

Trinity Friends,

The season of Lent begins with the words, “We are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and Neighbor.” The forty-day Season of Lent is a time to follow the wisdom of the ages handed down to us by prophets and apostles.

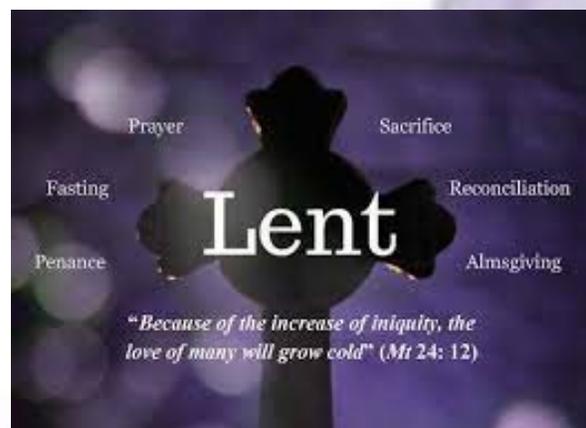
“Turn this stone into bread.” “Throw yourself off the top of the temple.” “Bow down and chase after worldly things”. Life can be demanding. Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to accept his mission in life and have the courage to live an awakened life by holding firm to his knowledge that he is a beloved child of God. Jesus knew that his heart was enough. Jesus knew that God’s love for him was enough. Lent teaches us that God’s love is enough for us to live our lives unafraid of whatever may happen. Following the example of Jesus, repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us to return to the love of God and neighbor.

It feels good to know that we have company in the wilderness. There are people of faith in the world that lead by example. Albert Schweitzer said, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know, those of you who will be really happy will have sought and found how to serve.” Life in 2023 is full of distractions that lead us away from the love of God and others. Sometimes you need to step away from the “noise and haste” of your life. I encourage you to observe this time of spiritual awakening, step away from your fears and celebrate life.

It’s hard to write a newsletter article about grace in a world where little peace, love and understanding can be found! It isn’t easy to follow in Christ’s footsteps! However, isn’t that what the season of Lent is all about? When Jesus dreamed, he dreamed for the whole world. We tune our hearts and minds with the question; What is God doing? God is surely still speaking in the life of the church.

May the light of God’s love shine in your wilderness. May the power of God’s love be our guide in the darkness. When we worship together in a community of faith, we are never alone.

Grace and Peace to you,
Dr. Franklin



Associate Pastor's Message

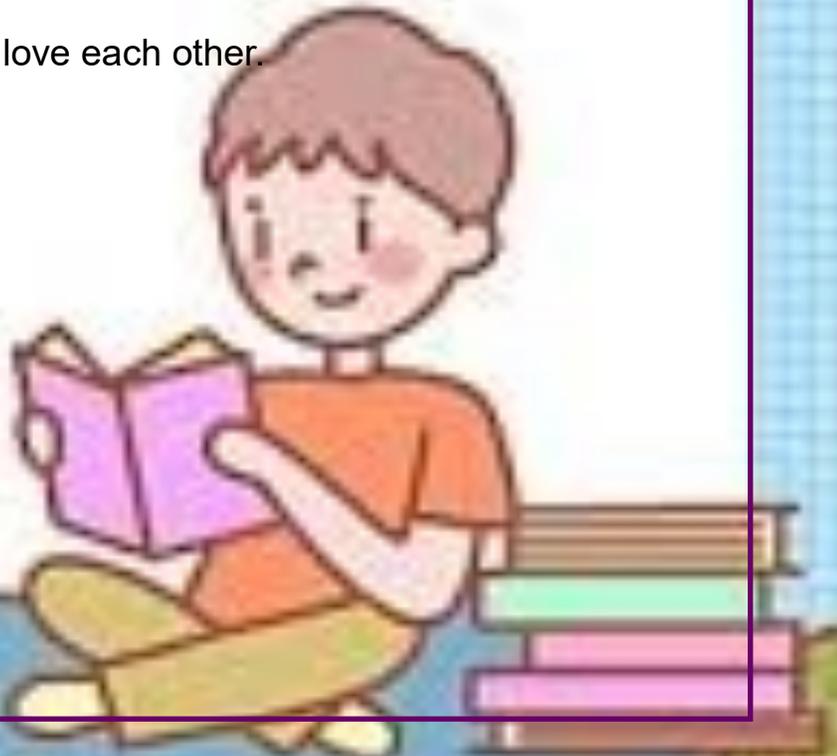
Friends,

February has always been a hard month for humankind in Ohio. We pull the blankets up higher. Travel can be sticky between the ice and the snow. No one really goes outside in the dark and cold. It's unavoidable. Hence why we bless and send several snowbirds to Arizona and Florida and parts warmer! Yet, here I submit to you, the possibilities of February.

February is a great time for reading. I have started strong and can share that *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*, by Katherine May, is a blessing of rest in the winter - that, unlike what our always-on society tries to achieve, in fact humans are not made to always be on the go. *Rest is Resistance* by Tricia Hersey, continues this theme. Our bodies and minds are made for slowing down. It is natural. It is normal. In fact, it is essential. We need more sleep than we get! We need to let ourselves lounge! We have times of quiet and cold not because they are abnormal but because they can heal us.

In other news, do you have a hankering for something new to read and do this winter? Join ACT for a new book starting February 12 at 8am on www.trinityucc.org Prayer and Communion link. We are a great group to read along with and you do not even have to change out of pajamas, just join us with your coffee in hand!

I love you, church. God loves you. We love each other.
Rev. Emily Howard
Associate Pastor





Art, Faith Formation and Mind, Body, Spirit Connections at Trinity

Taking care of our bodies, minds and spirits that God has given us is a very important thing. If we do not care for ourselves, we will not be able to care for others. So, during this month, please think of ways to do this, and look at opportunities to join other people in our church family to encourage each other.

Sundays, join the **A.C.T.** group via zoom at 8:00. **Kids' Faith Formation** is from 9:15- 10:00 in the Sunshine Room. All ages of kids are invited! Starting on February 26th, the **Adult Faith Formation group** will be gathering after worship to study "Creation Care" together.

On February 12th, be part of **God's World in Community** and join in a time of food, fellowship and faith after worship.

Take care of yourself (and your loved ones) by joining **Trinity's Wellness Group** on Mondays at 10:30 in the Parlor. This is a time for encouraging each other to take better care of ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually.

Tuesdays at 10:30 in the Chapel, you are invited to breathe, meditate and stretch during **Yoga** taught by Lyn Shoots, a Certified Yoga Instructor.

We also offer **Bible Study and Soup** on Tuesdays at noon in the Parlor. All are welcome to join us for a light soup lunch, study and conversation.

At 11:30 on Wednesday, February 15th, all **Trinity Women and Friends** are invited to join for a healthy lunch and conversation with Audra Odom, a Heart Corps person from W.C.H.

On Thursdays, people are invited to join us for **Choir at 5:30** in the Chapel and/or **Bell Choir at 7:00** in the Balcony. Singing and ringing are very good for our hearts, brains and our bodies. If you would like to know more about how this helps us, please ask me!!

Speaking of good for our brains and bodies, you are invited to join in a **Drum Circle** on Sunday, February 19th after worship. There are 10 health reasons to start drumming. I would be happy to share these with you! (You do not need to know how play a drum to be a part of this.)

Our bodies are so important that the Lord calls them temples of God (see 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20). **Our bodies are holy. Because our bodies are important, our Father in Heaven wants us to take good care of them.** He knows that we can be happier, better people if we are healthy.

Peace. Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts



Trinity Climate Crisis Article for February 2023

As I write this article (1/15/23) 8 million people are under a flood watch in California, following the "Bomb Cyclone" storms which have dumped super amounts of rain on the state. This is another Climate Crisis Event which is occurring, not in the future, but NOW! The estimated cost is over a billion dollars. Climate Crisis Events are very costly!

Fortunately, we have STARTED, as a country to finally address this Crisis with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This Act by the federal government is offering some massive clean energy discounts starting in 2023. It includes a \$50 tax credit to offset the cost of a professional energy audit--a move that often pays for itself in rebates and increased energy efficiency.

If you have been thinking about installing a solar energy system, this Act provides up to 30 percent in tax credits for installing qualifying systems, that use solar, batteries, wind, geothermal, biomass or fuel cell power to produce electricity, heat water or regulate temperature. If a tax credit does not work for you, individuals may see reduced pricing from community solar or solar leasing options, where the commercial entity takes the business credit for the property, rather than the individual

Also included: 100 percent credit for Installation of energy-efficient water heaters, heat pumps, central air conditioning systems, etc., with a \$1,200 annual limit. A 30 percent annual tax credit for energy efficient home improvements, such as doors, windows, insulation, roofing, etc. Rebates for residential efficiency retrofits, electrification projects including heat pumps cooktops, and other appliances--as well as associated electrical upgrades.

There are also tax credits for the purchase of a new or used electric or plug-in-hybrid car from a dealer. Here again, if tax credits don't work for you, starting in 2024, car dealers may provide the option of a "dealer transfer", where the car buyer can transfer their credit to the dealer at the point of sale, and the credit is used to reduce the purchase price, instead of the the buyer claiming the credit at tax filing, You can learn more details at:

[hines.house.gov/inflation-reduction-act-energy-rebates-and-tax-credits](https://www.congress.gov/hines.house.gov/inflation-reduction-act-energy-rebates-and-tax-credits). And on that site: at the bottom of the main paragraph, click on the word here.

The Inflation Reduction Act
THANK YOU, TRINITY FRIENDS





**Wooster
Homelessness
Task Force**

Be informed. Get involved.

Housing & Homelessness in Wayne County

-a community call to action on providing shelter for all-

Thursday - February 9th, 2023 - 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church (Bruch Hall)

Presentations by:

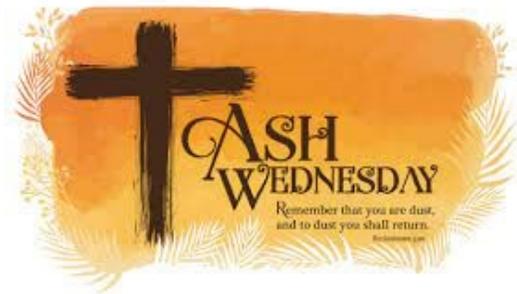
COHHIO (Coalition on Housing & Homelessness in Ohio) & **Wayne County Housing Coalition**

Engage with agencies and service providers

Advocate for life-changing programs

Sign up to learn more or volunteer

**JOIN US:
FEBRUARY 22
6:30PM
ASH WEDNESDAY**



Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival.

- It is held the day before Lent, which lasts for 40 days.
- During Lent Christian families were expected to give up luxuries, which included meat, fish, fat, eggs, milk and sugar.
- So, the day before Lent started, they used up those things that would not keep. Making pancakes was a good way to use milk, eggs and fat with the simple addition of flour.



**Shrove
Tuesday**



**JOIN US:
FEBRUARY 21
5-7PM
SHROVE
TUESDAY
PANCAKE
SUPPER**



FEBUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am

All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube
Live services are available
Trinity UCC

5 February

Holy Communion
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
"Searching Spirits"

12 February

Science and Technology Sunday
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
Psalm 118:19-29

19 February

Transfiguration Sunday
"The Great Awakening"
Matthew 17:1-9, 2 Peter 1:16-21

22 February

Ash Wednesday Isaiah 58
"What kind of fast do you choose?"

26 February

First Sunday of Lent
"Rich in things yet poor in soul"
Matthew 4:1-11, 5:38-48

Coming Up:

March

5 Communion
12 Daylight Saving Time
14-21 Kevan and Phil in
Mexico
21 Kevan back

April

Holy Week

April 2 Palm Sunday
April 6 Maundy Thursday
April 7 Good Friday
April 9 Easter

Financial Position December, 2022

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>**2022 Year to date**</u>		<u>**Last year actual**</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$118,646	\$94,116	\$337,773	\$382,157	\$329,107
Expenses	\$ 37,710	\$34,136	\$337,773	\$382,157	\$329,107
Net	\$ 80,936	\$22,270	\$0	\$0	\$0

Comments:

We ended up 2022 with a deficit balance of \$54,733. As mandated by consistory, we used reserve funds to balance out the year. We have \$79,839 in reserve funds remaining.

During December we had some of our annual contributors make their donations plus Pastor Kevan sent out an appeal for help at year end which resulted in contribution income of \$63,154.

Moving forward we are asking the Trinity members and friends to consider making an additional donation to help offset this deficit and help us to replenish our reserves.

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (6,330)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$32,578

Trinity Breakfast program – 27 years

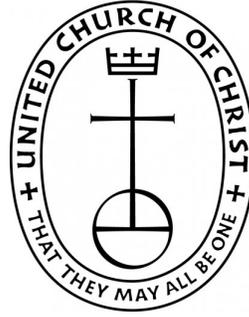
Established in the summer of 1995.



The 2023 Stewardship theme was “Do Something” based on the song from Matthew West. We see first-hand everyday at breakfast how varying factors of the economy and mental health impact peoples lives. The song starts out by asking God, “Why don’t you do something?” The song continues by God saying, “I created you!” We encourage you to become active in our ministry! We offer a variety of experiences weekly and several mission trips throughout the year!

Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
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Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Emily Howard - *Associate Pastor*

Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Jennifer Lendon, *Administrative Assistant*

Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Brandi Stevenson, *Assitant Business Manager*

Alyssa Kamp, *Custodian*

Yulia Allison *Nursery Staff*



<https://www.facebook.com/trinityuccwooster/>



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.