



March
Topics 2021

Trinity friends,

Philippians 4:8 is one of my favorite bible verses, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about these things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice.” -St. Paul.

We are in the middle of Lent. Lent is a time to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus. Life is richer when we take time for discernment. Albert Schweitzer called it “reverence for life”. We need reverence in life and bring to God those things that humble us. We have been humbled during this pandemic. We hardly imagined that our lives could be altered so deeply by one virus. Yet for decades some people spoke loudly about our need to be prepared for such an event. As Ash Wednesday’s Ashes symbolized, Lent reminds us of our mortality and this pandemic has been its wake up call.

How do you process a number as staggering as 500,000 COVID-19 deaths in the United States?

The number is 25 percent more than the U.S. military death toll in World War II. It would be like imagining every person in a city the size of Atlanta had been lost. Or every postal service worker in America. National Geographic tried to graphically visualize the number of COVID deaths in America, because a number as large as 500,000 is hard for us to imagine. It translates into 645 miles of caskets spread end to end or a hundred times more than all the stars visible to the naked eye, according to National Geographic’s visual journalists.

When we get to the other side of this pandemic and this time of isolation, join us in observance of reverence for those who died and those who suffered, and those who mourned. We become more aware of the nature of life and our place in God’s eternity. Think about these things.

Your Partner in Christ’s Ministry,

Dr. Franklin

Our thoughts
and prayers
are with you.



If you or a loved one are sick, in the hospital or in need of prayer, please notify the church office either by calling: 330-264-9250 or emailing us, so Trinity's staff is aware and can pray for you. In these days of HIPA, the Pastors are no longer notified when a member is in the hospital.

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>March 7th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> John 2:13-25, 1 Corinthian 1:18-31
<i>Sermon:</i> "Random Out of Place Stories"
Holy Communion Sunday | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| <u>March 14th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> John 3:14-21, Numbers 21:4-9
<i>Sermon:</i> "I Hate Snakes" | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| <u>March 21st</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Ephesians 4:1-7
<i>Sermon:</i> "Bear" | Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin |
| <u>March 28th</u> | <i>Scripture:</i> Mark 11:1-1
<i>Sermon:</i> "Jerusalem News Network"
<i>Palm Sunday</i>
<i>Holy Week Begins!</i> | Pastor, Emily Howard |

FINANCIAL POSITION - January 2021

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	\$ 14,314	\$ 18,106	\$14,314	\$18,106	\$ 17,805
Expenses	\$ 22,870	\$ 28,917	\$22,870	\$28,917	\$ 27,041
Net	\$ (8,556)	\$ (10,811)	\$(8,556)	\$(10,811)	\$(9,236)

Comments: We start off 2021 operating basically the same financially. We continue to run under budget with both income and expenses. During January we paid waste management \$185 as we upgraded to a lockable dumpster.

Due to the late mail delivery we received \$5,180 in donations for 2020 after our books were closed. With these donations, our deficit for 2020 went from \$14,033 to \$8,853. We added these donations to our church reserves. Members were given credit on their 2020 statements as the mail was delayed.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(26,598)

During January we received donations of \$2,660

Breakfast Program Balance: \$26,888

Average Weekly On-line Views: 118



Senior Birthdays

5th Elisabeth Stauffer
8th Lois Wagner
11th Chuck Vrotney
14th Joyce Blanchard
14th Jean Garver
17th Herb Broda
18th Tom Odgen
28th Dan Eagle
28th Vera Zuercher
30th Carol Briggs
30th Janet Snoddy

Youth Birthdays

7th Curtis Briggs
11th Arianna Seawright



A thank you from Building Bridges.

Thank you so much for your support in our community. Contributions like yours are extremely important to the well being of our community.

A thank you from United Church Homes.

Dear Trinity UCC,

Thank you for your faithful support to Chapel Hill Community! We have been using our donations to purchase Joy for All companion pets for our residents who are experiencing loneliness during this pandemic. They have been a god send for our residents.

Thank you for all your gifts to Chapel Hill Community, After a year of uncertainties, unknowns, and constant changes, we are so grateful for your support to keep creating abundant life in community! Thank you from all of us at Chapel Hill.

-Rev. Erin

A thank you from One Eighty.

Thank you for supporting OneEighty's mission with your gift of \$122.00. Our community is facing challenges brought on by substance use disorder, homelessness, and domestic violence. Every day we see individuals seeking help and support and it's your commitment that allows us to provide the services they need at the level the community deserves.

We have your 2021 offering envelopes in the church office. In order for us to save on the expense of mailing each offering we have two options for you to choose from. (1) You may get your offering envelope by calling the office ahead of time and stopping by the church to pick yours up, or (2) we can deliver it to you personally if you are unable to visit the church.

Please note, the office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00 p.m. and please call in advance of your arrival. 330-264-9250.

Thanks, the Finance Committee



After some additional donations at year-end, Trinity ended up with a \$9,000 deficit. This was not too bad considering the impact of the pandemic. If each family at Trinity would donate \$75 towards the deficit, then it would be cleared for last year!

ACT: Anti-Racist Coalition at Trinity

The journey to civil and human rights for all is lined with barriers, but we are called to address these challenges by opening our eyes and minds to the possibilities of a better world. It was through this mission, this calling to understand, that members of our congregation were called to A.C.T. At first, those members sought a safe space to discuss the events of the summer of 2020. They gathered seeking knowledge of the issues that were being discussed in public and at home around the dangers of white nationalism and systemic inequality. This safe space led a group of faith-based individuals, invested in growing, to propose forming a Trinity UCC coalition with the mission of dismantling the systems and structures of institutional racism. The group strives to learn about the way these systems are perpetuated in daily life and how we as a congregation can work together to create an equitable and just world for all. It was through this mission that A.C.T. (Anti-Racist Coalition at Trinity) was formed. Building off of the UCC's statement on racial justice, A.C.T. intends to educate members of our community, motivate each other to be open minded, and advocate for the civil and human rights of all people. We welcome all persons who feel called to have an open dialogue and engagement with the truth to join us in the pursuit of justice. It is to this end that we encourage anyone who wishes to participate, or learn more about A.C.T., to reach out and help make this group into what our congregation has been to all of us; a space for growth, love, and understanding.

ACT members include: Daniel Kirk, Abby Reed, Lin Wierwille, Jennifer Faust, Kevan Franklin, Emily Howard. For information, or to get involved, contact Abby at areed1096@gmail.com.

Dear Trinity UCC:

This Lent, I intend to fast. Never before have I felt moved to do any fast for Lent; but this year I need to do something intentional to be as intentional as I'd like to. My mind is more aware, "It's Lent!" because of my choice. I have been vegetarian before. This year, my choice is to be vegetarian during Lent. I know this is a limited amount of time. It makes the commitment, frankly, easier to keep. But, not only this, I know my choice is good for the planet - it is good for my health - and, so, in this way, I find myself nourishing my spirit because I fast. It brings back a memory of my spiritual director in college who taught that when we fast, we feast on God. I lift that idea up to you. How are you called to feast on God this Lent? Love, Pastor Emily

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.

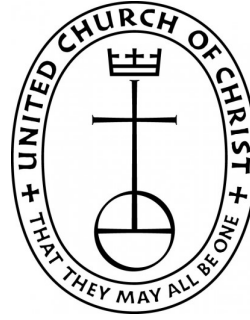
Scripture of the month:

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

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*

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.