

# The Trinity Tower

January Newsletter  
sponsored by Nancy MacMeekin  
in memory of loved ones



2021

Volume 43 Number 1

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## From the Pastor

This past year has been a bumpy ride on unknown roads and often I find myself asking from the backseat, "*Are we there yet?*" Standing in front of an empty church on Christmas Eve was quite surreal, I too, long for the day when we can all be in the sanctuary together. It is difficult to remember that the rest of the world is feeling the effects of the pandemic too! I know I often forget that those in Peru, Portugal and England are facing similar restrictions. Patience, persistence and hope will eventually lead us back to familiar ground.

Typically, the New Year spurs thoughts of change, new beginnings. This year, we have all turned to a hope that 2021 will be better than 2020! I get this, and if we want the new year to be healthy and bright, we need to work on it together. Our church family has done an exceptional job of making sure our building is as safe and healthy as possible. I know that we do not all agree on every aspect of our COVID- 19 policies, but the heart of the UCC is remaining in covenant even though we might differ in opinion. I trust that we will be a stronger congregation on the other side of this global crisis. I often turn to our hymnal when looking for ways to connect scripture, faith and culture. I cannot think of a better hymn for this time in our lives than "*In the Midst of New Dimensions*", here are verses 1 and 5 and the chorus:

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
who will lead the pilgrim peoples, wandering their separate ways?  
Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.  
**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more!***

*Julian Rush. 1985.*

Although we may be experiencing illness, pain, loss, and isolation, we will be transfigured from this time of sorrow and uncertainty to a new life with each other and with Christ. Until then breathe and know that God is with us! As I did last January, I leave you with a favorite prayer from Brother Roger of Taize, France.

*Holy Spirit of the Living God, you breathe in us on all that is inadequate and fragile.  
You make living water spring even from our hurts themselves.  
And through you, the valley of tears becomes a place of wellsprings.  
So, in an inner life with neither beginning nor end,  
your continued presence makes new freshness break through. Amen.*

**Blessings,  
Pastor Fred**

**December 15, 2020, Zoom Monthly Meeting of Consistory - the following items were discussed:**

**Treasurer's Report (November)** – Church is in good shape for the kind of year it has been. There are some building and maintenance issues that need to be addressed. There is liquidity available to be able to address some issues. Endowment is doing well.

**UUG Rent Reduction Request** – UUG opted for the larger reduction (35% decrease off stated lease amount) rather than paying a little more for use of building. The decrease will be in effect for the first 6 months of 2021 and then return to the normal amount with a slight increase at the beginning of the new lease period on July 1, 2021

**Pandemic Assessment** – reports were sent to Consistory prior to the meeting indicating exceptionally large increases in new cases in the county (375 from 12/4-12/10), as well as nation-wide. Covid-19 daily deaths on 4 dates in 2020 now claim 4 of the 10 deadliest days in U.S. History for daily deaths (for which there are reliable daily numbers), eclipsing even December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day. December 3, 2020 is number 10 in the ranking, with 2,802 deaths nationwide. Scott B., Pandemic Advisor, noted that today's daily new case numbers were lower than other recent days since Thanksgiving.

**PPP Loan Forgiveness Application** – ACNB has started processing loans. Larger loans are being processed first, anything under \$50,000 will be later. Our loan was \$31,300. ACNB is hoping to get to all loans this month.

**Annual Meeting Review** – The meeting via Facebook Live went well. No one expressed any questions or concerns. The budget was approved by Consistory this year and will be formally voted on by the congregation when the congregation is able to meet again.

**Advent and Christmas Worship** – Going along quite well. The Noon and 6p prayer time have been averaging 7-8 each day. The Advent wreath and candles are being used in the prayer time. Christmas Eve will be Facebook live w/ communion.

**Finance Committee** – Terry Krietz is leading the internal audit this year.

**Penn Central Conference Empowerment/ Revitalization Series** – this series is being offered free of charge to churches in the conference. Dates are January 23, March 13, May 15. Time TBD. Please let Fred know if anyone is interested. It will be via Zoom. Series being offered because of pandemic and the changes the churches have made and the needs of the churches now. Will put in January Newsletter.

**Long Range Planning – Ad Hoc Group Formation** – This will be discussed in January with the new Consistory. It may tie in with the Empowerment/Revitalization series. The purpose is to determine our goals for property expenditures, other finances, computer/AV/networking needs, as well as church life goals.

**Nominating** – Slate of elders and deacons was presented and approved. Committee Chairs will be decided on at January meeting.

**Personnel Committee** is continuing with interviews for Building and Maintenance position. Doing first round then will do call-backs for 2<sup>nd</sup> interviews and hoping to do face-to face and a building walk-through.

**Property** - Two masons came to inspect and make estimates for the Bell Tower. At the property meeting, a list of property projects was discussed and prioritized. Consistory approved \$7,500 for maintenance problems and \$1500 to purchase a refrigerator for the parsonage. The work will be scheduled as soon as possible.

**Social Concerns** is arranging for purchase, packaging, and delivery of individual breakfasts to participants in the CARES program this week.

**January "Retreat" Consistory Meeting – Jan 9, Saturday; 9:30 – 11:30** – To include both outgoing and incoming Consistory members. Scott W. was asked to offer training at the meeting on how to understand financial reports. New officers will be elected.

**Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Regular Consistory Meeting 6:45 pm via Zoom**

**Financial Status as of December 27, 2020**

Envelope offering needed: **\$185,016.00**  
Envelope offering received to date: **\$186,937.66**  
Property Fund needed: **\$16,016.00**  
Property Fund received to date: **\$15,295.00**



**Worship Attendance**

Worship services are being live-streamed through our Facebook page and are available on our web page for later viewing. Our live-stream has been between 100 - 300 views each week.

**2021 SPONSORS NEEDED!**

**Altar Flowers:** \$25 Altar \$30 Piano

**Newsletters:** \$50 a month

September  
October  
November  
December



**Times Monthly Ad:**

\$35 to share the month  
\$70 for the whole month

**ALTAR FLOWERS 2021**

Thru COVID 19 we continued to worship on-line but did not have flowers on the Altar. We'd like to start having flowers again whether in-person worship or on-line worship. The chart is in the office. Please call the office to reserve your Sunday.

# Congregational Vitality & Empowerment

Are You Wondering?

What lies ahead?

What does it mean to be the church when we cannot do what we used to do?

What are our core values, how do we live them out, and how can we invite others to live them with us as we navigate the transition to a “new normal”?

How can people feel connected to the church through virtual worship?

What needs are not being met, and how can we begin to address them?



Thoughts:

We know that times are difficult for pastors and churches in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We may suspect, in the back of our minds, that a return to normalcy will not likely resemble the church as we knew it before the pandemic.

What can we do as pastors, lay leaders and concerned members? How can we lay the foundation necessary for moving our congregation forward? Would **you** like help in planning for our future?

If these questions resonate with you, then come, join us as we form a small team to work with other teams and coaches. Penn Central Conference is encouraging us to form a Trinity Congregation Empowerment Team as we discern together how to respond to recent events and plan for our future!

**WORKSHOP DETAILS:** *A few Trinity Members will take part in a series of 3 virtual workshops led by Rev. Paul Nickerson of Nickerson Consulting (a nationally known consultant). The 3 workshops we will take part in are scheduled for January 23, March 13, and May 15, 2021 (time to be determined). In between the 3 sessions we will do some planning for Trinity, with a coach to help us in the process. We hope to include planning that will carry us forward for the coming 5-year period!*

**Call Pastor Fred or the Office to discuss and/or sign up!**

## Faith Formation – Christian Education

**Christian Education is at a crossroads in January as we choose a new Chair and re-evaluate how we will offer Faith Formation in 2021.**

At the moment, please refer to our church’s webpage for opportunities for children and youth and adult devotional materials.

*The Confirmation Class has been placed on hold with the hope of beginning the confirmation journey in the fall of 2021.*

**If you are interested in Trinity offering Christian Education online using Zoom, please contact the church office or Pastor Fred.**



### **Current ZOOM Meeting Schedules for January 2021**

**DATE/TIME:**

4th @ 8:45am

4th @ 2:00pm

7th @ 7:00pm

9th @ 9:30am

11th @ 7:00pm

14th @ 7:00pm

18th @ 8:45am

18th @ 3:00pm

18th @ 7:00pm

19th @ 6:00pm

19th @ 6:45pm

21st @ 7:00pm

**COMMITTEE:**

Building Staff

Bazaar

Outreach

Consistory Retreat

Personnel

Worship

Building Staff

Called to Care

Property

Elders Spiritual Council

Consistory

Social Concerns



Eli Howe - January 9  
 Patricia Hammann - January 29  
 Sara Mummert - January 6  
 Vivienne Weiant - January 26



*In our thoughts and prayers:*  
 Mary Jane Alleman, Eric Blackstone, Ashur Bowley, Darla Jean Christopher, Bob & Vonnie Gilbert and family, Lois Grim, Harry Hilbert, Mary Jane Hilbert, Lewis Hilbert, John Harrison Hoffman, Donald Hubbard, Sr., Evelyn Kretz, MacKenzie Kretz, Charlie Krietz, Josh Langley, Mary Lovelace, Bob Miller, Kathy Murphy, Loel Rosenberry, Casey Mullooly, Ashlee (Black) Pyne, Warren Schmuck, Tom Smith, Bill Swisher, Mary Timmins, Brea Thomas, Elizabeth & Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, Brenda Wagner, Teeyara Jo Weiant. (Please notify the office when a name can be removed from the list).

*Coffee w/Friends and Lunch w/Friends will not be meeting again until the Spring 2021*



**Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. Breakfasts  
 2nd Week of Breakfasts  
 January 31st - February 6th**

Trinity will continue to participate in the C.A.R.E.S project this year but in a different way than other years due to COVID-19.

C.A.R.E.S would like all churches to provide breakfast for those who will be housed at the Three Crowns Motor Lodge, at 205 Steinwehr Ave. in Gettysburg, PA.

**We will be delivering bagged breakfasts at 8AM Sunday, January 31st through Saturday, February 6th .**

The supplies for these meals will be housed in our church kitchen for volunteers to assemble. This includes bags, food, drinks and flatware. We are looking for two people for each day to arrive at the church, assemble the bagged breakfasts and be at the motel by 8 AM.

Please call Janet Sheely at 717-357-1789 if you are able to help. We plan to have notations of what to put in the bag from our supplies for each day and the number needed.

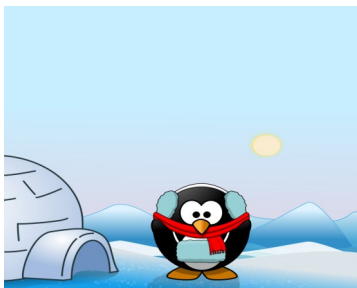
We appreciate your help and caring attitude.

***PLEASE DON'T FORGET TRINITY'S MUCH NEEDED ON-GOING MINISTRIES:***

**The Blessing Box; Diapers for TenderCare; Cancelled stamps for the Brethren Home; Soda can tabs for Hershey Medical Center; and Ruth's Harvest**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE HOFFMAN HOMES IS NO LONGER COLLECTING BOX TOP LABELS\*\*\***

**Therefore we are not longer accepting them.**



**Our sincere condolences to these families:**



**Ann & Buck Harvey and family in the death of Ann's mother, F. Geraldine "Geri" Bushey who passed away at the age of 99 on December 23rd.**

**Karen & Neal Kendlehart and family in the death of Karen's father who passed away December 29th.**

**May God's loving embrace provide comfort and peace.**

**Thank you!**

**Dear Trinity of Christ,**

Thank you very much for your donation of \$600 to **Habitat for Humanity!** Generous donations are vital to our nonprofit Christian ministry and our shared mission to provide affordable housing via no-interest mortgages to Adams County residents. Our organization is run entirely by volunteers and nominal administrative costs. Your donation helps make it possible for us to fulfill Habitat's worldwide mission: "A world where everyone has a decent place to live."

Thank you again!

**Sincerely, Lori Wright, Board Secretary**

**Why I Give  
 by Ann Harvey**

Being a member of a church has been a constant in my life. As a child I was oblivious to how lucky I was to have Sunday School, Bible School, children's choir, church picnics and a church "family". Although I always put an offering in the plate on Sunday, the thought of church finances never entered my mind. As an adult my perspective changed. I now know that giving to the church helps hold that "family" together while helping a larger "family" - our community. Our giving is important for the expenses here at Trinity, but in the midst of a pandemic, our community is in need more than ever. Our offering is helping to meet the needs of so many local residents. When we give to our church, something unique occurs. We as parishioners have the privilege to help others.

**I need your help.**

**Reminder: Knit for Kids is still a project**



Another 2 boxes were sent which brings our totals to: 362 sweaters, 8 blankets, 125 hats for school age children and 9 hats for premies. If you have questions or need the instructions, please contact me. The sweaters have tags in them that they are knit by ladies at Trinity UCC in Gettysburg.

**Need a baby gift? Baby blankets are available to help the Bazaar Coffers.**

**Call or email Suzy Miller (717) 334-0771 or [suzyhm430@comcast.net](mailto:suzyhm430@comcast.net) to check them out or if you can help.**



**Ways to continue to support the work of Trinity!**

Now more than ever it remains vital that we support our church, spiritually and financially. Even though we are not physically worshipping together, the work of our church continues.

- **E-Giving:** Find instructions under either the Members tab .
- Use the automatic bill paying service your bank provides you (if applicable). You can set up single payments or regular payments to be transferred into the church account, or to be mailed to the church through the post office, depending on your bank.
- Mail your offering envelope to the church by U.S. mail:  
Trinity United Church of Christ  
60 E. High St.,  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4 8:45a Bldg Staff  2p Bazaar	5	6	7  7p Outreach	8	9 9:30a-11:30a Consistory Retreat via Zoom
10 Baptism of Christ	11  7p Personnel	12	13	14 <b>Consistory Committee Reports Due</b> 7p Worship	15	16
17	18 MLK, Jr. Day 8:45a Bldg Staff  3p Called to Care 7p Property	19 6p Elders Spiritual Council 6:45p Consistory Elders/Deacons	20	21 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 7p Social Concerns	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8a TUCC C.A.R.E.S Breakfasts thru 2/6/21						

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Permit No. 199

Trinity United Church of Christ  
60 E. High Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325—2319  
(717) 334-7266

**Staff**

**Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young**, Pastor

**Deb Guiher**, Admin. Assistant  
**Karen Lentz**, Account/Payroll Mgr.

**John McKay**, Director Senior Choir  
**Jane Eiker**, Organist  
**Audrey Blackstone**, Asst. Organist

**Lisa Reinoehl**, Housekeeper

**Rayna Cooper**, Consistory Chair  
**Joan Peck**, Consistory Vice Chair

**JANUARY 2021**

**Worship January 2021 - 10:30am**

**January 3**

**Holy Communion**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**January 10**

**Baptism of Christ**

Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

**January 17**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

**January 24**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

**January 31**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

To access our on-line worship feed,  
please go to our website:

[www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org](http://www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org)

Or our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/GettysburgTrinityUCC](https://www.facebook.com/GettysburgTrinityUCC)

*Trinity truly believes that whoever you are,  
and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

