

Trinity Friends,

I have watched the movie "Groundhog Day", starring Bill Murray, more than any other. Fans like me have the special edition "editor's cut" which includes features and behind the scenes interviews. I look forward to February 2nd because Groundhog Day has to do with hope.

We all know that whether Phil sees his shadow or not, Groundhog day reminds us that warmer weather is coming soon. Sub-zero temperatures have limited all of us in some way or another. Record lows were set across the country. This winter was even worse for those in the Southern U.S. where places like Savannah, Georgia and Abilene, Texas had snow and ice storms. We wonder about the long cold winters played out across the globe as we see economic inequality, war, and ethnic hatred. We wonder about the dark night of the soul. Phil Connors is frustrated because he has to re-live the same day over and over in the same small town. As Phil Connors (Bill Murray) says in the movie, "You want a prediction about the weather? You're asking the wrong Phil. I'll give you a prediction about the weather! It's gonna be cold, it's gonna be grey, and it's gonna last you for the rest of your life!" It doesn't take too many life challenges to cause us to lose our resilience.



Sometimes our failures feel this way! Sometimes our limitations cause us to feel that life is one long cold winter. But we know that this isn't true. It isn't the end of the story! A rodent reminds us that life has it's seasons. There will be another day. That's the promise of God in Christ. That's the way God planned it. As the UCC saying goes, "**Never place a period where God has placed a comma.**" God is still speaking even in our darkest, coldest nights."

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!" Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed keep thy in hand hath provided— "Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me! Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love."

Ash Wednesday and Imposition of the Ashes

February 14

6:30pm

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. For six weeks, people of faith and conscience are encouraged to engage in a spiritual practice that will lead them into a deeper relationship with God.



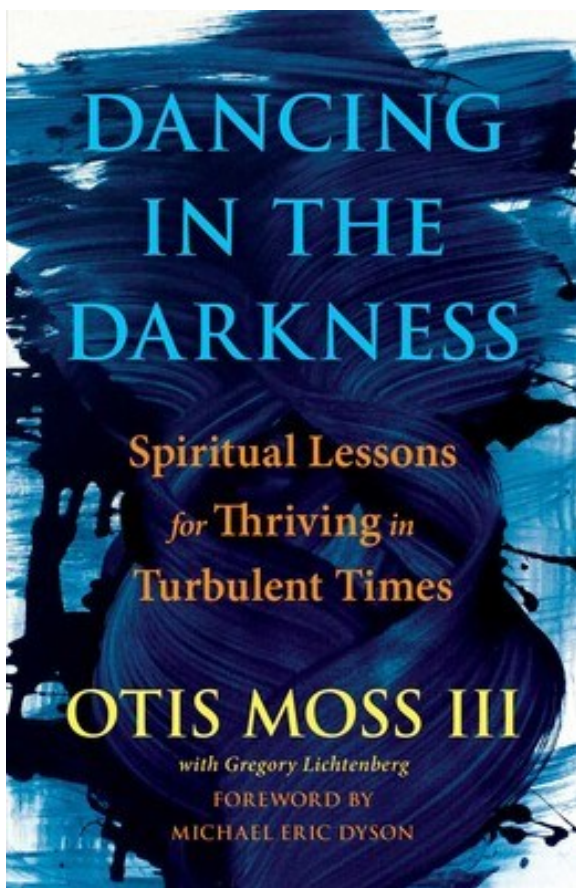
Ash Wednesday reminds us of our responsibility to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Imposition of ashes has been used in the church since the 7th Century as preparation for the 40 days of Lent, representing the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. A Lenten discipline should lead to a deeper connection to God, others and your own true self. The words of imposition, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" remind us of our mortality. Join us in the Sanctuary for our observance as we begin the season of Lent.

A.C.T. Book Study

The Anti-racist Coalition at Trinity is hosting a book study every other Sunday at 8 AM on Zoom beginning on Sunday, February 11. We will read and discuss *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times* by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, who is senior pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago. You can join us on Zoom using the church's Prayer & Communion link. Our first meeting will be an introduction to the book, so you don't even need to read anything ahead of time!

From the publisher "As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observed in the 1950s and '60s, it is midnight in America---a dark time of division and anxiety. In 2008, Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago received threats when one of its parishioners, Senator Barack Obama, was running for president. Late one night, Pastor Otis Moss heard a suspicious noise and grabbed a baseball bat to confront the intruder. When he entered his daughter's room, he found the source of the noise: his own little girl, dancing. In that moment, Pastor Moss realized that he had allowed the darkness inside. He set out to write the sermon that became this inspiring book.

Dancing in the Darkness is a life-affirming guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. King, the Bible, and his own personal experiences, Pastor Moss instructs readers on how to tap into the spiritual reserves we all possess so that we can slay our personal demons, confront our civic challenges, and reach our highest goals."



⇒ February 11, 8 AM on
Zoom - A.C.T. Book Talk

⇒ February 25, 8 AM on
Zoom - A.C.T. Book Talk

*Faith Formation of our Minds, Bodies and
Spirits at Trinity
February, 2024*

The month of February is a good time to take care of your heart (and mind...and spirit...) so join us for:

Yoga on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 in the Chapel. Chair Yoga on Wednesdays, at 2:00 in the Chapel. Lyn Shoots is the instructor and the cost of these are only \$5.00 per session. Namaste!

The Trinity Nurses Team are having a luncheon after worship on **Sunday, February 11th in Fellowship Hall**. Please join us for a good lunch and conversation about taking care of ourselves. They will be sharing a new idea about how to use Trinity's building for our health.

Tuesday, February 13th is *Shrove Tuesday*. You are all invited to join us for a *Pancake Supper* in Fellowship Hall from 5-7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

During this year's season of Lent:

Sundays- all ages are invited to meet in the Parlor after worship for *"God's World in Community: Lent"* This will begin on Sunday, February 18th.

Lenten Bible Study and Soup at Noon on Tuesdays in the Parlor

Tuesdays- all ages are invited to meet at 6:00pm for *"Living in Faith Together: A Walk with Jesus through Holy Week"*. This will include a light supper, studying God's word, playing together and praying together. This will be on Tuesdays February 27, March 5th, 12th and 19th.

Trinity Women's Group will be meeting for lunch at Bob Evans Restaurant on Robinson Road in Wooster on Wednesday, February 21st at 11:30. If you would like to sing or ring bells, but not commit to a long time, we could use more singers and ringers for the season of Lent and Easter. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 5:30 for Choir in the Chapel and 7:00 for Bells in the Sanctuary. Would love to have more people join us.

Peace to all!

Financial Position December 31, 2023

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>**2023 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	\$165,906	\$114,800	\$355,276	\$376,056	\$337,773
Expenses	<u>\$34,659</u>	<u>\$40,346</u>	<u>\$355,276</u>	<u>\$376,056</u>	<u>\$337,773</u>
Net	\$131,247	\$ 74,454	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Comments:

We ended 2023 with a deficit of \$83,908. We were able to cover the deficit with church reserves. We have a balance of \$90,630 in our church reserves going forward. As required by Consistory, we are reporting a balanced budget for 2023.

December was the strongest financial month of the year. As of the end of November, our year-to-date deficit was \$131,248. In December we had strong income netting a \$47,339 surplus for the month, resulting in the deficit of \$83,908.

Many thanks to those who helped to contribute to our deficit during December. The deficit has been building slowly over a number of years. For 2023, 71% of our church budget was related to our church staff. We will be spending much of 2024 looking for ways to increase giving income and reducing expenses.

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$14,973)

We had strong donations to this fund, of \$16,075, during December. During December we paid for half of the new kitchen equipment and for all of the new Fellowship Hall Chairs.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$28,972

Trinity Breakfast program – 28 years

Established in the summer of 1995.

Trinity United Church of Christ in downtown Wooster

www.trinityucc.org



Join us in Ministry at Trinity United Church of Christ. Celebrate in worship, in person or on-line, Sundays at 10:30 am. Pictured here is the 2023 Christmas program. Join us weekdays during our free breakfast program. Help us welcome youth groups to North Street Mission. Venture away from Wooster on Mission trips to Tijuana, Biloxi MS, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD.




One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. It channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. Trinity UCC will collect this offering March 10, 2024.

Plans to renovate the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen and alleviate the water problem in the basement are underway!

Moving days with the Renovation Team will soon be here! We have set the months of April, May and June as the timeframe for the renovation of the kitchen and fellowship hall. Before that can happen, we hope to have a French drain installed in the basement. The items in the hallway, pantry and beneath the stairs will need to be cleared out first for the French drain. To help us, please save newspaper and bubble wrap to pack glassware and bring it to the church office. If you have any totes to lend to us, please put your name on them and bring them in too. Keep an eye out for moving dates so you can help. Thanks ahead of time for your help.



February Birthdays

Kaylynn Gunn	1
Rick Lowe	1
James Shoots	1
Ayden Varno	1
Nicholas Lupole	2
Gary McCollum	3
James Wright	3
Karen Saurer	6
Caren Starr	6
Sue Ann Smail	7
James Ditzler	8
Greg Cooper	9
Lois Gardner	9
Bob Laverty	9
Jeff Hradek	10
Sandy Amstutz	11
Kenneth Feltner	13
Bill Bostancic	17
Rik Goodright	23
Gene Houmard	23
Keley Jo Vizzo	24
Candace Kelley	25
Annette Slater	25
Larry Snoddy	25
Phil Starr	25
Greg Cantrell	27

Creation Care and Justice Coalition

Winter has finally arrived with howling winds, bending trees, and horizontally blowing snow. I must confess, I am glad. Winter may be a harder, harsher time of year, but it is necessary for growth. It gives us time for rest; even the snow nourishes the soil, allowing plants to grow stronger and more abundant. Without Winter, we miss that necessary rebuilding period of our year.

Winter is good for the world around us. Many plants need shorter days and low temperatures to become dormant. This way plants can store up energy for new growth. If a fruit tree doesn't have enough chilling time, it will produce fewer, weaker buds.



Strong winters also mean fewer bugs. For example, mosquito populations, hiding outside as larvae until spring, are cut back by severe cold, too. This also helps prevent diseases that mosquitos carry.

Winter is good for people as well. Studies show that people can think more clearly in cold temperatures. People sleep better in the winter, as well, because as people go to sleep, their body temperature lowers. While in the summer this can take up to two hours, it takes much less time in the winter.

But maybe the most important reason we need winter is because of the way the Earth is tilted. It means it needs to be winter somewhere for it to be summer somewhere else. Winter reminds me that God the creator has everything planned for us to thrive and grow. All the universe works together for our benefit, even down to each change of season.

So, I hope this February you take some time to get outdoors for even a brief late afternoon walk, or to stand facing East as the sun rises earlier each day. Bundle up and take a stroll around the block or plan on having coffee with a neighbor and walk to their house. The freshness of winter is invigorating and will refresh your mind and body.

As we spin towards spring it is also time to think about ways to refresh your home. The urge to sweep out the last of the pine needles, vacuum up the popcorn under the couch and even to open a window to chase out the closed in air of winter is part of spring rituals. Only this year, let's also think about ways to keep toxins and harsh chemicals from cleaning products out of our laundry, dish soap, spray cleaners and away from our bodies. The Creation Care Team has some ideas to help you do just that, so stay tuned.

The Creation Care Café was fun and informative. There was conversation, music, spiritual growth, and lessons on how to appreciate all of God's good work in creating such an awesome home for all of us. Thank you to all who led the programs, read the book, helped with refreshments, and joined in speaking to the Earth and letting the Earth Teach us of God's great creation.

Margaret Bourne, January 15, 2024

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am



All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube

Live services are available on our website at

Trinity UCC.org

February 4th

Worship in Fellowship Hall/ Annual Meeting

Isaiah 40:21-31

“Eagle’s Wings”

February 11th

Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 9:2-10

“The Elusive Presence”

February 14th

6:30pm

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of the Ashes

Lent Begins

February 18th

1st Sunday of Lent

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

“A large and mighty army”

February 25th

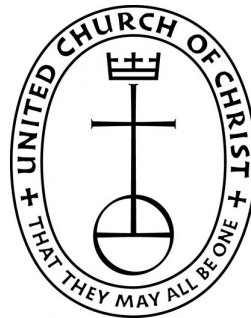
Second Sunday of Lent

Romans 4:13-25

“God gives us credit”

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Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Yulia Allison, *Nursery Staff*

Custodian, *Connie Plant*



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Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



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