



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

DECEMBER, 2024

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



A Hobby Turned Ministry

The internet has transformed shopping, whether for Christmas, major purchases or even groceries. I've spent hours scrolling Facebook Marketplace for just the right new-to-me items. Hunting for a great deal or a unique piece is part of the appeal.

But after reading Philippians 2:4, I also began paying attention to the people I encountered along the way. "Don't look out only for your own interests," that verse says, "but take an interest in others, too" (NLT).

A retired couple all but invited me to dinner when I bought a lamp from them. I remember the woman's delight as she described her recipe. A young man with developmental challenges who sold me a video game communicated its quality much better than anyone I've encountered.

When a mom purchased some chairs from us, she shared her excitement while loading her van. Her family now had a "real home" after living in an RV during a tough time. Once I bought furniture from a woman who was visibly stressed, exhausted from helping her mother-in-law move out of state.

As my transactions turned into interactions, my heart was changing — for the better. My hobby became more enjoyable and meaningful as I took time to listen and care.

—Janna Firestone



Special dates

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2024*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 8, 2024*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 15, 2024*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2024*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 22, 2024*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2024*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2024*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2024*

*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.*



Advent and Christmas Greetings to All!

We enter the season of Advent this year on December 1st. Unusually, this matches with children's secular Advent calendars that always begin on December 1st and have 25 doors to open with the inclusion of Christmas Day. The Christian liturgical calendar always gives four Sundays prior to Christmas which sometimes makes Advent more than 24 days on the secular calendar. For instance, in the year 2022 the first Sunday in Advent was on November 27th making the season of Advent 28 days that year. What does this mean? Well, on the surface it means a little more waiting until Christmas. Underneath the surface it means we have more days to get ready for Jesus. This year both the secular calendars and the non-secular Liturgical calendar sync up to give us what I consider a special year, one with the least amount of delay or waiting. This is good news for children as well as for all who love Christmas and the joy it brings. But there is always something to be said for the time of waiting. In traditional Christianity we see this as a time of preparing for Christ to arrive. It is a time of getting ready for God to be revealed to the world again. It is holy and sacred time to get our lives, our faith, and relationships in order as we await the return of the Messiah. Yes, Christmas is about Jesus' birth into the world, the promise fulfilled, the first advent of the Messiah of God's people. Yet Advent for traditional Christians is really about the return of the Messiah, to take his rightful place on the throne over all the nations on earth. But the joy of this event is mixed with a final judgement, struggle, pain, and cataclysmic events. Most Christians I know prefer to commemorate the first advent about the birth of Christ. We mark it with decorations, gift-giving, parties and feasts. As people of faith we seem always ready to welcome and celebrate the birth of Christ with all of its hope, peace, love and joy. After all we know how the story of God's promise fulfilled ends. We get a Savior, good news, teachings on the way to live, promises of new life and life eternal. Awaiting the Messiah's return on the clouds leaves us, well... a bit unprepared for that happening. Could you imagine our major Advent carol being "People Get Ready...Jesus is Coming" soon we'll be going home, by Crystal Lewis (1996)? No, we prefer "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" for sure. But this is why we have a whole season of at least four Sundays and the days in-between to get ready and get our lives in order. In the 6th Century, Advent used to be marked by: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving just like Lent. In more modern times there is a blend of awaiting Christ's birth to celebrate and preparation for Christ's return by cleansing our spirit and doing the good works of Christ. It is in this space we find a balance of celebration and preparation as we honor the faith that has been passed down to us. So 'people get ready', we will prepare and celebrate, anticipate and prophesy, worship and adore, the coming Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Blessings for a Meaningful Advent and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Steve





Glad Tidings to you for comfort and joy!

It has been a full year of worshipping and serving our Lord together as your pastor and I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of the Trinity UCC family. I have appreciated your welcome and the opportunity to get to know many of you. I look forward to the year ahead to get to know everyone, celebrate the goodness of our God, and the calling of Christ among us.

Tricia and I wish you all a Christmas filled with hope, love and joy. We wish you the fullness of God's blessing in the year ahead and the peace of Christ to fill your heart. From our family to you and yours... Merry Christmas!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve, Tricia, Addison, Luke, William and Matthew*



Church Announcements

Sunday morning announcements will be moved closer to the 9:00 A.M start time to ensure all our members are getting important information this Thanksgiving and Advent Season.



Offering Envelopes 2025

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be available in the narthex extended starting Sunday, December 8. The office staff would appreciate it if you pick up your envelopes and anyone else's that you might be able to deliver. The boxes are filed in alphabetical order.

Parking

Please use the church parking lots adjacent to the church or across the street by the Toy Workshop. Street parking is available, but please take caution not to block any driveways or hidden drives when parking. A neighbor on Walnut Street has had their driveway blocked on several occasions during our worship service leading to a visit from the Hanover police officers. So please take caution when parking on Walnut Street. We want you to be here for church. And we want Trinity Church to maintain our reputation as a good neighbor.

Newsletter Delivery Methods

The monthly newsletter is available in print each month in the narthex just outside the sanctuary. It is also available to be sent digitally by email or by regular mail. Please let the church office know of your preference. We want to keep you informed about all the news, programs, and future events happening in our wonderful church.



upcoming events

Children's Church

Our Children's Church Program will continue through Advent with Advent and Christmas themes. There is room for more children to be a part of this wonderful program. If your extended family is visiting and has preschool or elementary children, please encourage them to participate. The children depart from the sanctuary with the teachers following the Children's Message. The program now takes place downstairs to accommodate for excitement, joy and exuberant voices. The teachers lead the children back up to the social hall just before the end of service so they can be reunited with family. Thank you for supporting our program.



Special Congregational Meeting

On Sunday December 8th there will be a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect new consistory members for 2025.

Special Worship Services

Advent begins December 1st. Services will include the lighting of the Advent Wreath, special music, and hymns. It is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to "come and see" what God is doing at Trinity as we await the Messiah with hope and welcome him together on Christmas Eve.



Calling All Orchestra Members!

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 15 as we accompany the congregation in singing some of our favorite Advent and Christmas carols. If this sounds like fun and you'd like to play your instrument, we'd love to have you. We meet at 8am prior to worship and play through all the carols. Books are available for those who would like to practice at home. If interested, please contact Betsy Bristol.

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight service, December 24th at 7:30 P.M. Arrive early to hear pre-worship seasonal music.





The Sunday after Christmas there will be a lay-led Service of Story and Carols, so we may sing all those Christmas favorites again before the season ends. Please plan to be a part of these special services that bring hope, peace, joy and love and make our season bright!



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
1	Michelle and Michael Becker	28	21	Holly and Subhajit Chakravorty	20
9	Pamela and David Lentz	57	24	Carolyn and Larry Diehl	42
11	Corrine and Ronald Lawrence	54	26	Linda and Dean Krout	37
11	Sheila and James Wiest	36	31	Kate and Barry Garland	2
19	Nadine and Jerry Morningstar	49			

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

	
<p>William Little December 31</p>	<p><u>Born</u> <u>Died</u> Richard Krout 3/4/1935 9/28/2024 Jean Palmer 10/15/1932 10/18/2024</p>

Committee Reports

Committee chairs are requested to submit their reports for inclusion in Trinity’s Annual Report. These reports should include a brief summary of the past year’s activities as well as plans for the upcoming year. Please e-mail your report to the church office at: info@trinityucchanover.org

Deadline: Friday, January 3rd



Our friends at Trinity UCC -

We want to extend our sincerest thanks for your generous support of our Fall Gala. Your sponsorship made this event a remarkable success and it would not have been possible without you.

*Warm Regards,
Hoffman Homes*

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. Steven Ostendorf, Pastor
Mike Blottenberger, Admin. Assistant
Morgan Fleeger, Secretary
Sue Seidenstricker, Director of Music
Tony Brallier, Larry Dubs, Ruth Weaver, Sextons
Trinity Nursery School, Tina McCole, Director

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***For January Newsletter Articles
December 15, 2024***