

May 2023 Trinity UCC Topics

Trinity Friends,

Pentecost Sunday is May 28th! Some of you may remember the custom of wearing red on that Holy Day. Sometimes the importance of Pentecost is overshadowed by Christmas and Easter, but should be viewed as just as significant. God the Father, God the Son but what about God present with us in the Holy Spirit?

Paul described the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5; "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

One summer a large tomato plant grew up just outside Trinity's front door. Clinging tightly to the handicap button post. The vine seemed to spring up overnight! Throughout the summer, it never ceased producing fruit! It gave red, pear shaped, tomatoes about an inch long for everyone who walked by. As people came and went from the breakfast program, each one took only what they needed and there was never a time when the plant was barren. Where did this plant come from!?!?! Did a well-intentioned member plant it as a surprise? No one ever claimed so! Did a bird leave the seed in just the right location the prior summer? Did someone cast away a tomato and the seeds took root? We may never know the source of our abundance in an earthly way!

God created us to enjoy abundance and not to close our hands to those in need or keep our gifts to ourselves. The heart of Pentecost people is focused on giving thanks for all that God has freely given. When we focus on Gratitude we move beyond our personal self-interest to the broader concerns of all people. When we share there is always enough. This is the meaning of Communion. The word "Eucharist" itself means "Thanksgiving." We see the Spirit most clearly in the life and teachings of Jesus. Pentecost reminds you not to miss the point that God's Spirit also shines in the lives of the people who sit in the pew next to you.

"If you look at what you have in your life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough."- Oprah Winfrey

"If you want love and abundance in your life, give it away."- Mark Twain

"Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life." Rumi

The more we give the gifts of the Spirit to others; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will multiply in ways that go far beyond our imagination. Be mindful of these gifts of the Spirit and give thanks wherever you find them growing in the most unexpected places!

An old Irish Farm blessing; "May the rains sweep gentle across your fields, May the sun warm the land, May every good seed you have planted bear fruit, and late summer find you standing in fields of plenty."

The early church had no fear of shortage or scarcity! They knew that there is abundance in community .

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,

Dr. Franklin

Associate Pastor's Message

Shalom, kindred spirits!

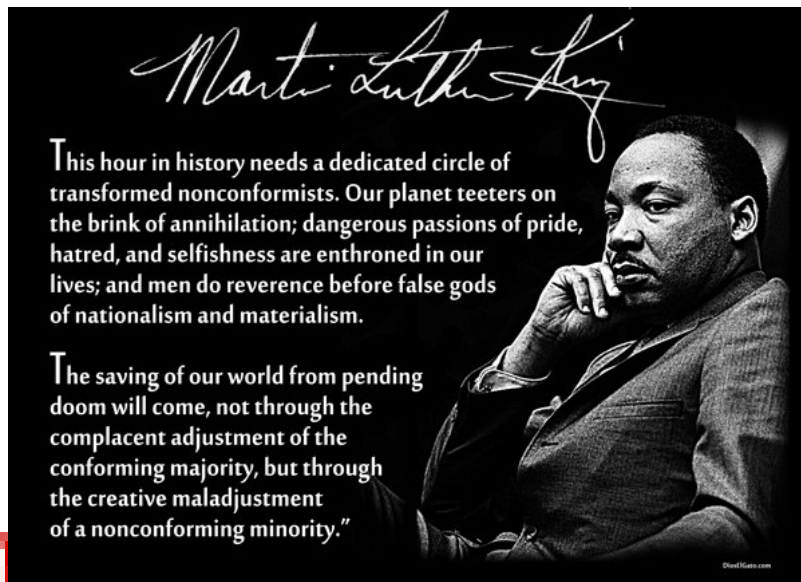
“The saving of our world from pending doom will come, not through the complacent adjustment of the conforming majority, but through the creative maladjustment of a nonconforming minority.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This month is mental health month. I reflect on Trinity's contributions to health in all aspects - body, mind, and soul. Frankly, I am pretty sure Jesus would like to see one thing about our congregation - the ways we are creatively maladjusted!

I lift up to you so many ways we are doing God's will - by being oddballs who see glimpses of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God. By being people of shalom - God's peace, wholeness, and healing. Krishna-moorthi, Hindu philosopher, is paraphrased as saying, “It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.”

We are in the middle of God's kingdom work at Trinity when we do all the weird things we do - care for the poor, care for the environment, care for anti-racism, care about women's rights, care about ALL the unwellness that are results from social ills. What do we do about it? We create a place of shalom here. We can do it. See you at church.

Emily



Trinity Faith Formation, Arts and Wellness, May, 2023

May can be a busy time of year for many of us. Hopefully you will still take care of your mind and spirit through art, music, faith formation and find ways to care for the body that God gave you.



God's People in Community gathering after worship on **Sunday, May 14th**. Please join us for a light lunch and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

Trinity Women's Group will gather at Trinity on **Wednesday, May 17th at 11:30**. Bring your own meal. 😊

Join us for an **Ascension Day** short worship service and celebration on **18th at 7:00** at Oak Hill Park.



Thursday, May



Gather with me after worship on **Sunday, May 21st** for **Drum Circle**.

Brass Music Lovers are invited to attend **NEO5 Brass Quintet at 6:30pm on Friday, May 26th** at John Streeters Garden Amphitheater, 2122 Williams Rd, Wooster (OARDC). This is a free concert and open to the public.



You are invited to join us for a **Pentecost Celebration Party on Sunday, May 28th** after Worship in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you then!



Financial Position March, 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	\$16,563	\$15,223	\$47,115	\$52,747	\$42,970
Expenses	<u>\$37,728</u>	<u>\$38,397</u>	<u>\$94,711</u>	<u>\$96,289</u>	<u>\$80,132</u>
Net	\$(21,165)	(\$23,174)	\$(47,596)	(\$43,542)	(\$37,162)

Comments:

During March, our contribution income was \$1800 above budget!!

On the expense side, electric continues to run over budget by almost \$600. Payroll was high as it was a three pay period month (this was budgeted)

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (12,674)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$28,909

Trinity Breakfast program – 27 years

Established in the summer of 1995.



PayPal



Venmo



Vanco

Many options are available to you when making donations to Trinity. One option is to make a donation online by reading one of the QR codes above. You can choose PayPal (QR code on the left) the Vanco code (on right) or the Venmo to donate from a checking account or credit card. Many thanks for your support of Trinity!



Trinity Climate Crisis Article

O Lord, all creation is in thy care.
Give me eyes to see that every living creature
Speaks to us of your love. —A Prayer

In the early morning, in early spring, down in the Funk Bottoms to the southwest of Wooster, the birds are calling. The fog has just lifted, and the still water reflects the clouds overhead. We are searching for the Sand Hill Crane. Our best chance is to listen carefully for the loud far-off gurgles of the crane call or to see their thin brown silhouette in a far field covered with old corn-stalks from the Fall. Unlike the herons or egrets, their preference is not the edge of the water, but still close to water, to stand shielded by tall reeds or out in the marsh grasses. The point is, you must go where they are to see them.

This will be the third year Dan and I have participated in the Ohio Crane Survey. We are assigned a plot in the Funk Bottoms to seek out and count all the cranes we can find in the early dawn. It is all over by 8:30. Last year Wayne County had more Sandhill Cranes than any other county in Ohio. We must have a suitable habitat of still water, open land and lots of things for the cranes to eat. The sandhill crane is one of the oldest bird species and has been around for at least 2 million years. But as with many animals that enjoyed and enriched Planet Earth for so long, recently they have run into hard times, and their numbers have started to be of concern.

We know now the best way to ensure the survival of this remarkable bird is to conserve their habitat, and thus it is no mere coincidence that they are now so relatively numerous here in Wayne County, thanks to two very precious local places of refuge for both migratory and nesting species—Funk Bottoms and the Killbuck Marsh. Sandhill Cranes migrate from the southern US and Mexico to breed in North America and Canada, then return to warm climates in the fall. Indeed, it is not just our spot on earth here in Wayne County that we need to consider, but the larger fly ways everywhere that these bird use to migrate.

The bald eagle is also thriving in Ohio, in the years after laws were passed banning DDT. Both cranes and eagles are whopping big birds, easily visible and fun to watch. However, consider the little creatures not so easy to see and find. All are precious in both God's eye and should be in ours as well. The little warblers, hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, amphibians and a million other species are struggling to survive a loss of habitat. Remember we have already lost the Ivory Billed Woodpecker, the Passenger Pigeon, and many other fellow members of the living order to over-development, over-hunting, to *overlooking*. So, watch out for even the smallest of beings, even the sparrow. Creation needs to be taken care of, and we are God's stewards.

—Margaret Bourne, April 11, 2023

A crane fact! Baby sandhill cranes are called colts, because of their long strong legs.. A day after hatching, these bables are able to travel with their parents!



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. It re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the United Church of Christ does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. It re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Trinity United Church Of Christ

PENTECOST
Sunday

May 28, 2023
Starts @ 10:30 AM

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:3-4

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Please join us in celebrating the
RETIREMENT
{ of }
The Rev. Evan Fischer
After 25 years at Saint James Episcopal Church

May 12, 2023
 Open House - Come Anytime Between 5:00-7:30 pm

St. James Episcopal Church
 122 E. North Street, Wooster, OH 44691

An RSVP to office@stjameswooster.org or 330-262-4476 would be appreciated

ASCENSION DAY OF
Jesus Christ
 MAY 18TH 2023
 7PM
 @OAK HILL PARK
 WORSHIP AND DESSERTS

"Celebrate The Resurrection"

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am



All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube
Live services are available on our website at
Trinity UCC.org

May 7

Holy Communion
“Where do you belong?”
1 Peter 2:1-10



May 14

Mother's Day
“Can I get a witness?”
Acts 17:21-34

May 21

Emily
Acts 1:6-14
“A Holy Chaos”

May 28

Pentecost Sunday
Strengthen the Church Offering
“Learning a new Language”
Acts 21:1-21



Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
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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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www.trinityucc.org



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