



# TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 12

Trinity United Church of Christ  
www.trinityucchanover.org

DECEMBER, 2020

## 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



## Cold comfort

While some people dread winter, my motto is “The colder the temperatures and the deeper the snow, the better.” In fact, my mom and I have a tradition of walking into the season’s first snow ... barefoot. The white sky, crisp smell and plunging temps provide a sense of calm.

Though I realize not everyone feels this way, I was shocked when a dear friend shared her reaction. When snowflakes appear, a cloudiness settles into her soul. She experiences deep sadness and anxiety because she suffers from seasonal depression, which I hadn’t known about.

That reminded me how we can continually learn from one another and discover how our creative God uniquely “made and fashioned” (Psalm 119:73) each of us. Jesus calls us to embrace people’s differences and needs as the seasons of the year — and the seasons of life — change.

—Janna Firestone

## Seasons of hope

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer

## Special dates

Second Sunday of Advent, *December 6, 2020*  
Third Sunday of Advent, *December 13, 2020*  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 20, 2020*  
First day of winter, *December 21, 2020*  
Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2020*  
Christmas Day, *December 25, 2020*  
New Year’s Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2020*



*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.*

Dear Friends:

Christmas 2020 will be a Christmas like none other. In fact, I suspect that for most of us it will resemble the very first Christmas—just the immediate family and some family pets! Unless, of course, some shepherds show up for dinner. I should not joke about it, but a little nervous laughter never hurts. As I write this, the pandemic grows more widespread and serious, and hits closer and closer to home. I do pray that our area will be spared the worst of it, as we have been relatively fortunate so far. But that is not something we should count on, and being unscathed in the past does not predict the future. I ask you all to be vigilant and mindful that this is a sneaky disease over which some recover very quickly with minor issues, and some develop serious complications. If infected, any of us could fall in either category.



Your Consistory, based on recommendations from both the Music Committee and Covid Task Force, has made the hard decision to not hold an in-person Christmas Eve service. I know this cherished tradition has been an anchor of your family’s Christmas celebration for many years. Young people return home for the holiday, out of town family members gather, and all enjoy this sacred night in worship. And therein lies the problem. We have no way to limit attendance, and likely there would be asymptomatic folks in the sanctuary who do not know they carry the virus. It has been asked, why not have several services then, to limit the gathered number? Realistically, that only increases the risk for staff and worship leaders. And again, still poses a real risk to the congregants.

We have managed to maintain in-person worship on Sundays, primarily because folks have been willing to mask and social distance. And capacity, in the blocked off pews and fellowship hall seating, is limited to around 70 people. Yet even so, it is still risky. Each Sunday we are well over the recommended CDC guidelines for the number that can safely gather in one space. The folks who are regularly attending on Sunday know the risk and have made decisions accordingly. We know those folks well, and keep track of attendance so that we could notify people if there was an outbreak. This would not be the case on Christmas Eve.

Although we hope to continue worshipping on Sundays through December, it is not a given. And we are discussing holding a brief outdoor service on Christmas Eve, or possibly the Sunday afternoon before Christmas. There will be more details forthcoming as these discussions take shape.

Remember the words of Zechariah in the 1st chapter of Luke: “the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and guide our feet into the way of peace.” We trust the Lord will guide us in this difficult time and will help us find new ways to celebrate the light that is coming into the world. We wait upon a tiny messiah born in a very ordinary way, whose life was an extraordinary gift to us all.

Peace,

*Pastor Kim*



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
1	Michelle and Michael Becker	24	19	Nadine and Jerry Morningstar	45
9	Pamela and David Lentz	53	21	Holly and Subhajit Chakravorty	18
11	Corrine and Ronald Lawrence	50	24	Carolyn and Larry Diehl	38
11	Sheila and James Wiest	32	26	Linda and Dean Krout	33
14	Kay and Charles Altland	45	31	Ann and Richard Shelleman	60

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

### Special Congregational Meeting

Circle the date on your calendar! Please plan to stay for a brief congregational meeting to be held Sunday, November 29 immediately following worship. The purpose of this important meeting is to elect new consistory members for 2021.

### Hoffman Homes

Want to create a God Moment for a child at Hoffman Homes? Please contact Lee Bartlett for a “tag” to grant a child’s wish. If you’d rather not shop, just bring in a gift card from Target, Walmart, or Five Below. That will also help to grant a child’s wish. For more info or any questions, please contact Lee at (410) 746-0945.





*Christmas Eve  
Worship*

**PLEASE NOTE**

***There is no in-person Christmas Eve  
Candlelight service this year. Plans are  
underway for a virtual service of  
lessons and carols.  
Stay tuned for more details!***



**Lorraine M. Hall**  
**Born - May 8, 1931**  
**Died - October 25, 2020**

**Jane E. Geiselman**  
**Born - June 26, 1928**  
**Died - November 3, 2020**

**Nevin E. Shultz**  
**Born - February 9, 1927**  
**Died - November 6, 2020**

**Happy 90+ Birthdays**

<b>Dolores Albright</b>	<b>December 6</b>
<b>Jean Nassivera</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Anna Mae Alwine</b>	<b>December 18</b>

**Judith Elizabeth Caler Heck**  
**Born - June 28, 1939**  
**Died - November 6, 2020**

### Notes From the Office

The **2021 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 a box, please contact Mike in the church office. Forms to request envelopes can also be found on the table in the narthex extended.

### 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@trinityuchanover.org](mailto:info@trinityuchanover.org)

**Deadline: December 20th**

### 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.





*Trinity Sewing Circle Ladies,*

*Thank you very much for the pretty pink quilt with the butterflies. It is appreciated and I will think of you ladies when I use it.*

*Thanks again,  
Connie Lawrence*

*Dear Trinity Sewing Circle,*

*Dave & I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the beautiful lap quilt. What a blessing it is to receive something that keeps you warm and comforted during the times you feel vulnerable. We both understand the amount of time, thought and love put into a piece such as this. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.*

*Warmest regards,  
Dave & Mandi Smith*

<b>December Sundays</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Eric Leib	Susi Guinn	Grant Reichart	Doug Cooper
<b>Altar Flower Sponsor</b>	Hart	Open	Open	Rinker
<b>Chancel Flower Sponsor</b>	Dubs & G. Rohrbaugh	Open	Rebert	Fuhrman
<b>Bulletin Sponsor</b>	Rhodes	Open	Wilson	Open

Please call the church office to schedule a flower or bulletin dedication for any open date. The cost is \$40 for altar flowers and \$25 for pedestal arrangements (plus tax), and \$20 for bulletins.

## *December 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](mailto:kim@trinityucchanover.org)

Home: 717 486-7847 or call the church office to leave a message

[mike@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:mike@trinityucchanover.org)

[betsy@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:betsy@trinityucchanover.org)

[trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com](mailto:trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com) (717) 637-2126



**For January Newsletter Articles**

**December 15, 2020**