



# TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 12

Trinity United Church of Christ  
www.trinityucchanover.org

DECEMBER, 2017

## General Information:

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@trinityucc  
hanover.org



## Our greatest need

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and acceptance,  
so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown



## Greatest worth

He came a babe of lowly birth. He was God's Son of greatest worth.  
We, like the angels, sing with mirth because God sent his Son to earth  
to ransom us and claim our worth. Praise God this babe of lowly birth!

—MaryAnn Sundby

## Special dates

First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2017*  
Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10, 2017*  
Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17, 2017*  
First day of winter, *December 21, 2017*  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24, 2017*  
Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2017*  
Christmas Day, *December 25, 2017*  
New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2017*



*The  
staff at  
Trinity Church  
extends the greetings  
of peace and goodwill to  
all as we enter into the sacred  
Season of Christmas, and we send  
our wishes for hope, joy, love, and peace  
to be among the gifts that are offered to the  
world in the  
name of the  
Child of Bethlehem.*

## *Peg's Page*

As I write this in mid-November the days grow shorter and always, to my mind, November is shrouded in gloom. Even the gospel texts for late November through early December are heavy. This year Advent, the new church year, falls on December 3, yet on the first Sunday of Advent, our hearts will not be soothed or our spirits comforted by the words found in Mark 13, the lectionary reading for the day. The new beginning speaks of the last days, the end times.

The next Sunday John the Baptizer will call us to repentance. The third Sunday we hear a portion of St. John's prologue, a difficult theological text to be sure. The shadows of early Advent can be a drag.

Outside of the church few people realize there is more to Advent than humming along with the hundreds of well-known Christmas carols and seasonal secular tunes. The street decorations and stores are bright with colored lights. But whatever the secular world believes Advent wasn't invented so we would have time to get ready for Christmas by making lists, buying presents, decorating, and baking. The difficult readings for Advent aren't meant so much to take the merry out of Christmas as to encourage us to look into the very heart of our faith, to meet again the Christ who was, and is, and who is yet to come. Christ is not only the child born of Mary, born to save us and set us free, he is an active presence here and now.

Advent is a brush of light between night and day, between deep darkness and full light. It is the messenger before the day of God, as John the Baptizer was the messenger before Jesus, calling people to repent, meaning "change your life." The holy day that breaks in to conclude Advent is the Nativity of our Lord. We are called to remembrance and anticipation, to attend to the mystery of God's inexplicable passion for us, passion that was heard in a baby's cry, a passion that cried out from the cross, a passion that promised us that Christ will come again.

As we begin Advent let us pray for one another, for all who are ill or suffering in any way. Let us recall that as we expect Jesus, Jesus has some expectations of us too. I offer Peter Maurin's Christmas Blessing:

*The world would be better off if people tried to become better.*

*And people would become better if they stopped trying to become better off.*

*For when everybody tries to become better off, nobody is better off.*

*But when everybody tries to become better, everybody is better off.*

*Everybody would be rich if nobody tried to become richer.*

*And nobody would be poor if everybody tried to be the poorest.*

*And everybody would be what they ought to be if everybody tried to be  
what they want the other person to be.*





Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
1	Rosalie and Harold Diehl	44	14	Kay and Charles Altland	42
1	Michelle and Michael Becker	21	19	Nadine and Jerry Morningstar	42
9	Shelba and Dale Crabbs	50	21	Holly and Subhajit Chakravorty	15
9	Pamela and David Lentz	50	24	Carolyn and Larry Diehl	35
11	Corrine and Ronald Lawrence	47	26	Linda and Dean Krout	30
11	Sheila and James Wiest	29	31	Ann and Richard Shelleman	57

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

## **Homewood at Plum Creek “Garden of Life”**

The 22nd annual “Garden of Life” will spark the opening of the holiday season at Homewood at Plum Creek. Please join us Friday, Dec. 1st at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Chapel or at 7:30pm in the Windows Dining Room for the service preceding the illumination. This event promises to offer a special time for everyone to unite in fellowship, to celebrate the spirit of the season, to remember and honor loved ones, and to reflect upon the blessings of life.

Guests will be invited to join in singing traditional Christmas carols led by residents. Prayers and words of inspiration will be offered. In commemoration of the “Garden of Life,” the Light of Peace will be passed to all in attendance.

Holiday socials following each service, will be hosted in the Fireside Dining Room and the Windows Dining Room, featuring delicious holiday treats!

Donations of \$5 per light in honor or memory of individuals will benefit the Homewood Benevolent Foundation which helps to support those residents who have exhausted their financial resources. Names of all donor and honorees will be listed in a Book of Honor to be located in Town Hall. Your tax-deductible gift to the Garden of Life will be accepted through Dec. 31, 2017. Checks made payable to *Homewood at Plum Creek “Garden of Life”* may be mailed to Homewood at Plum Creek, 425 Westminster Ave., Hanover, PA 17331.



**Barbara E. Smith**

Born - September 19, 1919

Died - November 3, 2017

**Lois R. Simpson**

Born - December 29, 1929

Died - November 7, 2017



Statia Weaver	December 4
Dolores Albright	December 6
Jean Nassivera	December 15
Anna Mae Alwine	December 18

**Are you having trouble with the high cost of heating or paying for your food bills and daily living expenses?**

The Century Trust Fund may be able to help. Assistance from the Century Trust Fund is available to members of Trinity United Church of Christ who may be in need of financial aid to remain in their own homes, retirement homes, boarding homes, or nursing homes, provided certain conditions 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. All applications are strictly confidential. Applications are available in the plastic bin outside the church office.



**Notes From the Office**

The **2018 Offering Envelopes** are available in the narthex extended. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. If you cannot find yours or if you do not receive envelopes and would like to, please contact Mike in the church office. Forms to request envelopes are also available on the table.

**Mike and Betsy** would like to thank the volunteers 'who made life in the church office a little easier' by performing various office tasks throughout the year. Your willingness to help out when needed is truly a gift to us. We wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and a healthy & prosperous New Year!

**Committee Reports**

Committee chairs are requested to submit their reports for inclusion in Trinity's Annual Report. These reports should include a brief summarization of the past year's activities as well as plans for the upcoming year. If possible, please e-mail your report in Microsoft Word format to Mike or Betsy in the church office at [info@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:info@trinityucchanover.org)

**Deadline: December 20th**



# Thanks!

*Richard and I would like to express our thanks for the cards, phone calls, and for Pastor Peg being with us the day of Richard's surgery a few months ago. It is such a blessing to know that others are walking along this journey with us. He is recovering well. Many thanks again for all your support.*

*Grace and Peace,  
Nancy & Richard Sanders*

*Dear Friends,*

*I cannot thank you enough for your very thoughtful and outrageously generous gifts. Boy, did you surprise me. I was so touched and I so appreciate the Visa gift card and the absolutely beautiful silk flower arrangement. And, there was cake, too! No pastor could have been as moved as I was.*

*Thank you for your many kindnesses and for making the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination so memorable.*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Peg*

*The Women of Trinity would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the Holiday Bells Bazaar. We are grateful for the many generous donations of crafts, household items, books, and baked goods/candy. We appreciate all of the work and many hours of time that so many of you gave during the week of the bazaar. Thanks to everyone for making this Christmas bazaar a big success.*

### ***Music Sunday at Trinity!***

Join us on Sunday, December 17 at 9am for Advent/Christmas music and carols accompanied by the orchestra and sung by our choirs and you. The cherubs will be singing and ringing and the sanctuary choir will be providing a special anthem or two. Come, participate, and enjoy the music of the season!



***Join us Christmas Eve  
at 7:30pm as we await  
the birth of the Christ child.***

## HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED

One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees. The funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. With your continued generosity, more individuals will receive the support of the church in their time of need.

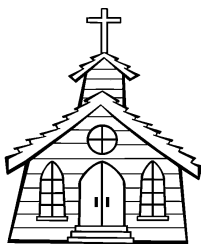


- **MONTHLY SMALL ANNUITY SUPPLEMENTATION** for 448 lower-income retired UCC Clergy and lay employees. Our retired clergy and lay employees rely on this income supplementation for basic needs such as food, utilities, and living and medical expenses. Funds to meet this need come from three sources: the Christmas Fund Offering, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), and the Fund for Ministerial Assistance. The amount of pension supplementation totaled \$1,507,787 throughout 2016.
- **QUARTERLY HEALTH PREMIUM SUPPLEMENTATION** for 216 lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees. These funds subsidized premiums for the UCC Medicare Supplement Plan with Rx so that individuals could afford and receive quality health care. Assistance totaled \$487,338.00 in 2016.
- **CHRISTMAS "THANK YOU" GIFT CHECKS** were given to 503 retired UCC clergy and lay church employees in December of 2016. This special gift at Christmas time reminds these *Veterans of the Cross* that they have not been forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service. Gifts totaled \$233,800.
- **EMERGENCY GRANTS** for 50 active/retired UCC clergy and lay employees. Sometimes those who serve the Church need our help, and emergency funds are available to assist in covering costs that arise unexpectedly—for example, large medical expenses, or home damage resulting from natural disasters. Emergency assistance totaled \$90,927 in 2016.

## Special Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars! Please plan to attend a special congregational meeting to be held Sunday, December 10th immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of this important meeting is to elect new consistory members for 2018.



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help deliver toys Saturday, December 16th from 9am to noon. If interested, a sign-up sheet has been placed on the narthex bulletin board or you may call the church office at 717 637-2233.

Your help is most appreciated!



<b>December</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4/ Christmas Eve	
<b>Consistory Team</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Worship Leader</b>					
	Lorene Crooks	John Coulson	Lee Bartlett	Susi Guinn	Doug Cooper
<b>Young Adult Leader</b>					
	Riley Becker	Adam Leib	Grant Reichart	Leland Smith (morning)	Eric Leib
<b>Ushers</b>					
	Shirley Kemp	Zinneman & Myers Families	Ada May Koehler	Leib Family	Jim Barnhart
<b>Fellowship Host</b>					
	Diane Betlyon	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Jim Bankert & Lorene Crooks	<u>No</u> Fellowship Time	<u>No</u> Fellowship Time
<b>Altar Flower Sponsor</b>	Hart	Edwards	Rinker	Rinker	Open
<b>Chancel Flower Sponsor</b>	Dubs & Rohrbaugh	Forry	Rebert	Open	Open
<b>Bulletin Sponsor</b>	Rhodes	Forry	Wilson	Open	Open

Please call the church office to schedule a flower or bulletin dedication for any available date. The cost is \$40 for altar flowers and \$25 for pedestal arrangements (plus tax), and \$20 for bulletins. If you would like to assist with ushering please call the church office at 717-637-2233. Volunteers are always needed. Thank you.

## December Trinity Times

### Trinity United Church of Christ

116 York Street  
Hanover, PA 17331

*Change Service Requested*

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Hanover, PA

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*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. Peg Grzelkowski, Pastor

Rev. Dot Thormaehlen, Visitation Pastor

Mike Blottenberger, Admin. Assistant

Betsy Bristol, Secretary

Steve & Ruth Weaver, Michael Dandy Jr., Sextons

Sue Seidenstricker, Director of Music

Trinity Nursery School, Tina McCole, Director

#### E-Mail Address:

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**For January Newsletter Articles**

**December 15, 2017**