

July

July
Topics 2020

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”— *Nelson Mandela*

Trinity Friends,

Suzanne Feltner took a vacation week June 16-23 to visit her Daughter and family in North Carolina. When Suzanne's picture showed up on the front page of the Daily Record that Sunday, I texted her and asked, "Have you ever made the front page of the paper before?" She responded, "What did I do now?" Hmm. Anyway check out the Daily Record article about the Trinity breakfast program from Sunday, June 21. It's a good article written by a College of Wooster summer intern to the DR about how COVID has impacted those who are most vulnerable and provides insight into homelessness.

Thank you for your generosity during this time of COVID restricted activity! People have been very generous. Breakfast program donations have included fruit, bottled water, washcloths, masks, sanitizer, breakfast bars, eggs, orange juice, pastry and cookies! We will remain carry out only as long as restrictions for building use apply. June has been a busy month. We need a few breakfast program subs. Let me know if you may be interested and I can answer questions. The Wooster homeless task force meets weekly and we are hopeful about meeting the needs of those less fortunate.

People are beginning to ask; "When will we have worship in the sanctuary again?" The answer is uncertain. The CDC and the UCC have guidelines for when to re-open. The first marker is when there have been two weeks of declining cases. This hasn't happened yet. In fact, recently there have been spikes. I will send a letter to our entire mailing list when we decide to re-open with restrictions. Consistory and staff are monitoring when to open up and we are planning month to month.

In any event, we will continue with our virtual offerings as long as they continue to be as successful as they have been so far. People ask me how it's going, and I say, "So far, so good. The ship is still sailing and is on course as we learn how to navigate in a storm." I think Jesus' disciples had to do that a time or two as well!

May you and your loved ones stay safe and happy. Please contact the church for information, questions or help. Office hours continue Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 5 pm.

Your partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin

Dear Trinity Church,

Our lives are being changed in these historic days. Two movements, disconnected on the surface, moved me this month.

First, I have been changed by the recent social movement toward justice for all, as many in our nation and world confront the violent expression of racism. We say the names of its victims, and remember each person lost to racist violence:

Ahmaud Arbery. George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Rayshard Brooks. And too many more.

In response to the brutality of their deaths, many people of faith have been moved to the streets by God's justice-seeking love. Their voices strongly reject systemic racism. The journey toward justice must have spiritual support to do such hard work.

Which brings me to a second social movement – a movement toward healing from addictions. As I have witnessed the work of those in recovery, their voices emphatically demonstrate the power and love of a still-speaking God.

The serenity prayer has served Christians in our spiritual wellness, but is specifically known because it accompanies those in active recovery from addictions. Its words are attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, E&R (UCC) Pastor:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Not my will, but thine, be done. Amen.

These words and the spirit of 12 step recovery made me wonder – how does speaking the serenity prayer enliven a journey toward justice? How do we trust God to accompany us one step and one day at a time toward “a just world for all” (the UCC mission)? Is it possible – through the wisdom of recovery - to believe in a world where our nation's addiction to systemic racism will be healed? In Jesus' name, may it be so. Amen.

In Christian love, Emily

p.s. UCC Pastor and Black activist Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III speaks powerful words as a voice in the historic movement for black lives. I invite you to hear his words in response to recent events, a visual worship experience, “The Cross and the Lynching Tree,” available on YouTube. Visit https://www.ucc.org/justice_for_black_lives to find this and other resources.

Worship Schedule

You may access our worship service on our YouTube and Website page listed on the back.

July 5th *Scripture:* Matthew 11:39-42 *Sermon:* “Practical Advice”

Holy Communion Sunday

July 12th *Scripture:* Matthew 13:1-9 *Sermon:* “Liberal Farmers”

July 19th *Scripture:* Genesis 28:10-22 *Sermon:* “Jacob's Ladder”

July 26th *Scripture:* Romans 8:26-39 *Sermon:* “Work Together for Good”

FINANCIAL POSITION - May 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	\$ 15,462	\$ 19,669	\$85,029	\$102,988	\$ 103,418
Expenses	<u>\$ 28,581</u>	<u>\$ 37,237</u>	<u>\$132,922</u>	<u>\$156,063</u>	<u>\$ 142,461</u>
Net	\$(13,109)	\$(17,568)	\$(47,893)	\$(53,075)	\$(39,043)

Comments: During May we continued to receive regular contributions from our members and friends during the pandemic shutdown. Both our income and expenses were under budget. The only over-budget expense item was paying for our Easter newspaper ads of \$373.00.

Thanks again to our members and friends who continue to donate during the pandemic!

Average weekly on-line worship reviews: 303.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(77,908)

Senior Birthdays

2nd Carol Ladrach
2nd Meg Vrotney
7th Dianne Hange
8th Sally Griffin
11th Janet Broda
14th Dale Angerman
18th Allyson Leisy
20th Ginny Gunn
20th Carol Bucher
21st Roger Reed
22nd Joan Brinkerhoff
28th Mary Schopfer
31st Tom Montelione

Youth Birthdays

18th Paul Gunn
29th Parker Schantz
30th Madison Blough



Trinity lifts up the life of David Briggs, who passed from this life on June 13, 2020.

We celebrated David's life at a graveside memorial with a gathering of family and friends. In this age of COVID distancing restrictions, loved ones are unable to receive consolation from members of our household of faith. I hope that you will send a note with a story or word of comfort for David's family. Below are just a few words from our Celebration of his life; We appreciate the influence of his Mother, Francis Shoolroy. They enjoyed a very close bond. Dave's care for her was amazing. In the midst of his grief, David gathered his courage and offer a tribute to his mother at her services in January 2015. As he was reading her eulogy, I realized that he was using a literary technique, where he would tell a story and then say "Lesson Learned".

This is a summary of the valuable lessons that David learned about life from his Mother. I am sure that you will see these values reflected in his life.

Be Generous. Be Prepared. Work hard.

Be Responsible. Support and care for those who are vulnerable.

Provide for your family. Save, Invest; have fun.

Before committing to a cause be sure to examine its values; never compromise your integrity.

Always keep learning.

Life can deal tough blows. Stay positive. Never complain.



Congratulations to our Nursery Staff member, Yulia Allison and her husband, Josiah, on the birth of their daughter, Emberlynn Grace, on June 1st. Congratulations to Emberlynn's big brother Lance, also.

The directories are in!

You may pick yours up at the church office during regular business hours, however you will need to call the church prior to your arrival due to Covid19 we still have our doors locked.

The church office number is 330-264-9250.

“Talk together Tuesday” Let’s join together in a time of scripture, prayer and conversation, at **12 Noon**, on Tuesdays in July, at **Christmas Run Park, Upper Level**. If you wish, you can bring your own lunch and/or beverage.



You are invited to join me for a time of ***Fellowship and Drumming***, on ***Sunday, July 26th at 7:00pm, at Oak Hill Park***. *Please bring a chair or blanket, your own bottle of water, and your own percussion, if you have any. I will have several percussion instruments and hand sanitizer, available to use. I also ask, in the interest of safety for all, please wear a mask...not the scary kind though! Hope to see you there!*

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts



Collecting pull tabs helps the Ronald McDonald House to purchase items such as coat hangers, electric tea kettles, silverware, serving utensils, and much more to help the families stay more comfortable. This is done by Metalico Annaco of Akron picking up the tabs and recycling them for cash! You do not need a special container, and labels are provided for free! **You are also not required to collect any certain amount and you do not need to count them.** Once you have collected your tabs please drop them off at Trinity United Church of Christ.

*All pull tabs are usable! Pop tabs, pet food tabs, soup pull tabs, etc.

Climate Crisis

Perhaps you have wondered, besides the environmental pollution, why should we be personally concerned about plastics? Answer, we are all directly affected by the impacts on our health.

Plastics contain various chemicals--some, like BPA (one of the Bisphenols) you have probably heard about. Another group is the Phthalates--harmful plastic-softening solvents. These chemicals are known as ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS (meaning, when absorbed into the body, they can either mimic or block female hormones, or in males, suppress the hormone involved in male sexual development). They can affect thyroid function and some phthalates, increase the risk of cancer.

While making your listing of the plastics you encountered in your home in one day, last month, you may have become aware of how pervasive plastic is in your life--I personally was able to list 39 items! So here are some GREEN HINTS on how to reduce exposure to Phthalates:

(1)Food: Try to reduce your family's consumption of food packaged in plastic.

DON'T HEAT food in plastic containers (frozen dinners, steamed vegetables, etc.--heating increases the leaching of Phthalates into food). Plastic water bottles left in a warm car or the sun--same effect (another reason to change to stainless steel).

(2)Food Wrap--ditch plastic for Beeswax wraps; cotton bowl covers; stretch lids; glass and stainless containers.

(3)Personal Care: go to labels 'Phthalate Free' and check out brands independent data basis--such as

Skin Deep or EWG (Environmental Working Group). The word Fragrance usually means, contains phthalate. Though unscented is no guarantee it will be phthalate free, these products often contain 'masking' fragrances that may contain the chemical. The FDA does not require the listing of individual components of fragrances. Buy 3-Free or 5-Free nail polish and void polishes with DPP on the ingredient list. Use the "less is more" approach to personal care.

(4)Recycle Codes on Plastics marked #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 are considered "safest plastics" (though it is best to find an alternative). Avoid recycling codes: #3, #6 and #7. PVC (#3-Poly vinyl chloride) is some times called "the poison plastic" because of its harm to human and environmental health. If you see #3, choose another product. PVC/vinyl can, among many other things, be in crib mattress covers, rain coats and plastic pipes.

We can't remove all plastic from our lives, but it is worth eliminating what we can to reduce the collective effects on our health.

Carol Eberhart, for the Climate Crisis Committee



Trinity Church Maintenance Continues - Ray Leisy

Even though we are not holding church in our sanctuary at this time, work is proceeding within our church.

To celebrate our 200th Anniversary last year, we undertook some major renovations which are not immediately visible as they were mostly necessary repairs to the fabric of the Church. The repairs included redesign of the chancel area of the church and other painting throughout the interior, a new roof, repointing of the bricks on the lower half of the front of the church and Buckeye Street side and repair of some of our stain glass windows.

We are now in the midst of the second year of our major restorations including finishing the repointing of the bricks on the tower of the church. Hopefully no one has noticed the occasional falling of the bricks from the tower over the past few years, but the repair work is on a major scale and there has been serious damage to the tower. We are fortunate that all of these problems can be repaired by Day Masonry.

The second major project upon which we are proceeding involves new lighting for the Chancel. The current lighting is outdated and is placed high on the Church ceiling. It has become difficult and dangerous for our volunteers to reach the current lights. We are working with Pell Electric and Lighthouse Electric to design and install a new LED system which will highlight the Cross and musicians and the Chancel area in general. The new system will be lower and easier to replace and also much more flexible for special lighting situations.

We have had the Glass Smith Artist repair a damaged window on the Buckeye Street side and are seeking a bid to repair and strengthen the large window in the Chapel. Nothing has been done for it since its installation and the lead is becoming brittle and sagging.

We have also found some stained-glass windows in the Archive Vault which were removed during our last renovation in the 1990s. The Glass Smith Artists have repaired some of them as well and we are now making light boxes for them so that they can be placed on the wall of the hallway along the Sanctuary to make that area lighter and more attractive.

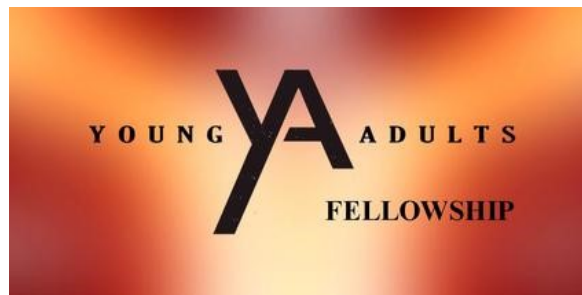
We also have retained Weaver Construction to repair the ceiling in the balcony and we will continue to repair, plaster and paint the interior of the Church which has suffered the usual wear and tear from use as we continue to serve the Wooster Community.

Trinity Young Adult Fellowship

Monday, July 6, 2020

7:30-8:30p.m.

Via Zoom, you can access the link on our Website HOMEPAGE.



“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Farmers have an old saying that you should plant corn when oak leaves are as big as a squirrel's ear – that's based on nature's calendar and not a printed timetable. The fancy word for nature's calendar is “phenology”.

Phenology is the scientific study of the seasonal and life cycle events of plants and animals. In many ways, it's all about Ecclesiastes 3:1, since in nature there is a season and an appropriate time for everything. It's all about orderliness.

Spring really showcases the intricate orderliness of nature. The dandelion always blooms before the tulip, and yellow forsythia bushes always dazzle before the flowering crabapples and dogwoods. Blooming lilacs signal the time to plant beans and cucumbers, and early bulbs like daffodils mean it's OK to plant peas.

When and how rapidly we experience signs of spring depends greatly on the accumulation of growing degree days (GDD). In simple terms, GDD is a measure of accumulated heat which affects the development rate of plants and insects.

For example, the more days we have in the upper 50s or 60s during the first three or four months of a year, the more degree days we will accumulate. What is amazing is that every plant species needs a specific number of degree days to bud and flower. It doesn't vary; it's not random.

The orderliness is stunning. You can count on plants blooming in a certain order each year, but not on a particular date in the calendar. Every plant from large trees to tiny wildflowers require specific numbers of degree days before they bloom and grow. Degree days start to accumulate during the winter and are determined by the weather.

For me, the orderliness of spring transforming into summer is a beautiful example of how God is revealed and underscored in nature. Watching the seasons unfold in orderly precision beautifully affirms that for everything there is indeed a season.

--Herb Broda

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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.