



# NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

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## FEBRUARY 2025 – Newsletter

### Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God’s redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

### Seminary Sunday, February 23

This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lancaster Theological Seminary. As a supporter, you have a vital role in sustaining theological education and preparing future generations of church leaders.

Congregations may participate through:

- Prayer: Encourage your congregation to pray for LTS, its students, faculty, and staff.
- Financial Support: Consider collecting a special offering during the service to support LTS.
- Nurturing Relationships: Invite a seminary student to be a guest preacher or speaker on Seminary Sunday (limited availability).

Thank you for supporting Seminary Sunday and raising awareness within your congregation about the vital importance of theological education.

Please contact Darryl Stephens at [stephensd@moravian.edu](mailto:stephensd@moravian.edu) if you plan to participate in Seminary Sunday or if you would like to request bulletin inserts or additional information.

### CoM - SAVE THE DATES PLEASE

The York Association Council on Ministry requests that churches in the Association reserve the following Sunday afternoons for possible Ecclesiastical Councils:

**March 2; May 18; and September 14.** Thank you!

### Equilla Curry's Ecclesiastical Council

We had a very well-attended Ecclesiastical Council meeting for Equilla Curry on January 12 at Faith UCC. Equilla had heart-felt sharings about her background, family, and faith journey. Several engaged with Equilla with questions and reminiscences. We enthusiastically and

unanimously approved Equilla for ordination in the UCC pending a call. Congratulations, Equilla!

A big shout out of thanks to Faith Church for their hospitality (including refreshments) and to those who generously contributed to our Members in Discernment (MID) / Seminary Education Fund!

*Blessings, Rick Pulling*

### Rev. D. Marie Tribble – Installation Heidelberg UCC, 47 W. Philadelphia St, York

The Heidelberg UCC Congregation warmly invites you to join us in celebrating the Installation Service of our new Pastor, Rev. D. Marie Tribble on **Saturday, January 25 @ 4:00 pm**. This sacred and joyful occasion marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our shared ministry, and we would be deeply honored by your presence. Our guest Preacher will be Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan from the St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Immediately following the service, a reception will be held in the auditorium. For additional information, please contact 717.854.7125.

### UCC Environmental Ministries

Hey there! Get ready for an exciting year ahead with the UCC National Ministries! We are in the midst of launching two initiatives.

- First, we just announced our 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest for children and youth. Our theme this year is **“Planting Seeds of Hope.”** There will be winners in different age categories and an all-expense-paid trip to DC for the overall winner and a parent/guardian. [Learn more and register your congregation.](#) We will be accepting submissions from February 2 to March 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Second, with the inspiration of [Sam Daley-Harris's successful model of transformative advocacy](#), we are starting a new Climate Hope Affiliates program that is focused on building lasting relationships with congress members, so that they can be moved up a ladder commitment whether that means moving from opposition to neutrality or support to active leadership. We are rolling out affiliates in waves throughout the year with our first four beginning in February and March. Let me know your interest in this program by filling out this short [Google Form](#).

Together, we can turn the tide on climate change. Let's make 2025 a year of unprecedented hope and action! Questions? Reach out to me at any time. Let's grow this movement, one seed at a time!

*Blessings!*

*Sue Mueller*

*Climate Hope Campaign Organizer*

216.736.3283 | [muellers@ucc.org](mailto:muellers@ucc.org) | [UCC.org](http://UCC.org)

## Around the Association

### Polar Plunge...BRR!!!

Members and friends of **DOVER UCC** will be plunging in the Capital Area Special Olympics Polar Plunge on **Saturday, February 8, at Gifford Pinchot State Park**. Spurred on by a member at Dover UCC, Michael Plappert, several people from the church joined the Beach Boys and Friends (Michael's Team) several years ago and decided to plunge. Michael is a Special Olympian who has more than 300 Special Olympic medals—maybe 400 by now in a wide variety of sports. The link to donate or register is <https://specialolympicspa.org/capital-area> and to donate specifically to the Beach Boys and Friends, <https://give.specialolympicspa.org/give/608360/#!/donation/checkout> and consider how you might give. If you want to cheerlead the team on but not get in the water...here is the schedule. The Polar Plunge will be held at the Conewago Day Use area on Alpine Road.

- **10 am:** Registration Opens
- **10:30 am:** Costume Contest Registration
- **11 am:** Costume Contest
- **11:30 am:** Opening Ceremonies
- **11:50 am:** First Wave Stages and Plunges at 12 pm. Plunge waves are rolling.

## St. Stephen's UCC

**1569 West Market Street, York, PA**

is seeking an organist for Sunday morning services. Our Sunday service begins at 9:00am and is usually completed by 10:00am. Our organist has passed into the Lord's loving arms six months ago, and after a time of mourning, we would like to hire a new organist or share an organist with another church in our area. Please e-mail us at [ststeucc@comcast.net](mailto:ststeucc@comcast.net) for more details or to make an appointment for an interview. We thank God for our York Association and ask for any help you can give us at this time.

*Respectfully,*

*Linda Ropp, Secretary*

### Trinity UCC Receives Prestigious Calvin Institute Vital Worship Grant for 2025

January 7, 2025 – (Trinity UCC), a historic congregation in York, Pennsylvania, proudly announces that it has been awarded the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Vital Worship Grant. This significant honor will fund the groundbreaking "Worship in Motion" project, which is set to transform worship experiences throughout the 2025 calendar year.

Rev. Dr. Dominique Denman, the Director of Education and Community Outreach at Trinity UCC and the project's Director, expressed enthusiasm about the initiative. "Worship in Motion" is an innovative way to blend art and faith by using film to create meaningful connections between scripture, worship, and the contemporary issues our community faces. This grant enables us to expand our vision of worship as a space for spiritual growth and community transformation," said Rev. Dr. Denman.

The "Worship in Motion" project will integrate short films into Trinity's worship services to enhance congregational engagement, deepen scriptural reflection, and foster creative storytelling. Each film will serve as a medium for exploring faith through a lens that connects the congregation to both timeless biblical truths and the challenges of modern society.

Local filmmakers, worship leaders, and community partners will collaborate with the Trinity UCC team to produce and curate these films. Post-worship discussions and outreach events led by church staff and volunteers will invite dialogue and reflection, helping participants connect their faith to pressing social issues such as justice, reconciliation, and community healing.

"This project underscores Trinity UCC's commitment to inclusive worship and community impact," Rev. Dr. Denman added. "By leveraging the power of film, we hope to inspire both personal spiritual growth and collective action for change."

Trinity UCC's innovative approach to worship aligns with its mission to serve as a historic, giving, and inclusive congregation rooted in multicultural and artistic expression. The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Vital Worship Grant is a prestigious recognition that supports initiatives fostering deeper engagement in worship and vibrant congregational life.

The "Worship in Motion" project will commence in January 2025 and continue throughout the year, with a series of worship services and community events planned to showcase the films and facilitate dialogue.

**About Trinity UCC:** Trinity United Church of Christ, located in York, Pennsylvania, is a historic and inclusive congregation known for its strong music and arts program. With a commitment to diversity and creative expression, Trinity UCC seeks to nurture faith, foster community engagement, and inspire social transformation through worship and outreach. Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner is the Pastor.

**About the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship:** The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, promotes the study and renewal of Christian worship. Through its Vital Worship Grants Program, the institute supports projects that deepen worship practices and engage congregations in meaningful ways.

Rev. Dr. Dominique Denman

Email: [outreachandeducation@trinityucc-york.org](mailto:outreachandeducation@trinityucc-york.org)



### Attn: York Association UCC Clergy and MIDs

York Association Clergy and MIDs will meet on **Wednesday, February 12, at 11 am** for brunch at Lion's Pride Restaurant in Red Lion.

**JOIN US FOR OUR**  
*Contemporary Worship Service!*

Beginning January 5th, 2025,  
Every Sunday at 12:30 PM  
Experience Music, Praise,  
Worship,  
and so much more!

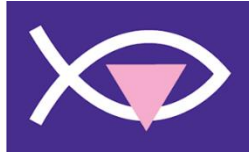
📍 Trinity UCC-York  
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[www.trinityucc-york.org](http://www.trinityucc-york.org)  
717-848-1775

REV. DR. KELLIE TURNER, PASTOR

### 2025 York Association Council Officers

**President** - Rev. David Martin, St. Paul's Stoverstown  
**Vice-President** – Jean Weidler, St. Peter's Lischey's  
**Secretary** - Equilla Curry, Faith York  
**Treasurer** - Charles Eisenhart, Hayshire York

**The next newsletter, MARCH, will be  
emailed FEBRUARY 20, 2024.  
Please send articles to  
[news@yorkassociationucc.org](mailto:news@yorkassociationucc.org)  
by February 18.  
Thank You!**



## **SAVE THE DATE**

Open and Affirming Ministry Team Winter Gathering

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**

**THEME –  
PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR ONE  
ANOTHER**

**Lancaster Theological Seminary  
555 West James Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**The planning committee  
comprising of members from all  
four PA conferences are planning a  
day of speakers and workshops  
around the common theme of  
supporting one another. Breakfast  
items and Lunch will be provided.**

**Please look for additional  
information in early February.**