



August 28, 2016

The Transformation of Grace-Trinity UCC and its Community!



The journey began in February 1996, when Rev. Dr. Chandra Soans and his wife Betsy, along with Rev. Dr. Russell Mittman, then Conference Minister, PSEC, and Rev. Marty Bupp, then Associate Conference Minister, chose the former Frankford Congregational Church, Philadelphia, to start a new church for

the immigrant and surrounding community. Taking over a dilapidated building in a neighborhood familiar with drug dealers and gun violence was no bed of roses. But, Grace-Trinity believed that 'God calls the faithful out of their comfort zones in order to transform the world around them and to make a difference by shining a light in the darkness'.

Rev Soans and 11 members took the first step of faith on the 1st Sunday of July 1996 and have witnessed God's grace and power in the growth of Grace-Trinity and in creative service to the community. Over 20 years, the church has grown from 11 members to what it is today. A dynamic Sunday School and youth, men's and women's fellowship, cell groups in different locations, and regular fasting and prayer have strengthened our spiritual foundation.

Grace has also testified to God's faithfulness by transforming the community around. The Church has established four Pre-school centers in and around Grace-Trinity. Quality education is received by over 500 needy children and families. Seeds of the gospel reach these homes through Vacation Bible School, Bibles given during graduations, Bible classes, a community Christmas program and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy in the community. In 2006 the church began a housing counseling program to help lower income, first time home buyers, to purchase homes.

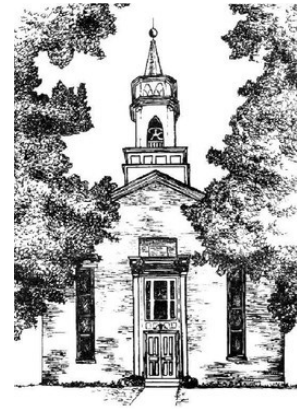
Many families have been blessed by the efforts of God's people at Grace-Trinity. Grace-Trinity has become an "Agent of Transformation" in the Philadelphia Area.



Getting to Know :

Trinity United Church of Christ

27 Maria St, Rehrersburg, PA 19550



While we are a small country church building in a small country village where there is tons of small country charm; our church members and regular attendees are BIG on friendly welcome, BIG on compassionate service to the community and BIG on journeying together as a faith-filled fellowship exploring where God is leading us.

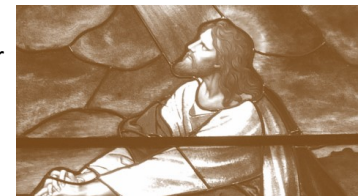
We are a traditional community with an open mind and open heart. This community is very open to collaboration and finding ways to spend time together.

We are a variety of ages and life stages and while we have been through many difficult situations, we are a community that embraces hope and the promise of God's grace and goodness. Many of the local faithful depend on God for their daily sustenance as farmers.

This community is in awe of God's beauty, humbled by the provisions made to them and good stewards of God's resources as well as the resources of the church which they feel called to be. We look after and support one another both in crisis and in everyday life yet respect people's privacy. This community is fun and active with regular fundraising, fellowship, serving and learning events.

How we understand our work to be done both inside and outside our walls.

God loves all of us as we are and delights in spending time with us. God is big enough to handle all our emotions and thoughts, behaviors and histories. This is God's church and this church is not just our building we worship and learn in. This church is so whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you to bring your whole being before God's grace and love and enjoy the fellowship of God and God's church.



Prayers are requested for Trinity UCC in Rehrersburg and Rev. Louis Vetri.