



This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace. This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end, with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever. - Isaiah 9:6-7

Trinity Friends,

In the midst of a pandemic and weighed down by an uncivil culture pitted against itself, we must remember that there is a cycle and a rhythm to all things. The Bible uses two different words for time; "Chronos" and "Kairos". Chronos is what we would call Chronological time. We count the years and the numbers of days and mark the significant times of our lives with numerals. Chronological time give us a birthday and death date. Kairos is God's time. Sometimes God takes over human time and makes corrections. When I was in Seminary and something good happened in our nation, people would say, "That was a Kairos moment!" We are praying for a Kairos moment in the world. As a church we pledge ourselves to watch for God's time and be part of the positive movement to the world that Jesus promised. Perhaps this pandemic will be the "God" moment in our lives. Maybe we will be "woke" to the truth of what this life is really all about.

Maybe our eyes will be opened to the transcendence of this life's glory. The lyrics of songs from ages past speak plainly of their Kairos moment.

1 Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
And press with vigor on;
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

2 A cloud of witnesses around
Hold thee in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge thy way.

Be awake. Be alive. Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night; the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light. Amen! May it be so! Happy New Year 2022!

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin

Direct me to use the time I have on this earth to embody the life of Jesus, to practice justice and fairness. Amen.

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30am

January 2nd:- Sermon: *"Lady Wisdom and Baby Jesus"*
John 1:1-18
Holy communion
Rev. Emily Howard

January 9th:- Sermon: *"The church is a movement and here are the rules"*
Isaiah 42:1-9, Luke 3:15-17,21-22
Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

January 16th:- Sermon: *"They have no Wine"*
John 2:1-11
Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

January 23rd:- *"Abby and Abraham; On being a blessing"*
1st Corinthians 12:27-31
Special Guest Abby Reed
Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

January 30th:- Sermon: *"Interpreted by Love"*
1 Corinthians 13 13:1-13
Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin



As we anticipate a cold winter, remember we offer several options to watch our worship service on-line. Visit our website (www.trinityucc.org) or our facebook page (facebook.com/trinityuccwooster)

FINANCIAL POSITION - November, 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	\$ 52,319	\$ 41,950	\$272,130	\$306,129	\$ 261,260
Expenses	\$ 26,497	\$ 29,423	\$296,122	\$341,005	\$ 281,361
Net	\$25,822	\$ 12,527	\$(23,992)	\$(34,876)	\$(20,101)

Comments:

During November, we had several of our annual contributors make their donations which boosted our income! On the expense side, building maintenance and supplies were over-budget.

Through eleven months, we are showing a \$24k deficit. We sent out statements right after the end of November. We are asking for additional donations to help us to balance out the year.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(18,721)

During November, we paid \$7500 for the materials for the new round ladder in the bell tower.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$26,247

Average weekly attendance: Not counted in November

Trinity Breakfast program-26 Years

Established in the summer of 1995



Join us for breakfast and random conversation at Bishops restaurant Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 8am.

Senior Birthdays

4th Linda Baney
7th Claude Grindstaff
8th Jeanetter Ziegler
11th Carol Eberhart
23rd Leta Wisner
26th Jim Newman



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

Associate Pastor's Message

Faith by Numbers

A Reflection from Rev. Emily

We welcome members in January. We approve a budget in January. And so, In my mind's eye, I picture how Jesus' numbers appeared. There are plenty of ways to add up the numbers in Scripture. None of them are according to my expectations! 12 - the number of disciples Jesus asked to join him, no more and no less. It was "critical mass," the number deeply committed, the number he asked to join! Did any others say no, I wonder? How about counting the women in, then how many are there? 5,000 - men who were fed at one time in Matthew 14 - "and also women and children" (I want I could go back and count them all!!!!). So, total humans could easily be double, triple, more? It was a number utterly unanticipated and totally underprepared in meals for. Many of them, Jesus probably never had seen before and might never see him again .

Two or three - the number required for the Church to exist (Matthew 18:20).

1 - person Jesus will find meaningful enough to run after, instead of the 99 he leaves safe behind (Matthew 18:12&13).

Sometimes, it is hard to see the full picture when you paint by the numbers, until the painting is done. God has the biggest picture. You are a part of the picture God paints.

Love,
Pastor Emily

Global Warming Denial: Schadenfreude or Sangfroid?

It amazes me that we are not all running around shouting out at people on the streets, in the stores, in restaurants, or in schools—or having desperate conversations with our family and friends sharing our fears about the future we are leaving our children. Why isn't everyone trying madly to find a way to get our leaders to listen and phase out our carbon-spewing power grid while there is still time to make a difference.

Is it that we have all learned too deeply to keep the proverbial stiff upper? To control one's emotions might be praiseworthy in most times, but when it comes to the climate crisis this could be instead an unfortunate way of coping (i.e., ignoring.) Why do we as a society not want to believe that many humans are indeed as endangered as the polar bear? Why is our psychological response to display a great deal of "sangfroid" or coldblooded calm. After all, the threat is real, but we too easily end up thinking there is nothing we can do to stop it, so "just carry on and wait for the next bad thing to come."

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The other response is to have “Schadenfreude,” or the enjoyment obtained from the troubles of others. Here, we even feel a shiver of relief that the disaster has missed us. Our compassion is on hold as we shake off our fear and feel the joy of being saved this time around. It is an unpleasant reality that our world is heading towards an uninhabitable state; but, by brushing off news about wildfires in the sequoias or droughts in the Southwest we can pat ourselves on the back that things are not yet too bad here in Ohio. After all, climate disasters happen to other people, not us.

In fact, my husband Dan remembers watching news coverage of a tornado several years ago. As a man stood in the street outside his house, he said to the reporter: “The tornado was coming right towards us, but thank God it changed course and went down the other street.” In the utter terror of that moment, who can blame that man for speaking out that way. But if he—or us— would continue to think only of God blessing our own survival and ignoring the fates of others, what kind of religion would that be? Indeed, Ohio has been relatively untouched by the worst natural disasters related to climate change. However, there are signs of changes already happening which follow the predictions for what weather will be like in the Buckeye State by midcentury: more rain, hotter and drier summers, the seasons cascading out of rhythm with consequences for precious plants and animals. These events are already happening, and will become even more exaggerated in our own lifetimes. (Not to mention what might happen if large groups of climate refugees—not from the Middle East or South America but from Arizona or Texas—start heading for the Great Lakes region.)

So how do we lose the sangfroid stoicism or the schadenfreude shiver and get passionate about moving society forward to making the necessary decisions and actions that will save our Earth? We start talking to everyone—neighbors, casual acquaintances, family near and far, etc.—and especially our local, state, and federal elected officials. We must work to bring them along, to share with them what we know to be true, to gently and with compassion lead them to understanding and not to succumb to cold-blooded fear or denial. Indeed, along with “the facts,” just as important is compassion—compassion towards those we are talking with as well as those who have already felt the pain of climate change, that people realize that when disaster goes down one street, it goes down all. We are all in this together, and the end results are up to us.

A final thought: there was a great article in the Daily Record on December 13th about the local branch of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby and how they are working for education and action on Global Warming. To find out more about CCL and to join the organization, go to www.citizensclimatelobby.org. The local chapter currently has monthly Zoom meetings and regular email notification regarding letters and calls to congress. I am joining today.

January Book Recommendation: The national best seller Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World, by Katherine Hayhoe.

(“An optimistic view on why collective action is still possible—and how it can be realized.”
—The New York Times

Margaret Meeker Bourne, for the Climate Crisis Committee – December 15, 2021

Wooster-Orrville NAACP

announces:

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Release Date:

Monday, January 17, 2022

you can find it on the church's
website and YouTube page.



1929 1968



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous donation to Chapel Hill Community. Your kindness helps create a warm, welcoming atmosphere where people from all walks of life, and all corners of the country, call United Church Homes their home.

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion means when residents step into our communities it feels like coming home, for everyone. We continue to strive to find ways to create a safe space and you make it happen.

As one of the nation's leading providers of housing and healthcare services for older adults, UCH provides opportunities for purposeful, abundant living which would not happen without your support. We thank you for your philanthropy on behalf of all of those we serve.

With Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth V. Daniel

January Faith Formation Opportunities

Happy New Year! Now is the time to try to find new ways to become closer to God, and the people of Trinity, by participating in some Faith Formation activities.

Sunday Faith Formation Classes for all ages will resume on January 9th from 9:15- 10:15 Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends are what we share more about on.

Mondays in the Parlor, as part of Trinity's Wellness Program. At 10:00 we work on Fitness and Focus with Rich Plant leading us in Qi Gong via zoom. At 10:30, we gather to talk about Faith, Friends and healthy Food habits. What a great way to get encouragement from others and to learn ways to cope with stress.

On **Tuesdays at 10:00** and **Thursdays at 6:00** you are invited to join in Yoga classes led by Lyn Shoots in the Chapel.

Tuesdays at Noon, you are invited to join us for "Soup, Scripture and Conversation" in the Parlor.

Wednesdays anytime after 4:30-7:00pm, C.A.T. takes place on the 2 nd floor. This is a time for Music, Art, Stories, Supper and Socialization open to children ages 5-8th grade. The Good Book Club is back and will be focusing on the Book of Exodus. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please let Suzanne know and she will get you the reading schedule. We will then decide together when will work best to gather either in person or via zoom for weekly discussions about the readings.

Please join us on Sunday, January 23rd for "Trinity's Wellness Fair" from 11:45-2:00. This will be a time for Chair Massage; meditation; yoga; healthy food and recipes; and book ideas. Hope to see you there!

Scripture of the month: "Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness." — Lamentations 3:22-23

Peace 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*

Shalom Homa, *Administrative Coordinator/Secretary*

Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Brandi Stevenson, *Assitant Business Manager*

Joslyn Hauter, *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.