



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

MARCH, 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



Two-way benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own. We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

Amid life’s storms

The hurricanes that battered the East Coast in fall 2024 also battered my soul. I was over the rain and humidity. I was tired of lugging my two preschoolers through the downpours and driving through flash floods at night. Yet I had no reason to complain. Our house was still standing, with no damage. The news around us was worrying and heartbreaking. “What if that was us?” I wondered. “Would I be strong enough?” Then the kids asked to play outside. Even though I knew they’d get wet and muddy, I gave in. When a rainbow appeared, I’d never been more humbled as I remembered: I don’t need to be anxious. I don’t need to be strong enough. God watches over us all. He knows the hurt and sorrow. And he promises to be “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1, ESV). Lord, forgive my unbelief. “Hear my cry, O God ... when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:1-2, ESV).

—Kristen Greene

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.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9th



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17 NRSV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven,” (Mathew 5:43-45a NRSV)

Greetings in Christ’s Love,

The month of February is a big month for me and our youngest son Matthew. We both share a birthday and the whole family gets to celebrate Valentines Day as a day of love for family and friends. In his elementary school the practice of exchanging Valentines Day cards among peers now includes the whole class if you choose to participate. I like this idea, recalling the discomfort of receiving very few valentines in some of those early elementary years. My feeling as a child had always been that everyone should feel loved. My Sunday School teachers taught us that, but my public-school peers didn’t get that lesson. So, I am happy to see extra kindness and love being encouraged on a day that can be full of anxiety or disappointment for many children. As an adult and Christian Pastor, I can’t emphasize enough: “Everyone should feel loved.” This is God’s plan for humanity that was expressed in God’s gift of Jesus Christ as found in John 3:16-17. Jesus told us to *‘love one another as I have loved you’* (John 13:34). Another teaching comes directly from Jesus about loving enemies as well as praying for them in Matthew 5:43 listed above.

These passages pointedly refer to the gift of love given by God and Jesus that we are to share and offer to one another. The Apostle Paul even declared to the early church that the most important gift we give is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Pondering these actions in light of Valentine’s Day is easy. We can be more loving toward everyone on Valentines Day. Perhaps even beyond the holiday? Maybe giving love at birthdays is just as easy. We give cards, gifts, and cake on birthdays. Certainly, these are gifts of love and likely appreciated by the receiver. But this is the ‘year of giving’, not receiving. So, what can we give to others on our birthdays? How about extra love, compassion, and understanding to those around us in gratitude for God’s love for us and in us? It seems like a sound plan to me.

As for me, I decided to try the above and make a special gift to the Toy Workshop so more young children can feel ‘the love of God and others’ at Christmastime. May we each find ways of showing gratitude to God by enlarging the concept of giving with thankful hearts.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve





Ash Wednesday Combined Service

Ash Wednesday is March 5th. We will gather at Trinity for a special service of worship at 7:00 P.M. We will be hosting the congregations of Grace UCC, Hanover and Trinity UCC, Gettysburg. The three pastors will share leadership of the service. The worship program will offer song, prayer, scripture readings, confession, a meditation and the imposition of ashes. A special offering is being received to support local missions. Offering plates will be placed at the entrances for your convenience. We invite all to gather together to set our hearts aright for the journey of Lent.

A Call to Confirmation

A brief informational meeting was held on Sunday, February 16 after the service in the Sanctuary. We are excited to announce that multiple students committed to start a Confirmation Class this March. The retreat style gatherings will take place once a month beginning on Saturday March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church. Additional gatherings are tentatively scheduled for: April 19th, May 17th, June 28th and are open to ages 11+. Students are allowed an absence with make-up assignment. The content of the program will include basics on the Bible, The Life and Ministry of Jesus and how he is our Savior, Christian history/tradition, worship and discipleship/service in our time. The learning format will include: some general reading and research; videos and movies, games and challenges. A simple breakfast and lunch will be provided. A Special Confirmation Sunday will be scheduled after the conclusion of the program. Students will also perform some type of service to the congregation and create a simple mission project to implement during the Confirmation Season, with the help of the pastor.

If you know someone interested in becoming a confirmed Christian at Trinity, please invite them to contact Pastor Steve for more information. Also, if anyone has interest in supplying a simple breakfast or lunch for the program please see or contact the pastor at the church office 717-637-2233 or pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org





LENTEN STUDY

Lenten Study for 2025 will be on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-12:00pm beginning March 9th. Soup and bread will also be available at the end of the Wednesday meetings. This year we will be working with the bible study “The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton. Books are available in the Church Office.

2025 CONSISTORY

We would like to welcome our new Consistory members and officers. If you have any concerns or issues, ideas for outreach or a desire to serve your church in some capacity, please talk with any member. We pray for God's guidance to uphold the mission of Trinity Church within our church family and the broader community outside our doors.

John Dickert - President	Lorene Crooks -Vice President	Brad Eline - Treasurer
Beth Leckrone - Secretary	Elaine Albin	John Coulson
Dave Snyder	Betsy Bristol	Barb Williams
Kobie Klunk	Sharon Goldstein	Lee Bartlett

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date!

This year's VBS will be June 16th - 20th.

We will be in need of students and helpers.

More information will be announced at a later date.

Please contact the office if you'd like to participate.






MARCH

Anniversaries


Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
5	Karen and Joel Weaver	48	21	Barbara and Robert Williams, Jr.	54
12	Tina and Trevis Becker	37	24	Peggy and Anthony Brallier	41
20	Kimberly and William Spangler	15	30	Rebecca and Andrew Blumenthal	51

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



Happy 90+ Birthday!

Arlene Dubbs March 1
Betty Bair March 25



With Deepest Sympathy

Born Died

David Smith 4/30/1952 2/08/2025

Dates to Remember

- March 2, 2025 - Transfiguration Sunday
- March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday, service at 7:00pm
- March 7, 2025 - World Day of Prayer
- March 8, 2025 - International Women’s Day
- March 9, 2025 - Daylight saving time
- March 17, 2025 - St. Patrick’s Day
- March 20, 2025 - Spring Begins



March 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 April Newsletter Articles
March 15, 2025***