



February
Topics 2021

"Night and day we continue praying with all our heart that we can see you again and give you all the things you need to make your faith strong." -1 **Thessalonians 3:10 the Apostle Paul**

Trinity friends,

We have all been through an eventful second half of 2020 and are now on our way into February already! Despite the fact that there are now two effective vaccines, we are still in a time of pandemic with perhaps even the highest number of cases since it began. However, we can see light at the end of the tunnel if you squint just right.

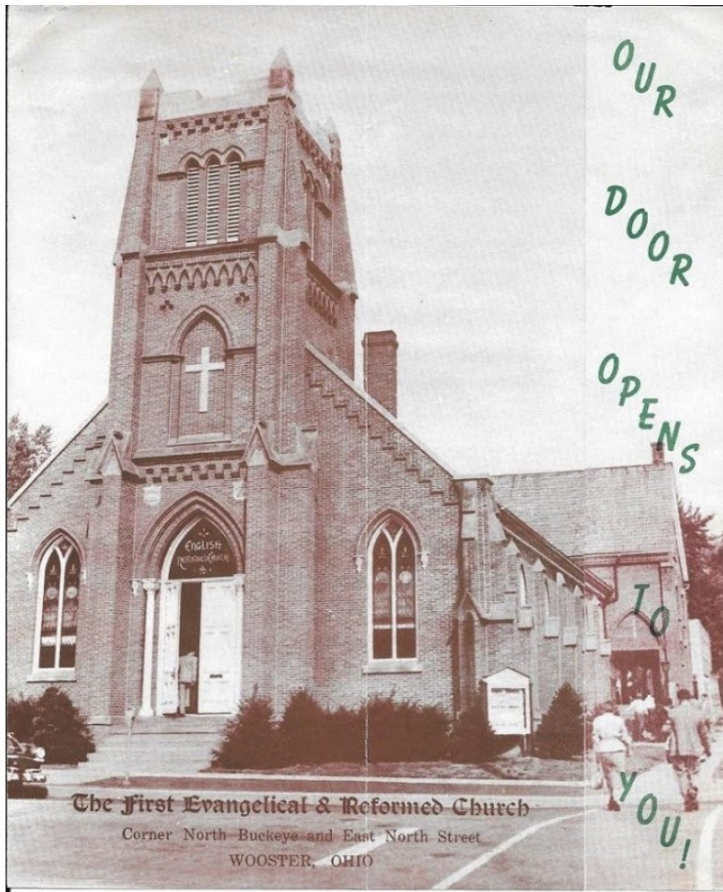
The question that many members are asking us is "When will we be able to return to in-person worship?" This is heart-warming and reassuring in a way. You have missed gathering together for fellowship, education and worship. You want to "see" on another again!

Church leaders are considering what "church" will look like when we get back to "normal". Perhaps that could happen as soon as this Spring, but probably not by Easter. Remember we are just squinting really hard! What will church life be like when we finally return to in-person worship?

We hope to have one big special celebration when we get out of the woods, where we can share our hopes and dreams together and perhaps talk about our experiences during the pandemic.

"Invitation" is perhaps the most important word for the church. In order for a church to thrive, members need to be invitational and reach out to friends and family to come to church with them. In our digital age "sharing" is the most important word for any organization. Please be intentional about "sharing" our videos on social media or recommendation. This time of "Virtual Church" has convinced us that in everything that we do, we need to be sure to think about those outside the church as well as those inside the church. When we offer special music, special programs and events, think about those on the outside, whose lives would be enriched by the same things that you enjoy. Exciting things happen when churches begin to invite. Throughout 2021, we plan to offer opportunities for connection through Bible Studies, small groups, and special events. Hang on. We're almost there!

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin



Even back in the 1950's, the corner of Buckeye and North streets was a place that had an open door to welcome all!

While we can't welcome you now because of the pandemic, our mission in downtown Wooster remains the same:



Worship Schedule

You may access our worship service on our YouTube and Website homepage listed on the back. Join us, every Wednesday for Prayer services at 6:30 PM.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <u>February 7th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 147, Isaiah 40:21-31 | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| | <i>Sermon:</i> "How Good It Is" | |
| | Holy Communion Sunday | |
| <u>February 14th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 99, Mark 9:2-9 | Pastor, Emily Howard |
| | <i>Sermon:</i> "Glimpses of God" | |
| | Transfiguration Sunday | |
| <u>February 17th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, Isaiah 58:1-12 | |
| | Ash Wednesday Zoom Worship with Communion at 6:30p.m. | |
| <u>February 21st</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25 | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| | <i>Sermon:</i> "Lift Up Your Soul" | |
| <u>February 28th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Mark 8:31-38 | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| | <i>Sermon:</i> "The Necessity of Suffering" | |

FINANCIAL POSITION - December 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	\$ 45,186	\$ 68,603	\$306,446	\$379,493	\$ 339,573
Expenses	\$ 25,085	\$ 34,432	\$306,446	\$379,493	\$ 339,573
Net	\$ (20,101)	\$ (34,171)	\$(0)	\$(0)	\$(0)

Comments: December member contributions were strong at \$30,134. We thank our members and friends who made additional donations to help 2020. On the expense side we paid \$1,500 to help the warming center, \$530 to have our organ tuned and received as workers compensation dividend payment of \$2,095 which was a credit to our workers compensation expenses.

For the year, Trinity ended up with a deficit of \$14,033. We had budgeted a deficit of \$29,319. We are so thankful for everyone who continued to donate to the church during the pandemic. Without your continued support we wouldn't have gotten this close to balancing out the year. Consistory guidelines say that our budget must be balanced each year. We were able to cover the deficit of \$14,033 with church reserves. When we have a surplus we add to the church reserves and when we have a deficit we use them to cover. We still have church reserves of \$49,293 remaining.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(29,258)

During December we received strong donations of \$4,597. We incurred \$6,504 in building expenses: \$2,835 in upgrades to our Kitchen fire suppression system and \$3,669 for replacing the bearing assembly in the furnace room.

Breakfast Program Balance: \$22,800

Average Weekly On-line Views: 308



Senior Birthdays

- 1st Rick Lowe
- 3rd Gary McCollum
- 6th Karen Saurer
- 8th James Ditzler
- 9th Lois Gardner
- 17th Bill Bostancic
- 23rd Gene Houmard
- 25th Larry Snody

Youth Birthdays

- 1st Kaylynn Gunn
- 1st Ayden Varno
- 5th Reagan Kasunick
- 21st Camryn Glassburn



God Provides



One way to define “stunning” is to find winterberry plants in a snow-covered landscape. The dense clusters of bright red berries defy the monochromatic look of a winter background.

Winterberry is a holly shrub native to the eastern United States. It is medium-sized, usually 6-10 feet tall. Winterberry has become popular as a landscape plant and is readily available.

Although the plant is a holly, the leaves of the common winterberry do not have the classic sharp teeth found on typical hollies. While many holly shrubs are evergreen, winterberry is a deciduous plant. It loses its leaves in late fall and reveals its spectacular red berries. Initially the berries are hard, so birds wait a bit and feed on

the berries after they have had a chance to soften

The dense clusters of bright red fruits are not just impressive, they are also life sustaining. The berries can remain on the plant throughout the winter and provide an important food source for birds even after other sources of nutrition are depleted.

Winterberry is a beautiful reminder that God will provide. On grey winter days the bright red berries seem even more brilliant, just as faith can shine its strongest when challenges loom.

-Herb Broda



FAITH FORMATION
A JOURNEY FOR LIFE

Emily Howard will be starting a Sunday morning faith formation. This month, focusing on mental health. The group will draw on the book "Blessed are the Crazy" by Sarah Griffith Lund, UCC national setting's minister for Mental Health. I will make selections of the book

available for educational use. Please let me know in advance if you will participate: howardemilyr@gmail.com.

Sunday, 10:30-11:30am, starts February 7, 2021

Mental Health Discussion Group. Please join on zoom.

February Faith Formation Opportunities

We continue to be able to reach out to each other through the following Faith Formation and Music activities. Hopefully you will find time to join us.

- **“Talk Together Tuesdays at Noon”** You are invited to come and join me in Trinity’s Fellowship Hall, as we safely physically distance, wear masks and discuss a chosen scripture and how things are going in our lives.
- **Confirmation Class-** Wednesday mornings, 10-12 in the Parlor.
- **Bell Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.** Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of a bell choir during the day.
- **The GOOD BOOK Club ~ The Gospel of Mark** will continue the first two Thursdays of February. Participants can choose to gather to discuss the readings on **Thursday, Feb. 4th and 11th, at 2:00 or at 7:00** by joining on Trinity’s Prayer and Communion zoom link.
- **“Entering the Passion of Jesus”** is a Lenten Bible Study written by Amy-Jill Levine. This six-week study will take place on Thursdays, in Lent, beginning on
- **February 18th.** Participants will meet on zoom at **2:00 or at 7:00**. If you are interested, please let Suzanne know so she can order the book for you.
- Another Lenten study opportunity is **“The Grace of Les Miserables”**. If you are interested in this study, please let Suzanne know and she will order the book and we will choose a time that works best for the study.
- **Fourth Sunday at 4:00 Drum Circle (Feb. 24th)** in Fellowship Hall. Drumming as a means of worshipping our God, has been around for thousands of years. Please, come and join me in a different way to worship, create music and fellowship with a small group. Masks are required, please.
- If you are interested in being a part of **Trinity’s Prayer Chain** by phone or by email, please let Suzanne know.
- If you would like to come and spend time sitting in prayer in the Sanctuary, please let us know.
- We will be beginning to offer some Mental Health groups soon.

Scripture of the month: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Ps. 119:105*

Peace. Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

Trinity Climate Crisis Committee – Update and Green Hints

Carol & Ed Eberhart and Margaret Bourne

Happy New Year 2021! It is a new day with new ways of showing our care for the Earth.

Our Ohio Representative to congress for district 16 is Anthony Gonzalez. I have looked up his voting record on the environment and want to share with you his “yes” votes for 2019-2020. The first one was for the Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019 and the second was for the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020. Those are the only two environmental issues he voted yes on out of the many environmental or climate change bills put before the house of representatives. For example, why not vote yes for the Climate Action Now bill, or the Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act bill, both put to the vote in 2020? I don’t have the answer to that question. However, I do have a voice and I am going to use it this year to encourage our elected officials to understand the urgency of global warming issues on our only home, Earth. If you feel that climate change should be at the top of the state and national agenda and want some positive and innovative action on the situation from your elected officials, please join me in encouraging yes votes for bills that will help slow and mitigate the effects of global warming.

You may wonder what opened my mind to feel more fervent than ever about the health of our planet. Well, it was a book I received for Christmas. I couldn’t put it down and felt re-energized to act on bigger issues when I finished reading it. Yes, we all recycle, reduce plastic use, garden responsibly, try to drive low emission cars and live our lives as carbon light as we can. Unfortunately, that is probably not going to be enough to keep global warming from continuing to happen. We need some cooperation, innovation and big changes from the top elected public servants in Ohio and the Country. In the book “The Ministry For The Future,” by Kim Stanley Robinson, a road map of sorts is laid out for worldwide plans to mitigate and control the effects of climate change. This is a fascinating novel which starts with a catastrophe and ends with...well, I won’t tell you that. However, it is a story of how the scientists, doctors, teachers, diplomats and politicians finally work together to make sure there is an Earth for future generations to thrive on. So, I am energized to speak about and try to bring about the same outcome...a future on this planet for not just humanity but all living creatures large and small.

Continue



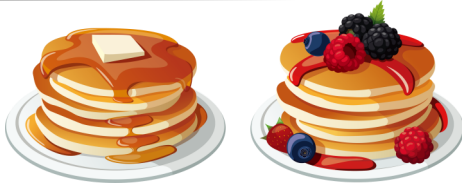
Since we are all mostly, still staying safe at home I want to propose that we have a book club, reading books focused on the issues of sustainability and global warming. If you read a good book that inspires you or... depresses you, write up a little book review and send it to me. I will put it in our monthly newsletter blurb to share with others. Maybe, we can choose a book to read together and then Zoom to talk about its merits or ideas. You can contact me at mbourne@wooster.edu. Here are the names and contact info for our Ohio senators and our representative for district 16.

We can save the world starting in 2021,
Margaret Bourne

Representative: Anthony Gonzalez – www.anthonygonzalez.house.gov

Senator: Rob Portman – www.portman.senate.gov

Senator: Sherrod Brown - www.brown.senate.gov



Join us for FAT TUESDAY!

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 5:30-6:30p.m.

Join Suzanne Feltner for VIRTUAL pancakes! You can access this event through the Prayer and Communion Zoom Link located on the website homepage! If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne at trinityuccmusic@gmail.com.



Join us for Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
during Prayer and Communion via Zoom.

Trinity United Church of Christ
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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*

Joslyn Hauter, *Custodian*

Nursery Staff include:

Yulia Allison

Christopher Feltner

Alexis Glassburn



<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.