



TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 5

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

MAY, 2022

General 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

Church e-mail

info@trinityucchanover.org



We remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.



By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

Fixed hours of prayer

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends.

You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the *Book of Common Prayer* or a resource such as *ExploreFaith.org*. (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God.
—Janna Firestone

Special dates

National Day of Prayer, May 5, 2022

Mother's Day, May 8, 2022

Armed Forces Day, May 21, 2022

Victoria Day (Canada), May 23, 2022

Ascension Day, May 26, 2022

Memorial Day, May 30, 2022



Finding New Ways to Serve our Neighbors in Need

Dear Friends:

I encountered a very interesting article in a recent edition of “Christian Century” magazine (April 6, 2022, p 16). The title: “In two years, the UCC has paid off \$100 million in Americans’ medical debt.” My initial thought was: that can’t be right. Is this a typo? I am aware of how financially stressed churches are in general, and that stress flows upward to the denomination as a whole.

But some of our churches have found a very powerful and effective form of advocacy for families saddled with more medical debt than they can afford to pay. More than two years ago, the UCC was among the first to donate toward a non-profit called “RIP Medical Debt” and its “A Nation that Cares” campaign to raise \$5 million dollars to relieve roughly \$500 million in medical debt across the country. How is that possible?

Apparently, this non-profit, that formed in 2014, purchases portfolios of medical debt from health-care providers and from the secondary debt market at an average of \$1 for \$100 of medical debt. Those providers sell the debt at pennies on the dollar to recoup some of that cost of unpaid bills. Those who buy the debt continue to bill people for it, and often this creates a debt spiral from which people cannot extricate themselves. And often these are unscrupulous operations. This has an impact on an individual’s credit, ability to rent a home, etc.

RIP Medical Debt instead abolishes the debt, with no tax consequences or strings attached for the recipient. The UCC was one of the first groups to donate to the campaign, and its donation so far is the largest. The denomination hopes that this will go beyond charity and become a form of advocacy for health-care reform and increase understanding of how medical debt impacts the lives of our citizens.

The UCC’s most recent medical debt purchase in Ohio abolished the medical debt of 10,757 households in 70 counties. The criteria qualifying debtors were those earning less than two times the federal poverty level, in financial hardship or facing insolvency, with debts greater than assets. Again, the goal was not charity, but rather an initiative to tackle economic injustice, and to advocate for the poorest of the poor. They deserve health care, just as providers deserve payment for services rendered.

This is a small fix for a very large problem of spiraling health costs and shrinking profit margins for our hospitals and providers. For instance, many of our small hospitals are closing due to insolvency. And correspondingly, there are gaps in health care coverage for many Americans, if they can afford health insurance at all. But I was encouraged to hear of a creative solution instead of just ignoring what seems like an intractable problem. And I was so pleased and proud of my denomination and its leadership in this initiative. I hope you also feel pride. May we continue to search for ways to love and serve our neighbors, as our Lord commands us.

See you in church,

Pastor Kim





Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
3	Adam and Sara Weaver	14	17	Sally and Donald Hoover	37
6	Stephanie and Scott Markle	33	18	Tammie and Don Knight	31
8	Jacquelyn and Byron Thoman	35	21	Melanie and Russell Berwager	39
13	Kellie and Jim Musselman	27	26	Jean and Greg Yiengst	49
13	Jennifer and Bryant McCusker	22	29	Sharon and Scott Fuhrman	40
15	Kathy and Andy Hansford	51	30	Rachel and Andrew Betlyon	13

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

Thank you to the Trinity soup makers!

We would like to thank the soup maker group. All who helped to make the delicious chicken & rice soup, all who helped store the soup, and those who delivered the soup. It was the most wonderful meals at a much-needed time, made by inspiration from heaven and delivered by an angel. Thank you so much. It was such a boost in starting my recovery process.

Love to all,
Gail & (Bill) Stelger



Rodger Saltzgeber	May 1
Shirley Krepps	May 25
Edith Menchey	May 31





Are you having trouble with the high cost of heating your home or paying for your groceries, medications, and daily living expenses? If so, the Century Trust Fund may be able to help. Assistance from the Century Trust Fund is available to members of Trinity who may be in need of financial aid to remain in their own homes, retirement homes, or nursing homes provided certain criteria are met. Applicants must be members of Trinity Church for at least five (5) years, at least 62 years of age, and must show reasonable proof of financial need. You can pick up an application in the church office or contact the pastor. All applications are strictly confidential.

Ukraine Emergency Relief

Trinity's Mission and Outreach Team is conducting a fund drive for Ukraine emergency relief. UCC support is being targeted to people most in need, working through humanitarian relief partners who have experience in the region. Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide food, shelter and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. Let us unite in prayer, action, and giving in this extraordinary crisis. Please make checks payable to *Trinity UCC* and note *Ukraine Relief* in the memo portion of your check. Your check can be mailed to: Trinity UCC, 116 York St., Hanover PA 17331. If making a cash donation, a jar can be found in the narthex or church office. The Mission & Outreach team thanks you for your donation.



Sheely-Hicks Endowed Scholarship

The Sheely-Hicks Endowed Scholarship is for young adults who are affiliated with Trinity UCC in Hanover, PA. Some restrictions apply. The restrictions are as follows:

- *The scholarship is to be used in the following disciplines: music, languages, nursing, religion, Christian education, philosophy, economics and related majors, and political science.
- *The scholarship is to be granted to Trinity affiliated young adults for attendance at accredited liberal arts and science undergraduate colleges or theology schools.
- *The applicant must demonstrate financial need (FAFSA).
- *The applicant must hold a high school or prep school rank in the upper 1/3 of the class and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Applications are available in the church office or by email

May 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 & Ruth Weaver, Sextons

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 June Newsletter Articles
May 15, 2022**