



"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." The Apostle Paul-Ephesians 4:2-3

Trinity Friends,

Are you often annoyed at interruptions in your daily plans? I appreciate Frederick Buechner's take on the work of the Holy Spirit. In his book "Wishful Thinking" he writes; "God was making a body for Christ, Paul said. Christ didn't have a regular body any more so God was making one out of anybody who looked as if they might just possibly do. God was using other people's hands to be Christ's hands and other people's feet to be Christ's feet, and when there was some place where Christ was needed in a hurry and needed bad, God put the finger on some maybe- not-all-that-innocent bystander and got them to go and be Christ in that place for lack of anybody better."

In the 3rd chapter of the Book of Exodus, "Moses said to God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Most of us feel this way when we are confronted with a moral dilemma. We echo the well-known words of Moses when the voice from the burning bush. Moses ran away to shepherd sheep, leaving his life in Egypt. But God called him back. Are you annoyed at interruptions to your daily plans?

Martin Luther King Jr. wasn't searching for popularity at the beginning of the civil rights movement. He intentionally took a church in Montgomery because he wanted to focus on the everyday life of the church. He went there to get away from Atlanta and the center of a political movement. But God had other plans. He ended up in the middle of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and his name was lifted up as a national civil rights leader and the rest is history. Most of the significant things that happen in this world don't come in the ways that we think they will. God's hand is always on the unlikely one.

Our faith teaches that God is no respecter of persons. You just might be in innocent bystander hanging around when God needs to do something. When God wants to move over the waters and bring change, it will happen in God's time, not ours. Like they say, "Life is what happens when we're busy making other plans."

Instead of unwanted disruptions in your day. We can become so annoyed with life's interruptions! Think about the ways that you have been chosen to be the body of Christ. In the midst of God's interruptions, "Be completely humble and gentle be patient bearing with one another in love."

Your Partner in Christ's ministry,

Dr. Franklin

February WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am

February 6th:- Sermon: "Leave the shore, Simon. Go into the deep"

Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

Holy Communion

Annual Meeting weaved into worship

February 13th:- Sermon: "Neighborliness"

Luke 6:17-26

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

February 20th:- Sermon: "We do not lose Heart"

Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Rev. Emily Howard

February 27th:- Transfiguration Sunday

"Watch Night Vigils"

Luke 9:28-36

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin



The Annual Mission Trip to Esperanza in Tijuana Mexico will take place this spring.

Dates: March 12 -19, 2022

Cost: \$550.00 plus your airfare

We will travel on our own and meet at the San Diego Airport. Once we arrive ground transportation, lodging, and meals are included in the cost. Passports and Covid vaccinations are required. Masks need to be worn. The College of Wooster will not be joining us so the group will be quite small. If you have never been to Esperanza or if it has been a few years, we hope you might give this opportunity some serious thought. They need our help. If you have further questions or want more details, contact Steve Schroer at steven.schroer@yahoo.com or 419.271.4361.

FINANCIAL POSITION - December, 2021

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2021 Year to Date**		**Last Year Actual**
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 56,976	\$ 67,773	\$329,107	\$373,902	\$ 306,446
Expenses	<u>\$ 32,984</u>	<u>\$ 32,897</u>	<u>\$329,107</u>	<u>\$373,902</u>	<u>\$ 306,446</u>
Net	\$23,992	\$ 34,876	\$0	\$0	\$0

Comments:

During December we received strong contribution income of over \$37,000! We want to thank those members and friends who answered Pastor Kevan's appeal for additional donations at year-end to help us to balance the year. On the expense side, \$3,000 was spent for various mission related donations under the discretionary portion of our mission budget. Even with this spending this line was \$2808 under budget for the year. Also, OCWM donations were above budget as a result of our high income month. There were no other extra ordinary expenses for December.

As a result of our strong contribution month, we ended the year with a deficit of \$13,789 which was covered by church reserves to balance out 2021. After using those funds the church still has \$72,138 in reserves. Please note that as a result of Pastor Kevan's appeal, a few of our annual contributors will be donating approximately \$10,000 in January to partially offset the 2021 deficit. These funds will be added back to our church reserves

Building Repair Fund Balance: -(17,315)

During December, we paid \$2154 in repairs to our boilers

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$28,774

Average weekly attendance: Not count

Trinity Breakfast program-26 Years

Established in the summer of 1995

Senior Birthdays



- 1st Rick Lowe
- 3rd Gary McCollum
- 6th Karen Saurer
- 7th Sue Ann Smail
- 8th James Ditzler
- 9th Bob Laverty
- 9th Lois Gardner
- 17th Bill Bostancic
- 23rd Gene Howmard
- 23rd Rik Goodright
- 25th Larry Snoddy
- 27th Greg Cantrell

Associate Pastor's Message

Trinity Friends,

We are in a time of great change, and as we know, change is messy and scary and amazing all at once. How are we going to become who God called us to be? In this time, I learn from the promise of covenant through the rainbow. Here are some ways you can learn from the rainbow again (and again, and again) as the journey goes on.

Rainbows are a promise of hope. God is a God of creativity. God's self even changed - and we can change, too - before, God destroys, in the future, God ceases destruction. We can lean into the trust with a God who is so relational with humanity that they will allow God's own self to change - in a response of love.

Rainbows are God's love for us. God wishes all of us to have a place of belonging. In our time, we put a rainbow on our building and it prophetically speaks - as an Open and Affirming church, we recognize the need of LGBTQ+ people to hear the good news that all are truly welcomed in God's house. It means all people belong. Inclusivity is a principle we strive toward. We are not perfect; but we want justice for all people and belonging is a part of that.

Rainbows also show that diversity is a part of God's plan. Look at the beautiful colors out on the rainbow flag. It is more beautiful with many colors than it would be with one only. We can trust our communities of diversity are equally as beautiful to God and to each other.

This is a rainbow church. God gave Noah the rainbow and it sustained us through part 1 of COVID - even if the rainbow is not always visible, we can hear the story and bring it to mind. Hear it and its good news, wisdom, and hope again.

I pray for you,

Pastor Emily

Climate Crisis Committee

I don't know if you've seen the recent film Don't Look Up. This satire contains laughs, but is also a horror story. It's about a group of scientists who determine that a planet-destroying comet is going to hit earth, but when they try to get word out, both elected officials and the news media only ignore, trivialize or, yes, try to make political and economic hay, out of the looming disaster. This Netflix film has set a new-record for the most viewing hours in a single week on this streaming service; and, just within a month of its release, it is Netflix's second most-watched film of all time.

Of course, Don't Look Up is in fact trying to dramatize how our politicians continue to deny the coming dire impact of climate change, while so many of us also try to remain oblivious as possible to the need for change in our country's big picture policies as well as in our own personal habits and lifestyles.

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To me, this is a sign that people really are worried, and also feel helpless in the face of the multiple disruptions to nature in the coming decades, including traumas to humanity itself. It's easy to not "look up," but our insistence on the creature comfort of being oblivious now will cause great pain to come.

And this film also got me thinking about a related question—how movies can change our perspectives, to cause us to have an epiphany, a realization that the world is not what we thought it was before this moment. In terms of our attitudes towards nature and our connections with it, is there a movie you remember seeing when you were a child (or maybe just a few months ago) that made such a revelation about nature come to you? If so, would you like to share your insights with us? Just write a few words about a film that you remember making you realize something deep about the specialness and/or fragility of nature and the earth. Please feel free to sign your name, or if you prefer to remain anonymous that would be fine, too. To participate just e-mail your response to me at mbourne@wooster.edu and I will include your contribution in the newsletter for March.

*** Opportunities, Initiatives, and Engagement***

[Opportunity for involvement](#) • Would you like to become more involved in solving the problems of global warming through service on the Climate Crisis Committee? There are many things we could do if we had a few more members. Please consider joining our group at Trinity to help and make more work possible and goals achievable. If you are interested in getting involved in this vital work, contact me through the church email "Trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com" attention Climate Crisis Committee, and we will get back to you with open arms.

[Initiative For The Wilderness Center](#) • The Wilderness Center has started a program to recycle plastic lids into benches. Plastic lids from milk and drink bottles, cottage cheese and similar tub lids, peanut butter, mayo, ketchup (flip top or solid)—all of these materials can be re-fabricated into benches. Many of TWC's trails need new benches, and what better way to provide them than to RECYCLE!?! TWC has offered to dedicate a bench to the group that brings in the most caps. I have entered Trinity UCC into this worthy competition, and there will be a bucket in the back entry way and in the kitchen for collections. Each time the buckets get full I will take our donations to TWC and note our contribution. Let's help TWC improve their trails and maybe even sponsor a bench for Trinity UCC!

[Engagement to make your voice heard](#) • It's a new year, and we must keep the pressure on our legislators as well as the president to let them know we have not forgotten that climate change is a top priority. Write to Congress and the White House today. Your message will remind them that climate action is of utmost importance. We embrace our democracy by making our voices heard about this legislation. This is a moral issue, not a political issue.

* To write your senators: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/senate/>

* To write the president: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house/>

Margaret Meeker Bourne for the Climate Crisis Committee



Trinity has been a downtown Wooster church for over 200 years. Over these 200 years many things have changed. Most recently with COVID we long for passing of the peace on Sunday mornings. As we offer more electronic services we encourage you to make electronic donations to the church. Please visit the stewardship page on our website (www.trinityucc.org) where you can make a one time gift or sign up for electronic withdraws monthly. See Phil Starr or Jack Senn if you have any questions.

February Faith Formation Opportunities

Many people often think of February as a month of love, since Valentine's Day is in the middle of the month. It is Black History Month, so a time to think about where we have been in history, and how to improve in the present and future in this area. Some people take time to think about former and present U.S.

Presidents because of Presidents' Day. During this time of Pandemic, our minds are also struggling with worries, fear and frustration. Let me remind you, that God is always here for us; that we can share our thoughts, worries, fears and also joys with God at any time of the day or night. As a family of God, we are also here for each other. Gathering together, whether via zoom, phone or in person, gives us great opportunities to support each other, learn more about God and share God's love. So, during this month, let's take time to reach out to each other and share our faith and God's love.

Sundays: Faith Formation for all ages 9:15- 10:15. Worship at 10:30. Drum Circle on 1st and 3rd Sundays after worship until noon.

Mondays: Qi Gong at 10:00 in the Parlor; Trinity's Wellness Group at 10:30

Tuesdays: "Soup, Scripture and Conversation" at noon in the Parlor

Wednesdays: C.A.T. 4:30-7:00

Thursdays: Bell Choir at 7:00

Scripture of the month: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:7-12 NIV

Peace and love to all.

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

Trinity United Church of Christ
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Church Staff

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Rev. Emily Howard - *Associate Pastor*

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Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Brandi Stevenson, *Assitant Business Manager*

Alyssa Kamp, *Custodian*

Nursery Staff include:

Yulia Allison



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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.