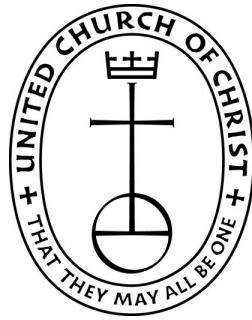


Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
150 East North Street
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 9:00a - 5:00p
Phone (330) 264-9250
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Website: www.trinityucc.org



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December 2025
Trinity UCC Topics

"If you are yourself at peace, then there is at least some peace in the world. Then share your peace with everyone and everyone will be at peace." -Thomas Merton

Pastor's Christmas message,

The Apostle Paul's letters often begin with the opening words; "Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." You may have noticed that I often begin my messages with "Grace and Peace to You". I do it to set the tone of the Gospel. Grace and Peace are the core of our faith, especially when the season of Advent begins. We are called to offer Grace and Peace to one another just as Paul practiced.

Christmas is a central part of our faith. Be sure to give and receive the spiritual gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Christmas is the central Holiday of the church as we welcome Jesus into the world.

In the Gospel of John, verse 14:27, Jesus says; "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Therefore, let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid".

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God".

Christmas and gifts go hand in hand. Be sure to give and receive Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

Amen.

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



Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*
Suzanne Feltner, *Faith Formation and Arts Director*
Joi Griffith, *Administrative Assistant*
Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*
Phil Starr/Jack Senn, *Business Managers*
Yulia Allison, *Nursery Staff*
Connie Plant/Larry Keiner, *Custodians*



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



Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
10:30am



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

December 7

Holy Communion
Second Sunday of Advent
Candle of Peace
Matthew 3:1-12
December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Candle of Love
Matthew 11:2-11, Isaiah 35:1-10
Alternative Gift Market @ First Presbyterian 10-2p
4pm Barn Service

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Candle of Joy
Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Fund Offering

December 24

Tuesday Christmas Eve 5pm Worship
Christ Candle
Traditional Christmas Service John 1:1-14

December 28

Songs and Caroles
Lead by Suzanne Feltner

Financial Position October 2025

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2025 Year to date**		**Last year actual**
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD
Income	\$30,311	\$17,355	\$281,137	\$271,148	\$153,178
Expenses	\$26,696	\$29,214	\$294,731	\$325,705	\$261,356
Net	\$ 3,615	\$-11,859	(\$13,594)	(\$54,558)	(\$108,178)

Comments:

We had a true surplus of \$3,615 for October. We had a few of our annual contributors make their donations. On the expense side, our electric continues to run over budget . It was \$238 over for October. Our true deficit YTD is \$121,594 as we have used \$108k of endowment funds through the third quarter.

We are in a position where we need a strong fourth quarter to make up a lot of our deficit. We appeal to our members and friends to consider making additional donations throughout the fourth quarter to help our deficit position!

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$245,747)

Please continue to give towards the Kitchen Renovation. 2025 is the second of a three year fundraising campaign. 2026 will be our final and third year. Many thanks for those who have contributed towards the project.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$27,070.

Trinity Breakfast program – 30 years
Established in the summer of 1995.
Our breakfast program is 30 years old!



As we prepare for the Christmas Holiday season, please consider an additional donation to help us to balance out 2025.

Many thanks for your continued support of our ministry in downtown Wooster!

The season of Advent and Christmas is a very busy, but very good time of year. It is so good to connect with others, sing carols, light Advent candles and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.



All generations are invited to study about “**Advent: God’s Promise is Born**” on December 7th, 14th, and 21st, after worship in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch is included with the study.

Speaking of December 14th - you are all invited to join us at Elaine Reed’s for the **Christmas Barn Service at 4:00pm**, followed by fellowship and refreshment time. It is such a blessing to spend time together. Thank you, Elaine!!



Trinity Women’s Lunch on Wednesday, December 17th will be at **The Barn Restaurant** at 11:30am.

Christmas Eve’s worship service will be at 5:00. Children are invited to carry things to be with Baby Jesus in a manger during the worship service. Hope we have a lot of children join us!



More going on as well, so... check the Trinity Topics Calendar!

Happy Advent and Christmas to all of you!
Suzanne Feltner, Director of Faith Formation and Arts

December Birthdays!

Corky Dettra 1st
John Graham 1st
Austen Wood 2nd
Bob Nesbit 2nd
Brian Reed 4th
Chuck Cooper 9th
Kristen Jackwood 10th
Kevin Hanna 12th
Tom Gerber 13th
Sarah Tizzano 13th
Kaley Dawson 14th
Elijah Muskopf 15th
Pamela Miller 15th

Rita Haney 16th
Lucy Baus 17th
Lori Pritt 17th
Sharon Questel 18th
Chloe Frichtl 18th
Andrew Boyer 18th
Brittany Brinkerhoff 19
Nicholas Vizzo 20th
Daniel Henshaw 21st
Elizabeth Lowe 21st
Christopher Feltner 23
Kate Frichtl 24th
Joanne Leaman 25th

Mindy Laverty 27th
Bob Blanchard 29th
Julianna Varno 30th

❖Thanks to our crew for stirring things up❖



Our super awesome December volunteers!

Lay Readers

December 7 - Chase Griffith

December 14 - John Schantz

December 21 -

December 28-

Coffee Hour

December 7 -

December 21 -

Flowers

December 7 -

December 14 -

December 21 - Dee & Louie

Carter 61st Anniversary 12/20

December 28-

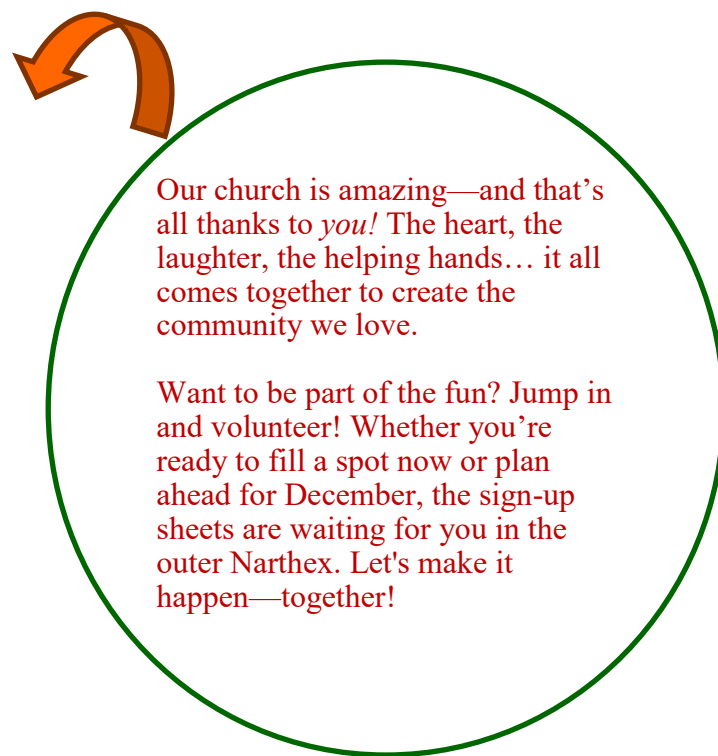
Ushers

December 7 -

December 14 -

December 21 -

December 28-



Looking Ahead!

Faith Formation Meeting 6pm - December 2

Church Walk Downtown 4-7pm - December 5

Men's Breakfast - December 6

Holy Communion - December 7

Alternative Gift Market@ First Presbyterian 10am-2pm - December 14

Christmas Barn Service 4pm - December 14

Women's Lunch @The Barn Restaurant 11:30am - December 17

Christmas Fund Offering - December 21

Christmas Eve 5pm Worship Office Closed - December 24

Christmas Day Office Closed - December 25

Fellowship Friday Game night 7-9pm - December 26

Carol Sing - December 28

**THE CHRISTMAS
FUND**

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years.

The offering is administered through the United Church

Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. Trinity UCC will collect this offering the Sunday before Christmas and at the Christmas Eve service. You can donate online through TUCC's website, use the offering envelopes in the pews, or use the special offering envelope in your offering envelope booklet.



Calling All Ministry and Group Leaders!

It's that time of year again! If you're part of a group, committee, or ministry here at Trinity, please email me your **annual report**. These reports help us celebrate all that's been accomplished and keep our records up to date.

The **sooner** you send them in, the better — it allows me to get a head start on creating the Annual Report Booklets.

Thank you for your time, your dedication, and everything you do to make our church community thrive!

Please send reports to Trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com





Shop at the 2025 Wooster Alternative Gift Market

This year, give the gift of hope! At the Alternative Gift Market you can purchase \$5 shares in humanitarian projects, buy fair trade products, and enjoy lunch. This annual Market is hosted by Trinity, First Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Wooster Mennonite.

Our market will be held on

December 14 from 11:30am to 2:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church

621 College Avenue in Wooster.

This year's Market features 22 projects that provide a helping hand to people throughout the world. You can choose to provide school supplies for children in Kenya, support micro-farms for women in Egypt, fund environmental protection in multiple countries, and more. You'll also be able to learn about and donate to local projects, such as CAMO, Open Arms, and Habitat for Humanity.

PLUS, fair trade products will be available for purchase. They include items from World Crafts in Kidron, olive oil and soup, coffee and chocolate, handbags made from Ghanaian fabrics, and more. Lunch (beginning at 11:30), with soups, hotdogs, and sweets, will be available by donation with proceeds benefiting Homeward Bound, a Day Center/Severe Weather Shelter in Wayne County.

Hope to see you there!

Questions? Nancy Lilburn 330-234-6848

Advent is the season of light.

Christmas Lights remind us that Jesus was born to be the light of the world. We put up twinkly lights inside, outdoors we adorn our front porches and yards with lights that are like works of art. Scented and bees wax candles make our homes a cozy retreat as the days grow shorter. We gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and light advent candles to remind us of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love he brought to our world. We hope you keep the lights of your spirit and heart burning all year long.

When you put up your lights this year are you finding some strings of lights that don't work and it's time to get rid of them? They can be recycled!!! Yes, our tri-county waste district accepts these and many other hard-to-recycle items at their location in Canton. You can take them there yourself or, to make it easy for you, First Presbyterian church is helping in the effort. You can drop your items off at First Presbyterian weekdays 9-4, and they will take them to our tri-county waste district facility for you.

For more information, see <https://www.timetorecycle.org/recycle-residents/>

Step-by-Step: How to Recycle Glass Candle Jars

If you're using standard glass candle holders, here's how to get them ready for the recycling bin:

- 1. Freeze the jar:** Pop it in the freezer for a few hours. The leftover wax will contract and make it easier to remove.
- 2. Pop out the wax:** Use a spoon or butter knife to gently lift the wax out. (Still stuck? Try running hot water around the outside of the jar.)
- 3. Remove the wick and label:** Peel off any labels and use warm, soapy water or rubbing alcohol to clean off residue. Most wick stickers pop off with gentle scrubbing.
- 4. Give it a rinse:** Recycling centers need items to be clean. Rinse thoroughly to remove any fragrance or soot.
- 5. Check your local guidelines:** Some areas accept glass jars, while others don't. A quick check with your city's recycling program can confirm.


Alternatively, you can repurpose the jars into decorative items or storage containers for crafts, office supplies, or food.

Thanks for caring for God's creation, our Earth.

The Climate Justice Team

TRINITY'S QUILTERS ARE BACK!

Join us for the first meeting of the fall on:

 **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

We'll continue to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Mark your calendars: **SEPTEMBER 24**
OCTOBER 8
OCTOBER 22
NOVEMBER 12
DECEMBER 10

Bring your quilting projects, ideas, and fellowship spirit—whether you're an experienced quilter or just curious to learn, all are welcome!

ESPERANZA MISSION TRIP

It has been a few years since we have had an Esperanza Mission Trip

We would like to have a group go in 2026.

Right now, we are determining the interest.

Please contact either Phil Starr or Steve Schroer if you or someone you know is interested.

Optimal group size: 12 people
Tentative dates: March 21–28, 2026
Approximate cost: \$750+ airfare

www.esperanzaint.org



Christmas Wishes

Trinity is happy to sponsor 8 area children who are part of the Wayne County Children's Services program.

In the Narthex there is a notebook with all the information.

Please choose a wish you can fulfill along with your name and phone number. Wrap the gift.

Put a post-it note on the package listing the case number, name, and contents.

Bring the wrapped package (s) to Trinity – by December 2.

Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated as you make sure these young people have a very Merry Christmas.

Questions: Contact Sandy Wenger at sandywenger@zoominternet.net

ACT Book Talk
Join Us on Zoom!



Sundays, December
7, December 21
8:00 AM

justice together.
Whether you've
read the book or not,
all are welcome!

Time: 8:00 AM
Location: Zoom
(link in weekly
email or available
upon request)



For more info
Please check for
email from

ACTatTrinity@gmail.com

or post on the
Facebook group for
any last minute
changes.

Start your Saturday
morning with mean-
ingful conversation!
The ACT Team in-
vites you to join our
book talk on zoom.
We'll gather for
thoughtful discus-
sion, spiritual
reflection,
and connection as
we explore faith and

