



# TRINITY TIMES

VOLUME 12

Trinity United Church of Christ  
www.trinityucchanover.org

DECEMBER, 2021

## 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



## A season of waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone

## The greatest gift-giver

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself.

—Sigrid Undset

## Special dates

Second Sunday of Advent, *December 5, 2021*

Third Sunday of Advent, *December 12, 2021*

Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 19, 2021*

First day of winter, *December 21, 2021*

Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2021*

Christmas Day, *December 25, 2021*

New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2021*



*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.*

## The Incarnation

The people of Israel hoped for a king like David had been a king. This is what came to be known as the “messianic hope.” The prophets, like Isaiah, often spoke of this new king that would be coming. As in (Isaiah 9:6-7):

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. And there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time on and forever more. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

And lo and behold a child did arrive. But this child was born on a bed of straw, with very ordinary parents, and not a hint of royalty in those humble beginnings. But the old, prophetic promise of a messianic king still echoed in the still night on which that child was born; not heralded by royal courtiers, but by shepherds standing in the field. Yet Emmanuel, God in flesh, would turn the world upside down in his very short life.

*Incarnation* means embodiment, or “becomes flesh.” It is the scandalous claim of the Christian faith that the same God who created the universe, also came to us in Jesus. The doctrine of the Incarnation makes the outrageous claim that God did not simply inspire Jesus, God became flesh in Jesus. Why? So that Jesus could know the life that we know. A God who comes to us in flesh is one who can bear our humanity as his own, in order that we can be healed through his loving touch. God descended into this broken world so that God could raise us up to heavenly places.

The more we can trust that God really did enter into our history as one of us, the more we can be assured that we shall finally be raised up into that heavenly place where the Christ-child now reigns in glory. The nativity, as seen by the eye of faith, is about God choosing to enter the place we call human history and encounter us as we are. When God comes to earth, it is not in the form of a conquering army, as the ancient Babylonians broke through the walls of Jerusalem and toppled a kingdom. God needed a different way to convey the reality of the kingdom that is coming.

God comes to us as we are, but never leaves us as we are! God comes in dependence and weakness as the Christ-child, enticing us into a realm conquered only by the loving touch of God. Like the shepherds we are invited to come and behold the holy family, and then go and tell the good news that the Savior is born. Good news of great joy! And then the good news got even better when the promises made by God in the Old Testament were brought to completion, and then extended to all the world, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I pray that you will find great joy in this season of hope, joy, peace, and love. Join us in worship as we wait, week by week, for the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

See you in church,

*Pastor Kim*

## A Service of Healing

On Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, there will be an informal healing service at Trinity. We will offer this jointly with Grace UCC, and plan for it to be a monthly event, alternating between the two churches. In this season of light we will offer to God our prayers for his healing touch, solace, or comfort. As the saying goes, don't come because you must, come because you may. God invites us into a deeper relationship in which we can know God more fully, within God's healing embrace.



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
1	Michelle and Michael Becker	25	19	Nadine and Jerry Morningstar	46
9	Pamela and David Lentz	54	21	Holly and Subhajit Chakravorty	19
11	Corrine and Ronald Lawrence	51	24	Carolyn and Larry Diehl	39
11	Sheila and James Wiest	33	26	Linda and Dean Krout	34
14	Kay and Charles Altland	46			

*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, December 5 immediately following worship. The purpose of this important meeting is to elect new consistory members for 2022.


### 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) 746-2945.



### Save the Date!

The Women of Trinity are hosting a Christmas Family afternoon on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1-3pm. Get in the Christmas spirit and join us for a time of fellowship and holiday fun. There will be an optional Christmas craft and a cookie exchange. Light refreshments will be served. We hope you can join in on the fun!



**Candlelight  
Service**

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



**Tracy A. Rengier**  
**Born - August 25, 1962**  
**Died - September 30, 2021**

**Larry E. Stauffer**  
**Born - November 23, 1939**  
**Died - October 13, 2021**

**Johanna J. Berwager**  
**Born - May 11, 1921**  
**Died - November 9, 2021**

### Notes From the Office

The **2022 Offering Envelopes** will be available Sunday, Dec. 5 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@trinityucchanover.org](mailto:info@trinityucchanover.org)

**Deadline: Wednesday, December 29th**

**Happy 90+ Birthdays**

Jean Nassivera	December 15
Anna Mae Alwine	December 18



### Poinsettias & Christmas Donations

If you would like to order a poinsettia or make a Christmas donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, forms are available in the church office or on the Trinity website. The firm deadline for ordering a poinsettia is Wednesday, Dec. 8.



*To my friends at Trinity,*

*Thanks for the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during the illness and passing of my husband, Luther. A special thank you to Pastor Kim for her visits and prayers.*

*God bless,  
 Shelby Hess*

### Drive-Through Christmas Pageant at Homewood

Homewood at Plum Creek’s *Annual Garden of Life* has always been scheduled for the first Friday in December. The Garden of Life has been the most significant Christmas observance on campus for decades, with multiple worship services, singing carols, refreshments, etc. culminating with lighting the campus Christmas lights. In 2020, this was reduced to livestreaming a video and other much smaller events. Since in many ways it is still a COVID Christmas this year, Homewood wanted to offer a safe, but unique, holiday event.



This year, Homewood is offering a Drive-Through Christmas Pageant. Many of our local churches used to enjoy coming to Homewood to sing carols during the season, so local churches have been asked to adopt one of the tableaux scenes in the Drive-Through. Our own Trinity Homewood residents will be offering one of the scenes. And Trinity's congregation is invited to enjoy the event, although it is not open to the general public. The Drive-Through is scheduled for Friday December 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30pm. In case of bad weather, it will be December 4th. Come and celebrate Christmas at Homewood!

<b>December Sundays</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
	Advent 2	Carol Sing	Advent 4	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Caleb Leckrone	Kay Altland	Aaden Reichart	Brittany Breighner
<b>Altar Flower Sponsor</b>	Open	Open	Rinker	Open
<b>Chancel Flower Sponsor</b>	Dubs	Open	Rebert	Open
<b>Bulletin Sponsor</b>	Rhodes	Wentz	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 & Ruth Weaver, Sextons

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)

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**For January Newsletter Articles  
December 15, 2021**