



# TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ  
www.trinityucchanover.org

APRIL, 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



## The Blessing of Fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.  
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Clothed in Compassion

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we'll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the care we wear — making it "fit" better for today's generations.

—Janna Firestone

## Holy Days / Worship Reminders

- April 6<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 A.M. Fifth Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion
- April 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 A.M. Gather to wave the palm branches and commemorate the historic arrival of the Messiah.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 A.M. Easter Sunday Celebration of Christ's Resurrection with Holy Communion.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 A.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter with guest Pastor Rev. George Heberling.



## 2025 A Season of Giving to God and Others

*“Give to the Emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17)*

*“I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but that it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, ‘the one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’” (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)*

Greetings in Christ!

We continue our “Year of Giving” theme this month as we look at the words of Jesus surrounding taxes being paid to Caesar and the Roman authorities. Jesus instructed his followers to pay their share of what was owed to the governing body. We know from antiquity sources that there were tax collectors (with the power to imprison) who were a bit unscrupulous and overcharged, or had side dealings. While Jesus doesn’t deal with that subject directly in this passage, he does tell the Jewish listeners that it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. His wording was something like “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” In this statement Jesus accomplishes two things: He avoids a trap set for him by the temple authorities to catch him publicly advising against paying taxes to the Roman authorities (which would have been against the law and punishable); And Jesus also maintains the law that God’s people are to give to God and support the temple (which kept him within biblical law). It was the right answer, but many Jewish listeners were not happy with it.

The Jewish people paid tithes and offerings to the Temple but despised paying taxes to the Roman authorities. In essence they were feeling the overburdening pinch of what amounted to double taxation. While the temple required a tenth of your income plus sacrifices and almsgiving to help the poor, it also provided: remediation from sins, some security through the temple guard, a court through the priests to resolve disputes, its own jail, and some education for the pharisees and scribes. When the Romans came along and conquered them, they set up a Roman government of the province and then extracted taxes from the inhabitants. This provided for a Roman standard of life. The taxes that went to Caesar as tribute were an apportionment, but much of the taxes paid went for the running of the Roman civil government which did improve the lives of the Jewish population under their control. A satirical look at the improvements were shown in a scene called ‘what have the Romans ever done for us’ in the movie “Monty Python’s Life of Brian”. In the scene, the Jewish Zealots are heatedly discussing their hate for the Romans. Asking the question “what have they ever done for us?”, small responses come from their compatriots that historical antiquity supports. The Romans brought to Israel: A good permanent road system, fresh water through aqueducts, irrigation for crops, sanitation through underground sewer systems, public bath houses, medicine, education, wine, extensive trade, security and public order, and peace from other enemies and fewer internal clashes between Jewish factions. These were huge and life-changing advancements that propelled humanity and the Jewish population into a new modern era. In short, the sum of the population tremendously benefitted from the taxes they paid. But it was still a strain for them to give their hard-earned income over to the Romans. Perhaps they needed to view “the tax” differently?

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently taught about giving to those in need to improve the lives of the less fortunate. The historic church embraced this ethos yet had great difficulty meeting every need as they were small and unorganized churches. But the Roman authorities

were vast, organized and had a deep well of resources to make things happen. Each thing the Romans did to improve their society came to fruition. So perhaps the tax could have been viewed more as a gift for the benefit of society as a whole.

Like the early church, we also have embraced Jesus' words about helping the least of these, and yet even today we still struggle to meet the amount of need present in our society. More often than not, the vast majority of help comes through the governing authority charged with advancing the public good for everyone. Isn't it amazing that "the more things change; the more things stay the same?" (Alphonse Karr, 1849).

As we are in the height of tax season, perhaps we could look at taxes as a form of giving, albeit forced giving, for the common good that provides for all necessary public programs that keep our population: protected, fed, housed, medically treated, educated with skills to reduce poverty. Or perhaps when we go out of our houses we can look at our: rivers, lakes and shore with swimming, boating and fishing options; sanitation systems keeping trash and pollution at bay; roads and bridges that help us get where we need to go; public parks filled with plants and wildlife; and buildings, museums and gathering spaces for events that make or house memories. Maybe we could see these things as gifts we all get to share and enjoy due to 'giving for the public good' rather than 'paying our taxes'. It's a rather revolutionary concept for us to consider, especially as churches and non-profits, who add to the public good in so many ways, also need our giving and support to function and plug-the-gaps that many unfortunate folks fall through.

The Apostle Paul addressed the church-side of this equation in his letter to the church in Corinth, knowing they are feeling the pinch and burden of taxes and giving. He reminds them that part of Jesus' teachings was about fair balance, restoring those who have present need through our abundance, so that in turn their abundance may restore us when we have need. It is a snapshot of what the kingdom of God looks like. We all share with those who have need so that no one is in need. *"The one that had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little"*.

So it is, and so it should be, in the kingdom of God on earth. Therefore, let us be of a giving spirit, not begrudgingly, for God loves the heart of a cheerful giver. And let us pray for a world that looks like one held in fair balance, where all can give and all can receive, each with joy and praise for God.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Pastor Steve



### New Directories

The new directory is here! They are available to purchase for \$5 each in the church office. A huge thank you to Diane Betlyon, Carol Wilson, and Lorene Crooks for their hard work and dedication to updating the directory and getting it published.



### **Let's Think Spring!**

On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Women of Trinity will host a "garden party" social in Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm. There will be information presented about the Women of Trinity committee. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn about the projects we do for our church and community. Remember all women are members of WOT.

Our program will feature gardening tips from Master Gardener Angie Binick. During the presentation everyone will be able to make a small spring planter. Light refreshments will be served. Get ready for spring and come join us for an afternoon of information, fun, and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the narthex bulletin board.

### **The Sheely-Hicks Scholarship**

Applications are now available from the church office and on-line for the Sheely-Hicks Scholarship. The scholarship is available annually to students who may attend or are affiliated with Hanover Trinity United Church of Christ. The scholarship is available for those who are planning on furthering their education beyond high school or preparatory school at an accredited trade school, technical institute, college or university. Scholarship application must be received on or before May 31, 2025.

### **Lenten Study Underway**

The Lenten Study "The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton is currently underway and meeting on Sunday morning at 10:30 A.M. with a repeat of material offered on Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. The Sunday gathering meets in the Adult Sunday School Room #45 located in the basement.

The Wednesday gathering will cover the same lesson from the prior Sunday for anyone missing on Sunday or preferring a week-day gathering. A simple meal of soup and bread will be served after the Wednesday gathering which ends at noon. There is a sign-up sheet for Wednesday attenders on the bulletin board in the narthex just outside the sanctuary. Books are available in the church office and are provided by the Christian Education Fund. For more information contact Pastor Steve at 717-637-2233 or [pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org)

### **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.





Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
5	Barbara and Donald Jackson	60	23	Ellen and Jim Oaster	42
7	Anita and Dennis Rhodes	52	24	Angela and Andrew Krentler	43
10	Kim and Scott Rau	43	24	Joyce and Alan Zinneman	43
20	Ronald and Patricia Ruth	56			

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

**Happy 90+ Birthdays**

Mary McMaster April 20  
 Ray Hahn April 25  
 Charlotte Lobach April 29

*In Loving Memory*

	<u><b>Born</b></u>	<u><b>Died</b></u>
Donald Wildasin	10/26/34	2/16/25
Sylvia Green	5/25/48	1/31/25

**A Call to Confirmation**

Confirmation begins on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church. It is a retreat style gathering with simple breakfast and lunch provided. Additional gatherings are tentatively scheduled for: April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

Anyone interested in becoming a confirmed Christian at Trinity can contact Pastor Steve and attend on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Also, if anyone would like to supply a simple breakfast or lunch for the program please contact the pastor at the church office 717-637-2233 or [pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org)

# *April 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.***

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### **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 May Newsletter Articles  
April 15, 2025***