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*[www.lancastercountyheritage.com](http://www.lancastercountyheritage.com)*

*For more information about this and other tours in Lancaster County, please call 717-299-8901 or visit [www.padutchcountry.com](http://www.padutchcountry.com)*

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# *Freedom of Religion*

LANCASTER  
PENNSYLVANIA  
WALKING TOUR

*Meet Lancaster's people  
of faith & see its  
historic houses of worship*

# Penn Square

At the end of your Churchtowne or Hickorytown Tour, be sure to return to Penn Square for a living history lesson in American architectural styles. To fully appreciate the site, stand in the shadow of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, erected in 1874 to honor Lancastrians who fought in the Civil War. Look first at the eleven-story, C. Emlen Urban-designed Griest Building. Tucked behind

the Griest, do not miss the Romanesque Revival Central Market House. It is open for business each Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from early morning until about 2 p.m. At the nearby Georgian-style Heritage Center Museum (open Tuesday through Saturday, the middle of April through December) admission is free. Directly across West King St., the International Modern Mellon Bank rises above one of this architectural style's classic features, an abstract sculpture set in a water fountain. Opposite the Mellon Bank, the



Watt & Shand building, constructed in Beaux Arts fashion from C. Emlen Urban designs, lends a strong early 20th century feel to the area. Completing your circle of the Square, notice the Fulton Bank complex. Originally built of cut and carved stone, circa 1930, it was refaced with red brick in the late 1970s.

The people of Penn Square welcome you to visit any of the nearby shops and restaurants, the market, or the museum. As the people of Lancaster are fond of saying, "Come see us again sometime."

# *How to get here?*

**BY CAR:** From Route 283/30, take "Historic Downtown Lancaster" exit. Follow Fruitville Pike to Prince St. to Vine St. Turn left onto Vine St. and park at Central Parking Garage (also called Pressroom Garage). Southern Market Center is one block east at the corner of Queen St. and Vine St.

**BY TRAIN:** Amtrak provides regular passenger service to its Lancaster Station on the far north side of Lancaster City. Take Red Rose Transit Authority buses to Penn Square. Southern Market Center is one block south of the square on Queen St.

**BY AIR:** Several airlines provide service to Lancaster Airport, six miles north of Lancaster City on Lititz Pike. Rent a car or take a taxicab to Southern Market Center, one block south of Penn Square on Queen St.

For more information about this and other tours, please contact 717-299-8901



# Freedom of Religion Tour

## Introduction

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In 1844 the Lancaster County historian, I. Daniel Rupp, wrote, "If diversity of creeds or multiplicity of sects serve as a standard of deep toned piety and Christian benevolence, then may the people of Lancaster County lay claim to a goodly share. For there is no place upon earth ... that counts more denominations than Lancaster."

The search for religious freedom in Lancaster, Pennsylvania has multiple layers and many stories. Your stroll through two areas of Lancaster city – Churchtowne and Hickorytown – welcomes you to a very small part of this rich and vibrant people of faith story.

To help you get started, the Lancaster County Heritage Partnership and Downtown Ministerium have developed this Freedom of Religion tour featuring eight historic houses of worship established between

1730 and 1850. In addition to the faith traditions introduced here, Lancastrians today worship in many different ways—small, but growing, remnants of Native American communities, various African-American denominations, Spanish-speaking churches, Jewish synagogues, Unitarian Universalists, people practicing Buddhism and Islam, Baptists, Mennonites, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Moravians, and Society of Friends, as well as numerous others.

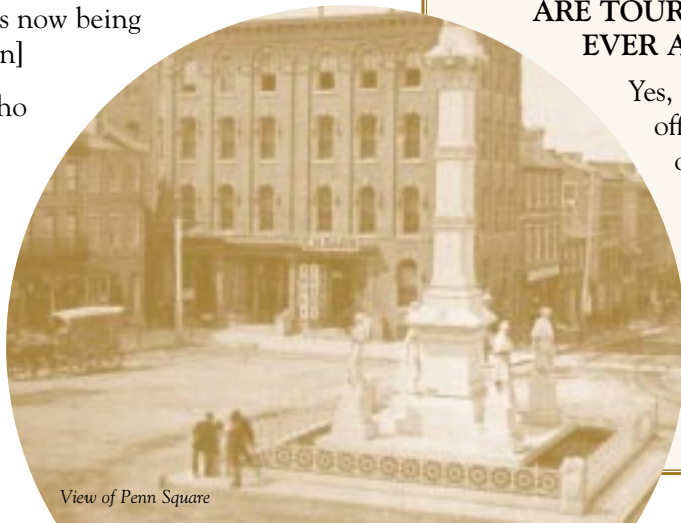
Whether we are Presbyterian or Society of Friends, Methodist or Unitarian, Jewish or Moravian, our story reflects the American story for we are a nation of religious minorities, all seeking freedom to practice faith and worship God. We believe the preservation of this freedom requires learning from others, opening our hearts, and sharing our stories. As you walk through Lancaster's city streets and houses of worship, we hope you will have interactions that increase your awareness and understanding of the never-dying quest for freedom of religion.



# *The City of Lancaster in 1760*

Lancaster's colonial-to-Civil-War-era houses of worship stood tall on the horizon. For nearly two centuries, the steeples of First Reformed, First Presbyterian, and Trinity Lutheran were the tallest structures in town. They could be seen for miles around. According to The Rev. Thomas Barton, rector of St. James Parish (1759-1778), people of faith worshiped in many different ways. He listed the following facts about Lancaster and its houses of worship in 1760:

- Large town with nearly 600 houses
- Chiefly inhabited by Germans of almost every religious denomination
- One Church of England which is but small [St. James]
- A large German Calvinist Church [First Reformed]
- A Lutheran Church [Trinity]
- A Moravian Church [formerly located at the southeast corner of Market St. and Orange St.]
- A large Quaker Meeting House [site of present-day Salvation Army complex]
- A Catholic Chapel [St. Mary's]
- A Presbyterian Church is now being erected [First Presbyterian]
- A few families of Jews who read and observe their Talmud though they have no Synagogue [now called Temple Shaarai Shomayim]
- Country round about Lancaster is possessed by the Mennonites



View of Penn Square

## *How to Take Freedom of Religion Tours*

### **WHEN CAN I TAKE THE TOUR?**

This is a self-guided walking tour. You may take it anytime of the year during daylight hours.

### **WHERE DO I FIND DIRECTIONS?**

Step-by-step walking directions begin on the next page. The self-guided tour route is also plotted on the map. Turn the page and enter Lancaster's people of faith story.

Remember that Lancaster is a living city. Wandering should be tempered with the same awareness and common sense appropriate in any place.

### **WHERE CAN I REST?**

Some of the houses of worship keep their sanctuaries open weekdays for prayer and meditation. Feel free to enter and enjoy their quiet beauty. You are also welcome to visit any of the congregations during regular worship services.

### **WHERE CAN I EAT OR SHOP?**

Along the way, you will pass a variety of small restaurants, shops, and other public establishments. Feel free to ask directional questions inside these places.

### **ARE TOURS OF THE INTERIORS EVER AVAILABLE?**

Yes, many of the houses of worship offer pre-arranged guided tours of their facilities. Call the house of worship telephone numbers listed in this brochure to arrange such a visit. Most places will need several days to several weeks advance notice.

Begin at Southern Market Center, corner of Queen St. and Vine St. Turn right or south onto Queen St. Notice the Salvation Army complex, occupying the former site of Lancaster's first Quaker meetinghouse, established 1753. Just ahead on the right stands 1916 St. Paul's United Methodist Church. This lovely brick and stone Second Gothic Revival structure was designed by C. Emlen Urban, who has been called "Lancaster's first native architect."

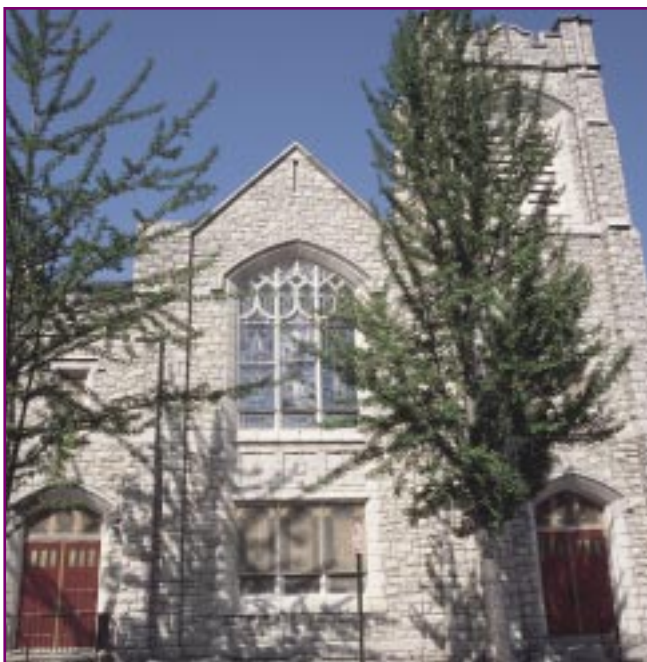
see **CHURCHTOWNE** map - inside back

1. *St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church*

10 West Farnum St. gathered 1849  
717-393-3035

— **CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP** —

1916 brick and stone structure, southwest corner of  
South Queen St. and Farnum St.



— **STORY OF THE PEOPLE** —

St. Paul's United Methodist Church and its houses of worship portray in full glory the ongoing quest for religious freedom. People of many faiths have worshiped in churches originally built by St. Paul's. The first was a brick chapel on German St. (now called Farnum) sold to the Reformed Mennonites in 1855. Today, this chapel, a half block east of Queen St., is home to a Church of God in Christ congregation. The second St. Paul's was red-brick Georgian Revival. It stands directly across Queen St. from the current St. Paul's and was used by Methodists until 1916. A Pentecostal group owned the building until 1924 when they sold to Lancaster's only Greek Orthodox church. This congregation relocated to Hershey Ave., and Brightside Baptist Church purchased the property. Brightside will soon move to its own new location on Hershey Ave., opening the doors to still another community of faith.

The third and present St. Paul's was designed by C. Emlen Urban, a local architect who drew the plans of many notable late 19th and early 20th century Lancaster buildings. At St. Paul's today, church life centers on connections with neighborhood communities and is served by a Latina and a Jamaican pastor.

NEXT STOP

From St. Paul's, continue south on Queen St. On your immediate left, notice 1860 red-brick Brightside Baptist Church, former home of St. Paul's. Cross over Church St. Continue one short block to the fascinating three-way intersection of Howard Ave., Strawberry St., and Queen St. Turn left onto the cozy, narrow Strawberry St. Walk two short blocks to 1818 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, open most weekdays for prayer and meditation. One-half block further southeast on Strawberry St., you may also visit Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Cultural Center, an 1895 former public school also designed by C. Emlen Urban.

see **CHURCHTOWNE** map - inside back

2. *Bethel African  
Methodist  
Episcopal Church*

450 East Strawberry St. gathered 1817  
717-393-8379

— **CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP** —

1818 formstone, southeast corner of Strawberry St.  
and North St.



— **STORY OF THE PEOPLE** —

Africans in Lancaster desired a church of their own where they could worship God and carry out the Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination. In June 1817, James Clendenin and others solicited support from people at St. James Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Churches. In Lancaster as in many other places, Africans were not freely permitted to establish institutions without the intervention of the ruling class. Upon establishment, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church immediately became a beacon in the community, giving hope and refuge to free Africans of Lancaster while providing safe haven to streams of enslaved Africans fleeing a despotic system by way of the Underground Railroad.

In keeping with the tradition of the Free African Society and the African Methodist Church, the present congregation developed Bethel Harambee Historical Services, a company that presents “Living the Experience,” an interactive spiritual journey to the times of the Underground Railroad (for curtain times, call 1-800-510-5899). Passionate about maintaining the integrity of African history interpretation in Lancaster, Bethel continues to speak from African spiritual depths, longing for freedom to develop into a holistic community called Churchtowne.

NEXT STOP

Leaving by way of the front doors of Bethel's pre-Civil War house of worship, turn right onto North St. Follow the path many African freedom seekers took in the years when they were enslaved. Walk northeast two long blocks to South Duke St. Directly across the intersection of North St. and South Duke St., you will see Iglesia San Juan Bautista, the center of Lancaster's Spanish-speaking Catholic parish. Turn left onto South Duke St., and continue three blocks north.

Here you will encounter another unusual confluence of three streets—Church St., Duke St., Farnum St. The southwest corner of Duke and Church is home to the red-brick Crossroads Mennonite Church, former site of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Cross over Church St., and continue north on Duke St. two blocks through Old Towne to Trinity Lutheran Church, open most weekdays for prayer and meditation.

see **CHURCHTOWNE** map - inside back

### 3. *Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity*

31 South Duke St., gathered 1730

717-397-2734

#### — CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP —

1766 red-brick structure, northeast corner of South Duke St. and Mifflin St.



#### — STORY OF THE PEOPLE —

Current wisdom suggests people of Lutheran faith worshipped in Lancaster as soon as Europeans claimed land in the region. The Georgian-style Trinity Church, completed in 1766, is the City's oldest and only surviving colonial house of worship. Its 1794 steeple remained the tallest structure in town for more than a century. Solid wood carvings of the New Testament evangelists occupied the tower's four corners, looking over the city in all directions. Replaced with copies made of laminated wood in 1950, the original figures now greet visitors in the narthex. Through the years, families such as the Fishers, Greenwalds, and Muhlenbergs gave many years of faithful ministry to the congregation. Dr. Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, a noted botanist and first president of Franklin College, served as pastor for 35 years until his death in 1815. Trinity is also the final resting place of Governor Thomas Mifflin, who died on January 20, 1800.

Across Mifflin Street from the church, one can also visit the colonial-style parish house, dedicated in 1955. In the 21st century, the people of Trinity Lutheran seek to remember God's goodness in years past while staying committed to God's service in the present day.

NEXT STOP

Be sure to look up as you leave Trinity. See the replicas of the four evangelists-Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John-one on each of the steeple's four corners. Turn right onto Duke St. and walk one block north. Turn left onto East King St. On the right, you may want to stop and rest on the stone steps of Lancaster's 19th century courthouse. Continue west on King St. through Penn Square. Although you may be tempted to stay in the Square, the Churchtowne Loop has one more stop. Continue through the Square and one block west on King St. Turn left onto South Prince St., and walk two short blocks south to St. Mary's Catholic Church.

see **CHURCHTOWNE** map - inside back

4.

## *St. Mary's Catholic Church*

119 South Prince St. gathered 1741  
717-392-2578

### — CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP —

1854 red-brick structure, southeast corner of South Prince St. and East Vine St.



### — STORY OF THE PEOPLE —

In June 1741, two German-speaking Jesuit priests traveled from Maryland up the Susquehanna and Conestoga Rivers. They landed at Lancaster Town. Within two years, the priests had built a log chapel on lots purchased from the European landholder, James Hamilton. Although they met some anti-Catholic bias, they described the area as a place where “persons of whatever nation or religion” were welcome. In a letter to their superior, they spoke of ministering to Lancaster’s “servants, maids, and day laborers.”

Over the next two centuries, St. Mary’s solidified its reputation as a servant parish in a changing neighborhood. Lydia Hamilton Smith, an Underground Railroad conductor (according to oral tradition) was a member. An American of African and European lineage, she became well known as the friend and confidant of the U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens. The Rev. Dr. Peter McCullagh, an Irish priest who served from 1881 until 1909, brought his love of fine arts to the congregation, encouraging the installation of frescos, stained glass windows, and large oil paintings. In the late 20th century, St. Mary’s established Iglesia San Juan Bautista, a sanctuary for its Spanish-speaking parishioners. Today, the parish embraces people of all ages, cultures, and economic backgrounds.

**RETURN TO PENN SQUARE** (see flip side of map)



Begin at Southern Market Center, southwest corner of South Queen St. and East Vine St. Turn left on Queen St. Walk one block to Penn Square. Cross over Queen St. and walk east (to the right) on King St. Immediately beyond the sprawling steps to the 19th century Lancaster County Courthouse, turn left onto Duke St. Walk one block past the 20th century entrance to the courthouse. Across the way from the courthouse stands the imposing Hamilton Club with its stone towers and turrets. Turn right onto Orange St. Walk east one short block. In 1970 First Presbyterian Church connected its former parsonage to the 1851 house of worship with an enclosed corridor of red-brick and stone arches.

see **HICKORYTOWN** map - inside back

## 5. *First Presbyterian Church*

140 East Orange St., gathered 1742  
717-394-6854

— **CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP** —  
1851 red-brick structure, second block of E. Orange St.



### — **STORY OF THE PEOPLE** —

In 1742, the Scots-Irish Presbyterians of Lancaster Town held their first services in the Centre Square courthouse. A century later, their East Orange Street church provided a place of worship for both President James Buchanan and U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens. Stevens, who rented pew #69 but never officially joined the church, worked diligently to dismantle the system of slavery. Buchanan, who became a communicant member in 1865, was the 15th American president. On the eve of the Civil War, these two Lancastrians were prominent figures on opposite sides of what was then called “the property rights question.” Stevens argued that the Constitution must be amended if it could be read to protect the right of human beings to own other human beings. Slavery was abolished and the Constitution was amended.

Throughout the 20th century, members of the Watt and Shand families, who owned a large Penn Square department store, attended First Presbyterian. Henning W. Prentis, president of Armstrong Cork Co. was an influential member, along with other Armstrong personnel. Most present-day First Presbyterians drive downtown from outlying areas. Others walk from nearby city homes.

**NEXT STOP**

As you leave First Presbyterian, prepare to cross Orange St. Do not jay walk. Go to one of the two crosswalks at opposite ends of the long block, then find the large iron gate facing Orange St. and enter the St. James churchyard. From the gate, look back across the street for a view of First Presbyterian, the city's best preserved example of Greek Revival architecture. Rest awhile among the graves of Lancaster's colonial-era English-speaking citizens. Walk through the shaded archway to the front doors of St James Episcopal Church. The sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation most weekdays.

see **HICKORYTOWN** map - inside back

## 6. *St. James Episcopal Church*

119 North Duke St., gathered 1744  
717-397-4858

### — CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP —

1820 and 1880s red-brick structure, northeast corner of Duke St. and Orange St.



### — STORY OF THE PEOPLE —

Ardent American patriots such as George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, were members of St. James' Parish. Among the loyal subjects of King George was The Rev. Thomas Barton. Ten days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, The Rev. Barton presided over his final service at St. James. When he could not, in good conscience, break his vows to the Church of England, the rector of more than twenty years was asked to stop his work. The church was boarded up, but The Rev. Barton continued to baptize in secret. In 1779 he took refuge in New York. After the war, St. James reopened under new leadership.

In the 1800s, the parish included members of the Robert Coleman family. Daughter Ann was the fiancée of the future president, James Buchanan, and her sister Sarah was in love with the St. James rector, The Rev. William Augustus Muhlenberg, a grandson of The Rev. Dr. Henry Ernest Muhlenberg. After their father refused permission to marry, these sisters both died young. They are buried next to the church. Today, St. James is an inclusive city parish with a diverse congregation drawn from all walks of life. Its worship services are grounded in the liturgical and musical heritage of the Anglican tradition.

NEXT STOP

As you leave St. James, walk north on Duke Street. You will pass the Lancaster County Free Public Library on the right. Opposite the library the City Municipal Building and Duke Street Parking Garage help to anchor this second block of North Duke. Cross over Chestnut St. and walk one long block to Walnut St. Turn left to First United Methodist Church. The main entrance is in a parking lot behind this 1889 Lancaster County limestone house of worship.

see **HICKORYTOWN** map - inside back

## 7. *First United Methodist Church*

29 East Walnut St., gathered 1807  
717-394-7231

### — CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP —

1889 limestone structure, northwest corner of North Duke St. and East Walnut St.



### — STORY OF THE PEOPLE —

Circuit-riding Methodist preachers gave sermons in Lancaster's Centre Square courthouse as early as 1772. First United Methodist traces its origins to an 1807 visit by the Reverend Henry Boehm, a circuit rider who was born and raised in southern Lancaster County. After putting up for the night at the city Public House, Boehm was disturbed by the camaraderie and noise. He began walking the streets looking for quieter company, eventually stopping by the Philip Benedict home on North Duke St. Within a few months, the Benedict family formed the nucleus of Lancaster's first permanent Methodist society. The society gave birth to at least four other Sabbath Schools in the city.

When First Methodist's current sanctuary was dedicated in the late 19th century, one Lancaster newspaper called it "the handsomest church edifice in Lancaster." As the congregation enters the 21st century, this enlarged and renovated stone structure shelters a growing and vibrant group of people. Committed to the city, First United Methodist seeks to serve its community and faith with unflinching dedication.

NEXT STOP

From First United Methodist, continue on Walnut St. and walk one-half block west to Queen St. Turn left and amble downtown. Cross over Chestnut St. into Lancaster Square, the site of a 1970s revitalization project. Immediately on the left notice the Ramada Hotel Brunswick, a large brick courtyard, and the Bulova Technologies building. Cross over Orange St. and turn left. Walk one-half block to First Reformed Church. Enter through the garden gate facing Orange St., and rest awhile among the trees and flowers.

see **HICKORYTOWN** map - inside back

8. *First Reformed Church (United Church of Christ)*

40 East Orange St., gathered 1730  
717-397-5149

— CURRENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP —  
1854 red-brick structure, near center of first block of East Orange St.



— STORY OF THE PEOPLE —

The German Reformed folks of Lancaster gathered for worship as early as 1729-1730. By 1736 they had completed the small town's first house of worship, called First Church or Log Church. Until a steeple was added ten years later, the congregation hung its bell from a hickory tree on the site of the current Lancaster County Courthouse. This tree gave the village its early name, Hickorytown. In 1766, Dr. William Hendel, pastor of First Church, baptized the infant daughter of Nicholas and Catharine Hauer. After her marriage, the daughter lived in Frederick, Maryland, where she became known to fame as Barbara Fritchie, the heroine of a John Greenleaf Whittier poem about the Civil War.

In December 2000, First Reformed entered into a new phase of "transformational ministry". If this leads, as expected, to changes in its design and structure, First Church will follow in the footsteps of other city houses of worship-Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, First Presbyterian, and First United Methodist-where late 20th century expansions strengthened people of faith in their commitment to Lancaster City.

**RETURN TO PENN SQUARE** (see flip side of map)



## Where is Churchtowne?

In 1744 Dr. Adam Simon Kuhn, a parishioner of Trinity Lutheran Church, decided his adjoining farmland could accommodate a small village. He laid out blocks in a northeast/southwest direction, perhaps to follow the flow of the Conestoga River. The resulting cozy, narrow streets, called Adamstown and lined with one-story log dwellings, stood in sharp contrast to the broad avenues and brick and stone houses in the nearby town of Lancaster. Although eventually incorporated into Lancaster, the village designed by Adam Kuhn never lost its distinctive characteristics, embracing people of diverse economic and religious persuasions. Today, it encompasses the area southeast of East Vine St. It is called Churchtowne to honor a living people of faith community with several dozen houses of worship.

## Where is Hickorytown?

When James Hamilton laid out his land grant in the 1720s, he evidently stopped by a fresh spring of water in the shade of a hickory grove. In the area of the grove were two sites – a native community and a road house kept by George Gibson called The Hickory Tree. At least one tree survived the subsequent designation of Lancaster Town. It is said the First Church (First Reformed) used this tree as its bell tower for several years, thus ensuring that the name Hickorytown would not be lost to history. According to legend, the native community, the tavern, and the tree all stood in the approximate vicinity of the present-day Lancaster County Courthouse. Within a century, the location was surrounded by many of the businesses, dwellings, and historic houses of worship that still define the city of Lancaster.

## People of Faith



**DR. HENRY ERNEST MUHLENBERG**  
1753-1815  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE HOLY TRINITY  
PASTOR OF TRINITY FOR 35 YEARS

3.

**LYDIA HAMILTON SMITH**  
1813-1884  
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
CONDUCTOR



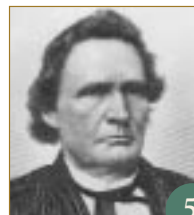
4.

## People of Faith



**JAMES BUCHANAN**  
1791-1868  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
15TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

5.



**THADDEUS STEVENS**  
1792-1868  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
U.S. CONGRESSMAN

5.

*Hickorytown Loop*

- A. Central Parking Garage
- B. Duke St. Parking Garage
- C. Central Market
- D. Lancaster Square
- E. Lancaster County Library
- F. Southern Market Center
- G. Bethel A.M.E. Cultural Center

- 5. First Presbyterian Church
- 6. St. James Episcopal Church
- 7. First United Methodist Church
- 8. First Reformed Church (United Church of Christ)

*Bunchtowne Loop*

- 1. St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- 2. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
- 4. St. Mary's Catholic Church

