

January / February 2013

The Pastor's Two Cents:

I personally want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to the members of Trinity United Church of Christ. The love, the care and the willingness of our members to learn new concepts and look with a critical eye at biblical interpretations and Christian traditions in order to be true disciples of Jesus Christ is exactly what a pastor hopes for when taking on a new charge. I couldn't have asked for a better church to serve and a better Christmas present to have received than the unanimous vote we were blessed with in making Trinity UCC-Coplay the only certified Open and Affirming church in the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Trinity joins with over a thousand other UCC churches in making a faithful commitment to be inclusive according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The changes that we've made over these past five years are monumental. Children's Communion, Laity empowerment, small group development and now Open and Affirming are the critical and crucial elements that churches need to make in order to thrive into the future. These steps help to assure that Trinity goes beyond surviving because these changes are not just in policy they are about our attitudes, our beliefs, our concern about our fellow human beings. It truly is about repentance; changing one's ways, one's mind, one's direction toward God. I've reminded you time and time again that this is YOUR CHURCH and today I can say without a doubt that the members of Trinity United Church of Christ are truly disciples of Christ; putting a lot more than money where their mouths are. I could not be more proud of the decision this church has made. I look forward to continuing this journey with you far into the future.

Now, that we are well on our way into the next phase of our lives as a church family we need to look forward to growing the church outside of our four walls. We have changed our attitudes and minds so now we are prepared to invite others to what we have through our words and deeds. We have a lot to offer our friends right here in the Lehigh Valley so let us go into the mission fields and reap what we have sown!

God Bless the members of Trinity UCC of Coplay and may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Pastor Steve