



JANUARY

Some of you may remember as the year 2019 began, on Epiphany Sunday, I encouraged every worshipper to select a random piece of paper from a basket. The program was called “Starwords” in honor of the Magi who traveled from afar to see a miracle. Each slip of paper had a word for you to meditate on that year. I drew the word “Hopefulness”. Like many of you I put my word on the side of the mirror. When I woke up in the morning and when I went to bed at night, I looked at that word. At first, I wished that I would have pulled out a better word to guide me through the year. Now, I’m glad that was the word that prepared me for 2020! I had a year of training in hopefulness!

I am feeling hopeful. On December 14th, the first frontline health care workers received an approved Vaccine against COVID19. Two versions of a vaccine are now ready for use! As a new year begins, let’s look with hope for light at the end of this COVID tunnel we have been in. As time rolls on into 2021, a growing number of people will be inoculated.

I am feeling hopeful. Before the summer solstice we should be back in worship together! Thank you for hanging in there in virtual worship through this pandemic. Thank you for hanging in there with your prayers and support for our church and for one another. It feels good to see light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefulness! We are planning a big celebration when we come back.

Some of you may have a story to tell about the word that you pulled out of the basket too. That is the way faith works. We don’t often know why or how, but our faith makes a difference in small and large ways. You are hanging in there. Congratulations!

Remember the lessons you have learned through this year past and take hopefulness into 2021.

Your Partner in Christ’s Ministry,
Dr. Franklin



We at Trinity enjoy so many traditions like the candlelight Christmas Eve Services. Unfortunately, there are no Christmas Eve services this year due to Covid-19. We are still a church family even though we are not able to worship together. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your family at Trinity. Please take the time to reach out to your church family this holiday season!

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>January 3rd</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> John 1:1-18 <i>Sermon:</i> "Beautiful Light" Holy Communion Sunday	Pastor, Emily Howard
<u>January 10th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11 <i>Sermon:</i> "Disturbed or Joyful, Condemning or Creating!"	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>January 17th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> 1 Samuel 3:1-10 <i>Sermon:</i> "Knock 3 Times"	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>January 24th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Mark 1:14-20 <i>Sermon:</i> "When?"	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>January 31st</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Jonah 3:1-10, Psalm 111 <i>Sermon:</i> "Jonah and Archie Bunker"	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

FINANCIAL POSITION - November 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	\$ 46,065	\$ 54,588	\$261,260	\$310,890	\$ 292,845
Expenses	\$ 25,219	\$ 32,299	\$281,361	\$345,061	\$ 311,085
Net	\$ (20,846)	\$ (22,289)	\$(20,101)	\$(34,171)	\$(18,240)

Comments: November was another strong Financial Month as we received contributions from our annual contributors. On the expense side, earlier in the year, we shifted some of the mission funds so therefore, we paid two \$1,000.00 donations in November. One was made to Habitat and the other was made to NAACP Freedom Fund.

Through eleven months we have a \$20,000 deficit. We are appealing to our members and friends to consider additional donations in December to help us to balance out 2020.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(27,350)

Building Repair Fund Balance

We continue to receive strong donations to this fund!

Breakfast Program Balance: \$18,178.00

Youth Birthdays

- 11th Gabby Wright
- 19th Sofia Brown
- 19th Mark Blough



**Birthdays
This Month**

Senior Birthdays

- 6th Larry Patterson
- 7th Claude Grindstaff
- 8th Jeanette Ziegler
- 11th Carol Eberhart
- 20th Jerry French
- 23rd Leta Wisner
- 26th Jim Newman
- 28th Gary Stair

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday! We wish you happiness and good health this year!

January Faith Formation Opportunities

The new year is beginning and with that comes ways to learn more about our faith.

- **“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.** We are in need of another “ringer”. Please let me know if you are available or are interested in being a part of a bell choir during the day.
- **The GOOD BOOK Club ~ The Gospel of Mark** Participants will get a schedule of daily readings and time to “gather” on **Thursdays at 2:00 or at 7:00**, in a zoom meeting, to discuss what was read. Participants can also just read and study on their own, if preferred.
- **4th Sunday at 4:00 Drum Circle** (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 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:

My child, listen to what I say and treasure my commands. Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2: 1-5 New Living Translation

Peace. Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

Robopets support wellness at Chapel Hill Community

Bring comfort and joy to older adults with a robotic companion animal. Interactive cats and pups use technology to respond to touch and motion, purring, barking and replicating the comfort of a live animal!



This photo of Jean Schroer, Steve & Joyce's mom, inspires our church to consider supporting older adult wellness by providing robotic animal companions for others. Joyce Schroer writes, "Her cat has been a Godsend during this time of Covid. She loves that cat. It meows and purrs and lifts it paw to her. She pets it and loves on it and it doesn't run away. There is not litter box to clean and it doesn't scratch furniture. It is great! We bought one to give to another resident so someone else can experience the companionship." The price of one animal friend is \$100.00. You are invited to give by sending checks to Trinity UCC with memo line Chapel Hill pets.

Thank You

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 to Chapel Hill Community. Your kindness helps to support the care that empowers the residents to live abundantly. Financial support creates a more fulfilled life for residents where they experience community, wholeness, and peace.

In this new decade of service, we are comforted knowing supporters like you are standing with us in our mission. We are grateful for your philanthropy on behalf of those we serve at United Church Homes.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth V. Danial

Friends,

The wisdom of Epiphany is upon us, the Magi's journey to see the Christ child fulfilled. In our spiritual life, we have an opportunity to remember the visit of the Magi in this season, but we also practice the visit of the magi ourselves - in seeing Christ in one another, we have given gifts, and now we turn into action. I feel fortunate to see, from my office as Assistant Pastor, the comings and goings of your lives caring for each other, in special ways.

One way we honor the Christ in one another is building community in covid with those who are isolated. I am happy that so many people find joy in giving gifts to those *apart* from our community, yet equally a part of our community! I catch myself at times referring to them as "shut-ins," yet need to remember - change of location in housing means one location has changed, yet your membership is as strong and important as always. Perhaps it is time to reframe our language - to remember, meaning, make strong memberships, with those in covenant across distance.

Members of one body, essential members, include all of us. What if we say, "members from home"? What other ways can we change our language to become life-affirming to all?

Several people took time out of their lives to craft, bake, and share talents and time with senior living communities. Thanks to Judy, Trinity Women's Guild, Schroers, and more, for being a force to support this year, those members living in life plan communities, during a time of increased isolation. We are one in Christ, and ALL members are beloved. Below, please note the names of those who are members in life plan communities. You may like to send mail this winter. Just a block away someone in our membership needs your care. How will you respond?

West View Manor

Mary Arnold

Marge Cliffe

Ruth Hines

Pauline Campbell

Wayne County Care Center

Bob Chizmiada

The Avenue

Donna Wagner

Sprenger (Smithville-Western)

Kelly Earl

Elaine Volz

In faith, Emily Howard



Our deepest condolences regarding the family's loss of Jackie Soliday. May you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you. Words cannot even begin to express our sorrow. May your heart and soul find **peace** and comfort. The service was held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at Murray Funeral Home in Creston. The service may be viewed on the Funeral Home website.



As the colder temperatures are starting to arrive in our area, Wayne County Housing Coalition and our partner agencies are making plans for a Severe Weather Shelter for the coming winter months. The goal is to open a warm and safe space for anyone that needs to get out of the weather at the Wooster Salvation Army when the “feels like” temperature dips below 20 degrees. The Severe Weather Shelter hours will be 6pm through 8am, when open. In the past, the Severe Weather has opened when temperatures dropped below 20 degrees (winter 2019-2020) or to 9 degrees or below (winter 2018-2019) which did not require as much staff or volunteer oversight. We feel it is extremely important that the Severe Weather Shelter opens this winter before temperatures drop so low, but we need your help to make that happen.

Wayne County Housing Coalition is searching for individuals/couples interested in serving as volunteers at the Severe Weather Shelter for shifts beginning at 6pm and ending at 10pm on nights that the shelter is opened due to frigid temperatures. Responsibilities will include acting as a “host,” getting the meal distributed, supervising the guests at the shelter and assisting with any needs the guests may have. Salvation Army will have a staff member in their shelter area that will be accessible if necessary. Training will be provided for anyone that is interested in becoming a volunteer. COVID-19 protocols for congregate facilities will be followed. Volunteers will need to have a background check completed for the Salvation Army as well. If you have a recent background check you may use that as well.

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



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster



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