



# The Lamplighter

Trinity United Church of Christ

February – March 2018

Greetings to you!

As I sat down to reflect on Trinity United Church of Christ (UCC) and our ministries over the past year, I was struck again by how much has happened. It's easy to forget how much we do as the days turn into weeks and the weeks into months. The seasons come and go and yet there is always a sense of expectation and excitement as we enter each new phase. The year 2017 was no exception. Despite our many successes, there remains much to be done. I'd like to share some of what we've achieved, but also set some goals for us to continue to work on.

One vision I have for us is to be **more visible in our community**. Being a successful and active church means more than having a lot of people show up on Sunday morning for Sunday School and Worship services. Being a relevant church means getting outside the four walls and taking ministry to where the people are. Sometimes that means getting out of our comfort zones. For instance, this past year we joined with St. John's UCC in Boalsburg and led a Youth Mission Trip to Washington, D.C. It was a great success and I was so proud of our young people on that trip. They were courteous and respectful, applied themselves to the various jobs we were called to do, and opened up about their experiences and what they had learned. We hope to do more mission trips like this in the future.

Another activity that has helped us identify with our community the last few years is our partnership with the Centre County Child Development and Family Council (CDFC). This program uses our church for before/after school care and to conduct a summer camp for elementary school age youth in our area. This past summer there were on average 13-15 young people at the church each day. Many of our members have enjoyed the opportunities to interact with the youth – for instance, Nancy Vogt came one day and did a lesson on playing the piano. The children were very excited about Nancy's stories and playing and I know Nancy enjoyed it! It was a great lesson in that even the smallest gestures can have a big impact.

Our church has also been used the last three years as the home-base for the "Christmas of Hope" program where people from the "Penns Valley Hope Fund" collect donations of toys and gifts so less fortunate families can experience a nice Christmas. This past December, many families in Penns Valley came to our church to pick up their gifts and meet with the Hope Fund volunteers. There are more outreach plans for us this year such as another "Rise Against Hunger" event where we hope to package over 20,000 meals for distribution to areas of the world hard hit by famine, war, and natural disasters.

Another goal is to **offer a variety of meaningful worship opportunities throughout the year**. Sometimes this means trying different things that appeal to different age groups, or providing an opportunity to experience worship through music or art. We've done some of this but I'd like to see us have more in the coming years. One way we can do that is to better understand the rich variety of gifts and talents that our members and frequent guests bring to church. Having more participatory worship experiences is one way for people to experience Christ in their lives in a new way. This past year, we enjoyed some incredibly gifted musicians, some wonderful guest speakers, and heard personal testimonies from some of our own members.

Getting more children actively involved in church is always important. We've experienced a decline in our Sunday School attendance this last fall and we're trying to better understand why this is happening. New ideas are always welcome and our Christian Education Committee would love to hear from you if you have suggestions. (continued on next page)

Trinity United Church of Christ, 104 N. Pennsylvania Avenue,  
PO Box 212, Centre Hall PA 16828

\*Pastor David Downer\*

\*814-364-2120 (church office)\* \*814-531-4192 (parsonage)

\*E-mail address: [trinityuccentrehall@gmail.com](mailto:trinityuccentrehall@gmail.com)

\*Website: [www.trinitycentrehall.org](http://www.trinitycentrehall.org)\*

\*Facebook: Trinity United Church of Christ\*

Worship attendance this past year has continued to be good but we're always looking for ways to be more welcoming to others in the community. One thing we're trying is re-opening our nursery for children ages four and younger. Families with young children have the option to keep their children in worship, or put them in the nursery where they are cared for by professionally trained childcare workers. We will assess how this is going by the beginning of summer before making a final decision on whether to continue it.

Finally, one of the things that I feel we've done well, but need to continue to focus on is **hospitality**. Every successful church I've studied has a vibrant and active membership dedicated to making people feel welcome and comfortable – to include events both in and outside the church. Being welcoming goes far beyond Sunday mornings when a guest walks in. It means keeping track of our neighbors, making sure people are receiving appropriate pastoral care when needed, and keeping our eyes and ears open for opportunities to extend a compassionate hand. Helping me and our staff know when there is a difficult situation that needs our attention is so important. It's a whole lot more than I can do by myself as your pastor – it takes every one of us to do this well. Every group in the church needs to ask themselves this question: "How can our team be more open and welcoming to others?" Everyone, to include Sunday School classes, Choir, administrative, and ministry committees all need to consider this. One important way of being hospitable is making sure our members are informed of what is happening. We need to be intentional about communicating what we are planning and working on.

As we close out one calendar year and begin another, I'd like to thank you all again for all you do to support Trinity UCC, Centre Hall. We are very blessed and I look forward to more years of service together.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave



Pastor Dave Downer with Leland James Hanson  
who was baptized on December 17, 2017

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- |                        |                           |                     |                     |                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Glenda Bressler Abrams | Lance Arney               | Jane Boldin         | Jody Covalt         | T. J. Coursen         |
| *Phyllis Crater        | Erin, Austin, Conner Derr | *Sally Dreibelbis   | *Jean Dunklebarger  | Josh Dunklebarger     |
| Kellie Eichler         | Gracie Eisenhower         | Tanya Evans         | *Trudy Furner       | Tony & Ann Greenwood  |
| *Mary Hardy            | Russell & Myrtle Harpster | *John & Carol Hayes | Rev. John Hench     | Megan Henry           |
| *John Krebs            | Connie Masullo            | Diane Matter        | Robert Mayhew       | Judy Moellenbrock     |
| Tanya Musser           | Larry Myers               | *Miriam Myers       | Malcolm Obiri       | Tim & Cherise Osborne |
| Jesse Orellana         | Kent Smith                | Marilyn Sproule     | JR Stoner           | Laurie Stover         |
| Lori Stover            | Shannon Stover            | Jenn & Abbey Tice   | Colin & Jaci Tucker | Rebecca Wagner        |
| *Faye Winkelblech      | Duane and Wilma Yarger    | Sandy Young         |                     |                       |
- [\*In personal care residence]

## CHURCH RECORD

### Baptism

Leland James Hanson, on December 17, 2017; Leland is the son of Michael and Sara Hanson.

### Deaths

Susan Lee (Bame) Berry, on January 10, 2018; Susan is survived by her husband, Thomas E. Berry, her mother Faye Winkleblech, and her siblings Michael Bame, Barb Taylor, and Nancy Eberly.

### ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER 2017 and JANUARY 2018

Date	Worship Service	Sunday School	Date	Worship Service	Sunday School
December 3	90	32	January 7	53	26
December 10	94	27	January 14	82	30
December 17	111	33	January 21	79	22
December 24	72	24	January 28	67	31
Christmas Eve	210				
December 31	44	18			

### THANKS AND APPRECIATION

...to Terri Downer, Pastor Dave, Jane Pifer, Amy Smith, Ella Smith, and Dot Strickler for caroling around town on December 17  
...to the Christmas Eve congregation for your offering of \$1041.55 for Hoffman Homes for Youth on Christmas Eve  
...to Carol Clark-Baney for leading worship and delivering an inspiring message on December 31  
...to everyone who helped remove the Advent decorations and place them back in storage  
...to Robert Henry and Patrick Kelly for keeping the sidewalks shoveled and salted  
...to Cathy Arney, Rick Arnold, Carol Clark-Baney, Sara Hanson, Karen Keller, Ann Moellenbrock, and Jerelene Reish for being Nursery volunteers during December 2017 and January 2018  
...to all who participate in the JJ Powell Church Program – \$128.96 has been credited to the church oil account  
...to everyone who purchased an "Angel" gift for the Zerby Gap Familyworks boys; the presents were delivered and very appreciated  
...to Nancy Vogt for her many years of service in the Chancel Choir; her voice will be greatly missed  
...to Shirley Reed for maintaining the prayer list  
...to all who purchased poinsettias for Christmas Eve service and to Tammy Besecker for arranging them so beautifully  
...to Steve Besecker and Robert Henry for handling the rental property maintenance problems  
...to Sally Arnold and Cleo Matter for assisting Pastor Dave with the off-site communions

### LENTEN DATES AND SERVICES

Lenten services are combined with St. Luke Lutheran Church and Grace United Methodist Church and will be held at Grace United Methodist except during Holy Week.

- \* February 14: Ash Wednesday, Rev. David Downer message
- \* February 21: Rev. Mark Messner message
- \* February 28: Rev. Becky Horn message
- \* March 7: Rev. David Downer message, TUCC Choir
- \* March 14: Rev. Mark Messner message
- \* March 21: Rev. Becky Horn Message, combined choirs
- \* March 25: Palm Sunday Services at TUCC, Rev. Downer
- \* March 29: Maundy Thursday service at TUCC, Rev. Downer
- \* March 30: Good Friday service at TUCC, Rev. Downer
- \* April 1: Easter Sunday service at TUCC with the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Rev. Downer

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 3: 9:00 a.m. "Rise Against Hunger" meal packaging event at Centre Hall Lions Club
- February 4: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion; "Souper Bowl of Caring" Offering to benefit Centre Hall Potter Township Food Bank
- February 6: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Salem Hill, Spring Mills
- February 8: 8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School planning meeting at Grace United Methodist Church
- February 11: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service; "All Church Love Offering for Hartman Center"
- February 13: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House, Centre Hall
- February 14: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
11:00 a.m. Council of Churches Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. David Downer  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- February 18: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. Valentine Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
- February 20: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting
- February 21: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. Mark Messner; Grace Choir  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- February 25: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Services
- February 28: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. Becky Horn; St. Luke Choir  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- March 1: 6:30 p.m. SALT Committee Meeting
- March 4: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- March 7: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
11:00 a.m. Council of Churches Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. David Downer; Trinity UCC Choir  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- March 11: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Daylight Savings Time has begun)  
10:45 a.m. Worship Services; "One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering  
Pot Luck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
- March 14: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. Mark Messner; Grace Choir  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- March 18: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
- March 20: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Committee Meeting
- March 21: 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain," by Magrey R. deVega  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Services at Grace United Methodist Church; message by Rev. Becky Horn; combined choirs  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

- March 25: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Services
- March 28: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- March 29: 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion at Trinity UCC
- March 30: 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at Trinity UCC
- April 1: 9:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (no Sunday School)  
 10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Service with Sacrament of Holy Communion;



The young men at Zerby Gap Familyworks enjoyed and appreciated the "Angel" tree gifts. Thank you to all who participated. This outreach could not happen without you!

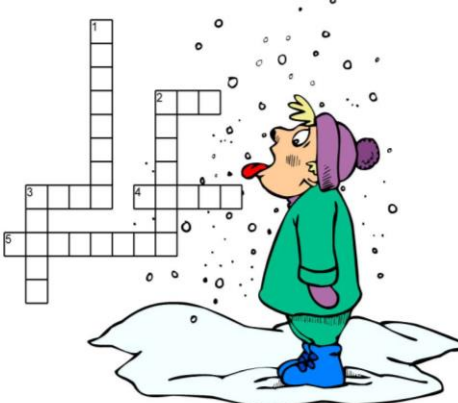
### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>March 2018</b>
Head Usher	Toni Witherite	George Moellenbrock, Jr.
Alternate Usher	Steve Riegel	Sally Arnold
Altar Flowers	Tammy Besecker	Tammy Besecker
Altar Guild	Dorothy Strickler	Michele Brown
Communion	Toni Witherite (February 4)	George Moellenbrock, Jr. (March 4)
Caregiver	Lois Martz	Denise Sweitzer
Choir Director	Terri Downer	Terri Downer
Fellowship Coordinator	Joyce Barner	Volunteer Needed
SALT	Angela Auman	Dorothy Strickler
Marquee Manager	Richard Delaney	Richard Delaney
Nursery Volunteer	Feb. 4: Sara Hanson Feb. 11: Ann Moellenbrock Feb. 18: Rick Arnold & Kylie Auman Feb. 25: Cathy Arney	Mar. 4: Jennifer Gooch Mar. 11: Carol Clark-Baney Mar. 18: Karen Keller Mar. 25: Jerelene Reish
Oil in Candles	Carol Clark-Baney	Angela Auman
Organist	Carole Smith	Carole Smith

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (continued)

Date	Greeters	Greeters	Acolyte	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Children's Message
February 4	Jim and Kim Smith	John and Marieta Smith	Harrison Reish	Pastor Dave	Rick Arnold	Vickie Fultz
February 11	Lynn and Carole Smith	Marian Smith	Sam Martell	Rick Arnold	Sam Martell	Ruth Floray
February 18	Robert and Teri Statham and Family	Larry and Dot Strickler	Ella Smith	Steve Riegel	Dorothy Strickler	Teri Statham
February 25	Ron and Denise Sweitzer	Gail Teti	Rylee Arney	Steve Riegel		Pastor Dave
March 4	Peggy Treaster	Eleanor Tyson	Jackson Romig	Pastor Dave		Vickie Fultz
March 11	Dixie Vogt	Nancy Vogt	Paige Auman	Kylie Auman	Angela Auman	Ruth Floray
March 18	Ennis and Nancy Wagner	Dan and Lori Walter and Tessa	Sara Floray			Teri Statham
March 25	Rita Watkins	Tom, Toni, and Alexis Witherite	Maddie Gooch	Paige Auman	Angela Auman	Pastor Dave
April 1	Kirk and Leena Wolfgang	Rick and Sally Arnold	Katie Romig	Pastor Dave		Vickie Fultz
April 8	Shannon and Rylee Arney	Lance and Cathy Arney	Kylie Auman			Ruth Floray
April 15	Richard and Angela Auman and Family	Robert and Ruby Bair	Katie Martell			Teri Statham

### Winter weather!



**Across**

2. \_\_\_ is very slippery and dangerous when on the sidewalk or street.
3. This fluffy white stuff falls from the sky.
4. This unpleasant stuff is a cross between snow and rain.
5. Wear these on your ears to keep them warm.

**Down**

1. This big vehicle clears the snow from the streets.
2. These long stems of ice can form on the edges of a roof.
3. Wrap this around your neck to feel cozy when it's cold outside.

Trinity United Church of Christ  
104 North Pennsylvania Avenue  
PO Box 212  
Centre Hall PA 16828  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Carry a heart that never hates  
a smile that never fades,  
and a touch that never hurts.



### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY – MARCH 2018

February 4:	Isaiah 40:21-31	Mark 1:29-39
February 11:	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Matthew 28:16-20
February 18:	Genesis 9:8-17	Mark 1:9-15
February 25:	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Mark 8:31-38; 9:2-9
March 4:	Exodus 20:1-17	John 2:13-22
March 11:	Numbers 21:4-9	John 3:14-21
March 18:	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33
March 25:	Mark 11:1-11	Mark 14:1-15:47

