



# The Lamplighter

Trinity United Church of Christ

February – March 2016



Dear Members and Friends of Trinity United Church of Christ,

One early spring morning a few years ago, I can remember walking out of my house in Virginia to discover that in the night; we had received a few inches of "sugar snow," as my Dad used to call it when I was growing up in Vermont. Sugar snows are those spring snow falls that come in late March and April during the time when the sweet tree sap is running abundantly, and the farmers are busily collecting and making that delicious treat, maple syrup. It is during this time that we sometimes have the joy of seeing some of our spring daffodils and crocuses poking up through the new snow, creating a dazzling contradiction in color and light. This past week I was sitting in my sunroom enjoying the beauty of an amaryllis blooming for the third time since Christmas. It was a gift from a dear friend, knowing how much I love gardening and coaxing my flowers to bloom to their full potential. Watching these flowers bloom in the midst of snow and ice blowing against the parsonage windows, one can't help but hear the faint promise of spring.

I realized in my reflections that being a pastor is not so much different from that of a gardener or perhaps even a farmer. Our work is always done with an eye toward the harvest and realizing the fruits of our labors at some distant point. For farmers and gardeners, the "fruits" are well defined – corn and wheat from the fields, tomatoes from the garden, vegetables in abundance for canning and eating, as we celebrate the work of months of planting and weeding and watering. For pastors and fellow-ministers of Jesus Christ, celebrating the fruits of our labor can come in many forms. For me, looking into the innocent face of a small child while I baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit is one of the ways I get to experience "the harvest," and it is not unlike experiencing the joy of a newly blooming flower. It is something I have never fully appreciated until I was the one performing this sacramental act. Looking into the face of a child is like seeing innocence in its purest form, and perhaps the closest we come to gazing into the face of God – at least in this life. There are other ways we experience "harvest moments." Sometimes in Sunday worship, when the music plays and the voices gather into a crescendo of praise I often feel chills move down my spine – and I know that God is smiling upon us. These are the moments when our hearts become one with God, when we experience life the way it was meant to be lived.

During February and March this year, while the earth outside remains hard and frozen, we still have an opportunity to prepare the ground for planting and harvest...the fertile ground of our hearts that is! Lent is a time of introspection, repentance, restoration and renewal. It is a time when we examine ourselves and look for the ways we have strayed from God's will for us. And as we discover those "weeds" within us, to take the time to gently remove them so as not to disturb the "good wheat" that grows alongside. It's really very simple – read your Bible, keep a journal, pray for others, attend worship, and experience the joy of serving others during this season of reflection and hope. For we know the end of the story; God wins, and as followers of Jesus Christ, we will be welcomed into an abundant life in God's presence where the harvest will be plentiful and peace will reign forever.

God Bless,  
Pastor Dave

*... for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

*~Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

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## "STOP HUNGER NOW" OUTREACH MISSION WE DID IT!!!!



"Stop Hunger Now" is an international hunger relief organization whose mission is to end hunger in our lifetime. The program works by having volunteers package meals for distribution to some of the poorest communities in the world. Trinity UCC hosted a meal packaging event at the Centre Hall Lions Club on Saturday, January 30, 2016. Approximately 50 volunteers from Trinity UCC and people who responded to an announcement in the Gazette formed assembly lines and packaged the meals. A gong was sounded when a goal was met, music blared, and everyone had a great time for a great cause. Thank you to EVERYONE who donated to this event -- \$3,030.73 was raised and 10,152 meals were packaged.

### THANKS AND APPRECIATION

...to Carol Clark-Baney for leading worship service and delivering the message on December 27

...to Alyssa Limbaugh for sharing her talent and being the organist on December 27 and January 10

...to Jeff and Carol-Clark Baney, Ardranna and Robert Henry, Sylvia and Ben Malone, Marieta and John Smith, and Rita Watkins for purchasing the tables needed to replace some of the older tables in the Fellowship Hall

...to everyone who participated in the "Stop Hunger Now" fundraisers by purchasing pies and soups; the Pie Shoppe fundraiser netted \$96 and the Cooke Tavern soups fundraiser netted \$105.40; SALT appreciates your participation in these fundraisers

...to Pastor Dave and Terri Downer for hosting an open house social at their house on December 13 which gave everyone an opportunity to visit the parsonage

...to everyone who donated food and/or helped set up and serve at the Lois Homan Estate Sale on December 12; the proceeds of \$459 was donated to the "Stop Hunger Now" project; thank you to the Sweitzer and O'Hara families for giving Trinity UCC this opportunity

...to the congregation for your offerings of \$104 to the Veterans of the Cross special mission offering

...to everyone who attended Christmas Eve services – \$641.32 received in the offering will be sent to Hoffman Homes for Youth

...to the congregation for the \$446.51 love offering received on January 10<sup>th</sup> for the "Stop Hunger Now" event

...to Bob and Shirley Reed for collecting and delivering the items donated for the Centre Hall Potter/Township Food Bank

...to Bob Henry for making sure the church is warm and the sidewalks are cleaned in time for worship services

### CHURCH NEWS

#### Baptism

Landen Michael Hanson was baptized at Trinity UCC on December 20, 2015. Landen is the son of Sara and Michael Hanson.

#### New Members

Ardell and Eleanor Tyson have transferred their membership from St. Peter's UCC in Rebersburg, PA. They are now living in Centre Hall and have been regularly attending worship services at Trinity UCC.

Rita Moody Watkins has been received into membership through Affirmation of Baptism. Rita was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church in Canton, PA, and lives in Centre Hall.

#### Deaths

Richard E. Whitman died on January 14, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah Whitman, and is survived by his sons Kim Whitman and Richard "Petey" Whitman.

Edgar A. Treaster died on January 28, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, and children Doug Treaster and Erin Wamboldt.

## ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Date	Worship Service	Sunday School*	Date	Worship Service	Sunday School*
December 6	84	34	January 3	65	30
December 13	89	31	January 10	69	33
December 20	90	33	January 17	55	31
Christmas Eve	168	n/a	January 24	64	29
December 27	44	24	January 31	76	41

### PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tom and Janice Adams	T. J. Coursen	*Phyllis Crater	Sheila Corl	Carol Dale
*Jim Delaney	*Sally Dreibelbis	Gracie Eisenhower	Ronald Flood	*Ron Fultz
*Trudy Furner	*Mary Hardy	Leroy Harper	*Betty Hartley	Rev. John Hench
Marty Ilgen	Kathleen Kasubick	Staci Keen	*Lois Krape	*John Krebs
Rich Krout	Haylie Leedy	Gina Lucas	Diane Matter	Kylee McClenahan
Denny McCloskey	Larry Myers	*Miriam Myers	The Nagle Family	Dean Rishel
Shane Royer	Scott Shehan	Christine Stoudt Smith	Katy Smith	Laurie Stover
Ardell Tyson	Dr. John (Scooter) VanKirk		Raymond Walker	*Faye Winkelblech
Brenda Wilt	Nick Witherite	Melissa Wolfe	Duane and Wilma Yarger	

[\*In personal care home]

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 2 – 4: Pastor Dave will be participating in the Penn Central Conference 2016 Mid-Winter Convocation at Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA (available by telephone for pastoral care)
- February 3: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 7: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion; "Souper" Bowl of Caring offering collected and donations presented to the Centre Hall/Potter Township Food Pantry
- February 8: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting at St. Luke's UCC in Lock Haven for an update on the Conference Minister search procedure
- February 9: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House  
2:00 p.m. Caregivers Committee Meeting
- February 10: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Dave in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Community Ash Wednesday services at Trinity UCC with Imposition of Ashes Service; Pastor Dave Downer will deliver the message; TUCC Choir will present the anthem  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 14: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. Valentine Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Youth and the Board of Christian Education; proceeds from the event go toward the Guatemala mission trip scheduled for July  
NO Confirmation Class
- February 16: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- February 17: 1:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Dave in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Community Lenten Services with Communion at Trinity UCC; Pastor Mark Messner, Grace United Methodist Church, will deliver the message  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 18: 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting

- February 21: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship Service; updates for Automated External Defibrillator offering collected and followed by a "Warm Your Heart and Soul" crockpot luncheon in the Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- February 24: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Dave in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Community Lenten Services with Communion at Trinity UCC; Pastor Dave Downer will deliver the message; St Luke Lutheran Choir will present the anthem  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- February 28: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship Service  
2:30 p.m. Ezekiel Project at Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg, PA; Stewardship is the topic of discussion  
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- February 29: You have an extra day this year – have some fun!
- March 1: 1:30 p.m. Pastor Dave deliver the message and serve communion at Wynwood House
- March 2: 7:00 p.m. Community Lenten Services with Communion at Trinity UCC; Pastor Mark Messner, will deliver the message; Grace United Methodist Choir will present the anthem  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- March 6: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion; One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- March 8: 6:30 p.m. SALT Committee Meeting
- March 9: 7:00 p.m. Community Lenten Services with Communion at Trinity UCC; Pastor Dave Downer will deliver the message; Trinity UCC Choir will present the anthem  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 13 (move your clocks ahead one hour)*
- March 13: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship Service
- March 15: 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- March 16: 7:00 p.m. Community Lenten Services with Communion at Trinity UCC; Pastor Mark Messner will deliver the message; Combined Choirs will present the anthem  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- March 19: Time TBD Community Easter Egg Hunt at Centre Hall Lions Club
- March 20: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service
- March 23: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- March 24: 6:00 p.m. Community Maundy Thursday Meal at Trinity UCC with Pastor Dave Downer
- March 25: 7:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Trinity UCC with Pastor Dave Downer
- March 27: 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES)  
10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Services
- March 30: 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**SAVE THE DATE:** Get your smile on! Lifetouch Photography (they acquired Olan Mills photography) will be at Trinity UCC on May 24, 25, and 26 to take pictures for our church directory. More information is forthcoming.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>March 2016</b>
Head Usher	Carol Clark-Baney	Sally Arnold
Alternate Usher	Cathy Arney	George Moellenbrock
Altar Flowers	Tammy Besecker	Tammy Besecker
Altar Guild	Dorothy Strickler	Michele Brown
Communion	Carol Clark-Baney (Feb 7)	Sally Arnold (Mar 6)
Caregiver	Beverly Garbrick	Marian Smith
Fellowship Coordinator	Beverly Guyer	Carol Clark-Baney
S.A.L.T.	Angela Auman	Shannon Arney
Marquee Manager	Richard Delaney	Richard Delaney
Oil in Candles	Donald Matter	Angela Auman
Organist / Choir Director	Carole Smith	Carole Smith

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Call to Worship</b>	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<b>Children's Moment</b>
February 7	Beverly and Charles Guyer	Joyce Barner	Katie Romig	Pastor Dave	Rick Arnold	Vickie Fultz
February 14			Ella Smith	Rick Arnold	Carol Brown	Pastor Dave
February 21	Christine and Charles Patschke	S. Jane Pifer	Rylee Arney	Shirley Reed	Rick Arnold	Teri Statham
February 28	Shirley and Robert Reed	Jerelene and Barry Reish	Kylie Auman	Rick Arnold	Carole Smith	Ruth Floray
March 6	Deborah and Steven Riegel and Family	Laura and Chuck Romig and Family	Andrew Boob	Pastor Dave	Sally Arnold	Vickie Fultz
March 13	Hetty Runkle	Kimberly and James Smith	Sara Floray	Sally Arnold	Carol Clark-Baney	Pastor Dave
March 20	Marieta and John Smith	Carole and Lynn Smith	Katie Martell	Carol Brown	Shirley Reed	Ruth Floray
March 27	Marian Smith	Wendy and Paul Searly	Abbey Mingear		Sally Arnold	Teri Statham

## **Community Lenten Services at Trinity UCC**

(with Grace United Methodist Church and St. Luke Lutheran Church)

February 10, 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes – Pastor Dave Downer; Trinity UCC Choir  
February 17, 7 p.m. Lenten Services with Communion – Pastor Mark Messner; Grace United Methodist Choir  
February 24, 7 p.m. Lenten Services with Communion – Pastor Dave Downer; St. Luke Lutheran Choir  
March 2, 7 p.m. Lenten Services with Communion – Pastor Mark Messner; Grace United Methodist Choir  
March 9, 7 p.m. Lenten Services with Communion – Pastor Dave Downer; Trinity UCC Choir  
March 16, 7 p.m. Lenten Services with Communion – Pastor Mark Messner; Combined Choirs  
March 24, 6 p.m. Community Maundy Thursday Meal  
March 25, 7 p.m. Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service – Pastor Dave Downer; Jason Smith, Soloist  
March 27, 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast



### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY – MARCH 2016**

<b>February 7:</b>	<b>Exodus 34:29-35</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2</b>	<b>Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</b>	<b>Luke 23:26, 33-34a</b>	
<b>February 21:</b>	<b>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</b>	<b>Luke 23:32, 39-43</b>	
<b>February 28:</b>	<b>Isaiah 55:1-9</b>	<b>John 19:25-27</b>	
<b>March 6:</b>	<b>Joshua 5:9-12</b>	<b>Mark 15:29-36a</b>	
<b>March 13:</b>	<b>Isaiah 43:16-21</b>	<b>John 19:28-29</b>	
<b>March 20:</b>	<b>Isaiah 50:4-9a</b>	<b>John 19:30a</b>	<b>Luke 23:43-47</b>
<b>March 27:</b>	<b>Acts 10:34-43</b>	<b>John 20:1-18</b>	

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE NEWS

I want to share with all of you portions of a letter I recently received from our Acting Conference Minister, Rev. Ken Heasley –

*Dear David,*

*Thank you for being a part of the Penn Central Conference – as one of our serving pastors. It is my hope that you are blessed by God in your ministry and that the people you serve are a blessing to you – as you are to them.*

*As you may be aware, our self-study process of the past year and a half has resulted in a Vision Statement, and a new staffing model for the conference. The thrust of our work to date is the discernment, based on the data received, that we must work together to strengthen the congregations of the Penn Central Conference and support the ministers who are serving on the front lines – in the places where the gospel of Jesus Christ intersects the lives, the crises, and the issues of people of faith who are trying to be faithful.*

*Our vision statement: Penn Central Conference -- Where congregations passionately declare and demonstrate the courageous love of Christ, truly becomes our vision as the pastors and congregations "buy" into it.*

*So here is my invitation/challenge to you. In the next month will you seriously consider how you can turn up your passion for declaring and demonstrating the love of Jesus? Note, I did not say the 'courageous love' – let's start small. In the next month, I ask you to think about some specific ways you can declare and demonstrate the love of Jesus in your person and professional life. That might be something big; it might be something small – just be specific and intentional and if you so choose, at the end of each day, make a list of your 'declarations and demonstrations.'*

*Thank you in advance as you join "the vision."*

*Kenneth S. Heasley  
Acting Conference Minister*

I wanted to share this with you in part because this new vision of passionately declaring and demonstrating the love of Christ is true for all of us. As followers and ministers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to live a life of sacrifice and service. This is God's will for our church and for us as individuals. I have accepted Ken's challenge, and would like to challenge you as well – to be intentional in the ways we declare and demonstrate the love of Christ each day.

~Pastor Dave