

**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  
Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com  
Website: www.trinityucc.org



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WOOSTER, OHIO  
44691  
PERMIT NO. 25

February 2026  
Trinity UCC Topics

**“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”**

Trinity Friends,

The wind and the weather are going to change. Hey, this is northern Ohio after all. We all want to do something, but we don’t know what to do. We don’t have any direction. Yet Jesus was very clear about what he expected of disciples. Jesus laid out the way of compassion. Paul talked about Love being the more excellent way. Jimi Hendricks sang about the “Power of love overcomes the love of power.”

We all want to know; “What is my reward?” “Rewards Cards” are very hard to turn down. We all need incentives in this world and maybe even “cash back”! Jesus talked about Rewards all the time, the Pearl of great price/lost coin/hidden treasure. Everybody goes home with a reward today. You have all won the Lotto!

That’s what Jesus said anyway. Now, you have the “opportunity” to live without fear or anxiety, which is the most valuable thing you can ever possess.

What is my reward? Well, how about your friends in a community of faith?

You get the Spirit of a life set free to serve. A life set free to enjoy your life and relate to God, yourself and others in healthy ways.

Sometimes small commitments become life changing things...One woman--started out going to serve a meal once. Grudgingly...then she went again, then she was asked to speak to a group about her experience and motivation. Then formed an organization to keep kids off the street and inspire them to stimulate their mental neurons in other ways.

A traveler in hot dusty Palestine would appreciate a cup of cold water.

**“The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” -Frederick Buechner**

Your partner in Christ’s mission,

Rev. 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](http://www.trinityucc.org)



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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
10:30am



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

**February 1**

Holy Communion

“Beauty wherever you find it”

Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8**

“You are the salt on the earth”

Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15**

“I love you man!”

Matthew 17:1-9

**February 22**

“What’s so funny ‘bout Peace Love and Understanding?”

Matthew 4:1-11

Financial Position December 2025

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>**2025 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	\$56,940	\$86,706	\$355,037	\$396,173	\$339,899
Expenses	\$33,942	\$39,544	\$355,037	\$396,173	\$339,899
Net	\$23,547	\$47,162	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$0)

Comments:

We had a very strong finish to end 2025! We had contribution income of \$75,555. We want to thank our contributors that donated in December, plus those who answered Pastor Kevan’s appeal to help us out with extra December donations. As a result of this, we were able to pay back \$21k of the Endowment Funds that we had used to balance the third quarter - so we ended up using \$87k of Endowment funds to balance out 2025. Less than the allowable \$107k that was available. Those unused funds are available for future use.

On the expense side, our electric continued above budget, over almost \$400. Building supplies were \$250 over budget as we had a large order in December.

**Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$252,774)**

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: \$31,905.**

**Trinity Breakfast program – 30 years**



Trinity is the place where we come together to celebrate gifts of each other. We come together in our brightest and darkest hours, we also come together to dream about a bright tomorrow. In all of the craziness today, Trinity is the place to come to be a ray of sunshine for each other.



February is going to be a busy, but good month to worship God, to learn more about God, and connect with others, too. Looking forward to spending time with Trinity's friends also, as we enter the season of Lent.

**Bible Study at Noon** happens on **Tuesdays** in the Parlor. It is a time to gather, talk with each other and learn things about spirituality and the Bible.

Our **Faith Formation Team meeting** will be on **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm** in the Parlor. Looking forward to the things the team is working on to connect with others.

**C.A.T. (Children's Arts at Trinity)** is a good connection with children in our community! Love that we share Art, Music, Story-time and of course, supper with each of them as well as the adults, who are amazing helpers! This happens on Wednesdays, from 4:30-7:00pm.

**A Valentine's Day Dinner at Trinity** will be on **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. More information will be coming soon. Hope to see you there!

**Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper** is a good time to gather with others, eat together and have good conversations. This will be from **5:00- 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall.

**Ash Wednesday service** will be at **6:30pm in the Chapel on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**. It is good to worship and begin the season of Lent together on this day.

Each Sunday in Lent, you are invited to participate in a GenOn (all ages) Lenten gathering after Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The title is: ***"The Church Family Gathers for Lent: Psalms"***. *This is a time for light lunch, Bible Study, a little art work and prayer. A good way to connect and learn together. This begins on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

Another good way to connect with others is to come to **Fellowship Friday Game Night from 7:00- 9:00pm on February 27<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. So good to connect, snack and play games together!



## January Birthdays!

**Rick Lowe 1st**  
**James Shoots 1st**  
**Kaylynn Gunn 1st**  
**Ayden Varno 1st**  
**Nicholas Lupole 2nd**  
**John Uher 2nd**  
**James Wright 3rd**  
**Gary McCollum 3rd**  
**Caren Starr 6th**  
**Karen Saurer 6th**  
**Ryan Jackwood 7th**  
**Sue Ann Smail 7th**  
**Ryan Bertsch 8th**

**Bob Laverty 9th**  
**Lois Gardner 9th**  
**Greg Cooper 9th**  
**Jeff Hradek 10th**  
**Sandy Amstutz 11th**  
**Delaney Gatz 11th**  
**Mackenna Thiel 16th**  
**Bill Bostancic 17th**  
**Hayleigh Lewis 18th**  
**Geof Briggs 20th**  
**Rik Goodright 23rd**  
**Gene Houmard 23rd**  
**Kaley Jo Vizzo 24th**

**Annette Slater 25th**  
**Scott Slater 25th**  
**Larry Snoddy 25th**  
**Phil Starr 25th**  
**Candance Kelley 25th**  
**Kylie McMichael 26th**



Please check in with Tammy Hoffman!!

### ACTION REQUIRED

## Help Us Map Our Ministries

Are you the leader, chairperson, or head of a **Group, Mission, or Committee** at the church?

*Tammy Hoffman needs to hear from you!*

### PLEASE SEND:

- Your Group or Committee Name
- A Brief Description of Its Mission

### CONTACT:

**Tammy Hoffman**

hoffmans2750@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us strengthen and connect our church community!



## ✦ A Season of Love, A Chance to Serve ✦

February invites us to reflect on love in action. As we celebrate Valentine's Day and the many ways God's love shows up in our lives, it's a wonderful time to share that love through service in our Sunday worship.

Our worship services are made richer by caring volunteers who help create a welcoming, beautiful, and connected community. We invite you to consider one of these meaningful ways to serve:

📖 **Lay Reader** – Share God's Word and help Scripture speak to our hearts.

🌸 **Altar Flowers** – Offer flowers for the altar in honor, memory, or celebration of someone you love.

🤝 **Usher / Greeter** – Be the friendly face that offers a warm welcome, assists with seating, and supports the offering.

☕ **Coffee Hour Host** – Brew hospitality by providing refreshments and creating space for fellowship after worship.

Whether this is your first time volunteering or a familiar act of service, your presence matters. Every kind gesture strengthens our church family and reflects Christ's love among us. Sign up on the sheets in the narthex or call the church office to reserve your spot. Let's fill this season with love shared, hands extended, and hearts connected. 💕

Our church is amazing, and that's because of **you**. The caring hearts, shared laughter, and helping hands all come together to create the loving community we cherish. Feeling the love? We'd love for you to jump in and volunteer! Whether you're ready to help right away or looking ahead to **March**, the sign-up sheets are waiting for you in the **outer narthex**. Let's share the love, serve together, and keep making wonderful things happen as one church family. 💕



### Looking Ahead!

Faith Formation Meeting 6pm - February 3

Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 8am - February 7

Consistory Meeting 5:30pm - February 10

Quilters 10a - February 11 & February 25

Valentine's Day Dinner 5-7p - February 14

Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Supper 5-7p - February 17

Mission Team Meeting on Zoom 5:15pm - February 17

Ash Wednesday (Every Wednesday) 6:30p - February 18 - April 1

Women's Lunch @ Basil Asian Bistro 11:30am - February 18

Fellowship Friday Game Night 7-9pm - February 27

Each Sunday in Lent GenOn gathering after Worship - Begins February 22

Wednesdays in March Book Study and Prayer in the Chapel 6pm

# GAME NIGHT PARTY IS ON

*Get ready for a night full of laughter, challenges, and friendly competition! Bring your A-game and your friends*

Classic board games ✓

Fellowship ✓

Snacks ✓

**02.27.2026**  
**07:00-9:00 PM**

150 E. NORTH ST., WOOSTER

330-264-9250 📞



# Ohio's Hospice LifeCare is seeking volunteers!



## Volunteers are instrumental in every aspect of our mission.

Our volunteers provide direct patient care, Veteran to Veteran services, help with maintenance, respite care, animal-assisted therapy, data entry, and more.

## You are invited!

Training classes begin Monday, February 16.

**6-8:30 pm**

Training will be held at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare  
Gustafson Center for Supportive Care:  
1900 Akron Rd., Wooster, OH 44691

For questions about training or any  
volunteer opportunities:

Email Elisa Stoye at [ESToye@LifeCareHospice.org](mailto:ESToye@LifeCareHospice.org)  
or call 330.264.4899



800.884.6547 | [www.OhiosHospice.org/Volunteer](http://www.OhiosHospice.org/Volunteer)

Copyright © 2023 Ohio's Hospice, Inc. All rights reserved.

Happy February to everyone,

Wait for it...Spring is going to be here, just two more months of wintery weather to get through. With that in mind I want to share some parts of the January Pollinator News Letter from Brooks Berndt.

Dear Pollinators,

As I have previously shared, I am a recovering cynic. It is a struggle—a wrestling match against an underlying sense of powerlessness in the face of the enormous challenges our world faces today. In this bout, the recent U.S. invasion of Venezuela to control its oil threw me to the ground, leaving me flat on my back.

In a Zoom call this week with advocacy coach Sam Daley-Harris and leaders from a range of peace and justice organizations, I began to slowly pick myself up off the floor. During the call, three observations gave me a hand as I got back on my spiritual feet:

1. **Having a vision still matters even in the bleakest times.** During the call, another participant spurred a moment of reckoning for me by quoting the musical *South Pacific*, “If you don’t have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?” I realized that I no longer wanted to face the present without a vision for a brighter future, even if the odds seemed stacked against us.

2. **Believing in a vision is easier when you are engaged in action that provides a tangible sense of hope.** In the call, we briefly discussed the details of the current struggle over federal funding in Congress. In the context of seeking meetings with members of Congress and writing letters to the editor, such details are not only helpful; they make hope feel viable.

**More than anything, having a community of support is essential.** Daley-Harris is the Jedi-training Yoda of chapter-based organizing. As he talked during the call about the importance of having a structure of support for the work of advocacy, I was struck by how hard it would be to sustain any effort for social change as a lone individual. Can one rely upon willpower alone to continually pick oneself up off the floor? Without a community of support, I would have thrown in the towel a long time ago.

In reflecting upon this, I am filled with gratitude for all the churches and Climate Hope Affiliates that are providing communities of support during this critical moment. (And if you don’t yet have a community of support, I can help you start a Climate Hope Affiliate—reach out to me!)

With gratitude for your ministry,

Brooks

I hope this letter from the Heartland Conference gives you the same spiritual and emotional boost it did for me. I was losing hope in the Environmental Justice movement. Now, I know I am not alone, WE are not alone, there are many faith based initiatives to help the Earth across all sections of our beautiful country. In fact the attachment below will take you to an article from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* an affiliate of *USA Today Network – Wisconsin*. The article is about Faith Driving Environmental Activism. This movement is growing steadily and is a grass roots endeavor to obey God’s Words.

“What unites the North Shore Interfaith Green Team is a belief that religious people have a duty to care for creation and a desire to make that happen. Reenie Kavalor, of Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun, began the meeting with a reading from the Talmud, a foundational Jewish text.

“See My creations, how beautiful and exemplary they are. Everything I created, I created for you. Make certain that you do not ruin and destroy My world, as if you destroy it, there will be no one to mend it after you,” Kavalor read. She paused and reflected, ‘I’m thinking – if it’s not up to us, who’s it going to be up to?’

Who will it be up to? It is up to us. Watch for more programs coming up that you can join in on and remember Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Let’s make this year a tidal wave of support for all the Earthlings working to save our world.

Margaret Bourne  
Environmental Justice Team





# Valentine's Day Dinner at Trinity

♥ February 14th ♥

## Valentine's Day Dinner

For Trinity UCC Members and Family and Friends

- ♥ Date: Saturday February 14th
- ♥ Time: 5:00p to 7:00p
- ♥ Location – Trinity Fellowship Hall
- ♥ Free Will Offering

Bring a Personal story about love and we'll read it for you or you can grab a mic and share your story.

Stories can be about significant others, family, pets, or acts of kindness you have witnessed in strangers.

RSVP to church office/email, or on sign-up sheet on Sunday mornings

# Trinity Quilters

## 2026 Meeting Dates

**January 28**  
**February 11**  
**February 25**  
**March 11**  
**March 25**  
**April 8**  
**April 22**

*All Gatherings at 10:00 AM*