



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

AUGUST, 2020

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

Email-

info@trinityucchanover.
org



God amid pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

—Sandy Hyland

Learning — and laughing — on the fly

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were “winging it,” bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

“This wasn’t planned,” wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn’t cause injury but quickly went viral. “But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful.”



Dear Friends:

My beloved grandmother had a saying for challenging times, “the cheese is getting a little more binding.” This is the same grandmother who used to say, “nothing good happens after midnight.” She was a very wise woman. I am not going to interpret that first saying for you, but will leave it to your imagination. Suffice to say, amen Grandma! The cheese is getting a little more binding, more uncomfortable by the minute.

Last week, in view of the COVID-19 spike in PA, new State restrictions were put in force. Although the restrictions do not preclude religious gatherings, they are recommended. As such the updated mandate has placed our church in an uncomfortable position. Once again the standard for indoor gatherings is 25 people or less. As you know, we re-opened for worship the first week of July. For 2 of the last 3 weeks we had an attendance number close to 70. Last Sunday, July 19, we had 49 in worship. We had fewer people after the new restrictions were introduced. Most likely that means some of our folks decided a public gathering is not right for them in this time of increased infections. I applaud that. Everyone needs to do what is right for them and their families.

Even with a reduced number in attendance, we are still way above the recommended guideline for number of people gathering. However, after consideration, we have decided to continue worship in the sanctuary, using masks and social distancing. An informal poll of those in worship on July 19 indicated a unanimous affirmation of continuing in-person worship. Our task force and Consistory will continue to recommend and adhere to procedures for keeping people safe. We will continue to monitor the conditions in our community with respect to an infection rate, and respond as necessary.

There are no easy answers for this dilemma in which we find ourselves. Just know that your church leaders are prayerfully considering both the conditions of the pandemic and the best interests of our membership. In other matters, your Search Committee is working but very few pastoral profiles are being circulated right now. We will have to be patient and wait on the Holy Spirit to speak! We keep the Foreman family in our prayers as Leigh Anne struggles with serious, new medical developments. Elaine Albin has recently been hospitalized. Judy Maust, after some delays, should begin radiation treatments this week. Our historian Bill Spangler has been in and out of the hospital, and we have missed seeing him at work in our library. We hope he is back to work soon. And last, our Reach workcampers were most grateful for the hospitality of our church.

If you are not able to worship in-person, please remember that we have an on-line Bible study Sunday mornings on Zoom. All are welcome. And Diane Betlyon has been recording part of the worship service for Facebook. We thank her for her efforts. And I will continue to place my sermon on YouTube for those for whom that is most convenient.

As always, I thank God for each and every one of you.

Pastor Kim

Update from the Knit Wits

Knit Wits will not be meeting until further notice. We will revisit resuming meetings at the end of the year and determine if we will start again in 2021. Meanwhile, if you would like to keep knitting and need yarn, please visit the cupboards in Rm 45 and take what you need!



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
2	Mary and David Snyder	45	12	Mary and Andy McMaster	32
3	Nancy and Richard Sanders	63	18	Kathy and Gordon Dubs	63
5	Jodi and Larry Unger	16	20	Cathy and Edward Lund	26
9	Henrietta and Richard Shue	51	22	Elsie Louise and Julian Hall	56
11	Debra and Randy Reichart	47	24	Joan and Douglas Appler	52
12	Ann and R. James Rinker	58	28	Mary and Bill Braden	54
12	Ruth and Stephen Weaver Sr.	58	6	Mark & Katarina Hoffman	3

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



Earl Menchey	August 18
Janet Noel	August 29



	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
Dolores "Dolly" Graham	June 30, 1928	June 15, 2020
Donald F. Appler	July 21, 1949	June 16, 2020
Nadine S. Wintrode	May 8, 1925	June 18, 2020
Phyllis M. Warner	April 24, 1930	June 19, 2020

August 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

Bill Spangler, Church Historian

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 September Newsletter Articles

August 15, 2020