update your records.



Happy **90+** Birthday!

Robert Leppo	January 6
Dolores Zinneman	January 10
Helen Yingling	January 20



To the Trinity Family,

I cannot express how blown away I was by the outpouring of love and support from all of you during my medical leave. I may not have been here long, but it didn't take any time for me to feel accepted into this family. From the bottom of my heart - Thank You for your continued support and generosity.

*Your Secretary,
Morgan Fleeger*

Trinity's Cancellation Policy for Inclement Weather

Whenever there is a need to cancel or change existing church schedules the following stations will be notified of the changes.

WHP/CBS-----television

WHTM/ABC----television

Closures or changes in time can also be found on the Trinity website at www.trinityucchanover.org or by calling 717 637-2233 for special announcements.

January Trinity Times

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
Morgan Fleeger, Secretary
Sue Seidenstricker, Director of Music
Tony Brallier, Larry Dubs, Ruth Weaver, Sextons
Trinity Nursery School, Tina McCole, Director

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***For February Newsletter Articles
January 15, 2025***