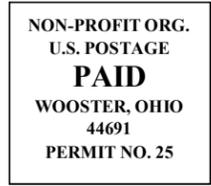


Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
150 East North Street
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 9:00a - 5:00p
Phone (330) 264-9250
Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityucc.org



"Rekindle the gift of God that is within you. For God did not give us a spirit of fear but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Trinity Friends,

Lent awakens us to hope in God whose "steadfast love endures forever" and to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. The Lenten disciplines of repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love are guides for returning to the steadfast love of God. During Lent we confess our mortality, our limits and our vulnerability so that we might be transformed and become the new life God calls us to be. -From our UCC Book of Worship

Paul appealed to the churches; "Rekindle the gift". We are living in a time of reconstruction and we call on you to rekindle your gifts and use them joyfully for the benefit of others and the community of faith. Hearts are awakening. It is not "your" gift. It is God's gift that has been given to you for the good of others.

Thank you to all of you who attended our annual meeting. Many of you help plan and organize opportunities to gather together and offer service in a number of ways. Watch for continued opportunities to be engaged as programs continue to develop.

Invite people to come to church with you. Somehow we think that all we have to do is to sit in our churches and people will just show up. We need to shake the tree. We live in a time when we need to choose now over later. There is an old saying; "God what are you doing today? I want to be part of it."

What is God doing today? We need to be there. Support our members who are engaged in what God is doing. Environmental concerns, Anti-Racism, Inclusion of all people, creating caring community, feeding hungry people, mentoring, resolve to end homelessness, prayer, access to health care, etc. etc. You are doing it. In all that you are doing, God calls us to bring people along and prioritize invitation and outreach.

Rekindle the gift of God that is within you!!! God will do the rest.

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. 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

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am



All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube

Live services are available on our website at

TrinityUCC.org

March 1

Holy Communion
“The Bold Blessing”

John 3:1-17

March 8

“Thirsty”

John 4:5-42

March 15

“Restoration”

Ephesians 5:8-14, Psalm 23

March 22

“Breathe”

John 11:1-45

March 29

“This is Jesus”

Philippians 2:5-11

Financial Position January 2026

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	\$13,618	\$36,282	\$13,618	\$36,282	\$17,265
Expenses	\$35,551	\$42,252	\$35,551	\$42,252	\$33,500
Net	(\$21,933)	(\$5,970)	(\$21,933)	(\$5,970)	(\$16,235)

Comments:

We start off the year under budgeted income for January which included \$9,283 of endowment support. We will look at that towards the end of the first quarter. Due to weather we had to cancel the January 25 service.

On the expense side, January was a three pay period month – so we always have a difficult time covering expenses. The only notable expense item is that we paid our annual alarm monitoring of \$600 causing our building maintenance to be over budget.

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$250,864)

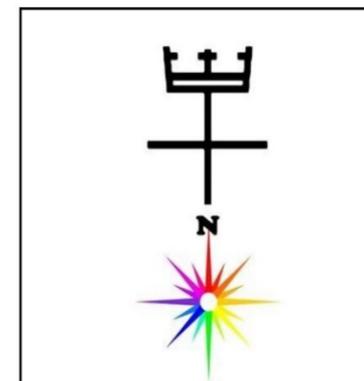
Please continue to give towards the Kitchen Renovation. 2026 will be our final and third year of the fundraising campaign. Many thanks for those who have contributed towards the project.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$31,963.

Trinity Breakfast program – 30 years

Established in the summer of 1995.

Our breakfast program is 30 years old!



**NORTH
STREET
MISSION**

**“Big City
Mission in
a Rural
Community”**



www.northstreetmission.org

Help us to promote North Street Mission!



Faith Formation and Arts at Trinity

All are invited to **All Generation Lenten Gatherings** after worship each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. They include light meal, scripture reading, prayer and fellowship.

- March 1- Session 2: "You Are My Fortress"
- March 8- Session 3: "My Satisfaction Is in God"
- March 15-Session 4: "You Surround Me with Songs of Rescue"

March 22-Session 5: "The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us"

Hope to see you there!

Lenten Bible Study is on **Tuesdays at Noon in the Parlor**. We bring our own lunch, fellowship together, study together and it is good.

C.A.T. (Creative Arts at Trinity) meets each **Wednesday from 4:30-7:00pm** on the second floor at Trinity. We enter through the back door. This is for ages 5-8th grade and is time for art, music, story books, and supper together.

Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays. Choir meets at 5:30-6:30 in the Chapel and Bells meet at 7:00-8:00 in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in participating, we would love to have you join us!

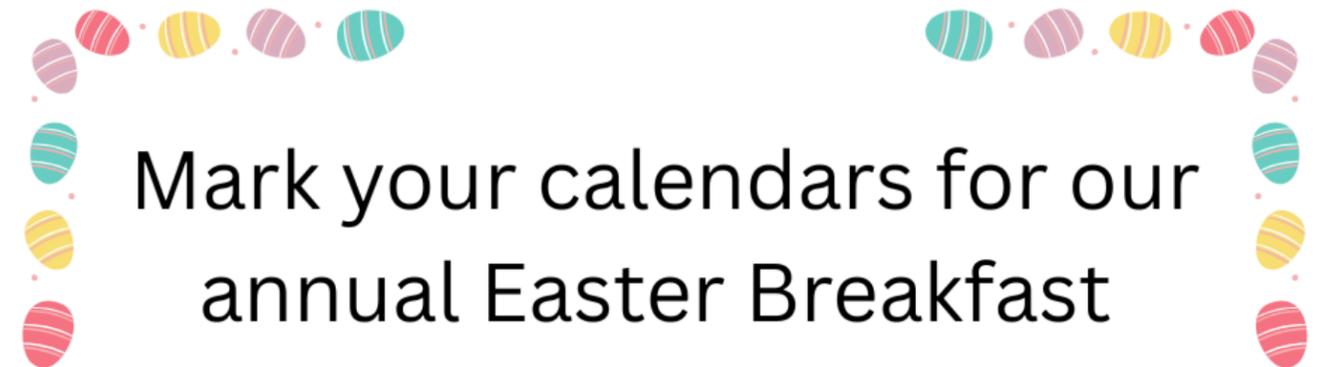
"Knit, Pray, Crochet" meets each **Friday morning at 11:00** in the Parlor.

Fellowship Friday Game Night is at **7:00-9:00** on March 27th. So good to gather for games, fellowship and snacks!

If you are willing and able to participate in our **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** on April 2nd, please contact Suzanne at suzannefeltner@yahoo.com or 330-317-7171. It is so good and important to have many people be part of "The Last Supper" and read parts together and then we take communion together.

March Birthdays!

Judy Montelione 4th	Doug Seman 14th	Dan Eagle 28th
Eric Browning 4th	Daniel Kirk 14th	Danielle Bertsch 29th
Mckenzie Thomas 6th	Bryon Ernsberger 14th	Carol Briggs 30th
Samantha Thiel 7th	Sherry Vizzo 20th	Janet Snoddy 30th
Curtis Briggs 7th	Rachel Ickes 21st	Nathan McCollum 31st
Nicholas Amstutz 10th	Benjamin Hoffman 21st	
Jil Condry 11th	Madison Whitman 21st	
Chuck Vrotney 11th	Scott Dettra 22nd	
Erin Rammel 11th	Will Parkinson 22nd	
Mike Brigham 11th	Liz Graham 24th	
Sara Aultz 12th	Bob Eicholtz 25th	
Joyce Blanchard 14th	Tim Zuercher 26th	
Jean Garver 14th	Angie Griffin 26th	



Mark your calendars for our annual Easter Breakfast

More information will be provided in our Bulletins, Enews and on our Website



🌿 **A Season of Renewal, A Time to Serve** 🌿

March arrives like a gentle turning of the soil. The days stretch a little longer, the light lingers a little brighter, and we begin to sense new life stirring all around us. As we journey through this season of reflection and renewal, it's a beautiful time to offer ourselves in service during Sunday worship.

Our worship services bloom because of caring volunteers who help create a welcoming, meaningful, and connected community. We invite you to prayerfully consider one of these meaningful ways to serve:

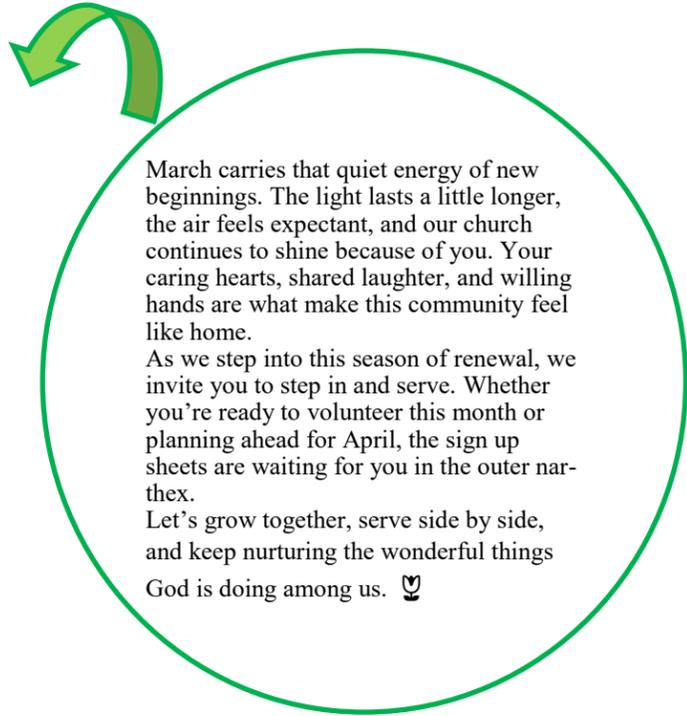
📖 **Lay Reader** – Share God's Word and help Scripture take root in our hearts.

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

👐 **Usher / Greeter** – Be the warm smile at the door, guiding and welcoming all who enter.

☕ **Coffee Hour Host** – Pour a cup of hospitality and create space for fellowship after worship. Whether this is your first time stepping forward or a familiar rhythm of service, your presence makes a difference. Each act of kindness helps our church family grow stronger and reflects Christ's light among us.

Sign up on the sheets in the narthex or call the church office to reserve your spot. Let's step into this new season together, ready to serve with open hands and hopeful hearts. 🙏



March carries that quiet energy of new beginnings. The light lasts a little longer, the air feels expectant, and our church continues to shine because of you. Your caring hearts, shared laughter, and willing hands are what make this community feel like home.

As we step into this season of renewal, we invite you to step in and serve. Whether you're ready to volunteer this month or planning ahead for April, the sign up sheets are waiting for you in the outer narthex.

Let's grow together, serve side by side, and keep nurturing the wonderful things God is doing among us. 🙏



Looking Ahead!

- Wednesdays in March Book Study and Prayer in the Chapel 6pm
- Ash Wednesday (Every Wednesday) 6:30p –March 4 - April 1
- Each Sunday in Lent GenOn gathering after Worship - March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22
- Faith Formation Meeting 6pm - March 3
- Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 8am - March 7
- Consistory Meeting 5:30pm - March 9
- Quilters 10a - March 11 & March 25
- Mission Team Meeting on Zoom 5:15pm - March 17
- Women's Lunch @ Mariola Italian 11:30am - March 18
- Fellowship Friday Game Night 7-9pm - March 27
- Easter Breakfast - April 5
- Shrimp Boil 5pm – April 18

Trinity Presents

Game Night

MARCH 27
7-9PM

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

150 E. North St.
Wooster, OH 44691

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Hosted by: Trinity United Church of Christ

www.TrinityUCC.org





Our Annual Shrimp Boil will be held

April 18 at 5pm

at Trinity United Church of Christ

150 E. North St. Wooster, OH 44691

Tickets available in the church office.

**All-you-can-eat shrimp, crackers & cheese,
finger foods, veggie tray, potatoes, corn on
the cob, pie and salad.**



Climate Justice Team News

In his recent book, *Cathedral On Fire*, Brooks Berndt suggests that in addressing the climate crisis people of faith act as if their church were on fire. “It only helps to see with new eyes, it also helps to see with two eyes, one focused on Justice and the other focused on Gratitude”. To that end, the Climate Justice team made the decision to discern the process of becoming a Climate Justice Church within the UCC Heartland conference. One of the steps we have taken is the creation of and congregational acceptance of a Climate Justice Covenant. The Trinity Climate Justice Covenant is as follows:

The Climate Justice Team with the support of the Trinity congregation and body of the UCC, will dedicate ourselves to the care of the world around us. We will work to seek Justice for the marginalized and under-served. Climate 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. Indeed, we acknowledge our deep connections to the Earth, to each other and to God.

As we approach this year’s Earth Day, we are grateful for the dedicated efforts of the Climate Justice Team. We are thankful for Reverend Brooks Berndt and Marin Koepf from the Heartland Conference for their guidance and inspiration. We are also grateful to Reverend Kevan Franklin and the Trinity congregation for the support we have received for our project to beautify, clean up and enhance our outdoor space.

Earth Day is April 22nd this year and we are looking forward to having a strong and significant celebration of all the work that has come before and all the work that is yet to be done to keep the movement going. As concerned citizens of this country we are increasingly up against government roll backs and attacks on the very fabric of our climate protections and programs that keep the Earth and all of us healthy.

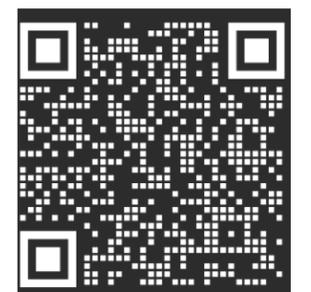
Our response to this is to keep finding ways to react that are positive, hopeful and helpful. Indeed, we look forward to further exploration and discernment of the four dimensions of becoming a Climate Justice Church:

1. How to ignite our ministry with Theology and Worship.
 2. How to walk the talk.
 3. How to expand our circle of Awareness and Advocacy.
- How to connect to a broader movement.

This is a new spring to begin our work with energy and purpose. There are many ways to keep our attention on the issues at hand. We can look forward to the Vernal Equinox on March 20th. We can plan to renew our commitment to the forgiveness and eternal love of God on Easter. On Earth Day we can find a way to celebrate the gift of this Earth and make an effort to support programs that focus on environmental justice. We can dedicate a Sunday service to give thanks for all the bounty God has provided for us on Earth. We can become involved in and attend the Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair at the OARDC on May 2nd. On Sunday May 3rd we will celebrate and dedicate the new landscape and gardens planted around Trinity.

There are many paths for each of us to make a difference and keep the movement of Earth Care and Environmental Climate Justice alive and thriving.

Time to plan your garden well and through action serve our Creator.
Margaret Bourne
Climate Justice Team



Our sister church St Stephanus in Germany had received our cards and in response they sent to Trinity, cards with wooden dove ornaments enclosed. Some doves were damaged and I sent a thank you to Germany and told them about the damage.

Pastor Sabine replied and I'd like Trinity members to read it. They are very involved in helping refugees and have a shelter house built on the church grounds.

Please keep St Stephanus in our prayers.

Susan Muskopf

Dear Susan,

I'm glad that the Christmas cards finally arrived. Too bad, that some of the ornaments were broken. We should have protected them somewhat.

How are things going at your congregation?

Are you much affected from the MAGA-movement and the ICE-activities at the moment?

We struggle with the more restrictive laws about asylum seekers, as well. But fortunately, we are still able to protect many families and individuals from being deported. Just today a Pakistani family arrived. The mother is wheelchair bound. Their two boys age 10 and 12 are very brilliant and speak already German quite fluently. Right now, we have people from Syria, Tadschikistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia here for church asylum. Plus some Ukrainian folks, who have rented their rooms at the Stephanus-Haus.

It's a really good mix. They study German together, act in a theatre group and are involved in the life of the church by helping for our various activities. Once a month we invite guests for our "Spaghetissimo" - just coming together for Spaghetti and having a good time. It's always a great atmosphere with good talks and often music, too. That is quite helpful for our guests in church asylum, since they cannot leave the church grounds during the time of their stay. Some of them stay almost six months, others may be three.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to come over for the UCC-forum this year. Would have been nice to see you, guys.

Mit freundlichem Gruß,

Pfarrerin Sabine Sarpe
Ev.-Luth. Stephanus-KG Borchten



The Valentine's Dinner at Trinity UCC was a wonderful success—an evening filled with love, fellowship, and meaningful connection. It was a joy to gather together, share a meal, and get to know one another better in such a warm and welcoming setting.

Some highlights of the night were the sharing of personal love stories that reminded us how unique—and often playful—the journey of love can be. One couple had everyone smiling as they recalled how their relationship began with a bit of school-day flirting, when he would shoot a rubber band as she passed his classroom door. Another story brought laughter as a mom and family members tried their hand at matchmaking for a relative—especially when the potential match happened to have the same name as that person's past partners! We also heard a thoughtful reminder that it's often the small, everyday moments that connect us, and that we should cherish and notice those throughout each day. And finally, it was shared that love often grows from friendship over time—especially enjoying the times cheering for Ohio State Buckeyes—proving that companionship and shared passions can be at the heart of lasting love.

The dinner also raised \$293, which will support future programming and continue building community within our church family. We extend our sincere thanks to the Valentine's Day Dinner Committee—Elaine Reed, Julie Vizzo, Joanne Leaman, Liz Harris, and Melinda Thomas—for their planning and dedication. A special thank you as well to those who helped on the day of the event—Jeff Vizzo, Susan Friend, and Jennifer and Doug Seman—for making the evening run so smoothly. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a special celebration!

We can't wait to see you at the next event!

