



Trinity Friends,

I feel like the Grinch who stole Christmas! Just when we figured out how to open for Christmas, the U.S. went into the red with infection rates that have filled our health facilities and the possibility of another shutdown is very real. By this time, everyone knows someone who has been affected by COVID19. Some of you have been sick, some in isolation or quarantine, and others to maintain somewhat normal schedules. Pray for Health Care workers, Educators, Essential workers and churches, pray for a vaccine.

The United Church of Christ “strongly urges” its churches not to open for live service. We feel that it’s best not to contribute to the spread of the virus by holding in person worship until we see what the pandemic looks like after the first of the year. We are planning a virtual Christmas Eve service this year, available for you and your family to watch at a convenient time over the Christmas Eve or Day Holiday celebration. Have your candle ready and celebrate with us!

I don’t want to end this letter with “Bah! Humbug!” , but to acknowledge that we all certainly miss being together physically for Christmas Eve this year. Celebrate the Spirit of the season by joining us virtually!

Your Partner in Christ’s Ministry,

Dr. Franklin

---

### Breakfast Program Thanks

Our breakfast program would not be possible without the generosity of our members and friends gifts of time and resources. 3 to 5 kitchen workers come in at 7 am to cook sandwiches and fill carry out bags. Several of us work the table in the foyer to distribute the food.

Loss of jobs and a housing shortage increases the number of vulnerable people on the street. Attendance has topped 100 several times. The larger numbers makes it more difficult to thank those who continue to provide masks and other PPE items. Also thanks to those who provided fruit and other food donations. The Wooster Homelessness Task Force meets weekly to find ways to keep people safe and meet the needs of people living on the street. Warming Center volunteers are needed for 3 hour shifts on nights that the temperature falls below 20 degrees. Contact Dr. Franklin for ways to help with this project.

There are two ways to help sponsor the 200 + children ranging in age from newborn to 18.

PLEASE consider one of the following:

a gift card or a monetary donation.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase gifts from

Toyrifix. Please make your check payable to "Wayne County Children Services" and in the memo space "Christmas MAW".

Gift cards to one of the following places in either a \$25 or \$50 increment.

Visa/Mastercard Gift Card, Amazon, Walmart, Target, Gamestop

Please include your name and Trinity UCC on the envelope. A tax receipt will be issued by January 31, 2021.

ALL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 4, 2020

Thank you so much for your generosity and support- It's all about the kids!

Let's make their wishes come true!



---

## Worship Schedule

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

Join us, every Wednesday we have Prayer services at 6:30 PM. You can access the service via our website on the HOMEPAGE.

<u>December 6th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Mark 1:1-8 <i>Sermon:</i> "A Far Cry" Advent: Peace Holy Communion Sunday	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>December 13th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> John 1:6-8, 19-28 <i>Sermon:</i> "No! Enough!" Advent: Joy	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>December 20th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Luke 1:26-38 <i>Sermon:</i> "How can this be?!?!?!?" Advent: Love	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
December 24th	<i>Scripture:</i> Luke 2:1-20 <i>Sermon:</i> "In Praise of Shepherds" Christmas Eve / Traditional reading of the Christmas Story	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>December 27th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Isaiah 61:10-62:3 <i>Sermon:</i> "Beautiful Light"	Pastor, Emily Howard

FINANCIAL POSITION - October 2020

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<b>**Current Month**</b>		<b>**2020 Year to Date**</b>		<b>**Last Year Actual**</b>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 62,517	\$ 25,339	\$215,195	\$256,302	\$ 262,396
Expenses	<u>\$ 30,811</u>	<u>\$ 37,539</u>	<u>\$256,142</u>	<u>\$312,762</u>	<u>\$ 277,541</u>
Net	\$ (31,705)	\$ (12,200)	\$(40,947)	\$(56,460)	\$(15,145)

Comments: October was a strong financial month as a number of our annual contributors made their donations for 2020! On the expense side, there were no extra-ordinary expenses except for the fact that October was a three pay period month resulting in higher payroll expenses.

Through ten months we are sitting with a \$40,947 deficit. With two months to go we are hoping that our contributors will help to close the gap or hopefully eliminate the deficit by the year end. We are in the midst of our annual stewardship drive and ask every member and friend to faithfully consider your pledge for the new year! **Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(33,606)**

**Building Repair Fund Balance**

We continue to receive strong donations to this fund as we received \$1,887 in October.



*Youth Birthdays*

- 30th Chelsea Schantz
- 30th Julianna Varno

*Senior Birthdays*

- 2nd Ruth Hines
- 2nd Bob Nesbit
- 5th Don Starr
- 7th Paul Fouche
- 9th Chuck Cooper
- 13th Charles Gerber
- 17th Lucy Baus
- 25th Joanne Leaman
- 29th Bob Blanchard



**Looking forward to being able to gather for celebration dinners in fellowship hall, post-covid!**



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. You can send your contribution to the church.

In the Women and the Bible class, zoom allowed us to build community during a season of physical distancing. After starting by celebrating Mary's song of liberation, we went on to explore historic texts including Deborah the Judge as an example of leadership, Mary and Martha's ministering sisterhood, the Hemorrhaging Woman's persistence in finding healing, The Canaanite Woman who challenges Jesus, Ruth and Naomi's bond for survival, and Hagar who gave us a taste of liberation theology. What an exploration of faith! Now, just two sessions remain on November 30 and December 14 from 7-8pm on [www.trinityucc.org](http://www.trinityucc.org) "Prayer and Communion Link." We have had challenging discussions that inspire and empower. Thank you to all who participated.

Friends,

Our Wooster Community Alternative Gift Market will be held again this year but will become a "virtual" market due to the pandemic. Humanitarian and environmental needs are increasing throughout the world and here at home. Let's continue our support of these wonderful vetted projects and celebrate our collective strength to change the world for a better future! Thank you to the following churches which are once again participating in our market. Our goal for this year is to raise \$5,000 for projects both in the US and around the world. The dates of our market will be from November 21 -December 10.

Alternative Gift Market International has assisted us in setting up an online (Crowdfund) Market. Here's how it works:

Visit this link to our Crowdfund, where you can view the available projects: <https://alternativgifts.org/giving/crowdfunds/82> . Select which Causes (projects) you want to support Click on "learn more" to see details of each project. Click on "give gift" to donate; insert \$ amount (any amount is okay...no minimum). For questions, contact Nancy Lilburn at 330-234-6848 or [nancyweirlilburn@gmail.com](mailto:nancyweirlilburn@gmail.com).

Friends in Christ,

On Marge Cliffe's 100th birthday she was surrounded by love. She wrote, "As I celebrate my 100th birthday, and as I am looking back, I see how good God has been to me." I admire many of the members of Trinity for focusing on what matters: love - God's love, and our love. In this advent month, may the love that you are surrounded by, no matter when and where, fill your mind, body, and soul, to usher in a new year in Christ.

Life is a book in  
Volumes three  
The past, the present and the yet to be  
The past is written  
And laid away,  
the present  
we're writing every day,  
And the last and best of  
volumes three  
Is locked from sight-  
God keeps the key.  
-Author Unknown  
Submitted by Margery Cliffe

This poem reminds me of the providence of God - and that God went ahead of Marge in every year of her 100 years. God also goes ahead of us, even now, into 2021. Just as Marge shares her experience of God's love, I am inspired by love at Trinity UCC. As I plan to be ordained and installed in the near future, I trust that the journey ahead will open our hearts to God's love even more, because in Christ we are God's beloved community.

With Advent love,  
Pastor Emily



We extend our sympathy to family and friends of Marjean Clapper, Sarah Barnes, Kaye Hess and Wyatt Ridenbaugh's father, Klines "Fats" Ridenbaugh.

This Christmas Season finds us living in a very strange time. Seems as if we are in suspended animation at times. But we still need to be aware of our relationship with the Earth.

As a matter of fact, even as we have been semi-isolated, we have witnessed extreme weather events, the worst of which have thankfully not greeted us here in northern Ohio. But there have been many hurricanes, tornados, tropical storms, floods, droughts and record numbers of fires afflicting our southern and western states. These stand as strong evidence of the strain we humans have placed on the global biosphere through pollution of the atmosphere with CO2 and other greenhouse gases.

Those pollutants don't stay in one place. They sweep around the world on the winds, causing drought in Africa or floods in south Asia, as well as the storms and fires plaguing parts of the United States. So whether or not we see the damage when we look out our windows---those windows we feel so enclosed by these days---our call to stewardship of the Earth is just as real as it ever was. And the urgency of climate change is as strong as ever.

It is recognized that temperature zones are warming farther and farther from the equator. What is the difference? For one thing, the zones are moving so fast that trees cannot keep up and some are dying off. Animals and insects are moving farther North and we may see tropical diseases, along with poisonous insects and reptiles. The oceans are warming, driving fish stocks and sharks into the north Atlantic and Pacific, while coral reefs and other ocean life dies off.

We don't want to be depressing, but if "the Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof", we are here to respond by caring more for the fullness of the Earth than for ill-considered use of the Earth's resources. So let's look at the Earth with renewed respect and see it as the wonderful system it is. And tend it with the regard it deserves.

A couple of environmentally friendly gifts for the Christmas Season:

- 1) A one year gift membership to "The Sierra Club", 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1300, Oakland, California 94612, 1-415-977-5500. For \$15.00 it includes bi-monthly magazine + local chapter membership. You will be helping to protect wild places, keeping air & water clean and build a clean energy future.
- 2) A gift membership to "Green America", 1612 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006, 1-202-872-5307, [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org). One gift is \$10, 2 gifts \$15 and 3 gifts \$20. It is a 501(c)(3) with a 4 star rating on Charity Navigator. Gift includes their publication containing many Green Living Tips and an introductory gift packet.

Christmas Blessings, Ed & Carol Eberhart for the Trinity Climate Crisis Committee

***Hello, Trinity Family and Friends. This Advent and Christmas are obviously going to be very different from others we have gone through. But it does allow us to take steps back, and learn more about the season in different ways. Below are several opportunities to study God's word and to celebrate the season of Advent. Hopefully by participating in one or more of these activities, you will feel more connected to our church family and especially, closer to God.***

***Trinity's Prayer Team*** If you are interested in being a part of Trinity's Prayer Team, please let the church know. We share prayer concerns with the team by email, but could also share them by phone. The more people we have to pray, the stronger the team! Thank you to those people who already are on the team.

***"Do Not Be Afraid"*** by Illustrated Ministry. This devotional and activities written for children and adults of all ages, helps us explore what it looks like to hold hope when life feels really uncertain, to bring peace in the face of fear, to practice joy when everything seems burdensome, and to choose love, when sometimes, it's just really hard. If you would like to receive one of these devotionals, please let Suzanne know and she will get it to you.

***"Advent -Talk Together Tuesdays"*** at noon in Fellowship Hall. Come and gather in a small group to share scripture, prayer and conversation about Advent. We wear masks, physically distance and have hand sanitizer available.

***"Light of the World" A Beginner's Guide to Advent***, written by Amy-Jill Levine, will be studied on Thursdays at 2:00, in person in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please let Suzanne know, so she can order you the book. If an evening time for gathering on Zoom or in person, works better for you, please talk with Suzanne and we can work that out.

Coming in January- ***"The Good Book Club"***. This will give us the opportunity to focus on reading and studying the book of Mark from January 1<sup>st</sup> up to Lent. Let Suzanne know if you wish to join this club and she will get you more information.

To contact Suzanne, please call the church at 330-264-9250 or email at: [trinityuc-cmusic@gmail.com](mailto:trinityuc-cmusic@gmail.com)

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all of you.

Peace.

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

**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



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

**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**



<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)



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