

Trinity United Church of Christ
“Embracing & Celebrating God’s Love”
2025 Annual Report



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

*150 East North Street * Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9250
www.trinityucc.org*

Trinity United Church of Christ

2025 Annual Report

Notice of Annual Meeting	3
2025 Church Records	4
Consistory Roster for 2025	5
Senior Minister	6-9
Mission Team	10-11
Christian Education and Arts	12-13
Finance Committee	14-17
Endowment Committee	18-19
2025 Trinity Budget	20-22
Trinity Staff Members & Email Addresses	23
Endowment Brochure	24-25
Building and Property Report	26-27

Trinity United Church of Christ

150 East North Street

Wooster, Ohio 44691

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the membership of
Trinity United Church of Christ
to be held on **February 22, 2026** during the
10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.

Following is the agenda of the meeting:

- ◆ Welcome and Worship
- ◆ Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- ◆ Message and Prayer "Humility"
- ◆ Morning Offering
- ◆ Call to Order Moderator-Jen Seman
- ◆ Call to Meeting Interim Secretary- Mike Lilburn
- ◆ Prayer Dr. Franklin
- ◆ Moderator's Address Jen Seman
- ◆ Pastor's Address Dr. Franklin
- ◆ Faith Formation and Arts Director Suzanne Feltner
- ◆ Recognitions
- ◆ Vote on new
- ◆ Adoption of Budget for 2026 Jack Senn
- ◆ Motion to adjourn
- ◆ Installation of officers and Consistory members Jennifer Seman - Moderator
Justin Gilmore - Vice Moderator
Janet Broda - Consistory Class of 2028
Daniel Kirk
Mark Wiest - Treasurer
- ◆ Other business
- ◆ Closing Hymn
- ◆ Benediction

*Mike Lilburn
Interim Secretary 2025*

2025 Church Records

Necrology

During 2025 the following members have completed their earthly journeys and have been entered into the eternal fellowship of God's Kingdom:

Lucille Bowers	James "Jim" Ditzler
William " Bill" Carlisle	Claude Grindstaff
Dorothy "Dee Dee" Carlisle	Edward Phillip Knight
Doris Sigg	Terry L. Stoudenheimer
Carol Ann Thompson	

Confirmation

Ayden Varno	Caroline Briggs
Julianna Varno	Harrison Briggs
	Curtis Briggs

Baptisms

During 2025 we performed no baptisms.

Membership

Liz Harris

CONSISTORY ROSTER

Officers

Moderator - Jennifer Seman

Vice Moderator - Justin Gilmore

Treasurer - Mark Wiest

Interim Secretary - Mike Lilburn

Class of 2026

Mike Lilburn

Class of 2027

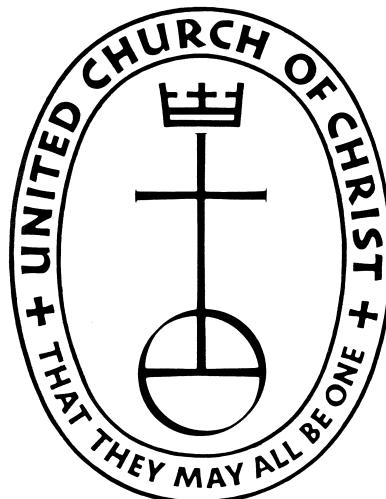
Lynda Varno

Class of 2028

Janet Broda

Gary Friend

Daniel Kirk



Pastor Annual Report for 2025, looking forward to 2026

Trinity Friends,

On behalf of the staff and Church leaders, we thank you for your generous spiritual and financial support of Trinity. We thank you for your time and talents and for everything that you do to make Trinity a welcoming place. Thank you to those of you who regularly worship God with grateful hearts. We encourage each member to envision great things for our Open and Affirming, Global Mission church. Let me take the first few paragraphs to brag about our staff. There is no way to collect a thorough count of everything that happens here.

Phil Starr and **Jack Senn** are good stewards of our financial resources, and I encourage you to thank them for their dedication. If you have financial questions, they will have the answer.

Suzanne Feltner is the longest-tenured employee in Trinity's 208-year history! Starting as a part-time music leader in 1990, she became Choir Director, Director of Music and Arts, and in 2019, she moved into ministry as our Director of Christian Education and Arts. Suzanne is growing the children's Wednesday night CAT program. See Suzanne's report for more details about her work in education, fellowship, and mission. In addition, Suzanne continues to choose and direct music for the choir and special music. The Bell Choir is our most recent addition to our regular Sunday morning services. The Ohio Light Opera artists are a great asset to our summer worship! Ask Suzanne what you can do to serve in these programs.

Luke Tegtmier, our Organist, is a gifted musician. Take a moment to thank him for sharing his talent in worship with us.

Joi Griffith is heading into her second year as our Church Secretary. Thank her for being one of our techy people who make our materials, adding a new look to our Church website, and making it more user-friendly and appealing. There are many ways to stay informed about Trinity activities. With her help, we continue to upgrade our website, post worship videos on YouTube, the Trinity Facebook page, and send event flyers and videos for special occasions. Please sign up for our weekly Friday Trinity Enews, which includes a review of the previous Sunday services, videos, notes on upcoming events, and details about Sunday worship opportunities. Many of our members have watched these services at home.

Perhaps you have your own Annual Report in mind.

When did you see our congregation at its best?

What impact do you make on people's lives?

Many thanks to our Moderator, Jen Seaman, for her dedication. Moderators may serve up to three one-year terms. We are grateful to Jen for her consistent leadership and dedication.

We are proud that Joe Kirk was elected Moderator of the United Church of Christ Heartland Conference of Ohio. Trinity has the honor of having the red Conference banner on the Lectern in the Sanctuary during his service as Moderator.

Trinity is designated a “Global Mission Church!” Our members participate in missions in Mexico, Germany, Korea, Ghana, and many places in the US. Consider coming on a trip with us! Consider joining us on our annual fall mission trip this year, thanks to Back Bay Mission.

Mission-minded members serve our Wooster community in various ways, including ACT, ONA, the breakfast program, and the Green Team. North Street Mission welcomed one mission group this summer. Many members have generously supported our missions. **It has been said that every church member needs two things: a friend and a job.** Let me know in case you are missing one or the other. Thank you for everything you do to love your neighbor and to stand up for truth, justice, and equality in these challenging times.

We are hopeful to renew our German Partnership with Stephanus Church in Borch. Joyce Schroer traveled there this year. Rev. Sabina Sarpe is our liaison with the German Working Group in Borch. The trip to Tijuana was not held last year and will not happen this year. We are determined to pick up where we left off. Unfortunately, the College of Wooster has eliminated Student trips. Trinity members have been going to Tijuana for over 26 years.

Trinity members have always been excellent at caring for one another. A good group of our members are caring visitors through the Called to Care Ministry. Two by two, they visit in homes and care for people in need. When there is a need, you respond. Credit to Suzanne Feltner for creating small-group opportunities and filling gaps in everyday activities at Trinity. The Wednesday night CAT Creative Arts at Trinity “CAT” program continues to grow.

When the pandemic hit, we began offering virtual services on several online platforms. We are still creating new ways to reach people with worship, education, and fellowship. Our members adapted to watching pre-recorded services and continued this practice after reopening. As all churches become more virtual, it is important that our members share our videos with others and on social media. Live-streamed worship services enable the church to reach a wider audience, as evidenced by the number of visitors who have come to Trinity in the last year.

We are still searching for an Associate Pastor. I was called to Trinity mid-February 2004. Since that time, Trinity has nurtured 5 Pastors to Ordination: Lori Tisher, Gary Friend, Nancy Boorman, Leila Jindra, and Emily Howard. Five Pastors in 20 years is remarkable. I want to thank the congregation for the way that you support and care for each of our ordained Associates as they work through their internships with us. Abby Reed began a path toward Ordination this year in the Heartland Conference, and we are looking forward to supporting her.

The Wednesday evening Prayer and Communion Service started when Leila Jindra became our Intern in 2016. We met in the Chapel each Wednesday until Emily and I ran into a pandemic that upended many of our projects. I was fortunate to have Emily's help during that time because we had to be innovative about new ways to be the church. We didn't miss a service, though, as we switched to Prayer and Communion on Zoom and pre-recorded Sunday worship. It's difficult to preach to empty pews. This fall, when our numbers dwindled, and I had no associate staff member to cover for me, I ended the Wednesday night Zoom Prayer services in the Chapel. We had a good response from those who enjoy the opportunity to take communion weekly and from those who enjoy an alternative worship experience. I plan to revive the Wednesday night Prayer and Communion services as we begin the season of Lent.

Thank you for your generous support of Trinity. Thank you to those who give their time and talents to help those in need. Thank you to those of you who worship God with grateful hearts, whether in the sanctuary or at home online. It is surprising how many people watch the livestreams of Sunday morning worship on our Website, Facebook, or YouTube. We encourage each member to envision great things for our future and to take advantage of our virtual options. We are grateful that your giving has sustained us over these five unusual years, and that our leaders had the foresight to create a rainy-day reserve fund.

WHTF- Wooster Homelessness Task Force was born in November 2019 with a small gathering of community members who were determined to find positive solutions for homelessness. We are now into our seventh year of education and advocacy for the Homeless of Wooster and Wayne County. We continue to meet as the Wooster Homelessness Task Force to meet the needs of people who are homeless in Wooster. The weather shelter is in operation again this year, and many of our members are volunteering there. "Homeward Bound" shelter continues to remain full. Many of our members have worked in the warming center over those 6 years and now.

The Breakfast program continues to be funded by the generosity of donors, and we thank everyone who continues to donate regularly. . Thanks to those who donated blankets, bedrolls, beds, gloves, and sleeping bags. Our breakfast crew workers faithfully make the Breakfast program an important resource in the Wooster community.

Breakfast at Trinity is as much about creating a caring community as it is about feeding hungry people. College of Wooster students continue to work with us at breakfast during the school year, and Interns help us during the summer. In 2010, Trinity hosted its first “Program House” for COW students, and we are now into our 16th year of helping students. **Please come visit on a weekday morning during serving hours, 8:30 to 9:30. The Breakfast program was created to feed hungry people, but it has become more important as a place where we can practice true inclusion and community. People know that Trinity is a place that they can come to for help and direction.** Each weekday morning, someone from an agency, 180, the Counseling Center, Viola Startzman, or other social service agencies is present to provide services.

North Street Mission is a great way for Trinity to share what we know about mission. Share your spirit with these visitors by helping with hospitality or lunches. We already have churches that are inquiring about working with us.

Most of our mission giving is over and above the annual budget, meaning we do much more than we account for, as many missions and ministries have their own budgets and accounting. Special thanks to everyone who has worked on the breakfast program, especially our crew leaders, John and Susan Muskopf, Joan Cooper, Sally Griffin, Judy Adams, and Pat Gerber. It is important to bring in as many people as we can to see what we do and expand the circle for serving and social integration. Many people from the community filled in over the summer. Community members have also been eager to come and see what we are providing funding and resources for our missions.

Thank you for everything you do to love your neighbor and to stand up for truth, justice, and equality in these changing times.

Your Partner in Christ’s Ministry,
Rev. Dr. Kevan S. Franklin

Trinity Staff Roster

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

Joi, Administrative Assistant

Phil Starr and Jack Senn, Finance Manager

Luke Tegtmeier, Organist

Connie Plant and Larry Keiner, Custodian

Ask me about: Tech, Covid, NSM, College of Wooster House, Game Night, WHTF, Homeward Bound, sauerkraut dinner, First Saturday Men’s Breakfast, Weekday morning Breakfast, ACT. Or baseball and astronomy.

MISSION TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2025

As Maya Angelou reminds us: We need joy as we need air. We need love as we need water. We need each other as we need the earth we share.

Greetings from your mission team: Lin Wierwille, Jennifer Faust, Dale Angerman, Nancy Lilburn, Margaret Bourne, Marylou LaLonde, Janet Burkhart, Carol/Ed Eberhart and Jan Broda, our designated delegate from Consistory. Our team was saddened this year by the loss of Doris Sigg who we recognize for her quiet dedication to justice. Thanks to Joi, Kevan Franklin and Suzanne Feltner for their continued guidance and input with our team meetings and at our meetings which occur monthly with a combination of zoom and in person.

The mission team has had an infusion of spirit and energy this year as we focused on the decision to make a formal application with the United Church of Christ for the designation of **“Climate Justice Church”**. The team has written a working Climate Justice Covenant which we will submit to the congregation for approval and acceptance. While we continue to discern the steps for becoming a climate justice church, we have leaped into action planting sustainable landscaping around the church property, planting natives, promoting proper disposal of waste and recycling, hosting a Sunday service presented by Brooks Berndt from the UCC Environmental and Justice office and by Eva D’Antino from the College of Wooster Faith and Sustainability collaborative. On November 1, we had the honor of planting a redbud tree at the Habitat Jimmy Carter Build in Orrville for the Cardell and Astoria Field family. Many Trinity members, breakfast church folks and college students have helped us plant, scrub, clean, rake, dig, cut down, chain saw, haul away and provide refreshments. Thanks to all that have promoted this enormous undertaking, especially to Jamie and Justin Gilmore for providing the bench to rest upon and to Dee Dee Carlisle’s family for donating our red bud tree. Future initiatives include a spring dedication and blessing of our plantings, cafe book talks and support of outdoor Earth Day worship and celebration.

The **Anti Racist Coalition** at Trinity, ACT lead by Abigail Reed and Daniel Kirk will begin their new book on March at 8 a.m. on zoom: **Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman**. This past year they have studied Slavery Sleeping with the Ancestors by Joseph McGill. In addition, during the worship service, ACT has initiated 4th Sunday children’s message and mission moment. They continue on the third Sunday to suggest and lead spirituals and other indigenous hymns. ACT made it possible for several members from Trinity to attend the annual NAACP dinner and they will again support outdoor worship at Christmas Run Park for the Juneteenth service. Movie night sponsored by ACT and held at the Kirk’s created another opportunity to share food, conversation and open the door to Aha moments. ACT encourages you to join for meaningful dialogue and action related to structural racism.

The mission team continues outreach, providing informational/**fund raising luncheons** for the congregation. We hosted People to People in February and on May 10, collaborated with Jim Shoots for the **Shrimp Boil** and silent auction to benefit Back Mission. The week of October 19-24, Trinity sent 9 members to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi MS, to support efforts of refurbishing homes.3 members from Trinity joined 5 members from New Hampshire and traveled to Ghana the week of June 11-24. They offered an educational component with art classes in an elementary school and worked in a medical clinic in the village of Kpenoe, where one of our sister churches, Trinity is located.

This year Trinity provided support to the following agencies and ministries: Habitat, United Church Homes, Refugee Resettlement, NAACP, Homeward Bound. With 5 years of dedication and intentional meetings and praying, Kevan Franklin with members from Trinity and the Wooster community, helped to open Homeward Bound, a Wayne County Homeless Shelter. The shelter can offer beds for 30 men and 12 women. Trinity has continued to provide **financial support** and meals to Homeward Bound along with 11 other local churches.

Trinity remains strong in **UCC mission giving** and as a UCC five for five church, supports the following special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing/ March, Strengthen the Church/ May, Neighbors in Need/ October, the Christmas offering in December, dedicating 8.4% of our total budget to Our Churches Wider Mission. Other initiatives supported by the mission team include: the annual Alternative Market, held on December 14, which supports thoughtful giving to benefit world organizations; the Sauerkraut Supper held in fellowship hall on November 18; and North Street Mission, which provides hosting of visiting church groups, who then provide service to the Trinity Breakfast Church and the Wooster community. The Mission Team, at times has been labeled, Mission/Social Action/Justice/ Peace. The Trinity Congregation sometimes closes worship with “Go Make A Difference”; this season take time to try and make a difference realizing that together we are stronger than individually. The team welcomes your input, suggestions and feedback.

Climate Justice Covenant: The Climate Justice Team, with the support of the Trinity Congregation and the body of the UCC, will dedicate ourselves to the care of the world around us. Creation Justice churches guide their congregations in discerning how they can best embody a commitment to care for God’s creation. We resolve as individuals and as a congregation to intentionally covenant to examine educate and advocate for climate justice. We will work to seek justice for the marginalized and the underserved. We will acknowledge our deep connection to the earth, to each other, and to God.

As I have looked back through the 2025 calendar, it is so good to see the many ways people at Trinity UCC in Wooster have been able to get together.

It is good that people are willing to get together to sing in the Choir, to ring bells in the Bell Choir. Luke Tegtmeier does such wonderful music for us to listen to during worship services. I really appreciate when Laura Schantz plays flute with different songs and when Jamilyn Gilmore and Lynda Varno sing wonderful solos. What a blessing these people all are and they are wonderful gifts. I also so appreciate we can get Ohio Light Opera musicians to come to share music during worship in the summer. It is good to connect with God through music.

I love that we are able to have children in our community join us on Wednesdays for C.A.T. (Children's Arts at Trinity). This fall we have been receiving several children from the area and that is very good to connect with them and spend time with them. I so very much appreciate the help we get from Pat Anderson, Maud Bulman, Jamie and Justin Gilmore. Such good teachers they are!

Speaking of teachers, the people who have been willing to teach some book studies during Sunday School time are such gifts for us. I love they are willing to choose books and spend some time with others here at Trinity. The book that Abigail Reed shared in the Fall was very interesting and gives different thoughts and ideas of how to reach more people. The teachers who are offering Sunday School for kids are such good help too. Hope we get more kids to consistently participate. Thank you, Lyn Shoots and Elaine Reed. I also very much appreciate the A.C.T. group and how they meet on Sundays via zoom at 8:00, and all they do. The way they did our Juneteenth worship service at Christmas Run Park was so wonderful! Looking forward to this year's gathering too. I also appreciate how they are reaching out to children once a month doing Children's Message in worship. Keep up the wonderful work, A.C.T.!

The Mission Team does wonderful things too! I so love the way they have re-done the front and side outside of the church, as well as offering good programs and lunches after worship. It is so good to learn much from this group.

Our Faith Formation team has been working to start planning more ways to gather and to learn. I really like we will be reaching out to people in different ways and teaching about God in different ways as well. So important to do that.

Speaking about reaching out, the Member Care and Called to Care teams are doing good work. They are reaching out to the people in nursing homes, as well as communicating with people we haven't seen in church for a while. It is important to connect with our members in different ways and to find out how to serve them better.

I wish to thank Elaine Reed for allowing us to have our Christmas Barn Service at her place, and then to fellowship and of course eat wonderful things in her home. She is such a blessing to us!

I also wish to thank the quilters and knitters and crocheters for all they do. Their work is amazing and such good gifts to us at Trinity.

Continuing to work on more ways to gather people together for learning more about God, and how to serve each other and people in the community is very important. I so appreciate the people who serve the Breakfast Program for all they do, as well as people who serve lunches, dinners and “Pork and Sauerkraut” meals (thank you, Schroers!) for not just our church members but for community people too. You are all awesome!

It has been a good year, and I look forward to the coming year going even better! Thank you for allowing me to serve God, our Savior Jesus Christ, and all of you.

Peace.



Finance Committee

Committee Members: Joe Kirk (Chairman), Rob LaLonde, Paul Varno, Phil Starr (Business Manager), Jack Senn (Business Manager), Kevan Franklin, Mark Wiest (Church Treasurer), Daniel Kirk (Consistory Liaison)

Mark Wiest is the Treasurer and Joe Kirk is the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Committee continues to function in a virtual role.

Phil Starr and Jack Senn share day-to-day responsibility for all of the church's financial concerns and the Finance Committee exercises its oversight function via email and periodic meetings, with monthly reports to Consistory. In addition, Phil writes Trinity Topics articles monthly, keeping the congregation informed about our finances, stewardship and special projects. Many thanks to Phil and Jack for all their efforts!

For 2025 we are reporting the following:

	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$355,037	\$ 396,173
Expenses	<u>\$355,037</u>	<u>\$ 396,173</u>
Surplus/Deficit	--- 0 ---	--- 0 -----

At the Annual Meeting January 2025, the congregation voted to allow 6% of the end of year Endowment fund to be set aside to be used as an allowable to spend to help our General Fund. For 2025 we had budgeted to use \$ 80,000 of these funds to balance the budget. We actually had to use \$86,825. Going forward we have \$20,821 carried forward from 2025 and \$111,400 available in 2026 from Endowment. We anticipate needing \$111,400 in the 2026 budget. Looking ahead to future years we will all need to consider stronger donation levels to offset known declines. The North Street Mission is an opportunity to help this situation.

We have 25 families signed up for Trinity's electronic giving and another 8 families that periodically make donations electronically. We'd like to see more families utilize this program as it helps to flatten our income during the year. See Phil or Jack, or the Stewardship page of our website (www.trinityucc.org) for more information.

During the course of the year there continued to be wild swings financially. With the new Allowable Endowment support, we balanced the budget each quarter. The highest deficit occurred at the end of November, where we used the entire \$107,646 of Endowment funds and still had a \$23,547 YTD deficit. This means our deficit at that time was \$131,193. Since we financially operate the Church on an annual basis we are able to look at our position in November and be confident in our projections that the congregation would bring us closer to a balanced position by year end. In early December, Pastor Kevan sent an appeal out to the congregation asking for additional donations to help with year-end. We are happy to report that December was very strong and ended up using \$86,825 of Endowment funds. Thus, our deficit was \$86,825 – quite a bit better from the \$131,193 at the end of November.

On the expense side, we ran close or under budget for the entire year, ending the year \$41,000 under budget. The largest contributor was the fact that we have an open Assistant Pastor position in the budget (\$31,375). Trinity staff and committees work well together accomplishing our Mission without spending wildly.

As our members donate our offerings to the church and many agencies, our annual budget helps to support many missions. Below is a summary of 2025 expenditures within our General Operating Fund:

Mission Ministries	\$ 68,148
Educational Ministries	\$ 318
Spiritual Life	\$ 630
Music Ministries	\$ 1,095
Community Relations	\$ 550
Administrative Ministries	\$ 23,239
Building Ministries	\$ 41,780
Personnel Ministries	\$226,225
Member Care	\$ 32
North Street Mission	\$ 300

In addition to the operating budget, Trinity members and friends have been very generous in giving for various agencies in Wooster and around the world. Below is a summary of these payments for 2025:

Various Mission Payments for 2025	
	xxxxx
Alternative Gifts International	\$5,117
Breakfast Program	\$18,687
Ghana	\$0
Homeward Bound	\$1,698
Local Mission	\$7,446
Neighbors in Need	\$671
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,452
OCWM	\$100
People to People	\$467
Strengthen the Church	\$380
Veterans of the Cross/Christmas Fund	\$530
	xxxxx
Total	\$36,548

Another important fund, outside of the operating budget is the Building Repair Fund. We have kept this fund that was started during the renovation in the mid 1990's. During 2024 we renovated our kitchen and fellowship hall. The total paid for the renovation was \$411,074. During 2025 we received donations of \$23,908 towards the project. 2026 is the last year of the three year campaign. We have taken a loan out against our Endowment fund which has a balance of \$99,404.

The last portion of the Finance Committee's report is the 2026 Operating Budget. The detailed report is at the end of this annual report.

We are publishing a budget of \$418,611 for 2026. We will again expect many monthly financial swings for 2026.

We utilized the structure during the 2026 Stewardship campaign similar to what we have done the past few years. This consisted of having several speakers from the church appear on the weekly worship videos and speak to inform members of the congregation who may not have been aware of what Trinity means to the community. The 2026 campaign was successful as we are seeing an increase in pledges of 2.69%. Below is a summary of our projected income:

2026 Pledge Campaign Analysis:	
Pledges received	\$53,745
Plus: anticipated income not pledged	\$247,577
Plus: new member income	\$10,000
Sub-total Member Contributions	\$311,322
Plus: Loose Offering	\$1,800
Plus: North Street Mission income	\$2,000
Plus: Church Fundraising	\$3,000
Plus: income from collateral sources	\$2,101
Plus: Church Reserves	\$111,400
Plus: Step down bequest funds	\$3,758
Total projected income for 2026	\$435,381
2026 Operating budget	\$435,381
Anticipated surplus/(deficit)	\$0

The 2026 Budget illustrates our best estimates for the coming year given the uncertainty that the current economy provides us and its effect on Trinity. In many cases, we have simply used the 2025 budget figures. We are proposing to have a staff raise pool of 3% for 2026. For 2026, we have \$31,375 in the Associate Pastor's position in the budget. We are also adding a part-time Maintenance position/Handyman at an annual salary of 15,600.

During 2026 one of Consistory's major focus points again needs to be on stewardship and membership. We hope to be stressing the need to boost our member giving through our stewardship/pledge process and to increase our membership. We encourage each family giving unit to faithfully consider increasing their giving to Trinity. We also ask for members to ask friends and family to join them in worship. We have so many good things happening – even during this challenging time and want to be able to continue operating under our current structure. Trinity is a mission-oriented church, which is a lot different from other churches. We need to promote that fact! We look forward to a productive 2026!

Phil Starr & Jack Senn

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2025

Members: Mark Wiest, Tammy Hoffman, Elaine Reed, Melinda Thomas, Kevan Franklin, Jack Senn, Phil Starr, Adam Briggs.

Chairperson: Bill Landers

For 2025, we had grants for General Fund Support, Sabbatical Expenses, Sound System Upgrade, General Synod 2025, a Property Consultant and the NAACP Freedom Dinner.

Our equity holdings were very strong for 2025 by increasing \$153,181.

Our committee had our meetings in person to review fund performance and requests. In addition, because of the volatility of the stock market we had Kyle Adams and Lisa Reichert from Stifel, join us at each meeting to review our account with them.

The Endowment committee would like to encourage all Trinity members and friends to consider a gift to Trinity in your will. You might think that you need to have a large estate to leave something to Trinity but that is not the case. As a result of many people remembering Trinity in their will in the past Trinity is able to have such an Endowment fund that is able to help us to expand our ministry and to help fund various mission trips. You can also specify in your bequest to have the funds used to help stabilize our church operations for a number years or into a building improvement fund as a couple other examples. Another alternative might be to purchase a life insurance policy and name Trinity as the beneficiary.

If you have any questions, please see any member of the Endowment Committee.

Below is a summary of the projects supported by the Endowment fund for 2025:

TRINITY UCC - ENDOWMENT PAYMENTS - 2025	
Guest Musicians	\$850
Technology/ Innovation- 2022	\$4,969
2023 Computer Replacements	\$178
General Fund Support	\$86,825
Sabbatical Expenses 2025	\$1,369
Sound System Upgrade	\$13,122
General Synod 2025	\$226
Property Consultant	\$240
NAACP Freedom Dinner	\$500
	\$108,279

December 31, 2024 Balance \$1,794,104

2025 Bequests \$ 13,231

2025 Spending \$ (108,279)

2025 Interest \$ 4,434

2025 Market fluctuation \$153,181

December 31, 2025 Balance \$1,856,674

We received a bequest from the estates of Doris Sigg, William and Marilyn Sparr and Carol Thompson. We offer sincere gratitude for thinking of Trinity in their estate planning.

We'd like to thank our committee for their efforts in 2025 and look forward to a successful 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Landers, Chairperson

Trinity United Church Of Christ
2026 Trinity Budget / Income Statement

Date Range: Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025

Accounts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026
Revenues				
Revenues1				
40010 Member Contributions	245,177.99	301,576.37	253,982.74	311,322.37
40020 Loose Offering	1,532.45	1,800.00	1,928.30	1,900.00
40100 Flowers & Radio	303.50	501.00	520.00	501.00
40400 General Fundraising	0.00	0.00	3,095.03	3,000.00
40500 All Other	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
41060 Special Bequest Funds	8,034.00	5,896.00	6,496.00	3,758.00
41080 Church Reserves	80,099.82	80,000.00	0.00	0.01
41090 Endowment Support	0.00	0.00	86,825.05	111,400.00
Total Revenues1	335,147.76	389,773.37	352,947.12	431,881.38
Professional Fees				
40030 Wedding Fees	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total Professional Fees	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Room Rentals				
40070 AA	201.00	300.00	150.00	300.00
40080 All Other	550.00	600.00	800.00	600.00
40084 North Street Mission	3,900.00	5,000.00	1,040.00	2,000.00
40089 NA Group Donations	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Room Rentals	4,751.00	5,900.00	2,090.00	3,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 339,898.76	\$ 396,173.37	\$ 355,037.12	\$ 435,381.38
Expenses				
Mission Ministries				
50010 OCWM	27,597.40	33,025.00	30,074.68	35,000.00
50040 Every Woman's House	500.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50070 Habitat for Humanity	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
50080 People to People	500.00	0.01	183.00	0.01
50090 United Church Homes	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.01
50091 Refugee Resettlement	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
50092 Homeward Bound	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
50107 Outdoor Ministries	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50108 Disaster Response	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50109 Local Discretionary Mission	1,000.00	2,000.00	652.00	1,500.00
50110 Utilities Offset	12,482.81	13,200.00	14,860.74	15,400.00
50111 Salary Offset	13,248.00	13,248.00	13,248.00	13,248.00
50112 NAMI	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
50113 Viola Startzmen	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
50130 Funeral Dinners	(250.00)	0.01	(150.00)	0.01
50140 Newspaper Advertising	76.59	0.01	0.00	0.01
50160 Radio Broadcast	405.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50165 On-line Advertising	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total Mission Ministries	56,559.80	63,973.07	60,868.42	68,148.08
Educational Ministries				
50180 Curriculum-Children & Youth	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
50185 Curriculum - Adult	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
50200 Supplies / Misc.	0.00	200.00	317.89	200.00
Total Educational Ministries	0.00	700.00	317.89	700.00

Accounts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026
Spiritual Life				
50270 Communion Supplies	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
50280 Flowers	596.50	600.00	525.00	600.00
50290 Candles	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
50330 Kitchen Supplies	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
50340 Supplies	92.15	200.01	105.00	200.01
Total Spiritual Life	688.65	1,100.01	630.00	1,100.01
Music Ministries				
50350 Chancel Choir	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
50380 Organ Tuning	2,137.00	2,000.00	400.00	600.00
50390 Piano Tuning	525.00	900.00	695.00	900.00
Professional Musicians				
50440 Other Musicians	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Professional Musicians	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Music Ministries	2,712.00	3,300.00	1,095.00	1,900.00
Community Relations Ministries				
50450 General Publicity Expenses	325.00	400.00	550.00	500.00
Total Community Relations Ministries	325.00	400.00	550.00	500.00
Administrative Ministries				
50500 Postage	1,761.91	2,001.00	2,371.40	2,501.00
50530 Equipment Repair/Maintenance	5,733.59	5,800.02	6,272.20	6,300.02
50540 Software/Computer	5,041.32	5,000.01	5,205.27	5,200.01
50550 Supplies	1,192.55	1,200.13	1,505.55	1,500.13
50560 Petty Cash / Misc.	0.00	0.00	(3.11)	0.00
50570 Subscriptions	302.70	300.00	615.28	600.00
50580 Stewardship	1,148.19	1,200.01	2,273.27	2,300.01
50590 EOA & Conference Meetings	0.00	200.01	0.00	200.01
50600 Payserve - Payroll Service	3,921.96	4,000.00	4,042.93	4,000.00
50610 Bank Service Charges	267.94	300.00	352.87	300.00
50620 Legal Fees	610.57	600.01	603.19	600.01
Total Administrative Ministries	19,980.73	20,601.19	23,238.85	23,501.19
Building Ministries				
50650 Electric	16,354.30	16,400.00	19,201.75	20,000.00
50660 Gas	6,900.14	8,000.00	8,705.12	8,800.00
50670 Water & Sewer	1,711.15	2,000.00	1,924.63	2,000.00
50680 Utilities offset to Mission	(12,482.81)	(13,200.00)	(14,860.74)	(15,400.00)
50690 Telephone	2,746.22	2,900.00	2,318.72	2,300.00
50700 Trash Removal	4,021.07	4,000.00	4,561.12	4,600.00
50710 Insurance	10,886.69	11,000.00	11,718.00	12,000.00
50730 Maintenance - Building	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02
50740 Maintenance - Equipment	4,158.05	4,300.01	4,410.01	4,400.01
50760 Supplies	2,826.41	3,000.01	3,795.11	3,800.01
51095 Taxes	6.00	36.00	6.00	36.00
Total Building Ministries	37,127.22	38,436.04	41,779.72	42,536.04
Personnel Ministries				
50770 Sr. Minister	88,558.34	90,675.00	90,632.34	90,675.00
50795 Assistant Pastor	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50802 Open Staff Position	0.00	31,375.00	0.00	31,375.00
50805 Dir Christian Education & Arts	47,211.84	48,484.00	48,435.84	48,484.00
50808 Staff offset to Mission	(13,248.00)	(13,248.00)	(13,248.00)	(13,248.00)
50810 Secretary Salary	12,465.58	17,212.00	13,735.43	30,000.00
50820 Business Manager Salary	8,083.35	9,048.00	11,257.97	9,048.00
50825 Assistant Business Manager	853.06	2,393.00	418.30	2,393.00

Accounts	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Jan 01, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026
50830 Custodian Salary	13,421.00	13,769.01	19,831.79	13,769.01
50835 Maintenance Position	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,600.00
50860 Organist Salary	7,905.66	7,745.00	7,836.81	7,745.00
50862 Child Care	1,668.60	2,206.00	1,956.93	2,206.00
50865 Staff Raises for Upcoming Year	0.00	201.00	0.00	5,241.00
50870 Social Security	8,720.16	9,000.00	8,312.06	10,170.00
50880 Pension	18,013.28	19,000.01	18,516.82	21,735.01
50890 Health Insurance	24,155.99	25,000.01	16,688.55	17,400.01
50900 Dental Insurance	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
50910 Life & Disability Insurance	1,252.92	1,253.00	1,252.92	1,253.00
50920 Training & Continuing Education	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
50930 Recruiting	0.00	0.00	79.15	0.00
50940 Travel Expenses	0.00	200.00	28.00	200.00
50950 Workers Comp Expenses	573.72	600.01	490.28	500.01
51100 Pulpit Fees	590.70	600.00	0.00	600.00
Total Personnel Ministries	220,226.20	265,713.06	226,225.19	295,346.06
Member Care Ministries				
51020 Member Functions	99.92	400.00	31.94	400.00
51030 Continental Breakfast	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
51050 Parish Nurse	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Total Member Care Ministries	99.92	700.00	31.94	700.00
North Street Mission				
52000 Supplies	1,605.03	350.00	0.00	350.00
52010 Food-Meals	574.21	900.00	300.11	600.00
Total North Street Mission	2,179.24	1,250.00	300.11	950.00
Total Expenses	\$ 339,898.76	\$ 396,173.37	\$ 355,037.12	\$ 435,381.38
Net Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Trinity Staff

Member Information

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, Senior Minister

Email: docksf@aol.com

Suzanne Feltner, Faith Formation and Arts Director

Email: suzannefeltner@yahoo.com

Joi Griffith, Church Secretary

Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com

Phil Starr and Jack Senn, Finance Managers

Email: starrpa@yahoo.com

Luke Tegtmeirer, Organist

Connie Plant and Larry Keiner - Custodian

Trinity United Church of Christ Endowment and Planned Giving Program

Trinity Endowment Fund

Your Endowment program consists of three funds: Ministries, Properties and Missions. At this point, all of our funds are in the Ministries fund.

Endowment funds are invested according to guidelines in a combination of equity holdings, fixed securities and bank accounts. Each year, 5% of the balance is available to spend for new ministries. As our fund grows the allowable spending increases to a maximum of 9% to insure that the funds will be used to benefit our Church programs. Any unspent portion of this allowable spending is carried over and added to the new allowance for the next year.



Trinity United Church of Christ
150 E. North Street
Wooster, Oh 44691
Phone: 330-264-9250
www.trinityucc.org

Trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com
Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, Senior Minister



*“To keep the light of the gospel burning...
Our faithful and generous giving to the church
keeps the light of the gospel burning brightly,
offering a home and a witness to the world in
which we live, that world that God loves so well.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



God is Still Speaking,

Importance of Estate Planning

It is imperative for individuals whom desire to allocate their assets to engage in estate planning. Proper planning allows you to provide for your heirs, charities and to minimize your exposure to taxation.

Proper estate planning should begin early in life. However, it is never too late to begin. The first step is having a Last Will and Testament. More detailed estate planning can follow consistent with your age, desires and assets.



Step-Down Pledge Gifts

Consider remembering Trinity in your estate planning. In addition to this we hope that you will give consideration to leaving some type of "Step-Down" bequest.

The "Step-Down" refers to leaving a specified amount that will allow us to take five or ten years to step-down from your annual pledge giving, towards our Church operations.

We struggle each year meeting our Church operations. Step-Down gifts will allow us to better ensure that our Church will be financially strong.



Donate to a Specific Mission

Members frequently would like to support specific Ministries of the Church. Bequests can be set up to help support these. Some examples are listed below:

- ◆ Building Projects
- ◆ Youth & Family Ministry
- ◆ Breakfast Program
- ◆ Outside Agencies pass-thru

Endowment Fund Goals

To encourage individuals who have prospered through the ministries of the Church to leave part of their estates for the good of the Church in which they have worshipped.

To assist the Church in the creation and management of endowments to meet future financial needs.

To serve Christ by ensuring that Church ministries have the financial resources to survive in perpetuity.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact:

Bill Landers, Endowment Chairman, or Phil Starr and Jack Senn, Business Managers, at the Church Office at 330-264-9250 or by email at trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com