



AUGUST

August
Topics 2020

Topics article for August 2020

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:1-2

Trinity Friends,

I hope that you and your loved ones are well. During this time of uncertainty and anxiety caused by the Coronavirus outbreak we are committed to maintaining a sense of normalcy about our faith practices and connect with as many people as possible. This newsletter offers several ways to stay connected.

It seems like worship in person was such a long time ago! March 15 was the last time that we gathered for worship in the Sanctuary. Many people have asked us when we will return to worship. The CDC and the UCC suggest that faith communities not think about gathering in their sanctuaries until there is at least two weeks of continuous decline in COVID cases. So far, the count has climbed continuously and just today the Governor of Ohio is again urging people to wear masks and practice physical distancing.

The worship schedule printed in the Topics newsletter is entirely virtual. We feel that it is important to maintain the normalcy and regularity of our worship services during a time when most of our routines have been interrupted. We have now posted 18 Sunday morning virtual worship services. Each of our services online have reached many more people that we normally have on a Sunday morning. We are grateful for those who continue to worship with us in this digital age. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the homepage of our church website www.trinityucc.org for more information about our virtual offerings and also the addition of a new COVID information page. We will inform everyone when we are able to worship in the sanctuary again.

We remain concerned about our members who do not have access to the internet. We are in a time of experimentation and we are committed to working on different ways of connecting as we continue to be the church without a building. Small gatherings of people are happening as we observe best practices for preventing the spread of the virus.

We have the pavilion at Christmas Run Park reserved for Sunday, August 16th. This is a long standing tradition to worship outdoors once during the summer. We are inviting members to join us there, with the provision that you let us know that you plan to attend. We need to be sure that we value safety above everything else. At least we can wave to one another. If you plan to attend, you MUST RSVP the church office (330-264-9250 or TrinityuccWooster1819@gmail.com) if you plan to attend because we cannot accommodate a large crowd and we want to be sure that you have enough information to worship safely. You also MUST wear a mask at all times, bring a chair, maintain six feet apart, no food this year prayer, scripture and a message, and instrumental music because we can't sing as singing is a primary way that the virus gets into the air. A virtual service will also be available this Sunday for those who are at home.

Thank you for your continuing generosity and faithful financial support during this time of isolation. May God watch over your going out and your coming in from this time and forever.

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,

Dr. Franklin

Beloved church,

122 Days ago today, we held in person worship in Trinity's physical sanctuary. Today, July 15, I walked into the fellowship hall - sacred space. In the empty room, my soul is stirred by memories of fellowship - nothing more, and nothing less, than a shared and common table.

Covid reminds us: discipleship is a physical act, not only a mental one. Discipleship calls us to common life with Jesus, who commanded his followers to practice such embodied traditions as: wash each other's feet, and sit at table. This congregation's mission to nurture bodies through feeding the community continues. The body of God, Jesus Christ - on the cross, buried, and risen - is our greatest hope.

In this time, we can turn to the tradition and history of our faith. We can lament - Lamentations 1: "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people." The chapter goes on to express the sorrowful, bitter, longing for Jerusalem, Israel's sacred home.

So, in this exile, like the ancient Israelites' exile, we lament, but believe in God to make a way in the desert to bring us home. We will get back to our sanctuary and trusting God to take us there remains an exercise in faith, hope, and love.

In Christian love, Emily

Worship Schedule

You may access our worship service on our YouTube and Website page listed on the back.

<u>August 2nd</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Genesis 32:22-31 Holy Communion Sunday	<i>Sermon:</i> "Overcomers"
<u>August 9th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> 1 Kings 19:1-18	<i>Sermon:</i> "Things that matter most"
<u>August 16th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Genesis 45:1-15	<i>Sermon:</i> "To Forgive is Divine"
<u>August 23rd</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Romans 8:1-8	<i>Sermon:</i> "Where Brilliant Dreams are born"
<u>August 30th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Romans 12:9-21	<i>Sermon:</i> "Eye Contact"

FINANCIAL POSITION - June 2020

Trinity UCC Wooster - "Embracing & Celebrating God's Love"

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2020 Year to Date**		**Last Year Actual**
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 17,167	\$ 19,575	\$102,196	\$122,563	\$ 120,414
Expenses	\$ 24,025	\$ 29,625	\$156,947	\$185,688	\$ 170,097
Net	\$ (6,858)	\$(10,050)	\$(54,751)	\$(63,125)	\$(49,683)

Comments: For June, our income and expenses continue to run under budget. In total, our deficit at this point is less than expected at mid-year. There were no extra-ordinary expenses during the month.

At the mid-point of 2020, we are operating pretty much like we normally do. Our actual deficit is \$8,400 less than budgeted through six months. Given the state of everything with the pandemic, we are thankful that our members and friends continue to donate to Trinity.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(14,537)

Average weekly on-line worship reviews: 217.

Building Repair Fund Balance

During June we received an Endowment Fund Grant of \$61,000 to help reduce our building repair fund balance. The only repair yet to pay is the current masonry work being done on the bell tower. We are hopeful that this can be paid off by year end!

Breakfast Program Balance: \$ 10,215

(The Breakfast Program was established in the summer of 1995)
Trinity Breakfast Program - 25 years

Senior Birthdays

- 4th Carol Smith
- 4th Peggy Vizzo
- 7th Janet Landers
- 7th Pauline Yutzy
- 8th Carolyn Jackson
- 12th Peggy Franks
- 14th Toni Molter
- 15th Marjean Clapper
- 18th Karen Mathys
- 19th Pat Ogden
- 19th Judy Adams
- 19th Bobbie Earl
- 25th Chris Marek
- 26th JoAnne Orr
- 29th Sally Lennon
- 31st Kaye Hess

Youth Birthdays

20th Dani Nebergall

Dear Trinity UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to Friends of the Mission makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthened neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Alice Graham, Ph.D.

The directories are in!

You may pick yours up at the church office during regular business hours, however you will need to call the church prior to your arrival due to Covid19 we still have our doors locked.

The church office number is 330-264-9250.



We are Trinity UCC Wooster, a faith community in downtown Wooster. We encourage you to join us for virtual worship and to communicate with Trinity members and friends during this pandemic. Keep up to date about church activities on our church website home page: www.trinityucc.org

Ditch Lily Theology

July boasts many beautiful flowers, but the humble ditch lily is clearly a winner for me. There's something especially affirming about those orange daylily blossoms nodding randomly from country roadsides that tells me we are solidly into summer.

The daylilies I'm referring to, are the tawny daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*), or ditch lily. They often appear randomly in ditches, usually along county or township roads.

For most daylilies, their showy orange blooms last just one day, close for good in the evening but are followed immediately by another bloom opening on the stem.

That's a powerful image for faith and trust -- things may look tough now but be patient for the dawn of a new day, a fresh perspective or an unexpected blessing.

The upbeat flash of beauty that the daylilies add to a country drive is also a reflection of God's fondness for showing up in unexpected places. We all have had our own spiritual daylily experiences where a totally unanticipated blessing happened on a very average day, or at a time when things weren't going so well. Of course, it's possible to drive down the road and never really notice the ditch lilies. Distractions abound and unexpected beauty, as well as blessings, can be easily missed on the journey.

The daylily can serve as a spiritual reality check, slowing us down a bit to really notice both the beauty of creation as well as the blessings right in our midst.

--Herb Broda



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”

John Muir

I grew up in Toledo Ohio, also known as the Frog City because it was built on the edge of the Black Swamp, a 1500 square mile wetland forest supporting the lives of countless frogs and insects. By the 1960s, however, all but remnants of this vast ecosystem had been drained for farmland and housing developments. Yet, one lingering reminder of this once impenetrable swamp and wilderness were all the insects I encountered as a child. It wasn't just the sight of lightning bugs and butterflies, but the whirl of June bugs and cicadas that still come to mind. On humid summer Sundays, we would all pile into the Jeep station wagon for a drive out to the family farm just south of Bowling Green. On those drives the windshield and bumper grill would be plastered with all sorts of flying insects--moths, grasshoppers, horseflies, butterflies and smaller critters too tiny to identify. I remember, because one of my jobs was to wash our car once a week and I scrubbed off their remains which were dried on and sometimes sticky.

When was the last time you noticed bugs smashed on your windshield? Has it been a while? The progressive reduction in the number of insects hitting our cars has been called the “windshield effect,” and it indicates a scarily significant decline in insects across the world over the last 20 years. Indeed, there are not just anecdotal memories like mine, but scientific studies galore to support this noticeable phenomenon. For example, according to Elizabeth Kolbert's article “Where Have All the Insects Gone?” in the May issue of *National Geographic*, researchers in New Hampshire found that the number of beetles there had fallen by more than 80% since the mid-1970's. In short, we are in the midst of an insect apocalypse. And it's not just the bugs that are in danger. Insects are essential to the overall well-being of our planet. Kolbert writes, “If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.”

There are a wide variety of tasks insects perform: they pollinate the crops we eat; they provide food for fish, birds, and countless other creatures up the food chain; they disperse seeds; they are decomposers and “soil engineers.” All the ecosystem services that insects provide keep the wheel of life turning. These systems are all connected, plants and insects are the fabric of this planet. But we are ripping it to shreds, and a continuation along this path will lead us to doom as well. It is frightening to contemplate, but there is still time to make the changes that will restore insects to our environments where they are not just beneficial, but essential to our well-being.

We are indeed “hitched” to insects and they to us. One important fact very few of us realize is that many of the plants we eat depend on bee pollination. Unfortunately, bees and other beneficial insects are the unintended “collateral damage” of our ongoing wars with genuinely destructive insects such as mosquitos. But maybe it is time to change our tactics. None of the sprays used to eliminate mosquitos are safe for the environment; they kill everything, not just mosquitoes. Rather than spraying chemicals, citizens should promote natural predators such as dragonflies, bats and chimney swifts. Acknowledging and fighting climate change will also help to save insects. Here again, thinking globally and acting locally seems important. Any small steps we take at home can have a profound impact on the overall carbon footprint. In the article “New Lawns for Hot Times” in the spring issue of *Birds and Blooms*, you will find ideas about how to make your own personal land more supportive of bugs and other wildlife in the face of climate change. The current buzz word is, “Liberating your lawn.” This means planting bushes and plants that support pollinators, not spraying for weeds and certainly not using pesticides for insect control. And, rather than worrying if you're not mowing your lawn too frequently, worry that you're mowing it too much. Indeed, the era of making your lawn sterile for cosmetic purposes is over.

Since many of us are taking staycations this year, I have an activity for you and your family to try. Pick a spot in the grass, in the flower bed, along the edge of your yard or anywhere you might see bugs, and sit there a while just watching. Keep a journal of how many different insects you see in each place. Look up the ones you don't know and keep the list going for a while. When you are done with list-making and counting bugs, investigate what kinds of plants, water sources, and spaces will help support the lives of the insects you find. In essence, become a citizen scientist and help your family be aware of the supportive essential web of life that exists right in your own back yard. Sometimes your discoveries are serendipitous. Earlier in the spring, I put orange halves on some stakes in the garden to try to attract orioles. The birds never showed up, but now there are lots of dragonflies and damselflies stopping to nourish themselves on the desiccated remains. This is wonderful, because dragonflies and damselflies eat lots of mosquitoes. In fact, I've been engaged in mosquito control without knowing it—and it is also taking place naturally because of that small, even accidental, effort on my part. This is just a micro-step in countering the macro-problems we face in preserving planet Earth, but indeed it's often the little things—like insects—that add up in the end.

Trinity Climate Crises Committee
Margaret Meeker Bourne



Thank you to the following people for making masks for our Trinity Members, Trinity Breakfast Friends, Wooster Community Hospital and other community members: Bobbi Angerman, Janet Broda, Janet Burkhart, Sharon Fischer, Becky Grindstaff, Sandi Keim, Mary Lee Lowe, and Susan Muskopf. Your service is greatly appreciated. Well done, good and faithful servants!!

If you are in need of a time for scripture, prayer and fellowship, please join me for **“Talk Together Tuesdays”** at **noon** in the upper level of Christmas Run Park (near the YMCA). Feel free to bring your own coffee, water and or lunch, if you wish, as we take time to **“You Are Loved”**. As a reminder to our students (and adults), this year we will be passing out stickers and tags that have been blessed. These can be put on backpacks, diaper bags, purses, wallets, phones, iPads, laptops, toolboxes, etc. If you would like one, please let Suzanne Feltner know either by email, trinityuccmusic@gmail.com or the church office phone: 330-264-9250 and she will be sure you get one.

“Fourth Sunday Drum Circle” will be held on **Sunday, August 23rd at 7 pm**, at the Feltner residence. Address is: 11434 Friendsville Rd, Creston. Please bring your own chair or blanket, and percussion (if you have any) and water. Some drums and percussion instruments will also be available.

Trinity Faith Project for August- **What is your favorite hymn and why?** Please send a video, picture, short write up to Suzanne Feltner with your information.

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

Office Hours: M-F 8:30a - 5:00p
Phone (330) 264-9250
Fax (330) 264-0380
Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityucc.org



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Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*

Emily Howard - *Assistant Pastor*

Brandi Stevenson, *Administrative Coordinator/Secretary*

Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Karla Jewell, *Assistant Business Manager*

Joslyn Hauter, *Custodian*

Nursery Staff include:

Yulia Allison

Christopher Feltner

Alexis Glassburn



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Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster



Our Worship Service is Broadcast-
ed on WKVX 960 AM every
Sunday morning at 8:30AM.