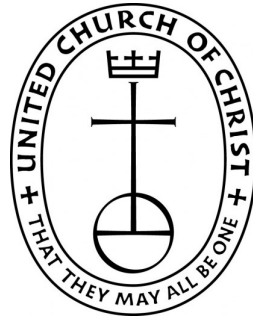


Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
150 East North Street
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 10:00a - 2:00p
Phone (330) 264-9250
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December 2024
Trinity UCC Topics

Pastor's Christmas Message How do we find joy?

One thing we can certainly say about John the Baptist is that people paid attention! John didn't say to those who came to see him; "Hi there. Come on in and sit down, would you like a cup of coffee?" Nope.

John's message was designed to get their attention! "From the fullness of his grace, we all have received one blessing after another." John introduced Jesus into the world! In the wilderness, John taught everyone that losing your way in life is easy.

I am reading a book "The How of Happiness" written by Sonja Lyubomirsky and I hope to turn this helpful book into an adult study sometime. The book focuses on three practices that psychologists have identified as best practices to find happiness; 1-Practice Gratitude, 2-Practice Acts of Kindness and 3-Learn to forgive. That sounds like the message of Jesus. Fitting gifts for Christmas!

I hope that John gets your attention this Advent Season; Eating grasshoppers, wearing camel's hair, dancing and waving his arms and dunking people under water. John, the hilarious giver, distracted people from their everyday routines. This Christmas Season, we celebrate the way Jesus walked through this world. The Prince of Peace came into the world to teach us to practice Gratitude, Practice Acts of kindness, and to forgive freely. Hope, Peace, Love and Joy to each of you!

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin

An Advent Prayer by Rev. Dr. Alan Olson-Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Lord, in this time of watching and waiting, please restore our sense of wonder. Take away our cynicism and our sense of having seen it all before. Give us new eyes and ears and hearts that we may see you, that we may see your coming and your return in all the people that we meet. Help us to share the gift of your love everywhere and to everyone. Amen.



Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*
Suzanne Feltner, *Faith Formation and*
Arts Director
Joi Griffith, *Administrative Assistant*
Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*
Phil Starr, *Business Manager*
Yulia Allison, *Nursery Staff*
Connie Plant, *Custodian*



<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 1

Frist Sunday of Advent Hope
Luke 21:25-36, Jeremiah 33:14-16
“People Get Ready!”

December 8

Second Sunday of December Peace
Luke 3:1-6, Philippians 1:1-11
“Get Out of the Way If You Can’t Lend a Hand!”
Barn Service 4PM At Reeds

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent Love
Luke 3:7-18, Philippians 4:4-9
“Love is All You Need”

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent Joy
Christmas Fund Offering
Luke 1:39-55
“Don’t Worry. Be Happy!”

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship 5 PM
Christmas Lessons and Carols
“One Child Born to Carry On”
Gospel of Luke

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas
Special Christmastide songs

Financial Position October 2024

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2024 Year to date**		**Last year actual**
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD
Income	\$12,815	\$35,076	\$153,178	\$203,552	\$168,093
Expenses	\$25,834	\$26,664	\$261,356	\$298,110	\$295,725
Net	(\$13,019)	(\$8,412)	(\$108,178)	(\$94,558)	(\$127,632)

Comments:

Our contribution income for October was \$22k under budget. On the expense side, we ran right at budget where we are normally under budget. Our building insurance of \$2860 hit in October when we had it budgeted in September. In addition, we made two Mission donations \$500 to the UCC Refugee Resettlement and \$500 to the NAACP Freedom Fund. Both the insurance and donations are part of the annual budget ..

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$283,836)

During the month, we paid our last check to Vince Mariola \$5,944, and finished Commercial Kitchens \$5,268. The project is completed!!!!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$27,131

Trinity Breakfast program – 29 year
Established in the summer of 1995.

Trinity offers Electronic options for donations



PayPal



Venmo



Vanco

As we prepare for Stewardship Sunday, November 10, 2024 we want to remind you that Trinity offers Electronic options for making donations. With Vanco, you can set up one time donations, or set up monthly on the 5th and/or the 20th.

Another option is to make a donation online by reading one of the QR codes above. You can choose PayPal (QR code on the left), Venmo (middle) or the Vanco code (on right) to donate from a checking account or credit card. They can also be set up to make periodic donations.

Many thanks for your support of Trinity!

Mind, Body and Spirit at Trinity UCC December, 2024

Advent is a very busy time of year, and a very important time as well. It is a time to gather with others, worship and share **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love**. Praying that you all are able to do this in some way.

You are invited to Cinemark on **Sunday, December 1st** around 2:00 to watch the movie “**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**” together. (Tickets are \$8.75) Then you can go the Varno’s home for appetizers and conversations. Let Suzanne know if you are interested or sign up at church. The next 3 Sundays after worship, we will gather in the Parlor to talk about the book/ movie.

Christmas Barn Service will be at the Reed’s barn on Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 followed by a light meal. Hope to see you there.

Our **Christmas Pageant** this year will be a “Readers Theater” on **Sunday, December 15th**. If you are willing and able to participate, please let Suzanne know. The more the merrier!

Blue Christmas Service will be on **Wednesday, December 18th** at 7:00pm in our Sanctuary. All are invited to gather and worship.

It will be such a joyful blessing to gather together on **Christmas Eve** for our 5:00pm worship service.

Wishing a Merry Christmas to all of you. Peace.



December Birthdays!



Corky Dettra 1st	Pamela Miller 15th	Kate Frichtl 24
John Graham 1st	Rita Haney 16th	Joanne Leaman 25th
Austen Wood 2nd	Lucy Baus 17th	Mindy Laverty 27th
Bob Nesbit 2nd	Lori Pritt 17th	Bob Blanchard 29th
Brian Reed 4th	Sharon Questel 18th	Julianna Varno 30th
Chuck Cooper 9th	Chole Frichtl	
Kristen Jackwood 10th	Andrew Boyer 18th	
Kevin Hanna 12th	Brittany Brinkerhoff 19	
Charles Gerber 13th	Nicholas Vizzo 20th	
Sarah Tizzano 13th	Daniel Henshaw 21st	
Kaley Dawson 14th	Elizabeth Lowe 21st	
Elijah Muskopf 15th	Christopher Feltner 23	

Trinity UCC Wooster—Stewardship 2025

Join us and share the Gift you are!



*“Dream of a bright tomorrow
Know that your dream will come true
Carry your dream in a sparkling crystal jar
Then you will know the kind of gift you are”*

Our super awesome December volunteers!

Lay Readers

December 1st - John Schantz

December 8th -

December 15th - Youth

December 22nd -

December 29th -

Coffee Hour

December 1st -John Schantz

December 8th -

December 15th -

December 22nd -

December 29th -

Flowers

December 1st -

December 8th -

December 15th -Dee &Louie Carter
(60th Anniversary)

December 22nd -

December 29th -

Ushers

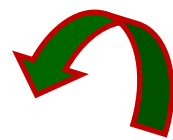
December 1st -

December 8th -

December 15th -

December 22nd -

December 29th -



Our church is so great because of the community we have created, and the hands that help us put everything together.

We encourage you to sign up to be one of our volunteers! If you are interested in filling one of the remaining spots, or planning ahead for the month of July, you can find the sign up sheets in the outer Narthex!



Looking Ahead!

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" **December 1st 2pm @ Cine-mark Movies 10/ Gathering @ Barnhouse Afterward**

Downtown Church Walk **December 6th 4-7pm**

A.C.T Book Discussion on Zoom **December 8th 8am**

Barn Christmas **December 8th 4pm @ Reeds' Barn**

Blue Christmas (Sanctuary) **December 18th 7pm**

Christmas Eve One Service **December 24th 5pm**

Rev. Franklin on Vacation **December 25th Through January 1st**

Office Closed Christmas Eve and Day, New Years Eve and Day

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DAY CENTER & SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER



HOMeward BOUND



<https://linko.page/shpztopc49y>

Our Services

- Laundry Attendant
- Day Center Attendant
- Kitchen Server
- Severe Weather Shelter Attendant
- Weekend Maintenance

For more information
or to sign up:



Day Center
Volunteer



Severe Weather Shelter
Volunteer

<https://qrcc.io/sjkhf41gbcfv>

<https://qrcc.io/shxm62mvpkcp>

981 Grosjean Rd. Wooster, OH 44691

volunteer@homewardboundwwc.org

We Did It!

The 2023-2024 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Renovation is complete. No more saw-ing noises or sanding dust. No more navigating in the back Narthex to get around the temporary Breakfast Program set up. No holes in the Fellowship Hall floor! The Break-fast Program has returned to normal operation. Trinity is ready to again be a communi-ty presence and we hope to host many events in the future.

The Renovation Team wants to thank you all for your monetary donations and sup-port of the fund raisers, for your time spent cleaning and moving things in or out of the kitchen and for working the Breakfast Program in an unfamiliar setting. Above all, thank you for your patience as we worked through some problems that extended the completion time.

Everything was much appreciated. You all are a blessing!

The Renovation Team



Hello, friends! This fall I had the opportunity to hear two Eco-Theologists speak about hope in the face of climate change. Five of us from our congregation went to the Climate Action Summit at Tempel Hills on October 12th. It was a beautiful fall day, and we enjoyed a time filled with fellowship and contemplation. I sat in on Dr. Timothy Van Meter’s talk on “Constructing Hope: Practices for Resisting Despair.”

But here are his main thoughts about what faces us: Time is running out to turn climate change around, the collapse of envi-ronmental systems is well underway, and the ocean is rising. The tipping point is now calculated to be 2040. We can do al-most nothing to change or counter the 20 corporations that are making 80% of the pollution causing climate change. However, we can do the individual and group work of building faith and hope. His outline for that process is this series of steps.

- Four weeks of Grief and Lamentation** – first we cry out and acknowledge our despair.
- Four weeks of looking at Reality** –we need to call ourselves back to our childhood wonder of nature, to the awe we felt in eve-ryday moments of discovery. We need more than ever to get out in nature and recapture those feelings in this moment, and become grounded in them.
- Four weeks of practicing Hope**—engaging our lives through music, poetry, and art that express our joy in the natural world.

In the class on Hope that he teaches at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, Dr. Van Meter tells his students to pick one piece of music, poetry, or art, and concentrate on it, study it, find meaning, and pass it on to others to expand the movement. My husband Dan recalled that during martial law in Poland, writers and other artists practiced “Internal Emigration,” a looking inward. They would still write and cultivate their art, while acknowledging the danger of open acts of resistance. But what Dr. Van Meter has in mind is a more positive process: to join in the conspiracy of minds nurturing hope about the future and our place in history. Now is the time to study and create our own resistance as people of faith, art, and science. Dr. Van Meter en-courages us also to find places of joy in deepening relationships. Together we can put our hearts and minds to work to help others find a way to navigate our unknown future on this Earth. (If you are interested in reading more of Dr, Van Meter’s work, please contact Maren Koepf at the Heartland office: marenkoepf@gmail.com

My second encounter with a lecture full of hope was when a few Sundays ago in church, Dick and Lin Wierwille invited the congregation to their home. It was for an evening of homemade apple pie and a YouTube podcast of another eco-theologian, Dr. Kiara Jorgenson, the associate professor of Religion and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College’s United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Dr. Jorgenson’s lecture, titled “Hope Through Tears,” was part of her being named resident schol-ar of United's program on Environmental Theology and Ethics, which aims to discuss the spiritual implications of our relation-ship with nature.

What is fascinating to me is that both Dr. Van Meter and Dr. Jorgenson are advising some of the same things: facing our cir-cumstances, acknowledging the many losses we have and will suffer; yet; as people of faith and children of God, we can still find hope. Indeed, Dr. Jorgenson started her lecture by asking, “What is hope? As part of her own answer, she gave us three modes to practice in finding this hope.

- 1. Protest:** Use our life force and energy to resist in the face of the climate crisis.
- 2. Weep:** Give the gift of tears to yourself. Come to the sober recognition of what is happening and have acceptance of the situation humanity is in.

- 3. Fall into Joy:** Hope can be a rejoining, it is active, it awakens our sense of potential. For instance, we can gather to share poetry, art, music and pie.

Dr. Kiara also gave us the same bad news that by 2040 our human existence will be in peril: the loss of polar ice sheets creating sea level rise everywhere on the world’s coasts; only 4% of vertebrates still alive; and the net production of cereal crops de-clining, thereby causing hunger to rise worldwide. Yet, she emphasized over and over that cultivating hope is a holy and neces-sary practice. Her lecture was dense with a spirit of Hope, with encouraging words of wisdom, with practical ways to nurture our hope and share it with others. I encourage you to find her lecture on YouTube, invite over some friends, make a pie or two or three grab a cup of coffee, and watch this useful guide for surviving emotionally and spiritually what may lie ahead...

Margaret Bourne for the Climate Justice Team



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.

Submitted by: Dale Angerman

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET
Sunday, December 15, 11:15-2:00pm
First Presbyterian Church

As Christians, we are called to show our love of Christ through our actions. The Alternative Gift Market is a wonderful opportunity to show our Christian love and to learn about projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering. A share in a project is \$5, and is accompanied by a beautiful card and a description of what project you have chosen for the recipient. Children can shop too, for \$1 shares in projects. Just like traditional gifts, alternative gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions and show you care.

Shoppers will also enjoy beautiful handmade crafts from developing countries that will be available for purchase, along with coffee, tea, chocolate. We will have something for everyone on your list!

We invite you to join us in Bruch Hall at First Presbyterian Church for lunch, music, fellowship, fun and learning.

Please call Nancy Lilburn at 330-234-6848 for more information.

Thank you and See you at the Market!



Located at Reeds
December 8, 2024 at 4:00p.m.
Address: 7814 West Smithville
Western Rd. Wooster, Ohio 44691
Light Supper to Follow

A Map to the Barn Service - December 8th @ 4:00p
7814 West Smithville Western Rd. Wooster, Ohio 44691

