



TRINITY TIMES

Trinity United Church of Christ
www.trinityucchanover.org

JANUARY, 2026

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"



First, Contact

In *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality and Mortality*, Richard Beck writes powerfully about Jesus healing a leper in Matthew 8:1-3. "What is intriguing about this story is the sequence. Jesus touches the leper first. Then the command 'Be clean!' is offered. That is, Jesus' first move is into ritual defilement. By first touching the leper, Jesus ... [is] standing in solidarity with the unclean." Beck finds this "striking" because typically we expect purification before contact. But Jesus' actions reverse the pattern: "Contact occurs first."

How fortunate for us, too, that God didn't wait to reach out to us until he had cleansed us of sin. God didn't save us from afar and only *then* come to live among us. Rather, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV). And continuously, Jesus loves us, comes to us and touches our hearts, even when we are at our worst — straying from God, trapped in sin, unworthy, unclean, unrighteous. For it's not *our* righteousness or purity that heals and saves us, but Christ's.



A Year That Whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living.

One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

JANUARY SPECIAL DATES



- 1st - New Year's Day
- 6th - Epiphany
- 11th - Baptism of the Lord

- 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18-25th - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Jesus (Matthew 5:16 NRSVUE)

New Year's Greetings to All in Christ,

As the year 2025 is coming to an end, we look back at who we have been and what we have done. Each year we make new-year resolutions to continue the good and positive things in our lives, while often seeking to leave behind the unhelpful patterns and behaviors. In Christian faith we have language for that. It usually is connected with baptism and focuses on the understanding of “new life in Christ”. The old way being put aside to pursue a better way... new life in Christ. In Christianity and secular life we may call it renewal: of mind, body, spirit, actions, behavior, etc. The start of the new year gives us that opportunity again to re-set our priorities, values and promises to ourselves, others, and to God.

In the very beginning of the new year the church celebrates Epiphany, or the revelation of the Christ who has come into the world. Christs' arrival revealed Gods' great love, but also the darkest actions and mindsets of human kind. Magi travel from the far east to honor the new born King of the Jews, as advertised by his natal star in the sky. They come with gifts, ready to bow in respect before this child king offering: gifts, homage and promises. The local King, Herod, reacts with anxiety, cunning, and malice – seeking to locate and kill the new born king sent by God. These two responses are a dualism of what is present in the human spirit (good and evil). Individually, we often hope that our ‘better-angels’ keep us on the right track so we can stay away from the sinfulness and darkness that lurks within us and around each corner as we experience life.

While it seems an impossible task to choose “the good” at times, we know in our hearts it often comes down to our own personal choice: to put on Christ and his light by following his ways or going our own way, following our own desires. Jesus speaks to his disciples about bringing light into the world. The work Jesus has accomplished in his ministry on earth is the very light of light. His teachings, actions, and love showed the world how God calls us to live together and with God. Jesus then calls his disciples to be that same light to others. Above he states “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.”



As we start a new year and celebrate the Epiphany of Christ in our lives, let us resolve to be guided by Christ and the Holy Spirit to follow our 'better-angels' in 2026, renewing our hearts and lives with the teachings of Christ as our guide in daily-living, so we may truly be the light that brings others to give glory and praise to God in heaven. For it is God's gift to the world that all have been given the light that overcomes the darkness of this world, through his beloved son Jesus Christ our Lord. May we live and walk in his light.

Peace and blessing to all for a wonderful and meaningful 2026.

Pastor Steve

Called to Care Ministry

The Called to Care Ministry team will meet to determine the special ministries of outreach to the sick and shut-in members of our church in January. We currently have five people who wish to be part of this outreach ministry of compassion and love through communication with: cards, phone calls, and visits. We still have room for members of this special ministry. No experience necessary as training will be provided. Contact Pastor Steve for more information our join with us at our January meeting (date to be determined early January).



Building Improvements



On December 12th we had Susquehanna Door Service install automatic door openers on both the Men's and Women's bathrooms across from the elevator. We hope this will help everyone more easily enter and leave these restrooms. If anyone would like to contribute to help pay for these automatic door openers, please contact Pastor Stave or any Consistory member. Thank you, John Dickert

Holiday Office Hours

December: 24th: Office Closes at 12pm
25th: Office Closed
26th: Office Closed
31st: Office Closes at 12pm

January: 1st: Office Closed
2nd: Office Closed

New Advent Wreath

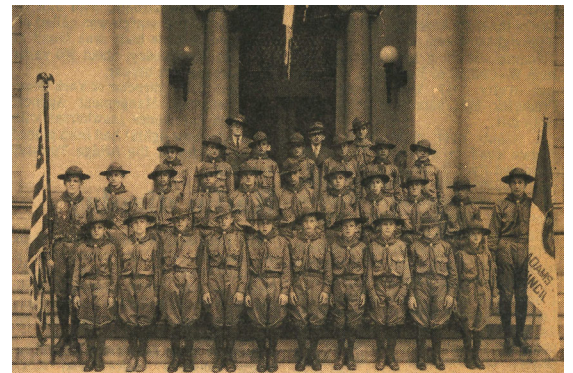
In December we were blessed with a new Advent Wreath Candelabrum and greenery to be used in the service of worship. It was given in memory of Jess & Iona Betlyon by their family. The Advent Wreath was dedicated for use on the first Sunday in Advent, November 30th. We deeply appreciate this gift to assist in the worship of God for Advent Season. Special thanks to the Betlyon Family for the wreath and also to Rick and Georgia Foye for the greenery to adorn it!



Trinity Nursery School is selling Tidal Wave Car Wash Coupons. \$10 for a \$30 Graph-X4 Car Wash; redeemable at any Tidal Wave location. All proceeds go to Trinity Nursery School. To purchase please contact Tina McCole at 717-637-2126 or trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com

A Look Back

This past September, Mr. Norman Schue passed away. His family had been involved with Trinity UCC previously and Pastor Steve officiated his funeral. The family graciously gave us a newspaper clipping of a photo from 1934 of the Trinity Reformed Church Boy Scout Troop #104, taken in front of the Hanover Saving Fund Society Bank. Norman's own father, Russell Schue, was their Scoutmaster and is pictured on the far right. Thank you to the Schue family for sharing this special memory with us.



THIS PHOTO OF Trinity Reformed Church Boy Scout Troop 104 was taken May 1934 by Poist Studio in front of Hanover Saving Fund Society Bank, Carlisle Street. 1st Row: - McWilliams, Mark Reynolds, Unknown, Arthur Wildasin, Robert Gast, Donald Housenfluck, Russell Markle, Denton Kopp, Charles Fuhrman, James Arentz. 2nd Row: David Morelock, Robert Unger, Harry Baublitz, Robert Hirt, Merle Raubenstine, Byron Lapham, - Rupp, Russell Markle, Ralph Bish, Rodney Reck, Marlin Warehime. 3rd Row: Robert Hockensmith, William Raber, Richard Bemiller, Raymond Baugher, - Lightner, Raymond Jennings, Millard Dubs. 4th Row: Edgar Bixler-Assistant Scoutmaster, Russell Schue-Scoutmaster, Eugene Strausbaugh-Assistant Scoutmaster. Donated by Mrs. Myrtle Unger.

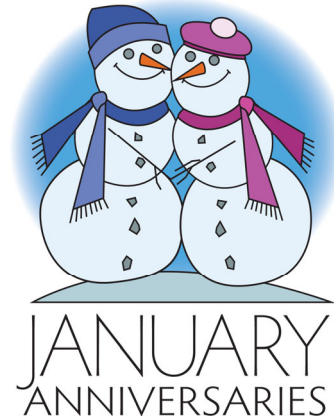
Advent Study Thanks



Many thanks to all who participated in the Advent Study "Incarnation". It was a privilege to gather with you and discuss our faith, ask meaningful questions, and grow together in our understanding of the incarnation "presence" of God in human-form through Jesus our Savior. I look forward to the next study to be offered in the season of Lent. May God bless us all with continued knowledge and wisdom through faith. Sincerely, Pastor Steve



Dolores Zinneman	January 10
Helen Yingling	January 20
Janet Myers	January 20



If your birthday or anniversary was omitted, please contact the office to help update our records.

Day	Name	Yrs.
10	Mark & Nancy Cornbower	61
20	Veronica & Mitchell Mummert	8



Welcome New Consistory Members!

Please welcome the following new members to the 2026 Trinity consistory: Mark Cornbower, Dean Krout, Ellie Rebert, and Lori Smith. We thank the outgoing members for their dedication and service.

Trinity's Cancellation Policy for Inclement Weather

Whenever there is a need to cancel or change existing church schedules, the following stations will be notified of the changes.

WHP/CBS-----television

WHTM/ABC----television

Closures or changes in time can also be found on the Trinity website at www.trinityucchanover.org, by calling 717 637-2233, or our Facebook page "Trinity United Church of Christ"

January 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

E-Mail Address:

pastorsteve@trinityucchanover.org
mike@trinityucchanover.org
morgan@trinityucchanover.org
trinitynurseryhanover@gmail.com (717) 637-2126



***For February Newsletter Articles
January 15, 2026***