



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

DECEMBER, 2025

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

Website

trinityucchanover.org

Facebook

"Trinity United Church of
Christ"



The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV). Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



Holiday Hours

Please note the office will be closing early at 12pm on December 24th and 31st. We will be closed on December 25th and 26th; and January 1st and 2nd.



Dear Member and Friends of Trinity UCC,

As we enter the Season of Advent and Christmas, another year of ministry is moving toward completion. We have had another blessed year at Trinity.

We have grown again in 2025 with additional member renewals, new members and even families joining our congregation.

Our Children's Church teachers continued our young children's Sunday School program through the end of the school year. After a summer break, the teachers decided to relaunch the program for the Fall Season. Thank you, teachers and students, for your participation in this program which runs weekly during worship after the kid's message and is for children 2-10 years of age.

At the start of 2025 it was brought to my attention there were families interested in the Confirmation process at Trinity. By February, a group of students committed to the program began meeting in March for 'once a month' day-long retreats. By June the Confirmands were completing the Retreat-Style learning events and led the congregation with a well-done worship service on June 29th. Each student also participated in some form of service project outside the church. We were pleased to Confirm the 8 students in August with much joy and congratulations.

From that group came interest in forming a youth group. The stage was set to find youth leaders and get a program together for this budding group of teens who wanted to continue their fellowship, service, and faith experience at Trinity. Upon finding youth leaders, a meeting and kick-off event was held in October. The group met for a planning meeting followed by a trip to Hickory Falls Family Fun Center for some fellowship and fun. The group met in November for a Friendsgiving meal and meeting. The group anticipates gathering for a movie-night with craft projects to make items for Trinity members who are shut-in. How wonderful it is to see a youth group at Trinity made up of faithful teens after multiple decades of no formal group.

Truly, God has blessed us in these areas as the: visions, dreams and hopes we raised in 2024 have been answered in the formation of these special programs and dedicated volunteer leaders/teachers and student participants.

Let us be thankful and praise God as we continue to share our visions and dreams and work together with the will of the Spirit to renew life and faith in our growing congregation.

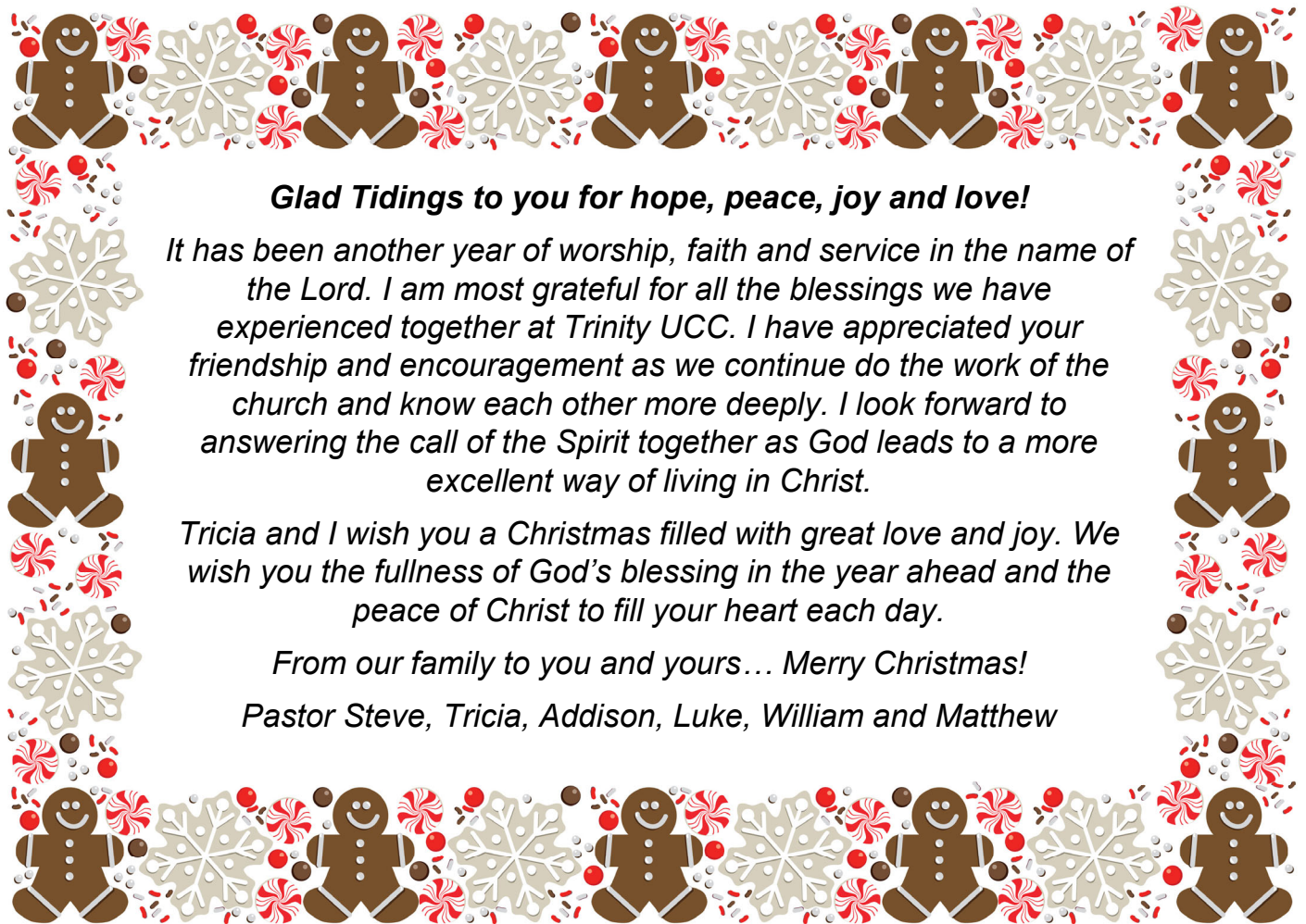
Pastor Steve



Youth Group Fun

Since forming in October, the Trinity UCC Youth Group has been actively building community and growing in fellowship. We kicked things off with our first gathering at Hickory Falls, where we enjoyed pizza, games, and time to get to know one another. In November, we organized a canned food drive to support families in need during the holiday season. We also came together for a wonderful Friendsgiving celebration, where everyone brought a favorite dish to share.

In December, the youth will be hosting a Christmas movie night—a fun opportunity to relax, celebrate the season, and strengthen the friendships forming within the group. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and already see the positive energy they are bringing to our church and wider community. As the Youth Group continues to grow, we look forward to the many meaningful ways they will continue to shine God's light.



Glad Tidings to you for hope, peace, joy and love!

It has been another year of worship, faith and service in the name of the Lord. I am most grateful for all the blessings we have experienced together at Trinity UCC. I have appreciated your friendship and encouragement as we continue do the work of the church and know each other more deeply. I look forward to answering the call of the Spirit together as God leads to a more excellent way of living in Christ.

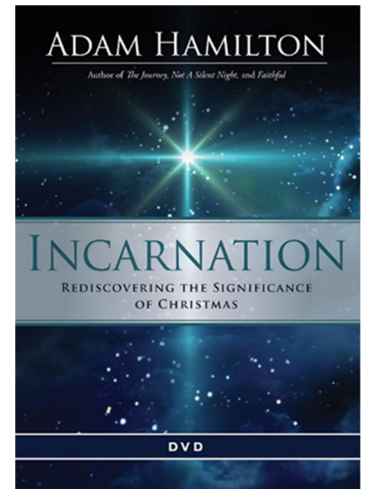
Tricia and I wish you a Christmas filled with great love and joy. We wish you the fullness of God's blessing in the year ahead and the peace of Christ to fill your heart each day.

From our family to you and yours... Merry Christmas!

Pastor Steve, Tricia, Addison, Luke, William and Matthew

Advent Study 2025

Our Advent Study will begin near the end of November as the first Sunday of Advent is November 30th. Last season we offered two sessions and it was well received. So we will be offering a Sunday morning and midweek option again. The Weekday gathering will begin on Wednesday, November 26th at 10:30am and meet in the social hall. The Sunday gathering will meet after worship at 10:30am and meet in the Adult Sunday School Room #45 located in the basement. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex each week. It will be a book & video study titled: "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton. Books are available in the office. Hope you can join with us in this exploration of the Incarnation of Christ in the world.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SPECIAL SERVICES

- * Advent Special Worship Service with Orchestra Christmas Carol Sing to be held at regular worship time on Sunday, December 14th. You won't want to miss this special tradition that brings much anticipation and joy to the season.
- * Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Wednesday, December 24th @ 7:30 P.M. Come early to hear special Christmas music and find the perfect seat. We hope everyone will be a part of this special service of celebrating the birth of the Messiah.
- * Sunday, December 28th at 9:00 A.M. will be a special Christmas Carrol Hymn-Sing with selected songs and readings to recount the birth of our Savior. It's a favorite for everyone who loves to sing our special Christmas hymns and carols.



Offering Envelopes 2026

Offering envelopes for 2026 will be available in the narthex extended beginning Sunday, December 7. Please stop in and pick up your envelopes and anyone else's that you might be able to deliver. The boxes are filed in alphabetical order.

Thank you!



Day	Name	Yrs.	Day	Name	Yrs.
1	Michelle and Michael Becker	29	21	Holly and Subhajit Chakravorty	23
9	Pamela and David Lentz	58	24	Carolyn and Larry Diehl	43
11	Corrine and Ronald Lawrence	55	26	Linda and Dean Krout	38
11	Sheila and James Wiest	37	31	Kate and Barry Garland	3

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



“Love one another as I have loved you”. Jesus

Called to Care Committee

We are seeking volunteers to re-launch the Called to Care Committee, which sends cards, makes phone calls, and occasional visits to our sick, institutionalized or shut-in members of the congregation. This committee will work closely with Pr. Steve to assist in maintaining connection with our members who are unable to attend regular weekly worship. The goal is to spread God's love and care to our membership as they traverse changes in their lives, so they may experience the full fellowship of Trinity UCC where they are. We are hoping to provide training and launch the group in January 2026. A brief informational meeting will be held in the sanctuary after church on Sunday, December 7th. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pr. Steve.



With Deepest Sympathy

Daryl Mummert 5/5/33 - 11/5/25

Larry Hart 6/10/41 - 11/8/25

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, 2025***