



# TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ  
www.trinityucchanover.org

FEBRUARY, 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



## Love Makes Us Worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, "It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors]."

## Leave It To God

Fourth-century theologian Augustine urged again and again that we focus on practicing love in the here and now, not on worrying about our lives in the hereafter.

In Beautiful Bodies, Margaret Miles writes that especially regarding complicated doctrines like predestination and challenges like "The one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13), we can't do anything but leave those to God. It's impossible for humans to take responsibility for ourselves in such matters. If we could determine our afterlife destiny by means of effort, persuasion or bribery, self-pride would surely be the accompanying sinful result.

"In fact," Miles writes, "preoccupation with one's eternal destiny distracts from a Christian's present business. 'Leave it to God,' St. Augustine said, and place your attention on living lovingly in the body of Christ here and now."

## ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH



Ash Wednesday

There will be a special service of worship at 7:00 P.M March 5h. A service of song, prayer, scripture readings, confession, and the imposition of ashes. We invite all to gather to set our hearts aright for the journey of Lent.

## February Special Dates

- Feb 1st - Nursery School registration opens
- Feb 2nd - Groundhog Day
- Feb 9th - Trinity Annual Meeting
- Feb 14th - Valentines Day
- Feb 15th - Nursery School public registration
- Feb 17th - Presidents Day
- Feb 19th - Neighborhood Meal

## 2025 as a Season of Giving to God and Others

*"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)*

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Greetings to All,

On Epiphany Sunday I lifted to the congregation that God had placed on my heart that: 2025 was to be a year of giving for Trinity UCC and for Christendom; 2024 was the year of receiving from God; And 2026 is to be a year of serving God and neighbor. While most people may immediately have their minds go to the subject of stewardship and financial giving, that is not what is intended. I think giving is a much broader and more complex subject than finances that goes to the heart of our being as children of God. It is why I asked those in attendance to pray about the meaning of giving so that we may have clarification from the Holy Spirit. Since that day, I have been praying for God to reveal what kind of giving we should be focusing upon. So I began looking through the scriptures and came across a number of passages that explain giving. Because they are so numerous, I decided to break them down into more manageable pieces that will be covered over the next several months.

For the month of February, we focus on giving praise and thanksgiving to God. Yes, giving praise to God is a form of giving. This form of giving requires worship and prayer, singing and praising. We find this easiest to do by attending worship on Sunday mornings where we can dedicate a special time to these actions bringing glory to God as a congregation. But we can also thank God in our homes by offering prayers of thanksgiving for the new day, for meals, for the home we live in, for the family and friends we love. We can thank God when we get home safely from our travels. We can thank God for the ability to pay our bills, or for the help we are receiving to live. In all of this thanking, we can find a more grateful heart.

When it comes to praising God at home, we can sing along to our favorite Christian music and songs on the radio or streaming music channels. We can say praise God aloud when good things are revealed to us by loved ones, by the news, or by mail. In essence, the words 'Praise God' are a prayer of praise we can lift in any moment to give glory to God. Also, in those small efforts of praising God, we can more fully identify the joys in life to offset our sorrows.

This is part of the amazing proofs that when we give, we often receive multifold. In this case of giving thanks and praise to God we receive a more grateful heart; joys to offset sorrows.

Friends, God really is seeking to bless us. For even in our giving, we also are receiving. Perhaps that's the lesson of 2025. May it be so for us. And may we all give thanks, for it is God's will in Jesus Christ for us to give thanks in all circumstances knowing God's love is always with us.

Peace and blessings to you and to all!

Pastor Steve



### **Children's Church News**

We were delighted to teach a foundation of faith to the children of Trinity in 2024 and look forward to continuing that mission for the winter and spring seasons of 2025. New this year will be lessons connecting with the sermon lessons, allowing for a shared discussion with the children after service. The leadership team has also elected to follow a weekly format in the children's program that begins with welcome and followed by: the sharing of joys or concerns; prayer time reflecting on children's joys or concerns; receiving a small offering (like a quarter) to instill in the children a practice of giving, sharing, and thankfulness; an offering prayer; bible lesson; lesson from the teaching team; and closing time including the Lord's Prayer and a song. We look forward to teaching your children and grandchildren about our wonderful God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Thank you for bringing them to our special program.

- The Children's Church Team

*Note: Children's church is held weekly in Room 34 in the basement. The children leave from the sanctuary, dismissed after the Children's Message in the early part of worship. The children are brought to the social hall to be joined with their families at the conclusion of the worship service. As per church policy, all teachers are back ground checked and teach in teams for student safety.*

### **A Call to Confirmation**

A brief informational meeting for those interested in Confirmation at Trinity UCC will be offered on Sunday, February 16 after the service in the Sanctuary. Confirmation is open to middle and high school students. If you know someone interested in becoming a confirmed Christian at Trinity, please invite them to attend or contact Pastor Steve at the church office 717-637-2233 or [pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org)

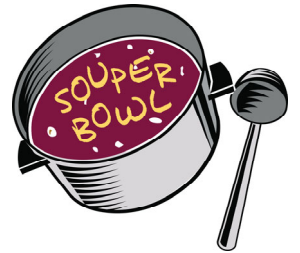
### **Lenten Study**

The Lenten Study for 2025 will be "The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. It is a book, video, and bible study. The Study will begin on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. in the Adult Sunday School Room #45 located in the basement. This year a second meeting time will be offered on Wednesday mornings beginning March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 12:00 and will meet in the Social Hall, ending with a light meal of soup and bread. Let us study the message of Jesus that changed the world as we journey through the season of Lent. Books are available in the church office.

## News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Souper Bowl Sunday - February 9th

The February 9th service will be a casual, sporty service. Come in your sporty casual attire (jerseys are welcome!). Also Mission & Outreach are hosting a canned soup drive to support God's Meal Barrel. Everyone is encouraged to bring a can of soup to donate (no bulk sizes).



### Neighborhood Meal

Mission & Outreach will be hosting the next Neighborhood Meal on February 19th at 6:00pm. Join us for a free meal and socializing. Better yet - bring your friends and neighbors! There is a sign up sheet available in the narthex at the church to give an estimate of how many people we can expect will be joining us. Hope to see you there!

### Mailing List



Do you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter? Or would you like to start receiving it by email, or be removed from the mailing list? Simply contact the church at [info@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:info@trinityucchanover.org) or (717) 637-2233 and give us the name and the home address or email address preferred. Thank you!

### Trinity Nursery School 2025-2026

Registration for Trinity Nursery School's 2025-2026 school year will begin February 1st for current students, their siblings, and members of the congregation. Registration will begin for the general public on February 15th. For information about Trinity's preschool programs, contact Tina at 717-637-2126 or [trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com](mailto:trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com).



### Annual Report & Installation of 2025 Consistory

There will be a brief congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, Feb. 9th for the purpose of installing the 2024 officers and members of Consistory. The 2024 Annual Report will be made available by January 26th.



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
6	Jeffrey and Sandra Frock	55	16	Ted and Allison Orman	17
7	Leonard & Elizabeth Stambaugh	21	17	Donald and Peggy Jamison	47
9	Kirk & Bonnie Raubenstine	46	24	Donald & Carolyn Harman	18
16	Leroy and Patricia Markle	63	27	Carol and Neil Kessel Jr.	55

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

Turning  
90 +  
This Month!

Evelyn Strausbaugh February 17  
Betty Geiger February 19

IN  
LOVING  
MEMORY

Born                      Died  
Judith Leppo            8/5/1936            12/21/2024

**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](http://www.trinityucchanover.org) or by calling 717 637-2233 for special announcements.**

## *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. 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

#### **E-Mail Address:**

[pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org)  
[mike@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:mike@trinityucchanover.org)  
[morgan@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:morgan@trinityucchanover.org)  
[trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com](mailto:trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com) (717) 637-2126



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