

March 2023

Trinity UCC

Topics

Trinity Friends,

Lent is a time for soul searching. It is a time to consider how God is calling you to be a blessing in the world. This is why Lent has traditionally been a time of re-commitment.

When Samuel asked Jesse if all his sons are here, Jesse replied that his youngest son is keeping the sheep. Apparently, it never crossed Jesse's mind that David would ever be a suitable king of Israel and wasn't worthy to be considered.

But when David arrives, the Lord commands Samuel to "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one". Although David had not yet reached maturity, there was in him a potential for leadership. "And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward".

One of the main messages of the Bible is "God's ways" are not "our" ways. God does not look upon the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart to see whether you are righteous. How is God calling you to develop your gifts for service?

The letter to the Ephesians focuses on the contrast between darkness and light by reminding the followers of Jesus that they no longer live in darkness "but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light" (5:8). We are called to larger things, and to discover what is pleasing to the Lord, and learn what is "good and right and true" (v. 9). The beloved community is shaped by the faithful lives of people like you.

During Lent and Holy Week, we understand that we live in a world where peaceful Jesus is crucified and dies without one earthy thing while the violent Herod lives in luxury and becomes the king. Turn this old world around. Use Lent as an opportunity to change! Turn your world around! If there is some wonderful thing that you've always wanted to do or to tackle, some mountain you've wanted to climb, Start now! Use Lent as an opportunity to embrace the life that God promised you!

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,

Rev. Dr. Kevan S. Franklin

Matthew 11 keeps popping up in my ministry recently. Perhaps it's meant for you; "Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Associate Pastor's Message

Solidarity through Symbols: The Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry comes to Ohio

Dear friends in faith,

In the month of February, Lin, Susan, and I traveled to view a program from the UCC churches of New Hampshire. The Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry was created as a visual representation of the last words of George Floyd as he was brutally murdered by police officer Derek Chauvin. The quilts were displayed at Pilgrim UCC in Cuyahoga Falls which is a former Underground Railroad Church. To view the quilts and read about this ministry, visit www.saqm.org. We saw quilts that echoed our own quilters' ability to include meaningful details that symbolize sacred meaning. Colors representing a range of emotions, a range of skin tones. Batik fabrics and African language and symbols from Ghana represented George Floyd's African heritage. Tiny hearts quilted freehand around the word "Mama," which George Floyd cried out in his last moments, made us stop and pray. We found a special connection to the project as we saw quilts made by UCC friends in faith such as the Rev. Jim Christensen's community in New England. Although viewing the quilts is a somber reflective experience, quilts also symbolize in a very practical way love and hope. Thus, local churches in Akron created the final quilt, seen below in the shape of a cross. They dedicated it to Jayland Walker who was shot 90 times, killed by 46 police bullets, in Akron.

I wish I could express what power a symbol has to form our hearts, but the truth is, words can't do it justice. Yet, symbols have the most power when they create space for action. Thus, the event concluded with a panel discussion including Rev. Raymond Greene of the Freedom BLOC, Lt. Thomas McMillen of NOBLE Cleveland working for police reform, and Senator Vernon Sykes for Ohio District 28 - leaders working in our very own Northeast Ohio for tangible change, life-giving change, hopeful change. We can do our small part. Hope comes when we participate.

Blessed to be a blessing,
Rev. Emily



Art, Faith Formation, Mind, Body & Spirit Connections at Trinity

During the season of Lent, it is a good time to focus on our spiritual and physical selves as we remember all that Jesus did for us and wants us to do. We are servants of God and are expected to reach out to show God's love in ways the people we come in contact with need it. You are invited to participate in some or all of the things I share with you.

Sundays- **A.C.T.** at 8:00am via zoom. 9:15-10:15 **Kid's Faith Formation.** Worship at 10:30. **Adult Faith Formation** group studying "Creation Care" after worship each week.

On March 12th we will be having "**God's People in Community**" lunch after worship. We will also be having an opportunity to learn how to create **Ukrainian Eggs** taught by Pat Anderson. This will be from 12:30- 3:30. If interested, please let Suzanne know, or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Narthex.

On Sunday, March 26th at 4:00 **Youth Movie and a Meal** gathering. 6th graders -12th Graders and friends are invited to join us.

Mondays- you are invited to gather at 10:30 for **Trinity's Wellness Group** in the Parlor. A **Lenten Bible study** will be at 7:00 via zoom.

Tuesdays- 10:30 **Yoga** in the Chapel; **Lenten Bible Study and Soup** at noon in the Parlor.

Wednesdays- **C.A.T.** anytime after 4:30-7:00. We are working on organizing activities for younger kids so they can join us as well!

March 15th at 11:30 **Trinity Women and Friends** Lunch in the Parlor.

Thursdays- **Choir** at 5:30 in the Chapel and **Bell Choir** at 7:00 in the Balcony.

Fridays- 10:00 **Yoga Story Time** in the Chapel. Led by Jen Seman for kids ages birth to 5 years old and an adult to be there with them.

We are working on offering Chair Yoga at Trinity. If you are interested, please let me know what day(s) and time(s) work best for you. Thank you.

Thank you to the people who attended the "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" and to Gabby Wright for her assistance. Looking forward to continuing this next year!

Peace to all during this season of Lent.

Suzanne Feltner, D.C.E. and Arts



TRINITY CLIMATE CRISIS ARTICLE FOR MARCH 2023

Ohio has recently made the National News! Unfortunately, it was for an ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER, due to the 50 car derailment of a 150 car Norfolk and Southern Train at East Palestine, Ohio. The train was transporting goods, including chemicals in the derailed tank cars, involved in the manufacture of plastics, from Madison, Illinois to Conway, PA. Conway, on the Ohio River, is about 20 miles from East Palestine by car, and the huge Royal Dutch Shell Plastic Plant at Monaca, that I mentioned in the November Trinity Newsletter, is about 1-5 miles.

The chemicals involved were:

- 1) Vinyl chloride-used to produce PVC Plastic and vinyl products. Acute exposure to high levels in the air, are linked to Central Nervous System effects, and chronic exposure linked to liver damage, including a rare form of liver cancer. When Vinyl chloride burns, it decomposes into hydrogen chloride (irritating and corrosive to any tissue with which it comes in contact) and phosgene (is highly poisonous and was used extensively in World War One as a choking agent).
- 2) Ethylene glycol Monobutyl ether-it is a VOC (volatile organic compound), eye irritant, effects the nose, throat, lungs, brain, liver and kidneys. It is a component of cleaning products, latex paint, printing ink, cosmetics, spot removers, in plastic making, plus many other products. It is explosive if heated.
- 3) Ethylhexyl acrylate-a carcinogen, can cause burning and irritation of skin and eyes, and inhalation can irritate the nose and throat, causing shortness of breath and coughing.
- 4) Isobutylene-inhalation can cause headache, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue. High levels can cause coma and death. Highly flammable gas and explosive.
- 5) Butyl acrylate-the vapor can cause eye irritation, runny nose, scratchy throat, difficult breathing, redness and cracking of skin, headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. Repeated exposure can cause permanent lung damage. Produces poisonous gas in fire.

After reading this list, you can see how the toxins that burned in the wreckage had the potential to be deadly, if the people did not evacuate the area. The EPA has labeled the area a "Superfund Site", Such is the current state of our existence. Railroads and pipelines carry such chemicals to many areas in the country and remember, the Royal Dutch Shell Plastic Plant is only one of five such plants proposed throughout the Ohio River Valley. This is an unpleasant reminder of the environmental risks we face, as long as we use fossil fuels, which supports the burgeoning plastics industry! There is hope, if we express our concerns to our State and Federal Governments about the harm these proposed added plastic plants will do to our personal health and the health of our Climate, which is already in Crisis! Join an environmental group! Contact: Walmart, Buehler's, Meijer about reducing plastic packaging.

Use reusable shopping bags. Reduce, wherever possible, personal use of plastic items!

Carol Eberhart for the Climate Crisis Committee

THANK YOU, TRINITY FRIENDS

What a joy it was to see so many people gathered at our Alternative Gift Market on December 4th! People from Trinity, other local churches, and our community enjoying lunch, music, and the company of old friends and new; learning from the displays highlighting projects of grassroots organizations working to improve lives worldwide; supporting this work through donations in honor of friends and loved ones; and fair trade shopping for unique gifts made around the world. After two years of holding the Alternative Gift Market online, without many of the human interactions that bring so much joy at this holy time of year, what a blessing it was to stand back and watch the Market this year.

We raised \$696 to benefit the Severe Weather Shelter. As many of you know, the shelter provides people experiencing homelessness with a hot meal, a time and place to sit and socialize with friends, safe harbor from the cold weather, and a cot and warm blankets for a good night's sleep. While food and welcome are provided by volunteers from 6-10pm, we need paid overnight staff to keep the shelter open all night long. The donations from lunch are used solely for that purpose.

Approximately \$6300 was donated to benefit grassroots projects in the US and around the world. These projects address poverty, hunger, health and well-being, education, environment, women's rights, and economic development, and have all been carefully vetted by Alternative Gifts International.

Thank you to all who came down to Fellowship Hall after our service to have lunch, learn, shop and relish the spirit of the market. Special thanks to Trinity's kitchen volunteers: Pat Gerber (leader extraordinaire) and Michael Lilburn; soup cooks: Margaret Bourne, Jennifer Faust, Doris Sigg and Lin Wierwille; cashier David Lilburn; and all around helper Marylou Lalonde for assistance with decorations, greeting shoppers as they arrived, and especially for staying long after the market ended to help with clean up. The market is a team effort by five downtown churches working together, but the added support from Trinity's mission committee and other members is so important and gratifying.

May 2023 bring to fruition the hopes and dreams that Alternative Gift Markets raise up!

Nancy Lilburn for Trinity's Mission Committee



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. It channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. Trinity UCC will collect this offering March 19, 2023.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am

All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube
Live services are available
Trinity UCC

5 March

“Sacred Space” Psalm 121

Holy Communion

12 March

“Journey by Stages” Exodus 17:1-7

Lunch After Worship and Ukrainian Egg Craft

19 March

Emily Howard

One Great Hour Offering

“Repent and Restore - Justice for Indigenous Peoples Today”

Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-7

26 March

“Reading the signs” John 11:1-45

Coming Up:

April: Holy Week

April 2 Palm Sunday Communion

April 6 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm

April 7 Good Friday

April 9 Easter

April 23 Earth Day Meal and Video after Worship

Financial Position January, 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	\$16,250	\$17,227	\$16,250	\$17,227	\$15,249
Expenses	<u>\$27,332</u>	<u>\$29,093</u>	<u>\$27,332</u>	<u>\$29,093</u>	<u>\$26,208</u>
Net	\$(11,082)	(\$11,866)	(\$11,082)	(\$11,866)	(\$10,959)

Comments:

We start out 2023 performing pretty much as expected. On the income side, our contribution income was \$2,000 under budget while we received \$1,600 in deposits for North Street Mission for this summer. On the expense side both our gas and electric were over budget as we had one month at an increased cost before the new utility contracts became effective.

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (6,912)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$30,846

Trinity Breakfast program – 27 years

Established in the summer of 1995.



Esperanza Mission trip 2023—March 14-21, 2023

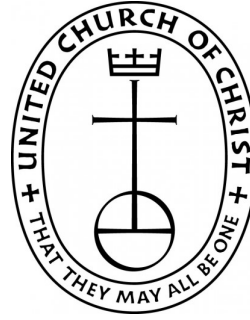
Joint Mission Trip with Trinity and the College of Wooster

Follow our mission trip blog: www.esperanzamission.blogspot.com or

Find the blog on the social media page on the church website: www.trinityucc.org

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Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*

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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www.trinityucc.org



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