

April 2023
Trinity UCC
Topics

“Then Jesus said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”

- Luke 9:23-24

In Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book, “The Cost of Discipleship”, he writes, “When Christ calls a [man or woman] he bids them come and die.” It’s not the best advertising line . . . “come and die” . . . but it is the life-changing proposal Jesus offers to us.

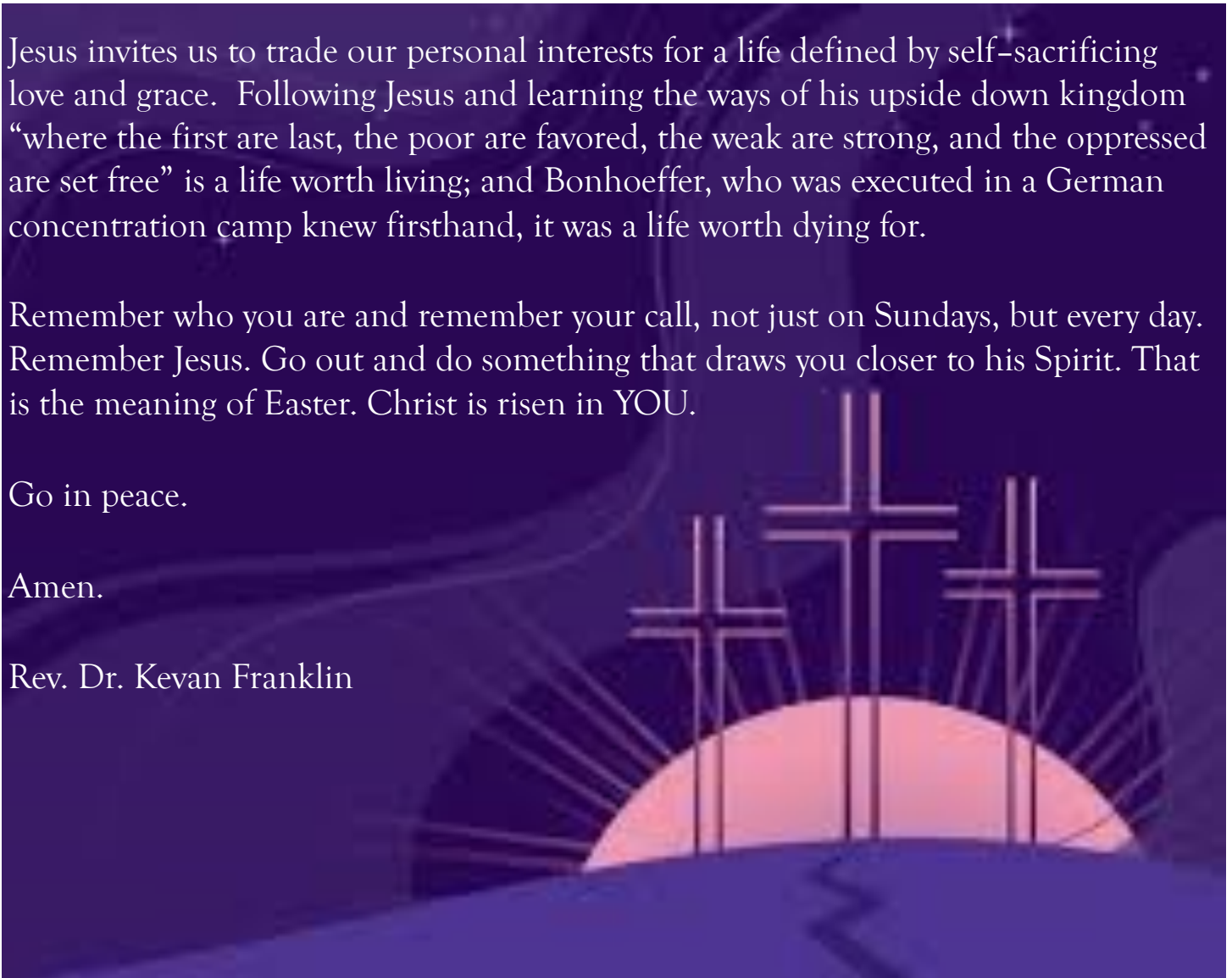
Jesus invites us to trade our personal interests for a life defined by self-sacrificing love and grace. Following Jesus and learning the ways of his upside down kingdom “where the first are last, the poor are favored, the weak are strong, and the oppressed are set free” is a life worth living; and Bonhoeffer, who was executed in a German concentration camp knew firsthand, it was a life worth dying for.

Remember who you are and remember your call, not just on Sundays, but every day. Remember Jesus. Go out and do something that draws you closer to his Spirit. That is the meaning of Easter. Christ is risen in YOU.

Go in peace.

Amen.

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin



Associate Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

I am so pleased to report the return of a program named "Called to Care." This month, thanks to Janet Burkhart, Pastor Kevan, myself, and many volunteers, we will start training and preparing for visitation by lay ministers again. In the United Church of Christ, the Called to Care program gives lay ministers an opportunity to go out two by two, visiting our members who are homebound.

When I learned for the first time in seminary about how to do congregational care, I heard a few tips. They have been taking root in my heart and I share them because I believe they not only are for professional and trained lay caregivers, they are for all of us. Here are my ideas. Let me know what you would add.

Listening is healing ministry. Do you know how rare good listening is? Extraordinarily rare. In the Scripture, Jesus listens. He especially listens to those that others do not. Have you listened well, lately? Have you been listened to? How does it feel when someone really listens? When they don't? Listening heals.

We do NOT have the power to fix anyone's problems, nor do we need to. It is not in our power to fix. You see, Jesus tends to be a healer, not a fixer. You see, to "fix" someone is to believe they are inherently flawed. Jesus does NOT believe that about you. Jesus sees you as complete, in wholeness. Through seeing that wholeness, he healed. Can you just listen and not try to fix? If so, you might be right for Called to Care.

Caring means showing up for someone. In the good times and the hard times, in the suffering and the celebration. We do that very well in church. Do you show up for others in their pain and suffering, and joy and celebration? If so, you are a caregiver.

Do you think that pastors have some kind of magical formula for being ministers? Nope. We have ourselves. Just like you have your self. Did you know that your ministry matters as much as your professional pastor's does? We know it. I bet you know it, too.

Let's go about loving one another and doing good. With patience, and faith, we are healers for one another. Let's go and care!

Respecting the Spirit in you,
Rev. Emily Howard

Pat Gerber thanks everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and concern for her recent illness. It was greatly appreciated.

Trinity's
Faith Formation and Arts
Mind, Body and Spirit Connections

The first week of this month is when we observe Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday... Maundy Thursday... Good Friday... and then of course, joyful Easter Sunday! Praying that all of you take some time reflecting and thanking Jesus for being willing to go through all He went through for us. Praying that you also take time to take care of yourself, physically, spiritually, mentally and artfully!

On **Wednesday, April 12th at 11:30, Trinity Women** are invited to have conversation and lunch at "Connections" on Country Club Drive (behind West View Manor)

The **week of April 16th-22nd** I will be on vacation, so no Sunday School for Kids, Trinity's Wellness Group, Yoga, Soup and Bible Study, C.A.T., Choir or Bell Choir that week. Please plan to join us all the other weeks though!

Trinity's Youth and Friends Movie Night will be on the 23rd at 4:00-7:00
A huge thank you to Geologist, Jim Shoots for sharing his wonderful collection of gems, fossils and rocks with C.A.T., Sunday School Kids and Trinity Youth. It was such a blessing for all the kids to get to see so many different and beautiful things of God's world. Thank you!

Peace to all.

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts



Financial Position February, 2023

Trinity UCC Wooster – *“Embracing and celebrating God’s Love”*

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>**2023 Year to date**</u>		<u>**Last year actual**</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$14,302	\$20,298	\$30,552	\$37,524	\$32,499
Expenses	<u>\$29,651</u>	<u>\$28,800</u>	<u>\$56,983</u>	<u>\$57,892</u>	<u>\$52,054</u>
Net	\$(15,349)	(\$8,502)	\$(26,431)	(\$20,368)	(\$19,555)

Comments:

February ended up with a shortfall of contribution income by \$6k while our expenses were slightly over-budget by \$800. We continue to see increases in both gas and electric utilities. Our postage was above budget as we loaded up our bulk permit and our payroll services bill was over as a result of year-end processing.

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (6,143)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$30,643

Trinity Breakfast program – 27 years

Established in the summer of 1995.



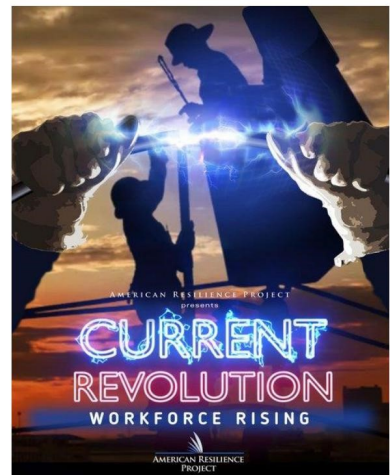
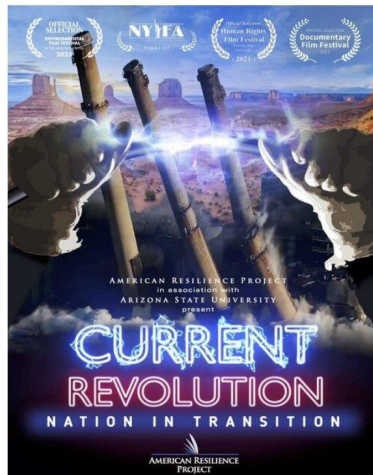
Mexico is a horrible place in the news today. Let me show you what we find on our Esperanza Mission Trip to Tijuana. This is a group photo with Ulysses & Mirna and two of their three children at the end of the workday. They are fun loving, hard working people who want a better life for their children!

Earth Day Celebration

You are invited to join together for a soup & salad lunch and to view *The Current Revolution* film series. Discussion will follow. Bring a friend and celebrate with us.



WHEN: Sunday, April 23, 2023 @ 12:00 PM
WHERE: Trinity United Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall

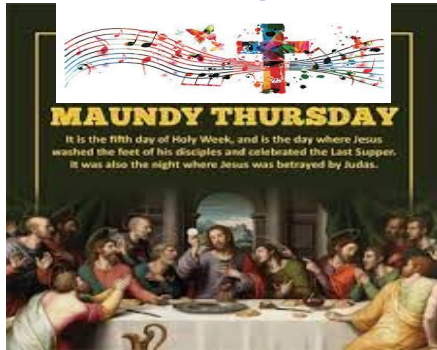


Sponsored by the Mission & Justice Committee of Trinity UCC

Palmer Sunday
April 2nd 10:30am



MAUNDY THURSDAY



APRIL 6TH 7PM
JOHN 13:1-35
CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS
OF THE LAST SUPPER
IN ART AND MUSIC
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
WITH COMMUNION

APRIL 7TH
12PM GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE
IN THE SANCTUARY
1:30PM WOOSTER INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP
ON THE SQUARE
"NO DIRECTION HOME"
7PM SERVICE



Easter Sunday



April 9th
10:30am
Matthew 28:1-10
"After the Sabbath"

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am

All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube

Live services are available

Trinity UCC

April 2nd

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

“Know the things that make for peace”

April 6th Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-35

7 PM

Creative expressions of the Last Supper in Art and Music
Fellowship Hall with Communion

April 7th Good Friday

Noon Good Friday Observance

1:30 Wooster Area Interfaith Partnership on the
Square “No Direction Home”

7 PM Service

April 9th Easter Sunday

10:30 AM

Matthew 28:1-10

“After the Sabbath”

April 16th Emily

1 Peter 1:3-9

“We’ve got the Power”

April 23rd Earth Day

Luke 24:13-35

“On the Road Again”

Earth Day movie and a meal after worship

April 30th

John 10:1-10

“The Gate for the Sheep”

Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
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Church Staff

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Rev. Emily Howard - *Associate Pastor*

Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Jennifer Lendon, *Administrative Assistant*

Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Brandi Stevenson, *Assitant Business Manager*

Alyssa Kamp, *Custodian*

Yulia Allison *Nursery Staff*



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Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster



Our Worship Service is Broadcast-
ed on WKVX 960 AM every
Sunday morning at 8:30AM.