



TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 2

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

FEBRUARY, 2021

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



Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we’re in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

Special dates

African-American History Month
Transfiguration Sunday, *February 14, 2021*
Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2021*
Presidents Day, *February 15, 2021*
Ash Wednesday, *February 17, 2021*



Dear Friends:

You will not believe me when I tell you this, but February 17th is Ash Wednesday. In this crazy year when we did not have Easter or Christmas in the sanctuary—how can we be almost to Lent already? And yet, the calendar tells us the truth. Even in the dead of winter, we know that spring is coming. Lent is our harbinger of springtime.



As I drive thru the orchards on route 94, there are workers pruning trees. And if we asked a farmer why that particular practice is done, he or she would probably answer “to let the light in.” During Lent we prune and simplify our lives so God’s light can come in. In fact, the word Lent is derived from an Anglo-Saxon term meaning “lengthen,” referring to the longer days reaching toward Spring. But just because our days are longer and our nights shorter, it does not mean that there is more of God’s light in our lives. Lent is a time for spiritual practice, a time to be intentional about welcoming God’s light.

And let’s face it, we need more of God’s light in our lives. Observing Lent is a deeply ingrained practice in our Reformed heritage. And it should be about making an inward difference in us, not about making a show of our beliefs. That is exactly what Jesus is speaking against in Matthew 6:1. “Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.” (from *The Message*)

We can re-frame what Lent means to us by asking ourselves what we really want to achieve through a Lenten practice like prayer, fasting, or daily devotions. Maybe it’s as simple as this—you’d like a do-over. You’d like a chance to start fresh, you’d like to hit the reset button. We can’t really be part of God’s great clean-up of the world on Easter, without recognizing our need to turn and return to the Lord.

This season reminds us how much we need grace in our lives, in order to live a transformed life that reflects God’s love. This is not about a weekend make-over, this is about returning to the heart of God, from which we wander away almost continuously. Every day, we need to start over on the path back to God. It’s a stubborn little hope that we can hit that reset button.

And we all need a stubborn little hope that God is more interested in seeing us succeed as disciples, than God is concerned for punishing us for our failures. And the cross is the perfect example of that. It is the ultimate reset button. It is God’s statement that no matter the cost, God will show us the way back home.

May you find peace and purpose in this unsettled time, as we turn our hearts and minds toward the cross and the redemption beyond the cross. Stay tuned for word on worship in February, as we make decisions about a safe return to the sanctuary.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kim

February

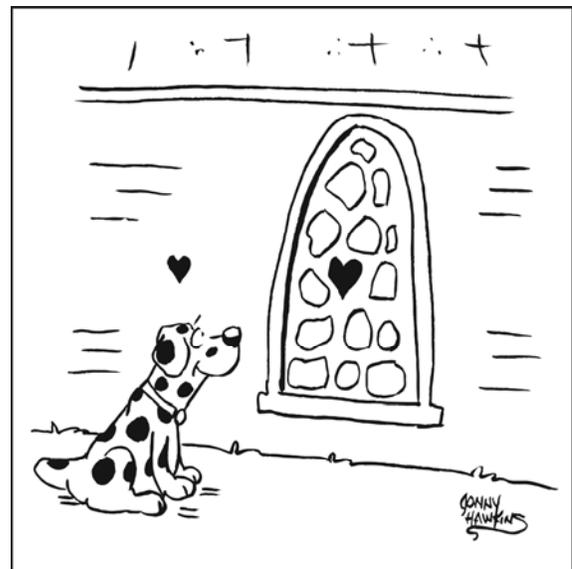
Anniversaries

Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
6	Jeffrey and Sandra Frock	51	16	Ted and Allison Orman	13
7	Leonard & Elizabeth Stambaugh	17	17	Donald and Peggy Jamison	43
9	Kirk & Bonnie Raubenstine	42	24	Donald & Carolyn Harman	14
16	Leroy and Patricia Markle	59	27	Carol and Neil Kessel Jr.	51

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

Congregational Meeting & Annual Reports

The annual congregational meeting will be held **Sunday, February 7th at 10am** in the sanctuary with the possibility of an abbreviated worship service afterward. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the proposed budget for 2021. Annual reports will be available in the portico on **Tuesday, January 26th from 10am-2pm and again on Thursday, January 28th from 5-7pm**. Reports will also be available on the morning of the meeting.



*With
Sympathy*

Born

Richard F. Messinger

July 21, 1933

Vonnie J. Reichart

January 15, 1943

Elaine Brodbeck

June 23, 1926

Dale Eugene Alwine

July 21, 1924

Died

December 19, 2020

December 20, 2020

December 17, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 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. Dr. Kim Blocher, Interim

Cell: 717 422-2075 (or text)

Mike Blottenberger, Admin. Assistant

Betsy Bristol, Secretary

Sue Seidenstricker, Director of Music

Tony Brallier, Steve & Ruth Weaver, Sextons

Dawn Magee & Aimee Bohn, Childcare/Children's Sunday School

Trinity Nursery School, Tina McCole, Director

E-Mail Address:

kim@trinityucchanover.org

Home: 717 486-7847 or call the church office to leave a message

mike@trinityucchanover.org

betsy@trinityucchanover.org

trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com (717) 637-2126



For March Newsletter Articles

February 15, 2021