

Save the Date:

The Interfaith Justice Coalition is celebrating the Season of Creation with a pet/animal blessing on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30. We will have the blessing at one of the parks in Wooster. This is a save the date and time (Sunday, October 1 at 5:30PM). I hope that you will consider joining us.

Save the date for the NAACP's Freedom Fund Dinner on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM.

10 AM Tuesday Bible Study is BACK! Starting

Wednesday Night Prayer and Communion 6:30 pm returns September 20<sup>th</sup>!

Trinity Friends,

I want to remind you that the first and greatest commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and all of your mind and all of your soul."

Richard Foster wrote in his book; "Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home"

"Our God is not made of stone. God's heart is the most sensitive and tender of all. No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small. A cup of cold water is enough to put tears in the eyes of God. Like the proud mother who is thrilled to receive a wilted bouquet of dandelions from her child, so God celebrates our feeble expressions of gratitude." You will find that the most cherished gifts are given from the heart? God continues to shower the earth with blessings from the goodness of who God is. How much of the generous spirit of God shines through us?

Pick up the Mantle this fall. There is someone in your life or in the life of Trinity who fits the pattern of the kind of person who glorifies God and shares their gifts with the world. Pick up that mantle. It may be someone you know personally or someone who has a notable history in the world. Study that person and pick up the Spirit of the mission. Remember our vows of membership: To resist oppression and evil and to show love and justice to others.

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,  
Dr. Franklin

<sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:29-30

## Associate Pastor's Message

Hello, Trinity! September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. In honor and respect for mental health care, this month, I invite you to challenge yourself one day to speak up about mental health in your own circles, and to learn more about mental health at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

Sometimes, hope comes from an intervention that is changing the world - 5 million calls have been received on the **988 phone number** since it was instituted in 2022 (NPR, July 2023). More people are reaching out as a result of this intervention.



One verse that speaks to suicide's prevention comes from the apostle Paul - who, some intuit, himself felt suicidal at times. Paul writes in Galatians 6:2, Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If you have lost a loved one to suicide, we are here to listen and be with you. If you have a loved one who is suicidal, or find yourself there today, we will help you find support. God is still speaking, and God's word is a word of hope.

In Christ's love, Rev. Emily Howard, Associate Pastor

*"We are gathered here today in worship and prayer to thank you for the gift of life in all of its splendor and its sorrow. Even in our darkest moments, we are grateful for this gracious gift. But in our celebration of life, we pause to acknowledge that some among us have suffered greatly from the loss of a loved one to suicide. They are crushed with grief, wondering if anything will ever make sense again - if they will ever heal and recover from the devastation of their loss. There are also some among us who find themselves on the edge of despair, either too numb to feel much of anything or full of anxious, dark thoughts of ending their life. Hope has begun to fade and they are holding on by a thread.*

*God, in these moments, may we remember that we are never alone - not even for a single moment. Thank you for your promise to never abandon us or forsake us, and for the security of your dear presence ever within us. Thank you for the promise that nothing can separate us from your love found in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

*Thank you, also, for the reassurance that we don't have to walk this pilgrim path by ourselves; thank you for the sacred companions on the journey—brothers and sisters who are willing to listen to us, cry with us, pray with us, hold us, stand with us in our loneliness, be Jesus-in-the-flesh reminders of your nearness to us, and especially for those who have faith for us when our own faith falters. Thank you, too, for healers in the medical and mental health field with their special expertise and care.*

*For those who need a fresh infusion of hope, may our [church] provide that hope - hope to hold on, praying expectantly for better days ahead, for the return of joy, and the release of sorrow. May those of us not currently experiencing grief or loss respond to our aching brothers and sisters in pain with tender compassion, so that we will be able to say together 'Where there is faith, there is hope; where there is hope, there is LIFE.' In Jesus' name, Amen"*

~Prayer by Kay Warren, [www.theactionalliance.org](http://www.theactionalliance.org)

# *“Mind, Body and Spirit” at Trinity UCC*

*September, 2023*

Fall is on the way and it is a good time to look into ways to take care of our minds, bodies and our spirits and ways to spend time with other people. Here are some ways you can do this:

**A.C.T. (Anti-racist Coalition at Trinity)** This group gathers on zoom at 8:00am on Sunday mornings.

**Kids’ Sunday School** meets at 9:15- 10:10 Sunday mornings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Worship service** 10:30 in the Sanctuary or live on Facebook.

**Bible Study** led by Pastor Franklin will be starting on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the Parlor.

**Yoga Classes** led by certified instructor, Lyn Shoots. We have added more gatherings for this! Tuesdays at 10:30 or 6:30pm and Thursdays at 10:30; Chair Yoga on Wednesdays at 2:00-2:45. Cost for these is \$5.00 per class.

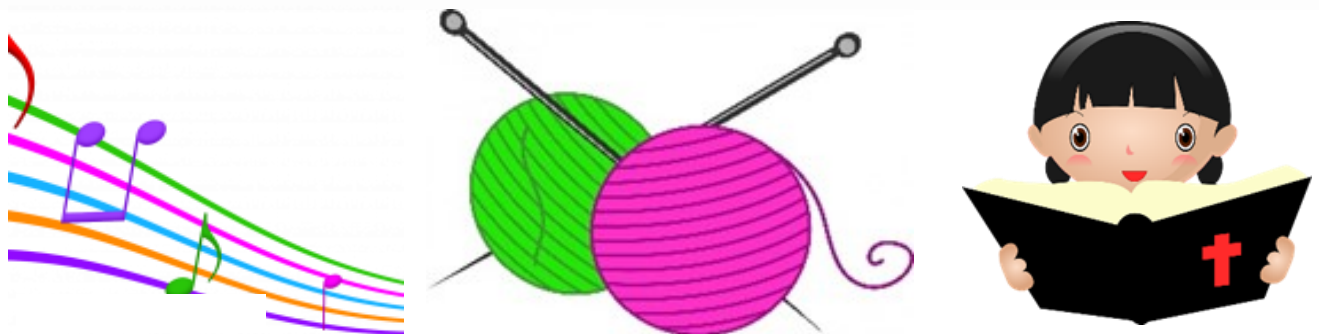
**C.A.T. (Children’s Arts at Trinity)** will begin again on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Kids are welcome any time after 4:30 until 7:00pm.

**Knititation (Crochet, too)** is a time to gather to knit (or crochet), breathe and have fellowship together. This will be happening on Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm and/or Fridays 11:00-12:00 in the Parlor. This starts on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Trinity Women’s Gathering** will be on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. BYOL and dessert will be provided.

**Choir Rehearsals** are Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 in the Chapel. Would love to have you come and sing with us! We will start meeting weekly on September 14<sup>th</sup>. **Bell Choir Rehearsals** are on Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 in the Balcony. Please think about joining this!

**Labyrinth Field Trip Day** Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, meet at Trinity at 11:00 to go for our meditation walk, lunch and fellowship time.





**Financial Position July, 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>YTD</u> |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
|          | <u>Actual</u>            | <u>Budget</u>   | <u>Actual</u>                | <u>Budget</u> |                             |                  |            |
| Income   | \$18,653                 | \$21,304        | \$110,481                    | \$146,065     | \$115,536                   |                  |            |
| Expenses | <u>\$28,083</u>          | <u>\$29,262</u> | <u>\$207,609</u>             |               | <u>\$182,217</u>            | <u>\$194,814</u> |            |
| Net      | \$(9,430)                | (\$7,958)       | \$(97,129)                   | (\$65,414)    | (\$79,278)                  |                  |            |

**Comments:**

Our contribution income was \$4k under budget, while our North Street income was \$1800 over budget as we hosted our last group for 2023. On the expense side, in total we were \$1200 under budget. Office supplies were roughly \$400 over budget as we purchased paper.

We are operating this year with a \$20k higher deficit that we were last year. Last year in July, we received some of our annual contributor’s donations which has not happened yet this year.

We do each member and friend of Trinity to consider an additional donation this year to help offset our deficit.

**Building Repair Fund Balance: - (9,107)**

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$26,882

**Trinity Breakfast program – 28 years**

**Established in the summer of 1995.**



Trinity offers a variety of donation options:

Vanco payments one-time or periodic credit card or direct debit to checking/savings

Venmo

Paypal

Qualified Charitable Distributions-for those over 70 1/2

Collection plate cash/check

Mail in offering

**As we start to think about our 2024 Stewardship campaign, we want to remind our members and friends that we have a variety of methods to donate to our church. We have listed these methods above. Trinity is so blessed as a congregation to have so many faithful members and friends over the years. If you need more information either contact Phil Starr in the church office on Tuesdays or visit our stewardship page on our website listed below.**

**[www.trinityucc.org/stewardship](http://www.trinityucc.org/stewardship)**

## Creation Care News for September

Hello Trinity Congregation,

There are several events and opportunities to engage with this fall starting with the excellent film *The Letter*, being shown on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm at Westminster Church house. Betty Schuler, the chairwoman of the Climate Change group for the Interfaith Peace and Justice Committee, wrote the announcement below containing all the information you need to know. Please plan on attending this film and bring a friend.

Looking ahead there are a couple more dates for your calendar:

To celebrate the Season of Creation there will be an Interdenominational service for the blessing of the animals and blessing the harvest at Christmas Run Gazebo, on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> there is a Heartland UCC sponsored retreat at Temple Hills. This retreat will bring together interested members of UCC churches to explore how to build a Creation Care Team for churches in the conference.

I will share more information about these events in the October Trinity Topics and on the e-news for October.

### ALL THINGS GREEN

COMING SOON TO WOOSTER: Interfaith Power & Light has made available to congregations' screenings of the film *The Letter*. Wooster Interfaith Justice Committee (of which several members are from the UUFWC) is inviting the community to a screening on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Westminster Church House at [353 East Pine street](#) in Wooster at 6:30 pm. Parking is available across the street in the Freedlander Theater parking lot.

The documentary film *The Letter* tells the story of the Laudato Si' encyclical letter by Pope Francis seen through the eyes of frontline leaders battling the ecological crisis across continents. Featured are a climate refugee from Senegal; an environmental defender and leader in the Brazilian Amazon; a youth climate activist from India and biologists studying coral reefs in Hawaii. The film features footage from their encounter with Pope Francis, alongside their personal stories and scientific findings.

The Laudato Si' encyclical was published on May 24, 2015. The title comes from the first words "praise be to you", its subtitle is "on care for our common home". It has six chapters, totaling 184 pages. Chapter One, *What is Happening to Our Common Home* summarizes the scope of current problems related to the environment. Chapter Two, *The Gospel of Creation*, draws on the Bible as a source of insight. Chapter Three, *The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis*, explores social trends and ideologies that have caused environmental problems. Chapter Four, *Integral Ecology*, presents the encyclical's main solution to ongoing social and environmental problems. Chapter Five: *Lines of Approach and Action*, applies the concept of integral ecology to political life. Chapter Six, *Ecological Education and Spirituality*, concludes the encyclical with applications to personal life.

According to Interfaith Power & Light, the encyclical was written for all people to read and has sparked meaningful discussions in diverse faith communities. The film is also for all audiences, including teens and older children. Comments by community individuals with interests in environmental problems and from the audience will follow the screening. Plan to attend.

Have a wonderful September,

Margaret Bourne

Trinity Creation Care







## Neighbors in Need Offering

In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, and buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Trinity UCC will collect this offering on October 1, as part of World Communion Sunday.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY

September 17

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Teach your children the ways of our Lord by signing them up for these informative class! For kids all ages.

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Doug Anderson      | 24 |
| Matthew Broda      | 16 |
| Dee Dee Carlisle   | 2  |
| Heidi Derflinger   | 4  |
| Gene Dettra        | 19 |
| Drru Ely           | 10 |
| Jacqueline Feltner | 13 |
| Elijah Franklin    | 12 |
| Jamie Gilmore      | 7  |
| Scott Griffin      | 17 |
| Tony Heard         | 3  |
| Doug Henshaw       | 29 |
| Cindy Henshaw      | 9  |
| David Hradek       | 21 |
| Beth Patton        | 9  |
| Jillian Perry      | 28 |
| Brian Questel      | 4  |
| Samantha Reed      | 22 |
| Katy Reynolds      | 25 |
| Bruce Slater       | 22 |
| Terry Snyder       | 25 |
| Amanda Stermer     | 2  |
| Melinda Thomas     | 19 |
| Chuck Vizzo        | 29 |
| Dan Vizzo          | 27 |

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# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube  
Live services are available on our website at**

**Trinity UCC.org**

## **September 3rd**

Holy Communion

Exodus 3:1-15, Romans 12:9-21

“Vocation on Vacation”

## **September 10th**

Romans 13:8-14

“Who Rules your Calendar?”

## **September 17th**

Coffee Shoppe in the Fellowship Hall

Matthew 18:21-35

“Faith Formation Sunday”

## **September 24th**

Philippians 1:21-30

“To Live is...”

4-7pm Trinity Youth & Friends

movie and a meal

- October 1    World Communion  
                  Neighbors in Need Offering Exodus 17:1-7
- October 7    Mission group leaves for Back Bay Mission
- October 8    Emily

**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
*"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"*  
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**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*  
**Yulia Allison** *Nursery Staff*



<https://www.facebook.com/trinityuccwooster/>



Visit us online at  
[www.trinityucc.org](http://www.trinityucc.org)



[www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster](http://www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster)



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